



Investing in Impact

Local investment opportunities
to make a difference

Investing in Impact

Foreword

Peterborough and its surrounding region in the East of England is a rapidly growing and diverse area that our organisation, Nene Park Trust, is proud to call home.

Through our work and initiatives, we strive to make a significant difference to the city and region by implementing projects that enhance its appeal as a place to live, study, work, visit, or invest in, helping to create a truly sustainable and socially connected region that is fit for the 21st Century and beyond.

Our exemplary landscape management practices and cultural programming demonstrate how our work effectively engages local communities and safeguards nature, heritage, culture and the arts, and is worthy of replication by and with similar organisations.

We are driven by a strong ambition to create real environmental and social impact, benefiting both the people and communities we serve and the wider environment. This aim is central to our plans and shared by many organisations across the region.

Through this investment prospectus, we are offering an opportunity to be part of and invest in our vision, creating real and lasting impact that will improve the lives of local people and help tackle the wider environmental and social challenges faced by all.

As Nene Park Trust approaches its 40th anniversary in 2028, we are committed to expanding our impact on Peterborough and the surrounding region.

This document outlines our key future plans and aspirations under our key impact themes, demonstrating how your investment can be a catalyst for the significant change we envision for the region.

We are fully committed to creating positive impact and invite you to join and support us on this journey.



While we cannot achieve our vision alone, your support is crucial. It empowers us to continue shaping spaces and creating joy for our community.

From Lakeside Activity Centre to Lynch Farm Education Hub, from Nene Nursery to our Share Farming initiative, our projects and aspirations are ambitious, exciting, and impactful. Moreover, we are eager to share the benefits of these projects with our investors and partners.

These benefits could include delivering a strong social return on investment, contributing to sustainable development goals, offering nature-based investment opportunities, and helping to achieve net-zero targets. Let us work together to deliver the change you want to see.

**Chief Executive, Matthew Bradbury
and Mark Duckmanton, Chair of Trustees**



Key messages

Creating Shared Positive Impact

Nene Park Trust aims to create significant positive environmental and social change across Peterborough and the East of England. We want to attract investors, partners and facilitators who align with our objectives and priorities, to work on key projects together and deliver mutual goals and shared impact.

Impactful Priority Projects Requiring Investment

The Trust has developed a series of key priority projects, ranging from innovative local initiatives to transformative, place-shaping proposals, many of which are shovel-ready and all are able to deliver sizable and sustained impact that will help enhance the region for its residents and visitors.

Ambitious Plans for the Next 40 Years

Leading up to our 40th Anniversary in 2028, Nene Park Trust plans to push our ambitions further, focusing on key impact themes of Visitor Economy, Communities & Education, Health & Wellbeing, and the Environment.

Growing Ambition for Regional Influence

This prospectus is a statement of our growing ambition to lead, influence, and collaborate, making a difference on a regional scale and beyond. We are committed to delivery at scale and with wide-reaching benefits, and are looking for investors to support our exciting plans.

Seeking Co-investors for Joint Projects

We are reaching out for partners to co-fund and jointly deliver our new projects. We can offer or accept various financial mechanisms to facilitate your support. We also want to foster partnerships with organisations and people who can build upon the work we have already started and help steward our developing projects to completion, and we are always open to developing new joint-projects and initiatives should potential synergies arise.

Mutual Benefits of Collaboration

Working together on these projects brings a wealth of mutual benefits, helping you meet your own areas of interest and aspirations including funding priorities, social investment, CSR and ESG frameworks, Net Zero and Scope 3 emission targets. The projects detailed herein also contribute towards many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Contact us to discuss investment opportunities

Get in touch via investment@neneparktrust.org.uk if you would like to start a conversation about investment and collaboration and the many positive benefits and impacts we can jointly co-create for our communities and the region.



Improve health & wellbeing



Strengthen community connections & promote education

Let us help you deliver the change you want to see



Boost the visitor economy & sustainable growth



Tackle climate change & protect the environment



Proven Track Record

In 2024, we worked with partners at Valencia Communities Fund, the Environment Agency and Landfill Communities Fund to deliver the creation of a brand new wildlife habitat in the Park. The £70,000 reedbed project recycled leftover spoil from the construction of our new carpark to install a brand new reedbed in Gunwade Lake and help support many of the fish, amphibian, bird and invertebrate species in the Park to thrive.

Investing in Impact

Overview of the Trust

Since 1988, Nene Park Trust has been creating and managing spaces where people connect and communities thrive.

As a leading charity, we're transforming how natural and cultural landscapes enrich people's lives.



