

OUR DEAR GREEN PLACE

A vision for Glasgow's
parks and greenspaces – working
for our communities
2019



CONTENTS

1. Foreword
2. Vision
3. Methodology
4. People
 - a. Communities
 - b. A Healthier City
 - c. A Learning City
 - d. Diversity and inclusion
5. Places
 - a. Environmental Sustainability
 - b. Activities and Events
 - c. Conservation and Heritage
 - d. Safety and Security
 - e. Awareness
6. Delivery
 - a. Partnership
 - b. Delivery mechanisms
 - c. Financial sustainability
 - d. Quality and performance management
7. Summary of key actions
8. References

FOREWORD

Parks matter. Parks are for People. People make Glasgow



Parks and green spaces matter. They make a vital and vibrant contribution to the daily lives of the people who live, work and visit Glasgow. They contribute to many of our most important local, national and international objectives, such as climate change mitigation, improving public health, reducing inequalities and bringing communities together, while providing opportunities for creativity and innovation.

Glasgow is literally the 'Dear Green Place' – the translation of its name from the Gaelic – and the city has a proud history of creating and protecting parks and green spaces. More than 3,500 hectares of Glasgow is greenspace, with 35.7% (excluding private gardens) of that greenspace being protected by **policy CDP6 of the City Development Plan**.¹ In 2017, data produced as part of **Scotland's Greenspace map**² puts Glasgow top of Scottish cities for the amount of accessible greenspace it has.

Glaswegians are justifiably proud of their parks and are passionate and vocal about protecting them. From Victorian designed landscapes to pocket parks, country parks, woodlands, local nature reserves and wild areas, Glasgow has

an impressive range of vibrant green and open spaces which are well used by its local communities and visitors to the city. Glasgow's greenspaces were established, and remain, for the people of Glasgow – for their health and their enjoyment.

Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most diverse city with just over 600,000 citizens. It is a beautiful city with a proud heritage, and it is an ambitious, innovative and entrepreneurial city. Outside of London, Glasgow has one of the largest concentrations of economic activity in the UK, and it has a huge events, conference and tourist market. It is the academic heart of the country, with over 130,000 further and higher education students from 135 countries. Glasgow is one of the world's top 5 sporting cities with a reputation for hosting major events.

However, Glasgow remains a city of contrasts. It may be successful in attracting world class events, investment and business but it continues to face long term challenges in combatting deprivation, poverty and health inequality and has the largest concentration of ill health and poverty in Western Europe. Parts of the city still suffer from unacceptable levels of poverty and inequality, and almost half of our citizens live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.





Benefits of parks and greenspaces

The benefits of high quality and accessible parks and greenspaces are well documented.

Parks and greenspaces can:

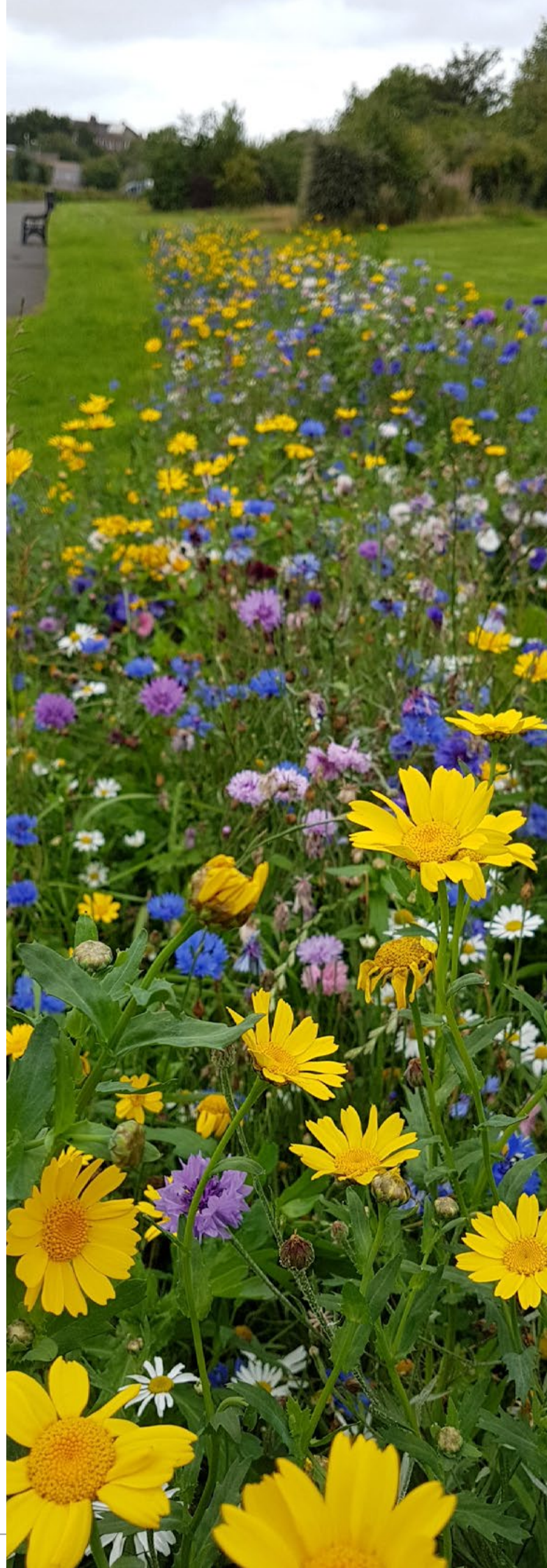
- Help reduce health inequalities by offering free, accessible areas in which to exercise, outdoor gyms, fixed and natural play areas, sports pitches etc. and offering opportunities to support programmes which improve mental and physical health. Parks and greenspaces can also simply offer space for contemplation and coming to terms with the stresses of modern life
- Help regenerate neighbourhoods by providing attractive and accessible spaces for communities to use and for businesses to invest in
- Help improve the liveability of our city by providing spaces for communities to connect, and helping to reduce isolation. There is a large body of academic research that demonstrates that accessible greenspaces lead to better health outcomes and that urban greening leads to safer urban environments
- Connect communities by supporting participation. Engaging communities in improving, creating and managing their spaces improves community capacity, gives a sense of community ownership and builds community resilience
- Help economic investment by providing attractive spaces for business and developers to invest in
- Help mitigate the effects of climate change

In setting the context for the development of a new parks and greenspace vision, we have recognised the structural benefit green spaces deliver to our city for example; in delivering ecosystem services such as improvements in air and water quality, flood risk mitigation, cooling the urban environment and providing habitat for wildlife; in connecting communities; and in providing routes for active travel.

