



Working for Parks and Countryside

Community Programme Coordinator

We are looking for a Community Programme Coordinator with a keen interest in community work and a passion for protecting the countryside.

This is an exciting opportunity to work across our much-valued country parks, nature reserves and railway paths in County Durham, supporting a variety of Countryside Service projects.

Grade 7, 22.5 hours per week
Temporary to June 2025

Hybrid approach with home, remote and office working

**Take a look
at our
rewards**

The role of the Community Programme Coordinator

A Community Programme Coordinator works across our parks and countryside in County Durham. They take a lead role in developing relationships with community interest groups and partner organisations, encouraging their participation in a range of countryside projects.



A Community Programme Coordinator helps develop and deliver a programme of events and activities to support the service and build community resilience. They identify funding opportunities for the countryside projects, making applications to support their implementation, and dealing with monitoring and evaluation data.

A Community Programme Coordinator has excellent communication skills and a great understanding of countryside issues.

Parks and Countryside Service

County Durham has some of the most beautiful countryside and coastal landscapes in Britain. It is home to a huge variety of plants and animals, and the area has a fascinating historical and geological heritage.

The Parks and Countryside Service looks after the countryside estate for people and wildlife. It is our job to balance access and recreation for people with the protection of wildlife and habitats.

Recent success stories!

Bracken battle and the four-legged friend

Northumbrian Water and the Heart of Durham Project have been working in partnership to manage bracken at Pow Hill in recent months. Bracken outcompetes other plants for light resource resulting in a reduction in biodiversity of flora.



For the second year running, the partnership has enabled the four-legged trooper “Orli” and his handler Chris Wadsworth to lead an impressive attack on the bracken at Pow Hill. Orli the horse has been equipped with a roller used to crush bracken as he walks, whilst being guided by his handler Chris.

Joining the bracken battle this year have been the Parks and Countryside Service volunteers and some Heart of Durham volunteers who have been able to reach places Orli cannot.

It is hoped that by crushing bracken, there will be a reduction in coverage, encouraging other plants such as wavy hair grass, bilberry, common milkwort, heather, and speedwell. Following rolling last year, the increase in light and space caused by the reduction in bracken led to a positive increase in heather and bilberry on the site.

Waiving the Green Flag!

Eleven of our parks and green spaces, including Hardwick Park and Wharton Park, have been awarded the esteemed Green Flag Award. There was a special mention from the judges for Wharton Park’s community garden.

“Wonderful community garden at the very heart of the park. There is much information available in the garden on the Friends Group with contact numbers, even a tiny leaflet to take away with relevant details. The garden is full of innovative features, such as the waterproof boxes on the seats filled with children’s books, the mini leaflet dispenser, donations box and the small demonstration gardens.



The garden’s building is well protected with security features but still looks charming. Really well done, everyone involved.”

Limekiln Gill

We have been successful in receiving Blue Space funding from Northumbrian Water to improve the site at Limekiln Gill.

Limekiln Gill Local Nature Reserve is a Special Area of Conservation within Durham Heritage Coast. Coastal healthland is found here, a rare habitat containing heather, gorse, and bracken.

The site is also home to Magnesian Limestone grassland where only specific types of flowers grow. These include common spotted orchid, field scabious, common rock rose and basil thyme.



The Blue Space funding has been secured in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust’s Seascapes Project. It will be used to help alleviate pollution and fly tipping issues on the site and other landscape improvement works.

Join our team

We can promise you a rewarding career in one of the most forward-thinking councils in the country. As the largest local authority in the North East we offer excellent opportunities for career progression too.

We are proud of our supportive team! We want every team member to feel valued and recognised for their individual contribution. We are committed to providing a working environment where everyone can continuously develop and thrive.

As a member of the Parks and Countryside team, you will have the opportunity to learn more about biodiversity and habitat management, learn practical outdoor skills, and develop skills and knowledge of outdoor learning and engagement.

You will need

For the position of **Community Programme Coordinator** you will need:

- Significant knowledge and experience of developing and delivering community projects/programmes.
- Experience and knowledge of completing funding applications and monitoring and reporting against funding requirements.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Energetic with a keen interest in community work and protecting the countryside.

You will need an NVQ Level 5 or equivalent in a related subject, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience as detailed in the person specification.

Take a look at the person specification for the full criteria.