While our flagship 900-hectare Nene Park estate remains our most recognised asset, we've evolved into one of the region's pivotal cultural, social, and environmental organisations. We maintain strong partnerships with key stakeholders including Peterborough City Council (PCC), the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Peterborough Citizens, Midlands Parks Forum, and the Local Nature Partnership amongst many others, collectively enhancing Peterborough's civic pride, green ambitions, and social wellbeing.

Nene Park Trust has evolved beyond traditional park management to offer comprehensive community value: enhanced sustainability, improved safety, peaceful spaces, engaging play areas, cultural experiences, and varied activities—creating inclusive opportunities for everyone. Our commitment to harnessing the power of nature, health, community, and culture has led to numerous significant achievements:

- Giving people opportunities to spend quality time in natural spaces has helped to reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression, and stress amongst our park users.
- Our volunteer community has flourished to nearly 200 dedicated members in just over a decade, becoming integral to our operations while fostering skills development, enjoyment, and lasting friendships.

- Our outdoor education programme has achieved excellence, ranging from Nature Tots to university research partnerships. Our innovative approaches, including the pioneering School-in-Residence initiative, leverage our inspiring setting and expert staff to deliver exceptional learning experiences.
- Since assuming management of Nene Outdoors Watersports and Activity Centre in 2016, we have transformed it into a premier regional destination for water sports and outdoor adventures, serving individuals, groups, businesses, and educational institutions.
- The Bringing Nature Closer project, implemented over the past decade, has significantly enhanced biodiversity through initiatives such as our Heron Meadow flood-meadow restoration, offering visitors intimate encounters with nature's wonders.
- Our annual Peterborough Celebrates Festival unites thousands of regional visitors in Ferry Meadows for an inclusive weekend of creativity and entertainment that caters to all interests and ages.
- As host organisation for both Peterborough Presents community arts programme and the Peterborough Cultural Alliance, we've demonstrated our commitment to enriching lives through arts and culture, delivering impactful creative opportunities throughout the city.

Further details about the Trust and our work can be found on our website www.nenepark.org.uk



Why now?

Guided by our 10-year strategy, “**Doing More with More**”, and executed through our new business plan, “**Our Road Map to Impact**”, the Trust has embarked on an ambitious portfolio of projects that aim to deliver a dual bottom line: significant environmental and social impact and a strong return on investment, ensuring the sustainability of our charitable goals.

As we approach our 40th anniversary as a charity, our aspirations are higher than ever. We want to step-up our impact delivery and enhance our presence in the region. To achieve this, we are ready to make major investments in new, place-making and transformative projects. However, to truly deliver at the scale our ambitions demand, we need to secure support and build partnerships. By collaborating, we can launch initiatives that generate the social benefits we all strive for, benefiting both our communities and ourselves.

This prospectus is designed to highlight many of the key projects we want to take forward and proposes various ways that you and others can help deliver our impactful aspirations. If you would like to discuss potential investment or partnership opportunities, or you would like further information on our work and impact, please do get in touch via investment@neneparktrust.org.uk or speak to Adrian Oates, Head of Fundraising and Partnerships on 07901 220 079.

Our aspiration is to become known as a regional or national organisation making a real difference to people’s lives.

Investing in Impact

How you can help

Our ambitious plans have immense potential to make a real difference. We are prepared to invest significant time and money to move our vision forward.

However, we are reaching out to you for support and collaboration to turn our plans into reality and amplify the impact we can make together. Your support can be provided in several ways:

Financial Support

Your co-investment, whether through a lump sum, grant, regular giving, or employee donations, will provide the capital needed to fund these exciting projects.

Social Impact Investments

We are innovative in our funding models and will consider offering investments that guarantee a social return on your money.

Sponsorship

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring an element of our future plans, we will ensure your support is given the profile and recognition you deserve to our over 1 million visitors.

In-Kind Contributions

Donating products or services that we need to achieve our mutual goals can be just as valuable as financial contributions.

Volunteering

Participate in corporate volunteering days at Nene Park, or encourage your employees / friends to volunteer their time and skills to help deliver our objectives.

Expert Help

Can you be an advocate who helps bring these important projects to fruition by overcoming any obstacles in the way?

Raising Awareness

Use your platforms to raise awareness and understanding about our cause through social media campaigns, company newsletters, or awareness events.



Leading by Example

As well as looking for partners with shared vision and values to invest in us, we are also investors ourselves in large scale projects that deliver against our primary impacts.

Delivered in 2023, we used £2m of our own money to complete the first phase of the Lakeside Activity Centre project (more about this on page 10) by building a brand new car park, enabling increased parking capacity and improved biodiversity, and allowing the old car park to create a footprint for building ready for the next phase of the project.