We have also recognised that there is a distinct economic benefit to the city in having high quality, attractive and useable parks and greenspaces; in attracting inward investment, enhancing property prices, attracting national and international events and conferences to the city and contributing to an exciting tourist offering.

For example, proximity to high quality greenspace has been shown to increase values of residential properties by up to 15% and business occupancy rates by 5-7%³.

Overwhelmingly, we have acknowledged the huge social impact parks and greenspaces have in all our lives; in the physical and educational development of young people, in offering opportunity for exercise, recreation, reflection and well-being, and in bringing communities together. Parks and greenspaces can actively contribute to the reduction of health inequalities in our city and can mitigate some of the consequences of poverty by offering free access to areas to exercise, providing access to volunteering opportunities, improving employability and contributing to food security.





Challenges for our parks and greenspaces

However, nationally, parks and greenspaces are facing considerable challenges. Parks and greenspaces across the UK are at a critical time with ongoing reductions to funding. The provision of parks is currently a non-statutory service, which means that they have no legal protection. Although certain sites have specific designations which offer a level of protection, in general, parks and greenspaces are not a statutory service local authorities require to provide.

The **Greenspace Use and Attitudes Survey 2017**⁴ carried out by greenspace scotland found that greenspace matters to people – over 90% of respondents agreed that it is important to have greenspace in their local area. However, compared to the results in 2011, there has been a significant decrease in

those saying that greenspace meets their needs (from 82% to 76%) and a reduction in those saying they are very satisfied with the quality of their local greenspace (from 40% to 23%). In addition, 40% of people think the quality of their local greenspace has reduced in the last 5 years and this figure rises to 50% for people living in the 15% most deprived areas.

In the APSE State of the Market Survey 2018⁵ 75% of the local authority managers who responded to the Association for Public Sector Excellence thought that reductions in funding had resulted in a withdrawal in maintenance from some land and an increase in unmaintained land. 75% also thought that park and greenspaces were being affected disproportionately to other service areas. 95% agreed that lack of investment in greenspaces will have health and social impacts.



Glasgow is not alone in experiencing reductions to frontline budgets and we need to fully understand the value of parks and greenspaces and the contribution they make to the life of our city and match that with the resources they need

- Reductions in budgets have meant that public sector funding for parks and greenspaces across the UK is falling and councils are faced with difficult choices about limited expenditure
- As we look at parks and greenspaces more and more as community assets with multifunctional use, this can sometimes lead to conflicts between users
- Sometimes, distribution of high quality, accessible greenspaces is unequal, with communities struggling to access the benefits that greenspaces can deliver, especially in areas of high deprivation.

- Some parks and greenspaces have elements of protection. This ranges from Common Good Status, to Fields in Trust protection, various deeds of gifts, statutory designations like sites of special scientific interest and inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These are also a series of local designations like Country Parks and local Nature Reserves. Each of these designations gives a level of protection to the site. Whilst this is generally to be welcomed, sometimes the designation may be a barrier to something the community wishes to see happen at the site.



We acknowledge that our parks and greenspaces have over the past few years received significant capital investment through funding from a variety of external sources, such as the Lottery, Scottish Government and European funding sources. While this is very welcome, we do need to understand that these funding opportunities do not usually come with associated maintenance budgets and this can make the position worse by simply putting pressure on our already stretched maintenance teams.

We know that it is not simply the existence of open space within a community that delivers the multiple benefits stated above, that open space has to be of good quality and has to be accessible for benefits to be achieved. In Glasgow, we know that 59% of people living in the most deprived areas are estimated to live within 500m of derelict land compared to 13% of people in the least deprived areas, and the Council recognises that the significant areas of vacant and derelict land within the city could be harnessed, in a variety of ways, to provide both temporary and permanent benefit.

Policy context

In 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁶, adopted by world leaders in Paris in 2015, came into force. Amongst the 17, there are specific goals relating to good health and wellbeing, building sustainable cities and communities, promoting affordable and clean energy and the sustainable management of forests and biodiversity.

Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals will require co-ordinated and complimentary action at all levels; government, local authority, community and individual.



Scottish Planning Policy⁷ recognises the importance of greenspace and green infrastructure. It states that *“green infrastructure and improved access to open space can help to build stronger, healthier communities. It is an essential part of our long-term environmental performance and climate resilience. Improving the quality of our places and spaces through integrated green infrastructure networks can also encourage investment and development. Planning should protect, enhance and promote green infrastructure, including open space and green networks, as an integral component of successful placemaking.”*

The **National Planning Framework (NPF3)**⁸ expresses a vision for Scotland as:

- A successful, sustainable place
- A low carbon place
- A natural, resilient place
- A connected place.

It aims to ensure that all parts of Scotland make best use of their assets to build a sustainable future and it aims to significantly enhance green infrastructure networks, particularly in and around our cities and towns. Its vision is that planning will help create high quality, diverse and sustainable places that promote wellbeing and attract investment and that these great places will support vibrant, empowered communities and attract and retain a skilled workforce.



The **Council Strategic Plan 2017-2022**⁹ sets out priority themes and commitments that will be delivered over the next few years by the Council and its arm's length companies. It focusses on:

- Promoting human rights and reducing inequalities across Glasgow
- Improving life chances and choices for all our citizens
- Embedding social justice in our policy making, and
- Empowering our citizens, giving them a stake and a say in what happens in their local communities and communities of interest.

The Council Strategic Plan sets out seven key themes for the city:

- A thriving economy
- A vibrant city
- A healthier city
- Excellent and inclusive education
- A sustainable and low carbon city resilient and empowered neighbourhoods
- A well governed city that listens and responds

These themes underpin all of the actions within this new vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces. This vision for parks and greenspaces in Glasgow not only sets out our pathway to achieving these goals as a local authority, but also identifies how we can support progress at a community and individual level.



City Development Plan

The **City Development Plan**¹⁰ is a vision for the development and regeneration of the city, including the role of open space and green networks.



