

Well, it's nearly #loveparkweek.

With this in mind I wanted to think about why I love parks. 🤔

There are a whole load of reasons I came up with as I thought about this. What it did come down to ultimately is 'joy'. Parks bring me joy and here are a few examples of how.

What amazing places for us to celebrate, to socialise and have fun through the vast and varied events that happen throughout our parks. This photo is from event control at Park Life in Platt Fields in Manchester.



They are brilliant place to learn about and reflect on our history. So many parks have a wealth of history and stories to tell as well as vast opportunities to admire craftsmanship, design, architecture and preserve declining skills in these trades. This picture is of the amazing stable block from the roof of the hall in Heaton Park in Manchester. Listed buildings sat within a listed landscape.



Art. Comes in many forms and represents many causes, historic moments, fun, creativity, free thinking, culture and sometimes protest. This picture is me helping create a mural around the historic moments and people of Manchester as part of a multicultural activity.



All the fun of the fair. Fond memories of a child going to the fair with my mum for a treat and then as a teenager with my mates as the start of adulthood and freedom and flying the nest. And now, the person that checks all the insurance, the safety testing certificates and risk assessments to make sure they are safe for people to continue those stories and creating memories.



Creating spaces for all. We share our parks with lots of other animals that live in them. We need to find that balance around our needs and theirs. Be mindful of the ecological collapse that we are right in the middle of as we continue to manage these spaces for all. These pictures are a band of wildflowers on a small site we care for in Adur created by the local community with our Rangers Team and a habitat hotel that doubles as a seat - every space counts after all.



Beauty. Nature ever ceases to amaze me. It continually takes my breath away. In any season, in any weather at any time of day. Take those moments. Notice them. Be in that moment and value it. This photo was one of my morning walks to work through Wythenshawe Park in Manchester.



Our ability to show case and learn from our peers and celebrate our parks through @greenflag awards for our parks. To strive for excellence, for bettering our parks. This photo is me at one of our award ceremonies - which leads me onto the top of the sign - 'It all started in a park', well it did for me. I met my husband in a park. I started my career in a park. I found my 'place' where I belong in a park. I grew up in a park. Explored in so many parks. Created memories in a park. Learnt new things. Laughed. Cried. Made lifelong friends. So, parks have brought me so much joy. I really hope that as we start #loveparkweek, that you too manage to get so much Joy from our parks.