Key organisations that have supported our work





How we can help you

We want the realisation of our strategic goals to be a shared endeavour, shaped through collaboration and a mutual commitment to delivering meaningful impact. While the key project ideas described here stem from our priorities and aspirations, the outcomes will benefit everyone, fostering a shared sense of pride and fulfilment.

Making a Difference

Your investment in our future plans will enable your organisation to demonstrate its positive impact on the local area.

Achieving Shared Outcomes

By contributing to our primary impacts in Visitor Economy, Community & Education, Health & Wellbeing and Environment, our projects will align with your priorities and support strategic outcomes such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Meeting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Standards

Supporting our key projects and charitable work will help organisations showcase their ESG credentials, help meet Net Zero and GHG Protocol targets, and provide nature-based investments and solutions.

Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility

Collaborating with us will allow your organisation to demonstrate its social value and help achieve its CSR objectives.

Improving our Local Communities

We all strive to enhance the communities where our employees and beneficiaries live and work.

Innovation and Collaboration

We offer innovative and collaborative solutions that can help aligned organisations develop and modernise.

Building Pride in Peterborough and the Region

Our ambitious plans will signify growth and development in Peterborough, instilling a renewed sense of pride and progress in our shared beneficiaries.

Delivering Ecosystem Services

Nene Park provides essential ecosystem services, including flood retention and climate regulation. Your support will ensure these services are maintained and enhanced for all residents of the city.

Helping Meet Planning Regulations

Our over 900 hectares of natural landscape combined with our commitment and desire to manage our land for ecological benefit means we are perfectly placed to work with developers and others to fulfil Biodiversity Net Gain planning requirements.

Complementing Local Ambitions

Our proposals align with and complement the strategic plans and priorities of PCC and CPCA, including the Local Economic Growth Strategy.

Investing in Impact

Visitor economy and sustainable local growth ambitions

Peterborough is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and faces significant change over the next 10 years.

This period of change provides an opportunity to invest in the region's natural capital assets, such as Nene Park, to achieve truly sustainable growth. This will enhance the environment and deliver a range of benefits and opportunities for residents and businesses in the Greater Peterborough Region.

- The local visitor economy will play a vital role in seizing this opportunity by attracting visitors, creating jobs and economic activity, enhancing Peterborough's image, and providing a unique and memorable experience for both visitors and those who cater to them.

Promoting the City and Sustainable Local Growth

- Nearly 20,000 people, 16% of the total workforce, are employed in the visitor economy of Peterborough.
- The local visitor economy not only directly boosts local businesses but also supports a wide range of sectors in the supply chain, creating jobs and economic security for thousands of residents.
- Investing in the tourism potential of Peterborough provides a major opportunity to drive the city's growth and prosperity, benefiting local people and businesses.
- Successful local economies must be built on thriving local environments. Investing in the region's natural capital to tackle climate change and the nature crisis creates jobs and supports local businesses.

Outdoor Leisure

- Nene Park, a beautiful greenspace of parkland, meadows, woodlands and lakes, is the region's favourite place to get outdoors and enjoy nature. At the heart of the estate is Ferry Meadows, one of the most visited country parks in the UK.
- The Park comprises five other areas, each with their own unique identity: Orton Meadows, Orton Mere, Woodston Reach, Thorpe Meadows and the Rural Estate. The River Nene runs through all these areas, connecting them.
- Nene Park has seen visitor numbers rise by over a third since 2014, reaching over 5,000 visits per day in 2023, proving the Park is an integral and flourishing part of the local visitor economy.
- Located on the edge of Gunwade Lake in Ferry Meadows, Nene Outdoors Watersports and Activity Centre is the ideal venue for water and land-based activities, including camping and outdoor pursuits. In 2023, we welcomed 23,000 customers to Nene Outdoors, including 2,500 children on school trips, all accruing health and wellbeing benefits during their time at Nene Park.





Art and Culture

- Since 2016, Nene Park Trust has successfully delivered a series of arts projects that provided visitor engagement activities, achieved good social impact, produced high quality artwork and supported local creatives. These include an innovative artist-in-residence programme, temporary installations, schools art projects, digital interpretation, outdoor exhibitions, theatre and performances, creative outreach activities and cultural events.
- We are also the custodians of the Peterborough Sculpture Collection, an exciting and significant collection of artworks on permanent public display across the city.
- Our ambition is to be a key cultural organisation in the city, aiming to increase engagement with culture and heritage, celebrate our environment through arts and heritage, and ensure that arts, culture and heritage is recognised, promoted, protected and embedded.

Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our work to boost the visitor economy and sustainable local growth supports the following SDGs:



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
by enabling an environment where people can secure productive and decent employment that promotes their wellbeing.



SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure
by creating and maintaining inclusive, climate-resilient spaces that are sustainable and integrated with the environment.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
by promoting access for all.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
by making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



SDG 13: Climate Action
by developing spaces that help to combat the effects of climate change.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
by providing spaces for community engagement and inclusive participation that helps foster a city that attracts investment and growth.



Investing in Impact

Key visitor economy projects requiring investment and support



LAKESIDE ACTIVITY CENTRE

The Project

We will create England's only bespoke Olympic-standard climbing facility and family recreation hub at Ferry Meadows. This iconic landmark will not only become a National Centre of Excellence for climbing and para-climbing but will also offer fully accessible, year-round play and fitness opportunities for all ages and abilities. Our aim is for the building to be welcoming visitors from across the region and beyond by Summer 2026.

The Impact

This exciting project will deliver a significant increase in regional participation in sport, physical activity and healthier lifestyles, and the improvement to individual wellbeing and mental health positivity that it brings. Uniquely, it will be a fully accessible facility, offering para-climbing experiences to the widest range of people, whatever their impairment. The centre will also elevate Nene Park, making it a beacon for local residents and visitors alike, and enhance Peterborough's appeal as a vibrant city to live, study, work, and invest in.

Our Commitment

The Trust has already secured planning permission and has committed around half of the £14 million construction costs from our reserves.

Your Support

We seek financial support to help to bridge the remaining funding gap of £3.5 million that will allow this ambitious, transformative project to proceed.

PETERBOROUGH SCULPTURE COLLECTION

The Project

As custodians of the Peterborough Sculpture Collection, we are proud to preserve this important cultural asset, created as part of Peterborough's growth as a new town. The collection includes 29 sculptures, featuring works by renowned artists such as Anthony Caro, Sokari Douglas-Camp, and Antony Gormley's first public commission.

The Impact

Providing access to cultural activities in safe enriching spaces boosts mental health and combats social isolation, fostering connection and growth.

Our Commitment

Since we took over ownership, we have secured modest grant funding to restore and promote the collection and our staff and volunteers routinely maintain the sculptures.

Your Support

We invite financial support of up to £100,000 to restore and rejuvenate the collection during 2025-26, and would welcome your help in engaging our communities to appreciate and celebrate this vital part of Peterborough's cultural heritage.





PETERBOROUGH CELEBRATES EVENTS PROGRAMME

The Project

Nene Park Trust hosts Peterborough Celebrates, the region's largest free-to-attend community festival, uniting our diverse communities in a joyful and welcoming family event. We aim to expand the brand of Peterborough Celebrates into a year-round series of events and activities that fosters diversity, champions the natural world, promotes cohesion, and brings our region together.

The Impact

Expanding our community events programme will enhance community cohesion and social integration, providing everyone with opportunities to enjoy and experience our greenspaces and activities together.

Our Commitment

We have demonstrated the demand for, and our capacity to deliver, a large-scale family festival. We will commit to expanding our events programme into a year-round regional offer under the Peterborough Celebrates banner.

Your Support

Financial assistance totalling around £150,000, split between donors and spread over the next few years, will help us make an expanded range of events as impactful and memorable as possible.



Community & education ambitions

Supporting a Young and Diverse City

- Peterborough fosters a rich cultural environment, with a higher proportion of global majority communities than the national average. Over 80 languages are spoken in local schools in Peterborough. Through curating key community assets and events and collaborating with partners to champion Peterborough's Cultural Strategy, Nene Park Trust spearheads and promotes the rich tapestry of local culture, history, and natural heritage, igniting curiosity and creativity through a diverse array of activities and programmes.
- Through the Trust, children and young people are empowered to explore, learn, and grow through engaging and educational activities, supported by a network of clubs, schools, community groups and volunteers.

Community Involvement

- We are dedicated to weaving a stronger community fabric through inclusive events, activities, and volunteer opportunities. Our initiatives are designed to embrace diverse age groups, backgrounds, and abilities, creating a welcoming environment for all.

- Nene Park, and the popular hub of Ferry Meadows in particular, has become a vital, safe, neutral space for local communities across Peterborough to convene and socialise. Our Peterborough Celebrates annual festival is testament to the power of social inclusion.
- Volunteering is the lifeblood of our community engagement work. Our volunteers contribute to the upkeep of our Nene Park estate, whilst gaining invaluable skills and fostering a deep sense of ownership and pride.

Education Initiatives

- Our outdoor education and Forest School programmes offer both formal and informal learning opportunities for people of all ages. Outcomes include raising environmental awareness, nurturing connections with nature, promoting stewardship, and developing vital employment skills.
- Beyond the classroom, we engage families and individuals with seasonal activities like pond dipping, birdwatching, and bushcraft, fostering a lifelong love of learning and environmental stewardship.

Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our impactful community and education work supports the following SDGs:



SDG 4: Quality Education

by ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

by promoting better prospects for personal development and social integration.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from our programmes, activities and impact.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

by helping to make our city inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



SDG 15: Life on Land

by protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

by fostering a sense of community, promoting inclusive participation, and encouraging civic responsibility

Investment opportunities in key community & education projects



LYNCH FARM REDEVELOPMENT

The Project

Peterborough is a city where increased access and participation in heritage and culture can profoundly enrich lives. We are excited to redevelop the Grade II listed building at Lynch Farm, securing its identity and future as an inspirational and vibrant centre. Here, people of all abilities and backgrounds, especially young people, will discover their passions and become advocates for both natural and built heritage.

The Impact

This project will create a vibrant space for connection, learning, and engagement with the beautiful park landscape right at its doorstep.

Our Commitment

We are exploring options to make Lynch Farm a successful and sustainable hub for outdoor education and social cohesion, and through our visitor engagement teams we will ensure the space is a well-used and valued community asset.

Your Support

We invite your support through financial contributions towards this £3million project, or your expert advice to help bring this vision to life. Once the space is fully open from 2027 onwards, we would welcome regular sponsors and donors for our ongoing activities at Lynch Farm.

CASTOR BARN

The Project

We are committed to enhancing outdoor learning opportunities for as many schools as possible. Castor Barn, located on our rural estate, requires improvements to reach its full potential. It will serve as a year-round hub for our education department's outdoor learning and forest school activities, and will also support a new farming education stream, including our Young Rangers and NEETs programmes.

The Impact

Extending our education offer in this way will create better life chances by allowing local young people to learn and develop understanding and skills, and improve awareness and engagement with our natural heritage.

Our Commitment

We will ensure that the barn remains an integral part of our share-farming operation, providing people with the opportunity to see a working farm up close, alongside the natural and built heritage within our estate.

Your Support

We would welcome financial support of up to £150,000 to allow us to take this project forward during 2025.

ORTON MERE

The Project

Nestled to the east of the Nene Park estate, Orton Mere is a sanctuary of open spaces, tree-lined avenues, and serene riverside paths. This hidden gem serves as an alternative gateway to the Park and is home to Orton Mere station on the Nene Valley Railway. Our vision is to transform Orton Mere into an appealing destination where visitors can immerse themselves in nature and leisure. We plan to enhance the visitor experience by building a welcoming café and rest-stop, alongside a fun play area for children.

The Impact

These additions will create a new favourite spot in Nene Park for families and adventurers alike to explore and enjoy.

Our Commitment

We will provide the land and expertise, and work with partners who also use Orton Mere, to transform this part of Nene Park into a space that works for everyone.

Your Support

Your financial support of up to £250,000 and practical assistance to help us develop the area over the next 5 years will help us make Orton Mere a cherished haven for all.

Investing in Impact

Health & wellbeing ambitions

Helping to Address Health Inequalities

- Peterborough faces significant health challenges, such as high rates of mental health issues, and health inequalities. Around 65% of adults in Peterborough are classified as overweight or obese and only 60% meet the recommended levels of physical activity.
- Harnessing the power of nature, community and culture, Nene Park Trust improves health and wellbeing by promoting physical activity, mental relaxation, social engagement, and community involvement.

Physical Health Benefits

- Our spaces and facilities welcome people of all ages and fitness levels, from those seeking vigorous exercise to those preferring more leisurely pursuits.
- By eliminating barriers to healthy lifestyles, we foster communities where physical health benefits are within everyone's reach.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Spending time in greenspaces significantly reduces symptoms of anxiety, depression, and stress.
- Nene Park Trust actively champions mental health & wellbeing by encouraging visitors to connect with nature, appreciate culture, and discover mindfulness and reflection in a serene environment.

Social & Community Wellbeing

- Nene Park is a vibrant social hub, hosting events that brings people together, reducing social isolation and fostering community wellbeing.
- Volunteering at Nene Park enriches people's lives by boosting self-esteem, purpose, and social connections, all of which contribute to improved mental and physical health.

Wellbeing Through Gardening

- Our pioneering therapeutic horticulture hub at Nene Nursery exemplifies the Trust's dedication to community health and wellbeing.
- As traditional health services face increasing pressures, spaces like Nene Nursery become even more essential, providing a sanctuary where the community can flourish.



Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our work to improve health and wellbeing supports the following SDGs:



SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
by promoting mental and physical wellbeing for all at all ages.



