

Crane Park is a park in the Lower Crane Valley. It is made up of different habitats. Here are some of them:

- Grassland
- Woodland
- The river bank and reed beds
- The river



The woodland in Crane Park has grown since the mills closed.

The trees are mostly native trees: **oak, alder, hazel, birch, willow.**

Some of the trees were originally grown for the industry. Every year branches were **harvested or pollarded.**

We do this every year to the willow trees on Crane Park Island. The branches we harvest are sometimes used to make dead hedges. The trees we pollard have distinctive shapes.



Who lives here?



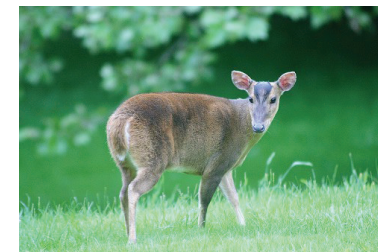
Squirrels

There are plenty of squirrels in the park.

Stag Beetles

250 species of invertebrates were found in a recent survey of the park, This includes beetles, moths, butterflies, spiders, woodlice and snails. The stag beetle can be found in dead wood. it is very rare but can be found in this part of London. The larvae lives in dead wood for 7 years before they become adults.

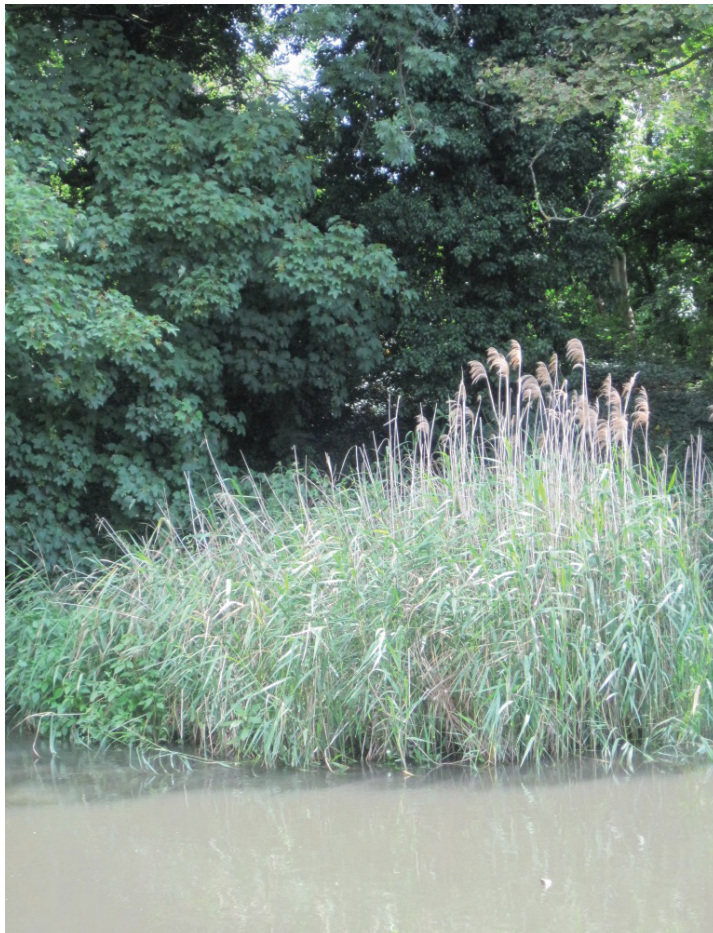
Common and Soprano Pipistrelles
are the mouse-sized bats you are likely to see flying around dusk. They roost in nearby old trees.



Muntjac deer

You might be lucky enough to see a deer in the park. It is not a native species.

There are many areas of reeds in Crane Park. They play an important role in cleaning the water of the river.



Who lives here?

Water Vole

Water voles have dark fur, a round body and a short, fat face. They have a long fur-covered tail. They live on the banks of slow-moving rivers and streams and are expert swimmers. They burrow into riverbanks and make a nest, which they line with grass. One of our benches has a huge water vole carved on it!



Reed Warbler

You might be lucky enough to see a reed warbler, but you are more likely to hear it singing in the reeds. They spend the summer in Crane Park and winter in Africa.



River Crane is an important wildlife corridor for London - the West London Green Chain.

There are lots of fish species in the river:
stickleback, perch, roach, dace, chub and barbell.



the outdoor classroom



Who lives here?



Several species of damselfly and dragonfly can be seen from late May until the end of summer. Damselflies rest with their wings folded (unlike dragonflies, who rest with wings spread).

The European Eel

starts life in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. They change into transparent glass eels then elvers. They feed on fish and invertebrates, but they are a favourite food of the Grey Heron.

There is a study of eels in the River Crane at the moment, as their numbers have significantly fallen.

Kingfishers

are small unmistakable bright blue and orange birds. They fly very fast and low over the river. Sometimes you can see them hunt fish from riverside perches.



There are grassland meadows in Crane Park.

Grassland is an important habitat for insects, many of whom shelter in long grass. The wild flowers attract bees and butterflies.

You can relax in the meadow at the the new play area.

There are other meadows along the River Crane. You can visit these on cycle paths too.



Who lives here?

Queen bumblebees emerge in late February and can be seen seeking small holes in the ground in which to establish their nests.



Comma and Peacock are two species of butterfly whose caterpillars thrive in patches of nettles. They can be seen in the meadows from March onwards.



Who lives here?

