National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

An Act to make provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to settle on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the setting, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country; and to amend the law relating to rights of way; to confer further powers for preserving and enhancing natural beauty; and for matters connected with the purposes aforesaid.

[16th December 1949]

Environment Act 1995

An Act to provide for the establishment of a body corporate to be known as the Environment Agency and a body corporate to be known as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; to provide for the transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities to those bodies and for the conferring of other functions on them; to make provision with respect to contaminated land and abandoned mines; to make further provision in relation to National Parks; to make further provision for the control of pollution, the conservation of natural resources and the conservation or enhancement of the environment; to make provision for imposing obligations on certain persons in respect of certain actions or materials; to make provision in relation to fisheries; to make provision for certain enactments to bind the Crown; to make provision with respect to the application of certain enactments in relation to the Isles of Scilly; and for connected purposes.

[9th July 1995]

Be it enacted by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows—

An Act to provide for the establishment of a body corporate to be known as the Environment Agency and a body corporate to be known as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; to provide for the transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities to those bodies and for the conferring of other functions on them; to make provision with respect to contaminated land and abandoned mines; to make further provision in relation to National Parks; to make further provision for the control of pollution, the conservation of natural resources and the conservation or enhancement of the environment; to make provision for imposing obligations on certain persons in respect of certain actions or materials; to make provision in relation to fisheries; to make provision for certain enactments to bind the Crown; to make provision with respect to the application of certain enactments in relation to the Isles of Scilly; and for connected purposes.
Could London become a National Park?
It won’t be a National Park.

London could be a National Park City.
1,572 km² in area
47% physically green*
3.8 million gardens
8.6 million people
8.3 million trees
13,000 species*
30,000 allotments
3,000 parks
300 farms
50+ canoe clubs
1,000 km+ of signed footpaths
850 km+ of streams, rivers and canals
14,000 species of wildlife*
2 Special Protection Areas
3 Special Areas of Conservation
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
2 National Nature Reserves
37 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
142 Local Nature Reserves
1,400 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

*Data by Greenspace Information for Greater London

@DanRavenEllison @LondonNPC NationalParkCity

Image: Luke Massey
Every year London’s public green spaces:

- provide services valued at £5 billion
- save £950 million in health costs, including
  - £370 as a result of better mental health
- have a recreational value of £926 million
- are worth £900 a year for nearby households
Our species are in trouble, with many declining at an alarming rate. In the last 50 years 56% of our species have declined.
Our Core Aims

1. Connect more people to nature and the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and social cohesion;

2. Create more high quality green and blue space and better places in London, delivering improvements for wildlife, people’s enjoyment and an attractive and sustainable environment for living and working in;

3. Promote the identity of London as the world’s first National Park City, helping residents and visitors to appreciate the potential for a rich cultural life anchored in its outdoor heritage; and;

4. Link people to the national and international family of national parks and other protected areas.
National Park City Foundation

We are going to galvanise an alliance to transform London

- Grow our platform
- Lead campaigns
- Fundraise
- Grow our alliance
- Coordinate activities
- Support projects
- Make London amazingly more green and create better places
- Connect far more people to nature and London's great outdoors
- Promote London's identity as the world's first National Park City

Better health and mental health outcomes
More volunteering in London
More local food growing
More biodiversity
Better water management
More footpaths
Less pollution
Less congestion
More and better green spaces
More and greater wildlife
More investment and employment in London
National Park spin off ventures
More diversity of people enjoying London
More community interaction related to London’s green spaces
More walking and cycling
More education in and around nature
More and less energy into London’s environment
More cooking with and supported nature
More and less water into London’s green spaces
1770 - London’s oldest living London Plane planted
1824 - RSPCA is founded
1860 - Campaigns begin that lead to the protection of Wimbledon Common, Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath etc.
1865 - Commons Preservation Society (now Open Spaces Society) founded
1872 - Yellowstone National Park founded (but not called a national park at that point)
1875 - The first area to use “national park” in its creation legislation was the US’s Mackinac Island
1878 - The Corporation of London acquired legal power to bring other land into its ownership for the benefit of Londoners
1879 - Australia’s Royal National Park was the world’s third official national park
1895 - National Trust founded
1902 - The Selborne Society establishes Perivale Woods in Ealing, London
1911 - Parks Canada becomes the world’s first national service dedicated to protecting and presenting natural and historical treasures
1913 - UK Government inquiry recommends the creation of a national park authority
1913 - Mass trespasses on Kinder Scout in the Peak District
1950 - The Peak District is designated as the UK’s first National Park
1951 - The Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor confirmed as National Parks
1952 - Pembrokeshire Coast and North York Moors confirmed as National Parks
1954 - Yorkshire Dales and Exmoor confirmed as National Parks
1955 - Green Belt started to be identified
1956 - Northumberland confirmed as a National Park
1957 - Brecon Beacons confirmed as a National Park
1961 - Tijuca Forest National Park in Rio de Janeiro formed
1963 - Singapore’s Garden City journey begins
1966 - Colne Valley Regional Park established
1967 - Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
1977 - Council for National Parks (CNP), now called the Campaign for National Parks, is formed
1981 - London Wildlife Trust formed
1984 - National Heritage Areas start to be designated in the US by Congress.
1988 - Broads Authority gains equivalent national park status by a special Act of Parliament
1995 - Royal National City Park, the world’s first national urban park, created in Stockholm
1996 - London Biodiversity Partnership formed
2002 - Biodiversity Strategy for London developed by the Greater London Authority
2006 - New Forest confirmed as a National Park
2010 - The South Downs confirmed as a National Park
2012 - London Green Grid published to protect, conserve and enhance London’s network of green and open natural and cultural spaces
2013 - London National Park City campaign begins
2014 - The Royal Borough of Kingston passes a motion to support the National Park City
2015 - Rouge National Urban Park becomes Canada’s first National Urban Park - Crowdfunded National Park City proposal published
2017 - The Mayor of London and 1,000 local politicians back the London National Park City
London will become a #NationalParkCity in 2019. Let’s make it a success.

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