OPENING TIMES

The park opens daily at 9am and closes at 6pm. 1 November – 31 March the park closes at 5pm. Call out charges apply. Please note walking times are approximate. Please make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to complete walking trails and to get back to the exit after your visit.

For more details contact wattylercountrypark.org.uk or call us on 01268 208090.
Woodland Warriors

07474963922

Cakes and gifts for all occasions.
We hold children and adult baking classes and parties from our workshop.
Check us out on Facebook and Instagram
07904599870 fondant-fleur@hotmail.co.uk

The Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park, Pitsea, SS16 4UH
Opening hours: Monday and Wednesday Mornings 10am-1pm, Saturdays 11am - 3.30pm
Other times by appointment

Ken Porter 07968 313614
k.jfp@btinternet.com

The Essex Field Club is a society founded in 1880 for wildlife enthusiasts and people with an interest in the natural history and geology of Essex, with an archive of paramount importance to the County dating from the 19th century to the present day.
Opening hours: Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday and Wednesday between 11am - 4pm
www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Contact+Us

Wat Tyler Cafe & Kiosk open seasonal hours throughout the year
01268 556530

Wat Tyler Country Park comprises 125 acres of open space and has a rich and varied past.
It has been a grazing marsh, a centre for gun powder manufacturing, used for M.O.D storage, industrial use, and is now a popular Country Park.
The park has excellent facilities to make an enjoyable day out for families. Attractions include lush meadows, miniature railway, bird hides, nature and sculpture trails, craft units, wildlife garden, wildlife ponds, World War II pill boxes, marina, 16th century cottages and panoramic views across the marshes.

History and past management
- Records of previous land use date back to Mid-Roman Norman times when there was a period of extensive settlement throughout the Thames Estuary
- In the 16th century the land was owned by the Pitsea Hall estate and used for both grazing and arable means. The owners continued to use the land for farming but took actions to prevent annual flooding
- The 19th century bought changes to the estate i.e. the Nobel gunpowder syndicate industry. There is still evidence to this effect by way of blast mounds that dominate the landscape within the scrub
- The Ministry of Defence (MOD), in the early part of the 20th century, used the site for the laundering of blankets transported back from the trenches in the Great War (1914-18). The site was also used for the storage of munitions at this time
- In the late forties until 1969 when Basildon District Council, as it was then known, purchased the land, the site was used for other various industries. It was planned to use the site as both a marina and caravan site until a local naturist observed rare species of flora and fauna
- The early 80s began with an intense management programme of development which included the creation of meadows, ponds, planting hedges, coppicing, creating footpaths, construction of bird hides and fencing to create barriers etc.
- Also in the 1980’s the park became home to several significant buildings, which needed to be relocated from elsewhere within the County. These were Little Coopers cottage (15th Century) Blunts cottage (16th Century) and Holly cottage. Although all the cottages are significant, both little cooper and blunts cottages were grade II listed buildings in their original location.

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