

Bedfordshire Gardens Landscapes and Parks 2022

Not all of the following are open to the public, except on specialist days [e.g. National Garden Scheme Open Days] - check their full site details before travelling.

Enjoy!

Amphill Great Park

Amphill Great Park is owned and managed by Amphill Town Council, assisted by The Greensand Trust

Approximately 160 acres of parkland and woodland, including a Children's Play Area, Park Hub with Cafe and Toilets, * Tennis Courts, Amphill Town Cricket Club, Amphill Town Football Club and Amphill Angling Club. The Park is cared for by a Park and Amenities Manager and The Greensand Trust rangers.

<https://www.amphilltowncouncil.org.uk/park/visiting-the-park>

Bedford Park

Bedford Park is a Grade Two listed English Heritage Victorian park in the north of Bedford. Created in 1888 it is the largest urban park in Bedford and contains a lake, multiple play areas and sports facilities.

www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-play-areas/bedford-park/

Clapham Park Wood

Clapham Park Wood stands on a hill of chalky boulder clay overlooking north-west Bedford. An area of ancient woodland, part of this land has now been restored to woodland and a new parkland created. Altogether, there are over 90 acres of woods and parkland to explore using the network of waymarked paths.

<http://www.letsgo.org.uk/thedms.aspx?dms=3&feature=15&venue=2805165>

Flitwick Manor Park

Manor Park was originally part of the Flitwick Manor Estate and was purchased by the Town Council to preserve it for the community.

It's full of history. In 1632 Edward Blofield purchased the Manor of Flitwick from the Crown and rebuilt the Manor House, now known as Flitwick Manor which is a hotel.

www.flitwick.gov.uk/visiting-flitwick/parks-and-open-spaces/manor-park/

Houghton Hall Park, Houghton Regis

Located in the heart of Houghton Regis, Houghton Hall Park is a hidden gem - unlocking 42 acres of parkland, woodland and more to visitors and the local community. Jointly managed by Central Bedfordshire Council and Houghton Regis Town Council, the park has undergone an impressive transformation and offers contemporary amenities while retaining its valuable heritage.

<https://www.houghtonhallpark.org/>

Howbury Hall Garden, Bedford

A late Victorian garden designed with mature trees, sweeping lawns, wonderful colour themed herbaceous borders. In the woodland area, walking towards the large pond, the outside of a disused ice house can be seen. There is a large walled garden for vegetables and cut flowers and a comprehensive collection of apple varieties of Bedfordshire.

Only open on Red Cross and National Garden Scheme Open Days - sites as listed below:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising-and-events/howbury-hall>

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/34650/howbury-hall-garden>

Jordans Mill Garden, Broom

The Mill Gardens were designed by Chelsea Flower Show winners Ian Kitson and Julie Toll who took inspiration from ancient field layouts, hedge patterns and the flow of the River Ivel. Just as the Bedfordshire countryside is divided into fields by hedgerows, the different areas of our gardens are separated using yew hedging. A winding path, emulating the flow of the River Ivel, leads you through the Mill Gardens.

<https://jordansmill.com/plan-your-visit/whats-on#mill-gardens>

King's Arms Garden, Ampthill

What makes this garden special is the use of the natural pond at the north end. This pond was made deeper and dammed to retain the water. From the pond there flows a gully, which goes underground in some places. It divides and reappears all-round the garden. In this way the whole garden is kept well supplied with water. Even in the driest weather the ground around the gullies remains damp.

<https://www.ampthilltowncouncil.org.uk/amenities/kings-arm-garden>

Luton Hoo Walled Garden

The Walled Garden at Luton Hoo Estate was designed by Capability Brown in the late 1760's for John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, noted Botanist and Prime Minister under George III. The Garden changed and evolved under owners and management to match the fashion of horticulture in the 19th and 20th centuries, with each owner leaving their mark on the garden's rich history. Unfortunately, the garden fell into decline in the late 1970's, becoming dilapidated, overgrown and neglected.

In 2001 a project began to research the history of the Walled Garden and its importance in Victorian and Edwardian society. This marked the beginning of a new era for the Walled Garden, which is now the focus of a fascinating project. The Walled Garden Project is largely carried out by an enthusiastic team of gardeners, researchers and historians who work alongside a restoration and conservation team, and a vibrant education team - all dedicated volunteers working towards a bright future whilst continuing to reveal a rich history.