Glasgow Open Space Strategy

The **Glasgow Open Space Strategy**¹¹ is an overarching, city wide document, which will set out a strategic approach across all council services for open space issues in Glasgow. It will highlight the vital role played by open space and wider green network in delivering a wide range of benefits for people, the environment and the economy. With a view to maximising these benefits, it will provide a strategic approach to:

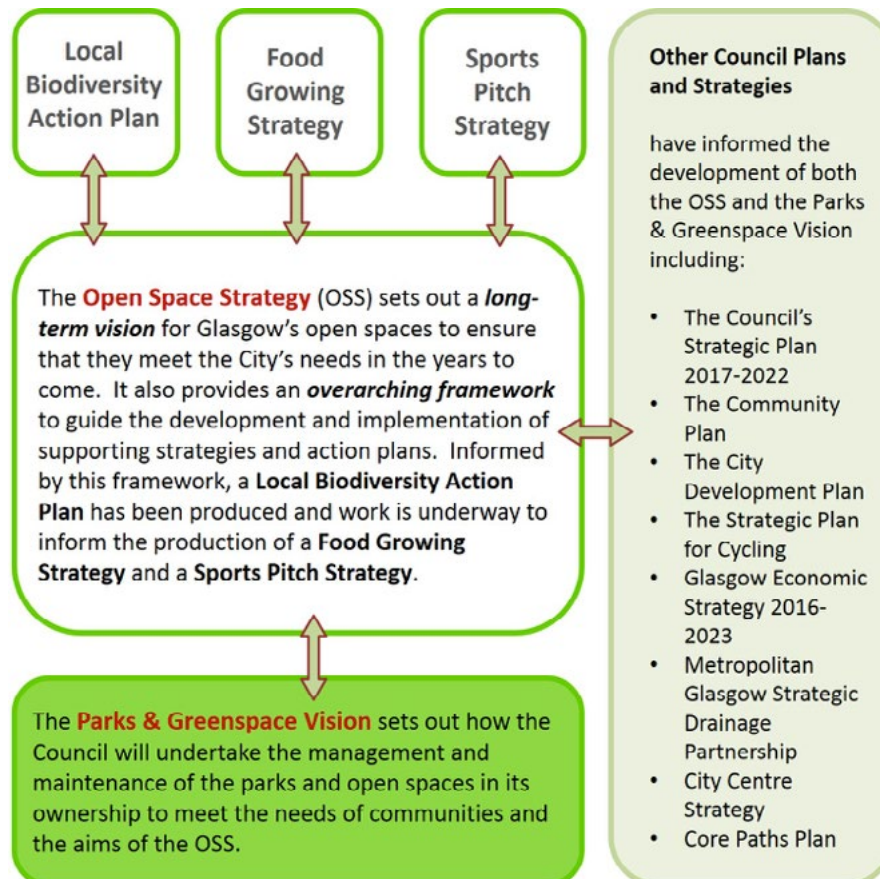
- Where investment in new open space is required
- Where and how existing open spaces require to be enhanced
- How open space may be used more flexibly and multifunctionally
- Where it may be appropriate to use open space for other purposes

Flowing from the Glasgow Open Space Strategy, there will be a range of Local Context Analyses which will identify how policy, strategy and guidance could potentially be delivered on the ground.

Communities will then be involved in decision making about uses of their own local space.



This vision for Glasgow’s Parks and Greenspaces aligns with the Glasgow Open Space Strategy and the Local Context Analyses, and demonstrates how we will connect and support our communities in the decision making around and future management of parks and greenspaces in Glasgow. [The Scottish](#)



Horticulture Action Plan

The Scottish Horticultural Panel published an **Action Plan** in March 2018¹². It makes ten ‘asks’ of the Scottish Government:

- To integrate and promote horticulture through all stages of the school curriculum
- To match fund the ‘Grow Careers’ portal to promote the exciting range of skilled careers
- To match fund data collection and analysis into the impact of the horticultural community
- To create fiscal incentives to encourage investment and growth to support and promote horticultural solutions to health issues and promote horticulture to communities
- To fund support services and training for therapeutic horticulture practitioners

- To increase the amount of green infrastructure in Scotland and support research into the functional benefits of plants and greenspace
- To use Scottish growers to deliver planting for public procurement projects
- To continue to support the horticultural industry efforts to improve plant biosecurity
- To invest to grow garden tourism at home and from overseas.

Some of the areas align with this vision, particularly around horticultural education and increasing the green infrastructure in Scotland.

The Landscape Institute's document 'Landscape for Scotland'¹³ advocates good design for the future. Although not technically a policy or strategy, it highlights that no place stays the same and that 'achieving a balance between nature and people, economic and social priorities and productive land use and natural habitats requires well informed decisions, based on evidence and the needs of the communities in which we live.' This vision for Glasgow's Parks and Greenspaces aligns with this document because it is about setting out the ambitions for the future of our parks and greenspaces, combining challenging design with the needs of our communities.

The Council is involved with a wide range of projects which support the preceding policies and strategies; e.g. our Surface Water Management Plans, our Local Biodiversity Management Plan, the Stalled Spaces programme which supports community groups to temporarily improve local spaces, the EU Horizon 2020 programme which is investigating best practice across Europe in nature based solutions to many issues within our city.

This vision for Glasgow's Parks and Greenspaces seeks to encapsulate all that good practice and focus on how we can develop that in association with our communities to deliver the maximum benefit for communities from our greenspaces.

It is important to note that this document relates to Glasgow City Council and the Glasgow Family owned and managed spaces only. These are a large and vital part of a greater network of spaces across Glasgow, but by no means represent the entirety of open space across the city. This makes it essential that we engage with partners to improve the spaces that we do not have direct control over. It is our hope that in setting out our views, aspirations and commitments for parks and greenspaces in Glasgow, this will encourage partners and others to engage with us in improving the open space within the city.

It should also be noted that Cemeteries and Crematoria spaces are specifically included within our definition of greenspaces. This reflects the value of these spaces to the city's green network as well as being spaces which provide specific services.

Previous Glasgow City Council Greenspace Strategies

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, 1995

A New Vision, A New Future was completed and approved in 1995. This was the Council's first major strategy document for the parks service in Glasgow. The major conclusions to emerge from this provided an overview of parks, civic and open spaces in Glasgow and led to the establishment of broad aims for the service which were later incorporated into 2020 Vision.

Glasgow's 2020 vision, 1998

Following the creation of Land Services in 1998 which brought together Parks and Roads, a new strategy for the entire service, 2020 Vision, was produced. This highlighted a long-term approach to reflect the need for planning ahead and the timescales involved in implementing many environmental and transportation projects.

