

# Discovering Places

## The City's Parks

## The City in the country



All photos courtesy of The Parks Trust

*'Today, our green spaces host more different species than ever before – more than 1000 plant species have been recorded in our parks, 800 species of moth and over 200 species of bird just at North Willen Lake.'*

### ... Return of the Otters after 40 years

Otters love healthy rivers, plentiful fish and good riverbank vegetation – and they've been spotted on the River Ouzel less than a mile from the city centre, and in Woughton, Monkston and Waterhall Park.

### ... The city's new Floodplain Forest

This innovative project – the first of its kind in the UK – will transform an 80-acre site in the Ouse Valley Park at Old Wolverton into a lush mosaic of woodland, flowery meadows, reedbeds and water channels providing habitats for a myriad of wildlife.

### ... New city rarities

- One of Britain's rarest butterflies, the Black Hairstreak has been discovered at at Howe Park Wood.
- Several city rivers have populations of Spined Loach.
- At least 43 ponds contain the Great Crested Newt.
- And the water vole has arrived in north Milton Keynes.