SDG 5: Gender Equality
by empowering women and girls to enjoy nature in a safe space.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
by ensuring equal opportunities.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
by enhancing inclusive, sustainable and resilient urbanisation.

Key health & wellbeing projects for investment

HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE

The Project

We envisage working in collaboration with the Council, clubs and service providers to lay the foundations for a transformative Health & Wellbeing Village. This concept could relocate the indoor swimming pool, athletics track, and other recreational facilities to a single convenient site, including within Nene Park Trust's current land, with excellent sustainable transport links and easy access to the City Centre.

The Impact

This initiative has the potential to modernise and enhance the essential fitness and wellbeing opportunities available to our region, empowering our communities to lead healthier lifestyles.

Our Commitment

We are looking at location options for the village, and will work closely with partners to turn this ambitious dream into reality.

Your Support

We need your support and advocacy over the next three years to develop this visionary concept, build consensus and political backing, and encourage the establishment of key facilities within the village once operational.



WOODLANDS COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY

The Project

At the existing Woodlands Sports Pitches in Castor, we aim to create a welcoming community sports facility for people of all backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, and abilities. The heart of this facility, Woodlands Pavilion, will serve multiple functions and be a hub for local community activities. We are aiming for the facility to be open by Spring 2026.

The Impact

This site will boost local participation in sports, culture, and community life, and improve local economic outcomes by creating jobs and volunteering opportunities in this rural part of Peterborough.

Our Commitment

We have maintained the sports pitches to an excellent standard, attracting top clubs including Peterborough United to train at the facility. We are currently seeking planning permission for the pavilion.

Your Support

We are seeking financial help to secure much-needed funding for this £2million project. Once operational, your help advocating for consistent community use, and utilising the pavilion and sports pitches would be invaluable.

NENE NURSERY

The Project

Our fully accessible community horticultural space, Nene Nursery, has become a cherished resource for volunteers, schools, and local groups. We aspire to expand this offering, providing therapeutic horticulture opportunities for those who benefit from the nursery's secure and calming environment. We also aim to enhance its educational potential through school and community group sessions, as well as training courses for all ages.

The Impact

Nene Nursery has already proved to deliver significant mental health benefits to its users and offers social prescribing opportunities for the city and region.

Our Commitment

We have built the infrastructure and expertise to run the Nursery as a community resource within a safe, contained space in the heart of Nene Park.

Your Support

We are seeking financial assistance totalling around £120,000 per year once current funding expires in Autumn 2026, to ensure the nursery's sustainable operation, allowing it to continue delivering its impactful services. In-kind support through materials, expertise, links with the social prescribing network and/or utilisation of the Nursery would also be gratefully received at any time.

Environment ambitions

Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Capital

- Peterborough is known for its open spaces, with around 20% of the city's area designated as greenspace. Yet 14% of the city's population is at risk of flooding, higher than the national average.
- Nene Park Trust champions a future where biodiversity thrives, sustainable land management is the norm, and communities are deeply connected to their natural surroundings.
- The Park is a key natural capital asset. Our vision is to set a gold standard for urban greenspaces that benefit both people and nature.

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity

- As a crucial part of the green infrastructure network, our land-holding delivers important ecosystem services such as improving air quality, increasing pollinator abundance and enhancing local species diversity.
- Our impactful conservation projects focus on positive habitat creation and restoration works, enriching our local ecosystems and helping redress the decline in biodiversity.

Sustainable Land Management

- We follow sustainable, progressive and regenerative farming principles such as grazing native livestock on wildflower-rich pastures to promote a more diverse flora and fauna, boost soil fertility and water retention and protect scarce flood meadow grasslands.

Addressing Climate Change

- We recognise the urgent need to address climate change. Through re-wetting flood meadows and extensive tree planting, we have strengthened Peterborough's resilience to more extreme temperature variations. Our greenspaces also play a vital role in regulating water levels and reducing flood risks.
- Our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint includes incorporating renewable energy sources, reducing our operational carbon emissions and promoting sustainable transport initiatives.

Community Engagement and Education

- We are dedicated to raising public awareness about sustainable practices. Collaborating with local schools, our education programmes foster environmental awareness among younger generations, immersing students in the wonders of ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation efforts.

Long-Term Environmental Goals

- Nene Park Trust is unwavering in its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and aims to be net positive by 2040. We are also focused on doubling the area we manage for biodiversity by 2050, responding to the alarming decline in biodiversity across the UK.