Strategic Best Value Review and Implementation Plan, 2005

The Best Value Review was a response to the discontinuation of compulsory competitive tendering and set out a plan for resource utilisation in the absence of contractual documents.

All of the previous strategic documents for parks focussed on how we made the best use of the existing infrastructure with the resources we had available. This Vision for Glasgow's Parks and Greenspaces 2018 is different.

- It is about community empowerment and participation
- It is about communicating and working with communities to find out how they want to use their parks and what they want their parks to look like in the future
- It is about partnership working and engaging different resources to deliver
- It is looking at how we use the green infrastructure to deliver strategic outcomes

Glasgow's parks and greenspaces need a clear vision for the future – a community focussed vision that sees our citizens play a central role in the positive wellbeing, sustainability and economic development of our city. Our current parks and greenspaces are historically distributed and are a legacy from our largely forward thinking 'City Fathers' of the 19th and 20th centuries. This vision is about setting out a new agenda one which serves the needs of our communities today and in the future.



With this vision, we are setting the direction for our work in parks and greenspaces over the coming years.

Its course has been set by our communities and our communities will continue to drive and evaluate its delivery, ensuring that our citizens are set at the heart of decisions relating to our parks and greenspaces.

VISION

Parks and greenspaces will be lively, welcoming and safe places; sustainable, well connected and accessible to all, providing opportunities for activities and shared use for current and future communities.



METHODOLOGY

There is a huge body of research detailing the pivotal benefits that high quality and accessible parks and greenspaces can have in improving health and wellbeing, economic opportunity and climate change mitigation, but we wanted to make sure the vision of what our parks and greenspaces may look like and what roles they will perform in the future came from our communities.

We acknowledged that real change usually needs complete re-thinking and we wanted to start from a point with no preconceptions about what people wanted. We wanted to know how people thought they would use parks and greenspaces in the future and how they thought that could materialise.





We initially carried out a series of workshops with predominately Friends of Parks groups, Community Councils and parks user groups.

Key statistics:

- 4 Consultation Workshops
- 16 Key Themes Discussed
- 21 People attended multiple workshops
- 93 Participants overall
- 1000s of opinions and ideas
- 6 Community Councils
- 6 Community Gardens
- 6 Representatives from LES
- 7 Third Sector Organisations
- 9 Member of the general public
- 11 'Friends Of' parks groups

We asked questions like *'what do you do in parks?', 'what would you like to do in parks?', 'what needs to happen to let you do that?'* We covered a huge range of topics. We talked about parks and greenspaces as part of daily, family and community life; we explored the cultural and wellbeing role of parks and greenspaces within the community; we discussed ecological and environmental issues and how parks and greenspaces could help mitigate these, and we talked about how greenspaces were connected. Nothing was considered off limits.

Of course, there were discussions about the reduction of maintenance and lack of investment in areas, but the idea was that people understood the constraints and came up with ways to develop our parks and greenspaces into valued, accessible and well used spaces. Collectively, these users set the following priority themes:

- Communication
- Health and well being
- Re-wilding
- Activities and events

Following this, we spoke to staff and elected members.

Key statistics:

- 4 Consultation workshops
- 6 Key Themes discussed
- 1000s of opinions and ideas
- 48 LES Participants operational and development
- 10 Elected Member Participants

We also issued an online questionnaire, which was sent directly to previously engaged greenspace and community groups as well as core community groups across the city which use or engage closely with parks during their activities. This resulted in 300 responses.

The outcomes from these workshops and questionnaires supported those from the initial workshops. Two workshops were then held with greenspace stakeholders, including governmental, non-governmental and charitable organisations which have a vested interest in parks and greenspaces across Glasgow and Scotland.

Key statistics:

- 2 Consultation Workshops
- 7 Key Themes discussed
- 25 Participants overall
- 100s of opinions and ideas

These conversations added detail and real life experiential knowledge to the themes set by communities. We then linked these themes to key Glasgow City Council strategies and policies, for example:

- Council Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- The City Development Plan

- Glasgow Open Space Strategy
- Draft Glasgow Community Plan
- Glasgow Social Enterprise Strategy 2018
- Glasgow Economic Strategy 2016 – 2023
- Glasgow’s Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Glasgow’s Play Strategy 2016 – 2018
- Glasgow Life Service Plan 2017/18
- The Poverty Leadership Panel’s People Make Glasgow Fairer Strategy
- Glasgow City Dementia Strategy 2016-19
- Age Friendly Glasgow 2015
- Glasgow Sports Pitch Strategy
- Glasgow Strategic Plan for Cycling 2016 – 2025
- Glasgow’s Strategic Volunteer Framework
- City Centre Strategy 2014
- Core Paths Plan

The final stage in our engagement was to test these themes on a wider basis with the general public, both with face-to face discussions and via an online questionnaire.

Key statistics:

- 1 Digital Questionnaire
- 4 Parks Events Attended
- 8 Months of conversations
- 418 Questionnaire Participants
- 499 Face-to-Face Participants

In connecting the Council’s strategic objectives to those brought forward by our communities, we hope we have developed a vision for parks and green-spaces that that sets out how we can use parks and greenspaces to deliver a sustainable environment that helps:

- attract investment
- reduce health inequalities
- mitigate the consequences of poverty and provide economic opportunity
- improve citizen participation and resilience,

while following the vision set out by our communities of how they want our parks and greenspaces to look and feel in the future, and how they want them to be used.

We have structured this document to reflect these priorities:

- People
- Places
- Delivery

PEOPLE

People are the heart of Glasgow.
People make Glasgow.
People are central to everything we do;
they are reason for everything we do.
Parks are for people.



People are at the core of this new vision for Glasgow's parks, woodlands and greenspaces – it is all about how we create and sustain spaces that support and bring communities together and how we sustain those spaces for generations to come.

People value parks and greenspaces for lots of different reasons. They can be a refuge from the stresses of modern life, and they can be a social space, bringing communities together for shared experiences. They can be a free and accessible alternative to the gym and they can be adventurous spaces where young people learn, exercise, play and test their resilience. They can be an opportunity for those who live in poverty to access the life enhancing opportunities that can improve health, develop skills and employability, build resilience, decrease isolation and help community cohesion.

The 2017 Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey¹⁴ confirms that Scots still love their parks, with over 90% of urban Scots saying it is important to have greenspace in their local area. However, those that responded held a view that the quality of Scotland's parks and greenspaces has continued to deteriorate. The survey also showed that fewer people are using their local greenspaces regularly.