<https://www.lutonhooestate.co.uk/walled-garden.html>

Moggerhanger Park

Moggerhanger Park is a Grade 1 listed Georgian Historic House set in 33 acres of parkland and woodland. It is recognised as the most complete surviving example of Sir John Soane's architecture and is set in stylish grounds and woodlands sculpted by Humphry Repton.

As well as being open to day visitors, the park is now a prestigious venue for conferences, corporate events, weddings and charitable activities and B & B accommodation. A number of popular public events take place in the house and park throughout the year. Moggerhanger Park is open to the public from 8am to 4pm for walks in the woodland and the beautiful walled gardens.

<https://www.moggerhangerpark.com/>

Rushmere Country Park

A great place to discover nature and enjoy the outdoors with over 400 acres of woodland, heathland and meadows to enjoy.

Come and view herons nesting in Spring from our outdoor café terrace, discover fairy doors and the Giant's Chair along our Sculpture Trail, walk the dog, specialist cycling facilities with Ridge Riders cross country trail and jump area, or ride your horse.

<https://www.greensandtrust.org/About-Rushmere>

Swiss Garden, Old Warden

Walk through ornate ironwork gates into a delightful Regency and Victorian layered garden and discover a green and pleasant idyll. There's even a pair of peacocks waiting to strut their stuff just for you!

<https://www.shuttleworth.org/explore/swiss-garden/>

Southill Park

Southill Park contains the site of late medieval Gastlings or Gastlyns Manor House and is the name given to a country house in Southill, Bedfordshire and its adjoining privately owned gardens and separate public parkland; it includes a lake and woodland.

Only open on National Garden Scheme Open Days - sites as listed below:

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/6407>

Stockwood Park Discovery Garden, Luton

Beautiful gardens, interactive exhibitions and the largest carriage collection in Europe! And it's free. Discovery Gardens including Sensory and Medicinal gardens which were designed to incorporate the opportunity for sounds, touch and also plants with scents.

<https://www.culturetrust.com/venues/stockwood-discovery-centre>

Stockwood Park Improvement Garden, Luton

Stockwood Discovery Centre gardens are inspired by nine centuries of gardening history. A paradise for garden enthusiasts, Stockwood Discovery Centre is one of the few places in the country where the work of acclaimed artist Ian Hamilton Finlay can be seen on permanent display. His 'Improvement Garden' is a classical garden in which the sculptures are an integral part of the landscape. Once part of the original Stockwood House walled areas, the period gardens reflect the changing styles of gardening in this country. New areas include a contemplative sensory garden, a colourful world garden, and a medicinal garden highlighting the usefulness of plants - designed with environmentally green and sustainable principles in mind.

<https://www.culturetrust.com/venues/stockwood-discovery-centre>

The Manor House, Stevington

A Garden for all Seasons: Four and a half acres and almost 30 years in the making - known as Kathy Brown's Garden

<https://www.kathybrownsgarden.com/about-my-garden/>

The RSPB Lodge Garden, Sandy

The Lodge Nature Reserve and Gardens is a very special place, offering an exceptionally rich combination of wildlife and heritage experiences. The woodland, heath and acid grassland here cover an area of some 220 hectares, and now form the largest stretch of heathland in Bedfordshire.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/the-lodge/>

Woburn Abbey Gardens and Parkland

The deer park is large. Always one of England's great English parks, Woburn is becoming a great garden through a 20-year programme to restore the garden Humphry Repton designed and represented in his 1805 Red Book. Woburn was the most fully realised of Repton's projects. A large Red Book was presented to the 6th Duke of Bedford in 1802. Repton proposed a lake, a serpentine river, an American Garden, extensive planting, a bridge, and a Thornery. Woburn Abbey has a hornbeam maze, herbaceous borders, ponds, a woodland garden and a Chinese dairy overlooking a pool. The curved greenhouse is used as a camellia house.

<https://www.woburnabbey.co.uk/>

Wrest Park, Silsoe

From dazzling parterres and fragrant borders, to sweeping countryside views and idyllic woodland walks, Wrest Park is a real treat for the senses. With over 90 spacious acres to explore, enjoy a day out in the fresh air and discover the evolution of the English garden. Stroll through three centuries of landscape design showcasing a range of styles including Dutch and Italian, wander along the show-stopping formal Long Water walk and spot beautiful classical statues as you explore the grounds.

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wrest-park/?utm_campaign=aka_wrest_park_21

Additional information can be found at the following websites:

[Leading resource for UK Parks & Gardens - Parks & Gardens \(parksandgardens.org\)](https://www.parksandgardens.org/)

<https://ngs.org.uk/>