Our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our environmental ambitions help to deliver the following SDGs:



SDG 2: Zero Hunger
by advancing sustainable agriculture



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
by supporting the sustainable management of water resources



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
by contributing to a cleaner, more resilient energy future



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
by ensuring access to sustainable energy and making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



SDG 13: Climate Action
by focusing on urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



SDG 15: Life on Land
by protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Investment opportunities in our key natural capital projects

HABITAT RESTORATION WORK

The Project

We are custodians of a variety of habitats that support a wide range of wildlife, from grasslands and wetlands to woodlands and rivers. Our aim is to implement a series of restoration projects across our land that will deliver ecological improvements and increase biodiversity value. The projects include restoring floodplain meadows, creating wet grassland and scrapes, better management of trees and woodlands, providing homes for wildlife and enhancing wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors.

The Impact

By maintaining and improving these habitats, we can help to conserve and enhance local biodiversity, creating an environment where both common and endangered species can thrive.

Our Commitment

We are dedicated to providing land for these long-term projects and are fully committed to creating habitat-rich areas on our estate.

Your Support

We welcome assistance with funding for capital costs for various potential habitat restoration projects ranging from £10,000 to £500,000. These projects could be undertaken at any time once funding secured. We also seek collaboration with partners who can offer expertise, in-kind support, and help with navigating required permissions and consents.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)

The Project

BNG requires developers to deliver better quality natural habitats as a key objective of their developments, resulting in a positive impact on biodiversity. We aim to be a registered and reliable provider of land for the BNG market, collaborating with developers and local authorities to secure offsite habitats and ensure biodiversity net gain objectives are met. This will enhance our reputation in conservation management and BNG habitat creation, while generating significant income from our ecosystem services to support our ongoing charitable work.

The Impact

Our involvement in the BNG market will offset biodiversity losses due to development in the region by delivering an enhanced natural landscape with new wildlife rich habitat areas and increasing volumes of quality grassland, woodland and wetland habitat.

Our Commitment

We have strong expertise in BNG markets and have capacity to set aside significant areas of our land for habitat improvement. Our history of land management provides confidence that we will maintain these areas for over 30 years to satisfy BNG criteria.

Your Support

We seek ongoing partnerships with developers or brokers who need land to meet BNG requirements in the local area. This offer remains open at any time as developments come on stream across our fast-growing region.





REGENERATIVE FARMING AT EYE GREEN

The Project

We have recently purchased 220 hectares of arable land at Eye Green, Peterborough. Our aim is to create a new mixed landscape of open farmland and associated habitats, alongside enhanced public access (formal and informal) to an area previously intensively farmed. Nene Park Trust is in an ideal position to use the land as an exemplar for a mixed arable/habitat model using regenerative farming and BNG provision to demonstrate enhanced sustainable income streams alongside environmental gains.

The Impact

This landscape-scale project will help to protect and enhance our environment for current and future generations. It will support species recovery, carbon sequestration, and the creation of improved rural spaces for both people and wildlife.

Our Commitment

We have already secured funding from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund to develop an investment model that shows how farmers can collaborate with potential investors to achieve measurable environmental impacts. We are dedicated to advancing this work and turning theory into practice.

Your Support

We are seeking funders and investors to help cover a wide range of capital costs of up to £1million in the short-term as we fundamentally change the farming priorities on our land at Eye. We are also looking for developers in need of BNG land, and partners who can provide advice and support for our ongoing conservation efforts.

SHARE FARMING

The Project

Our pioneering share-farming partnership delivers nature-friendly farming across 200 hectares of our estate whilst also providing community engagement and education opportunities around farming and heritage. Since 2020, we have been working with our young farmers, sharing the costs and income the farming business generates in a truly partnership-minded way. We work with our share farmers to introduce native livestock and farm the land in a way which supports wider environmental objectives alongside our direct meat sales business, Park to Plate.

The Impact

Through our share-farming partnership, we deliver environmental benefits whilst promoting sustainable farming and local food production. It also showcases an innovative approach to partnering with early-career farmers by sharing both risk and reward.

Our Commitment

We are dedicated to the Share Farming model and aim to expand and develop this initiative across our entire estate.

Your Support

We welcome the opportunity to partner with investors who can contribute up to £100,000 per year to help to make our share-farming scheme more sustainable over the coming years. We also would like to talk to retailers and other organisations who can help market our local produce, and partners to guide and innovate our agricultural land management approach.

Investing in Impact

Our innovative approach to greenspace management

Greenspaces are where people connect and communities come together; where nature thrives and cities breathe.

They provide numerous benefits, including improving physical and mental health, fostering social cohesion, protecting the environment, and enhancing economic development.

Our greenspaces are highly valued and vital hubs, creating vibrant, sustainable and liveable places for all, and making life better. Yet, as development accelerates, public spending declines and our climate changes, these spaces are being crowded out, paved over or shut down.

