



Natalie

Green Infrastructure Officer

Joined The Parks Trust: 2011

What do you do?

I am responsible for the adoption of new green spaces that are built as part of new housing developments around Milton Keynes. I work with the council and housing developers when they design and build new parks as Milton Keynes grows, and I'm responsible for making sure these new parks are built well and are in good condition when they are handed over to the Trust to look after for 999 years.

What did you do when you left school?

I studied Geography at University.

Why did you want to work for The Parks Trust?

I knew I wanted to work outdoors, preferably in the conservation field. However, I quickly learned that this was a very competitive and not very well-paid career and so changed my approach. The Parks Trust were local to me and I had opportunities to do all sorts of different work outdoors. I enjoy project planning and am well practised at managing multiple projects at one time and keeping lots of plates spinning.

Describe your career journey so far.

When I joined The Parks Trust I was working on a temporary 6 month contract as an Events Assistant. This was a tactic for getting my foot in the door. At the end of my 6 month contract I said to some of my colleagues that I was interested in more work and they told me about an upcoming position as a Ranger. After that I was a Community Ranger at the Trust for 4 years and then the Play Area Manager for 6 years before applying for my current role at the end of 2022.

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

I'm approachable and friendly so I get along with all of my colleagues at the Trust. People know they can ask for my advice and I will try to help as much as I can. I also meet and work with a lot of new people from outside of the Trust and so I need to be professional and friendly to work collaboratively with them.

Organisation is key. Keeping track of multiple projects which are all constantly moving and developing takes a lot of work to keep on top of. I'm learning how to make use of Microsoft programs such as Planner, To Do and Lists in order to keep track of all the tasks I need to undertake.

My words of wisdom...

Study something you love and go from there. Your career will take you in directions you hadn't necessarily planned and that's ok.