The benefits of successful parks and greenspaces extend much further than park boundaries and reach into the surrounding neighbourhoods. To make our parks and greenspaces successful spaces with connected, happy and healthy users, we need to involve people in planning, developing and managing their local spaces, involving communities in placemaking to create and regenerate their own local spaces.

Although people do make Glasgow an aspiring and economically successful city, there are multiple challenges to address in inequality, **health and poverty**¹⁵:

- Just under a quarter of the adults in Glasgow city are obese, with obesity rates rising by 66% in the Greater Glasgow area over the past ten years
- The mortality rate is 15% higher than other UK cities
- Almost 50% of Glasgow's residents live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland
- Adult employment is 11% lower than the Scottish average
- In 2012, around 33% of the city's children lived in poverty – in some areas of the city, this was 55%

The challenge in delivering this vision is to ensure that the outcomes will help to address our health and poverty inequalities while improving the liveability and sustainability of the city and making our parks and greenspaces the type of spaces our communities want.





COMMUNITIES

One of the strongest and most frequently recurring themes developed through our engagement workshops was communication with communities. Often groups felt that they were not engaged early enough in projects and sometimes their views were not listened to enough. There was a feeling that things were not well enough connected to take advantage of the 'greater good'. In line with the Council's Strategic Plan, the key actions set out in this section will ensure that we are 'a well governed city that listens and responds'.

Accessible and connected spaces

In order for parks and greenspaces to deliver meaningful benefits to communities, they must be accessible and connected. A space, no matter how beautiful, will not encourage people exercise to or develop skills through volunteering if it is not easy to access. We recognise that accessibility encompasses a whole range of factors and that it is not simply about having an equal distribution of greenspace about any geographic area. There are a range of barriers to consider when thinking about how people access or do not access greenspace.

The quality of the space is also significant. We know that 59% of people living in the most deprived areas in Glasgow live within 500m of derelict land, compared to 13% of those living in more affluent areas, and that there is a direct link between the quality of greenspace in an area and levels of poverty.



We recognise that the significant areas of vacant and derelict land within the city can be used to provide both temporary and permanent benefits to communities.

The **Glasgow Open Space Strategy**¹⁶ will provide a resource which identifies quantity, quality and accessibility of open space within Glasgow, and will set appropriate standards for delivering multifunctional greenspace. It will allow communities to map opportunities and local priorities which will assist Glasgow City Council to identify priority areas for improvement and investment.

We will make sure that our parks and greenspaces are well distributed throughout the city, offering the easiest access to most people. We will work with communities to improve their local spaces and expand how those spaces can be connected and truly multifunctional.

Placemaking

Placemaking is a process for creating sustainable, well designed spaces that meet the community's needs by putting the community at the heart of the development process. Placemaking builds on the distinct features and strengths of a place to improve the quality of life for the people who use it. Good quality, liveable spaces which have lasting appeal and use are more likely to be valued by communities and therefore are sustained for future generations. The placemaking principle is enshrined within the **City Development Plan**¹⁷ and the **Draft Community Plan**¹⁸.

We want to make sure that we involve communities in planning, developing and managing local spaces. Funding through **City Deal**¹⁹ and the **Integrated Green Infrastructure Fund**²⁰ is already having a positive impact on improving the sustainability and liveability of our city.

We will make sure that projects that impact on community use of parks and greenspaces are informed by those communities.



Community participation

The **Community Empowerment Act, (Scotland) 2015**²¹ presents communities with opportunities to shape how their local neighbourhoods are managed, the potential to be involved in that management and the possibility of providing and managing facilities and services themselves. We recognise that participation can happen at various levels and we will support community involvement in:

- parks management, for example sharing maintenance and funding responsibilities
- co-operative working models
- community asset transfer
- requests to participate.

In addition, we already know that supporting community involvement in parks and greenspaces at a variety of different levels helps build capacity and cohesion with communities. It encourages people to work together and to develop a variety of skills and experiences which help build resilience and which help encourage people to actively participate in the governance of the city.

However, we are also aware of the challenges volunteer groups can face in sustaining high and consistent levels of activity. People have busy lives, volunteering can be an 'add-on' to a busy work or family life and people can't always prioritise volunteering. Sometimes taking on the responsibility of management or maintenance of a space and engagement with others in the community is just too much. Sometimes key members of groups retire or move away and leave huge gaps in the capacity of a group.

Our consultation identified that over 50% of respondents thought that the Council could work best with communities to manage spaces through co-operative management and shared decision making. Comments such as: *'Community Asset Transfer places unfair burdens on volunteers ill-equipped to deal with the realities of managing greenspaces for the long term'*, and *'this needs to be managed carefully – we do not want wholesale transfer to organisations inexperienced in greenspace management'*, show that, as far as parks and greenspaces are concerned, communities want much more transparency and collaboration with the Council in how greenspaces are managed and developed, but do not necessarily wish the entire responsibility for management of these spaces delivered by communities.

This means that we have to balance supporting groups where they do wish to take on responsibility with communicating and collaborating with groups that want to be better informed and involved in decision making.

We want to make sure that people have the skills they need to be able to manage groups and deliver projects consistently.

CASE STUDY 1 – PROVANHALL COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TRUST

Seven Lochs Wetland Park project brings together approximately 16km² of lochs, parks, nature reserves and woodlands between Glasgow and Coatbridge. The establishment of Provan Hall as a gateway to the Wetland Park is one of the key outcomes of the Seven Lochs Heritage project.

The two buildings at Provan Hall have medieval origins and are Category A listed buildings of national importance. They are owned by the National Trust for Scotland and are leased to Glasgow City Council.

A £1.7million heritage refurbishment of these buildings is funded through Heritage Lottery Fund, Regeneration Capital Grants Fund and other funders, and is programmed to start on site in autumn 2018, alongside community engagement and interpretation of the history of the building.

After discussion between the Council and community groups it was agreed that the best way of ensuring a community based approach to the future management of Provan Hall was by establishing a community trust that would be the body responsible for the sustainability of the buildings.

The Provan Hall Community Management Trust was incorporated on 6th December 2017 and is now registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This will be the organisation responsible for ensuring the building is used and maintained, delivering a programme of events and activities which engage the local community in their heritage and attract visitors to the site. Both Glasgow City Council and the National Trust for Scotland will remain engaged with the Trust and will continue to support them in providing an accessible and exciting attraction, while being sensitive to the requirements of a medieval building.

