

# Discovering Places

The City's Parks

## Willow trees...

...to world class cricket bats



All photos courtesy of The Parks Trust

Whether seen on village greens, at Lords in Test matches, or on the international cricket circuit, thousands of cricket bats across the world started life as a tree in Milton Keynes' city parks...

Cricket Bat Willows (*Salix Alba Caerulea*), regarded by bat-makers the world over as the highest quality obtainable, are felled annually from The Parks Trust's special stock of 3000 trees – at Pineham, Wolverton, Stony Stratford and Great Linford – to provide the raw materials for cricketers.

Trees are felled after 15-30 years with proceeds (£200-£300 a tree) ploughed back into The Park Trust's work of caring for Milton Keynes' parks and open spaces.

*Lowland floodplain areas, alluvium soils and the general climate make Milton Keynes the perfect place for growing Cricket Bat Willows!*