The roots of Nene Park Trust are firmly in greenspace management, overseeing the upkeep of the Nene Park Estate for people and wildlife since 1988.

As one of the first private organisations of our kind to take ownership of a public greenspace, we have created a model steeped in research and collaboration designed to drive positive change and improve lives.

We're a leading charity on a mission to redefine the role natural and cultural landscapes play in the lives of people. Our team of passionate experts work tirelessly to shape the kinds of spaces where people feel free to meet, explore and grow.

We curate and design events and activities that inspire and unite. We take responsibility for services that would otherwise be lost. We collaborate with partners and engage with our visitors to ensure everything we do delivers exceptional quality and creates joy.

Through almost 40 years of knowledge-building and development, Nene Park Trust has become an innovator in applied greenspace management, combining effective cultural and community engagement with accessible and conservation-focused landscape principles to create spaces and places that demonstrably benefit both people and wildlife.

In that time we have delivered ground-breaking projects that have cemented our role as sector leaders and exemplars of best-practice.





Key Projects include:



Your Community Greenspace, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This 5-year, £3million project transformed Nene Park into a greenspace that truly reflects the diverse cultures of our local communities.



Our ongoing Art in the Park programme proves how artistic and cultural activity can be integrated into the natural landscape for the benefit of artists and visitors through inventive collaborations including artists-in residence, educational activities and sculpture trails.



We are at the cutting-edge of landscape conservation work, including Gunwade Lake Reedbed Creation whereby spoil from an adjacent infrastructure project was used to create a new reedbed, and Westholmes Spill Way which enhanced over 16 hectares of important floodplain grassland through capturing and diverting overflow from the River Nene.

Due to the expertise and skills we have built up in-house through these and many other projects, we have regularly been called upon to advise and support local and regional developers on how best to include high-quality greenspaces in new developments, and how to ensure it is maintained properly and attracts and serves local communities. We are ideally placed to continue this consultancy work as new developments are proposed, and would welcome the opportunity to offer this service more widely.

Investing in Impact

Our impact

Nene Park Trust prides itself on the environmental and social impact it delivers for the benefit of the people of Peterborough, the region and the planet.

But we know that we can create greater impact by building partnerships that brings investment to unlock our aspirations.

As a charity dedicated to improving quality of life, our impact is most strongly felt in the following areas:

In 2023...



Visitor Economy

We manage one of the most popular country parks in the UK.

- We hosted **2 million** visits to Nene Park.
- Almost **23,000** people paid for sessions at Nene Outdoors, our water sports and outdoor activity centre.
- Our business tenants, including cafes, hotels and retail, generated combined turnover of over **£20 million**.
- The Trust invested **£1.25 million** in promoting and delivering art, culture, and heritage activities.



Health & Wellbeing

Our estate is the perfect location for relaxation, recreation and exercise that benefits the body, mind and soul.

- Our Nene Outdoors activity centre supported the physical wellbeing of **over 17,000** customers.
- **Over 4,000** people participated in Sailability accompanied sailing sessions for people with disabilities on Gunwade Lake.
- We welcomed nearly **200** volunteers who contributed a total of over **13,000** hours in various roles across the Park and our outreach work.
- **Over 500** people participated in the Parkrun at Ferry Meadows each week, one of the highest levels of Parkrun participation in the UK.
- **Over 80%** of visitors said that spending time at Nene Park benefits their health and wellbeing.



Community & Education

Nene Park Trust has a number of beautiful, tranquil and inclusive spaces where people can meet, share, and enjoy life.

- Our activities and events programme attracted nearly **33,000 people** to the park.
- Nearly **500 people** hired our free mobility scooters to explore the Park.
- We nurtured an active online community, with over **36,000 followers** across social media.
- **5,500 children** visited our Park on educational trips.
- We enabled nearly **900 apprentice and work placement days**, helping to build knowledge and skills in the region's young people.



Environment

Through our conservation-led land management, sustainable operational principles, and net-zero ambitions, we actively advocate for and demonstrate positive environmental impact.

- We actively managed over **90 hectares of land**, including **10 hectares of wetland**, for wildlife.
- **547 species** were observed at Nene Park.
- Carbon sequestration - nearly **400t of Carbon** absorbed across our estate
- Air quality improved - **230t of PM2.5 air pollutants adsorbed**
- Flood reduction through our estate of **53,000m³ of water**.
- **74.3 hectares of woodland** providing noise reduction.





If you would like to discuss potential investment or partnership opportunities, or you would like further information on the different ways you can support our work or any of the projects listed in this Prospectus.

Please get in touch via investment@neneparktrust.org.uk or speak to Adrian Oates, Head of Fundraising and Partnerships, on 07901 220 079.