We will promote and support groups in developing participation opportunities.

We will support people to develop the structures and access the information they require to actively participate.



Friends of Parks groups (and other greenspace community groups)

There is an existing network of almost fifty Friends of Parks groups within Glasgow, and a number of other groups active in parks and greenspaces in Glasgow. These are people who actively participate in how their own local parks and greenspaces are managed and developed, and who carry out a range of maintenance and development roles. Friends of parks are people who advocate for their parks and greenspaces, and who make them better for their communities.

We do acknowledge, though, that Friends of parks groups are not the only voices with a view on parks and greenspaces in our communities, and that decision making on parks and greenspaces should include the wider community.

We will support groups to continue and expand their involvement in parks maintenance, management and development.

We will support external funding applications and will help to build capacity within groups.

Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum

The Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum is a constituted group with its own governance, which provides Friends of Parks groups with a platform to share skills and experiences. The Forum brings individual groups together to form a group with a much stronger voice on issues relating to parks and greenspaces in Glasgow and beyond. It is linked with fifty eight similar forums, linking over 6,000 Friends of Parks groups throughout the UK through the National Federation of Parks and Greenspaces.

The Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum provides opportunities for sharing information and supporting Friends groups and for creating a stronger voice for parks and greenspaces in Glasgow. It also encourages close engagement with the Council and allows for discussion and input on budgeting and development priorities.

The Forum's objectives are to:

- Promote the needs, requirements and aspirations of the residents of Glasgow and visitors to the city in respect of Glasgow's parks and open spaces, without discrimination

- Promote environmental improvements, conservation, wildlife values and greenspace quality by promoting understanding and working in partnership with similar groups and organisations
- Publicise and promote the work of the group and organise meetings, training courses, events or seminars etc.
- Work with groups of a similar nature and exchange information, advice and knowledge with them, including co-operation with other voluntary bodies, charities, statutory and non-statutory organisations.

We will continue to support and help develop the Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum, including facilitating meetings between elected members, senior officers and the Forum.

Volunteering

There are already many people who are active and who volunteer in our parks and greenspaces. We want to support and develop this, making it easier to volunteer and to take pride in what volunteers achieve. We want to make sure that information is available about volunteering opportunities in parks and greenspaces and when those opportunities are taken up either by individuals or by groups, that the volunteers are supported and encouraged.

Developing a strong volunteer network supports:

- skills development and employability
- increasing community capacity
- lifelong learning
- improvements in mental and physical health
- enhancement of the work already carried out in parks and greenspaces
- building a sense of community participation and stewardship for parks and greenspaces

We will support Glasgow's Strategic Volunteering Framework by supporting existing volunteers, and we will develop new volunteering opportunities in our parks and greenspaces.

We will work with partners to develop an information portal for volunteering opportunities.

Employability

Improving economic opportunity is a key outcome for the city. Supporting people to develop the skills and experience to help them into work builds confidence and resilience in our communities and helps alleviate the consequences of poverty.

We will work with partners to expand the number and range of employability schemes within parks and greenspaces.

CASE STUDY 2 – EMPLOYABILITY AT SEVEN LOCHS WETLAND PARK

The Seven Lochs Wetland Park project is a partnership between Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Conservation Volunteers Scotland, working alongside local communities to bring together 16km² of lochs, parks, nature reserves and woodlands between Glasgow and Coatbridge. The project sets out how the area's heritage buildings, wildlife habitat and archaeology will be improved, protected and brought together to create a new attraction of national significance.

The Seven Lochs Wetland Park will become a major new hub for heritage conservation and learning and engagement, and will leave an important legacy for the communities within and neighbouring the park. When complete, the project will enable local people and visitors to experience the natural and cultural heritage of the Seven Lochs area like never before and help local communities to take ownership of the park for generations to come.



Throughout 2017/18 the Seven Lochs Employment Programme (SLEP) ran as a full-time, 13-week voluntary training programme targeting unemployed young people. Information about the programme was circulated to advisors in job centres and employability services around the park area, with referrals made directly to TCV Scotland. TCV Scotland employed a dedicated Heritage Employability officer to deliver the project, with up to 8 places available on each programme.

SLEP volunteers have completed 115 work days at parks and greenspaces in North Lanarkshire and Glasgow, including Drumpellier Country Park, Hogganfield Park and woodlands managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. The TCV Employability Officer worked with site managers to identify a range of site management and development projects within the Wetland Park. This included construction of walls and fences, path repair and maintenance, vegetation management, planting and gardening.

One major project was construction of 80 meters of fence incorporating decorative panels as part of the creation of a new Iron Age themed play area at Drumpellier Country Park. The trainees were involved in all aspects of design and construction process. The trainees created cut out animal shapes of wild boar, wild pony, stag, lynx, brown bear and wolf to fit with the Iron Age theme. The volunteers learned about fence construction, gained experience with a range of wood working tools, and were also able to bring out some of their artistic talents.

Of the 20 volunteers to take part in the programme 8 completed the SVQ Employability Award, while 13 gained at least one LANTRA certificate, including Brushcutters and Strimmers, Pesticide Application and Woodchippers. 12 achieved their First aid at Work qualification, and trainees also learned new skills in woodland management, hedgelaying, plant ID and drystone walling. Through the programme 5 volunteers moved into employment, and 7 into further training or volunteering.

Following feedback from volunteers and referral organisations the SLEP is continuing in 2018/19 as a 26 week, 2 days per week programme for unemployed people of all ages.



KEY ACTIONS

1. We will make sure that our parks and greenspaces are well distributed throughout the city, offering the easiest access to most people and are multifunctional
2. We will involve communities in planning, developing and managing local spaces.
3. We will support groups and individuals in developing participation and volunteering opportunities.

A HEALTHIER CITY

The poor health of the Glasgow population and the persistence of health inequalities in Glasgow are well documented. There is growing evidence, not only of the multiple benefits of accessible and high quality greenspace to people's mental and physical health, but also of the detrimental effect of poor quality and inaccessible greenspace on health and wellbeing. The benefits of physical activity on health and well-being are also linked to tackling mental health through social inclusion, citizenship and social health. The Council's Strategic Plan 20170-2022 sets out a number of key priorities to achieve a healthier city, and the actions within this vision are aligned to those priorities.



