



Colin

Landscape Officer

Joined The Parks Trust: 1992

What do you do?

I arrange the day to day maintenance of the parks within the north of the city. This means making decisions about how these parks develop such as what trees and shrubs are planted where and making sure these areas are safe and well looked after for the public and nature that lives there.

What did you do when you left school?

I worked on a farm milking the cows. I went to agriculture college and am a qualified herdsman. A lifelong love of nature and the outdoors helped get me into the career I now have.

Why did you want to work for The Parks Trust?

I believe in the work that the Trust carries out on behalf of the residents of MK. I am proud that in some way I have helped shape and add to the city's landscape for the future generations of the city.

Describe your career journey so far.

I started working for the Development Corporation who planned and built Milton Keynes from scratch. I was installing paths and furniture within the parks. I got a job as a Park Ranger, which I did for around 20 years. When the Development Corporation was wound up and The Parks Trust was set up I moved across doing this job. I then became a Landscape Officer for the Trust.

The main difference between these job is that Rangers deal with the public more and Landscape Officers deal with contractors more. The role of Ranger within the Trust has changed since I was doing the role. We now have specific teams who carry out the roles which as a Ranger we used to do such as events, education, walks and talks, and wildlife management.

What skills or qualities do you need to be successful in your role?

For my role, you need to love being outdoors even on wet, windy and cold days, have a love for nature and be able to deal with the public.

My words of wisdom...

Some times "work-wise" we fall into a job just for the sake of having a job, however we can go down a number of avenues in life before we find out what we want to do with our lives, so don't be afraid to try as many things as you can!