Stress and mental health

Mental illness is a major cause of disability throughout the developed world today and is associated with significant economic cost and **societal issues**²². The incidence of mental ill-health is increasing in the UK, the prescription of antidepressants is currently at an all-time high and there is a growing demand for a range of psychological treatments.

Nearly two-thirds of people in Scotland (65%) say that they have experienced a mental health problem. This rises to 7 in every 10 women, young adults aged 18-34 and people living alone. (**See Me Scotland**)²³

There is a growing evidence base that engagement with nature contributes to enhanced wellbeing, mental development and personal fulfilment. For example, a Glasgow University study in 2013 identified that living in areas with a higher percentage of greenspace is associated with **lower stress**²⁴ and a **Faculty of Public Health/Natural England**²⁵ report in 2010 showed that safe, green spaces may be as effective as prescription drugs for treating mild to moderate forms of depression and anxiety. Specific psychological benefits highlighted in research include reduction in stress and anxiety, improvements in mood, increased perception of wellbeing and improved concentration.

'Green Prescription' as a concept originated in New Zealand in the 1990's and describes schemes which include physical activity in outdoor settings (eg greenspaces, paths, parks, native reserves etc) which has some sort of referral mechanism from health care practitioners. Green prescribing schemes support both good mental and physical health. Developing and sustaining effective green prescribing requires close partnership working with NHS Scotland, and support for a network of locally accredited schemes for health professionals to refer to.

We will work with partners to increase the healthy activities delivered and promoted outdoors, including those specifically designed to support good mental health.

We will work with partners to deliver and support green prescribing schemes across Glasgow.

CASE STUDY 3 – BELLAHOUSTON DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

The Demonstration Garden in Bellahouston Park is a unique resource where educational establishments and specific needs groups, whose clients may not cope well with the experiences of traditional allotment sites, can experience outdoor learning experiences and horticultural therapy within a safe and secure walled garden setting. The user groups have developed a steering group to create bespoke growing spaces based on their client group's requirements, and communal facilities are used by all groups, creating a safe and secure environment.

Home to a diverse range of groups, organisations involved in the garden include the following:

- Macmillan Cancer Support "Journeys to Recovery"
- Momentum Skills (Brain Injury Trust)
- Glasgow Association for Mental Health
- Alzheimer's Scotland
- One Giant Leap/Sense Scotland
- Ibrox Primary School
- Govan High School Autism Unit
- Auticulture (Adult Autism Network)
- Community Safety Glasgow Recreate, which is a unique service that allows ex-offenders to volunteer for up to six months in meaningful roles. Volunteers gain new skills and experiences that will allow them to move forward in their life.

In 2017 the garden also hosted a research programme titled "HEALTH THROUGH HORTICULTURE: AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE IN A GLASGOW COMMUNITY GARDEN" conducted as part of an MSc in Global Health.

The garden is also an opportunity for all user groups to engage with a wider audience and demonstrate how the garden has a beneficial impact on the lives of their clients by:

- increasing activity levels
- offering opportunity for peer group development
- creating community cohesion and individual resilience and increasing opportunities for sharing best practice and knowledge

The opportunity to gain access to locally grown seasonal produce is also a key feature of this project.

Bellahouston Demonstration Garden actively participates in the Glasgow “Doors Open” Festival in September each year, which provides an opportunity for the wider public to visit the garden, participate in a wide array of activities ranging from cookery classes, to sing-a-longs with the choirs from Ibrox Primary School and Auticulture Network, laughter yoga/mindfulness taster sessions, sample the produce, or simply sit and take in the surroundings.

Many of the user groups and their clients welcome this chance to showcase the work they carry out in the garden and the positive difference this makes not only to them, but also to their clients extended families and peer groups.

The garden also provides opportunities for partnership working within the Council family, with training sessions on horticultural practices delivered by the council’s Daldowie Training Centre and maintenance of benches and seats in the garden adopted by colleagues in Community Safety Glasgow’s Community payback teams. The Council’s Biodiversity and Conservation team and Countryside Ranger Service have also helped to develop an on-site pond, swift habitat area and increased the number of pollinator friendly wildflowers within the garden.





Dementia

In 2015, Alzheimer Scotland reported that there were approximately 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland, with around 3,200 of these being under 65²⁶. This figure is expected to rise to 164,000 by 2036²⁷.

Engagement with the natural environment can have a positive effect on people living with dementia. These benefits include improved emotional state, reduced stress and depression, improved physical health, sleeping patterns, eating patterns, improved verbal expression, improved memory and attention.

We will make sure that parks and greenspaces are accessible and connected and that we make it easier for those with dementia and their carers to access the benefits of parks and greenspaces.

Age Friendly Glasgow

It is predicted that in just over 20 years the number of Glasgow residents aged over 65 will increase by 40%. We want to make sure that age is not a barrier to participation in the life of the city, and parks and greenspaces can support opportunities for older citizens to participate in activities.

We acknowledge that there can be barriers to participation, such as accessibility, and we will strive to make our parks and greenspaces as welcoming as possible. This means looking at things like path networks, lighting, symbols and waymarking.

KEY ACTION 1 commits us to working to improve the distribution, multi-functionality and accessibility of our parks and greenspaces. We will strive to make parks and greenspaces welcoming and accessible for older people.

Improving physical activity

UK statistics now put physical inactivity as the second biggest cause of mortality, along with smoking and behind blood pressure. **NHS Scotland**²⁸ currently equates the economic cost of physical inactivity at around £91m per annum nationally.

Improving physical activity rates in Glasgow would significantly increase life expectancy and would help to prevent and treat many chronic diseases. Given Glasgow's current health issues, improving physical activity would not only significantly improve the health of individuals and reduce health inequalities but would also impact on people's ability to learn, work and contribute economically to the city.

Linking with NHS Scotland to encourage and support green prescribing where clients can be referred, for example, to an outdoor gym project or to a guided health walk would help to reduce NHS prescribing costs and potentially lead to a greater prolonged uptake of outdoor activity opportunities.

Managing Glasgow's parks in a way that maximises activity and opportunity will have a positive effect on Glasgow's health. Providing free and accessible opportunities for play and exercise, like outdoor gyms, accessible paths for walking and cycling, fixed and natural play opportunities and working with partners to support programmes like the **Forestry Commission's Branching Out**²⁹ programme and Glasgow Life's **Park Lives**³⁰ programme will all have a positive impact on the City's overall health.

Also, just being outdoors means that people naturally absorb vitamin D even on cloudy days, which is proven to help improve moods and create a positive mental attitude.

Glasgow Life³¹ leads on sport and physical activity in Glasgow, and links provision to demand through the play strategy and the sports pitch strategy. In its **Legacy Framework for Glasgow's Sport and Physical Activity**³², Glasgow Life outlines priorities in targeting the least active and considering early years as a priority and aims to have Glasgow become a healthier city.

Our parks and greenspaces can be actively managed in a way that encourages the least active to become engaged in physical activity. If we make it easy and attractive for all of our citizens, young and older, to use our parks for a range of activities, from gentle walking and play to formal fitness classes, we can significantly impact the city's health.

This means:

- connecting green spaces with suitable, safe and attractive green corridors and information, making it easy to walk and cycle for all ages and abilities
- making sure that our parks and greenspaces are welcoming places
- making sure that there is an equitable distribution of greenspaces throughout the city
- providing suitable facilities in our parks to support activity for all our citizens, e.g. play facilities, seating, toilets, catering, outdoor gyms, multi-use games courts, sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens etc.
- working with partners to deliver more activities in parks and greenspaces, for example, Glasgow Life's Park Lives programme
- working with partners to promote use of local space to groups/individuals not currently using it

There is currently an Outdoor Sports Study being carried out by the Council, Glasgow Life and sportscotland. This will deliver a better understanding of the type and number of sports facilities required throughout the city to meet demand.

We will work with partners to increase the healthy activities delivered and promoted outdoors. We will seek to develop joint strategic approaches to greenspace with the health sector.

CASE STUDY 4 – PARKLIVES



ParkLives is an initiative by Coca-Cola Great Britain, launched in 2014, and delivered in partnership with local authorities across the UK.

Glasgow is one of the nine cities which delivers ParkLives across the UK. The programme offers thousands of fun, free activities in local parks, encouraging people across the UK to enjoy the greenspaces in their local community. In partnership with Coca Cola GB and ukactive, Glasgow Sport (part of Glasgow Life) delivers a 6 month programme in 10 core local parks and greenspaces across the city.

ParkLives brings parks to life and helps bring communities together to have fun and make new friends. Activities range from pre5 to older adults, and there is something for everyone from yoga to Nordic walking to karate.

2017 saw over 11,000 participants take part in activities in Glasgow. Sessions are deliberately broad to encourage as many people as possible from the local community to enjoy informal sessions.

You can find Glasgow Sports ParkLives session on Glasgow Sports activity finder or on the Glasgow Club app in 'Glasgow Club in the Park' section or you can also follow on Facebook (Glasgow ParkLives) and Twitter (@GS_ParkLives).

'ParkFit in Bellahouston Park is amazing!! Cannot believe this service is out there for free! Would recommend it to anyone 'a review from Nicola, who attends our ParkFit session on a Thursday.



Active travel

Using our network of parks and greenspaces for low carbon commuting e.g. by walking or cycling to school or to work, rather than taking the car, bus or train can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to easing climate change.

Parks and greenspaces can make active travel attractive and can help encourage and help people improve their physical activity and improve health and wellbeing.

KEY ACTION 1 commits us to working to improve the distribution, multi-functionality and accessibility of our parks and greenspaces. We will work with partners to improve the accessibility and connectivity of our parks and greenspaces.

Play

Play is an integral part of community life. Playing outdoors helps young people develop learning abilities and creativity, develop good fitness levels and explore risk. Giving young people the freedom of playing outdoors helps them to feel happier and calmer. **Glasgow Life's Play Strategy 2016-2018**³³, sets out a series of outcomes that promote the creation of play opportunities and recognise the importance of play for its own sake. It promotes the creation of opportunities for free play and free choice that allows children to explore their boundaries. The Play Strategy acknowledges that creative play opportunities also support mental wellbeing in children and young people. It also promotes using a community development approach for communities to develop spaces to play in their local environment.

We will manage accessible play opportunities.

We will review our fixed play area provision, looking at distribution, quality and accessibility and make sure that further investment is prioritised according to need

We will work with NHS partners to promote smoke free play areas.

We will promote natural play opportunities.

We will support outdoor play and learning through schools and nurseries.

We will work with communities and partners to create spaces that encourage physical activity and creative play opportunities in our parks and greenspaces.

Allotments and Community Growing

Research suggests that allotments and community gardens can improve people's quality of life. For those who live with physical or mental health challenges, community growing can be especially beneficial in relieving symptoms and preventing the development of some conditions. Community growing can also introduce people to a way of life that can help them to improve their long term well-being. It can link people with nature and encourages positive action on recycling, composting, organic growing and local food production. Benefits of community gardening can be helping to reduce exclusion, increase rates of physical activity, encourage healthy eating, support good mental health, teach new skills and improve confidence and self-esteem.

For many of our citizens, access to fresh produce and understanding how to prepare that produce is a challenge. Allotments and community gardens can help make that link between food production and healthy eating.

Bringing people together in community gardens can help develop support networks and strengthen communities, promote integration and inclusion and can provide routes into education and employment.

Food insecurity (food poverty) is the *'inability to consume an adequate quality, or sufficient quality, of food that is useful for health in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so'*. Glasgow is particularly affected by food poverty due to the high prevalence of people living in poverty who are on low or insecure incomes and who have been affected by welfare changes and benefits sanctions. Glasgow City's Poverty Leadership Panel is devising a 'Tackling Poverty' strategy which will include a 'tackling food poverty' component.

The Community Empowerment Act, (Scotland) 2016 imposes a duty on Scottish local authorities to prepare a food-growing strategy for their area, which must be published by 1st April 2020. The Act imposes a range of duties in relation to allotments and community growing. Within the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy, it is intended that the broadest definition of food growing will be used and could contain urban farms, green roofs, aquaponics through to the more traditional community gardens and allotments.

It is intended that the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy will incorporate the requirement for an updated Allotments Strategy.

Support for allotments, community growing spaces and the development of new growing spaces underpins the Council's Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022, in helping make Glasgow *'a sustainable and low carbon city'*.

We should also note, however that although over 80% of those who responded to our consultation thought that community growing should be supported in parks and greenspaces, some comments were made about areas being fenced off and 'exclusive' and that this activity should be provided outwith public parks. With this in mind, we will support community gardening and allotments, but also taking into account that their provision should be done sensitively and should be appropriate to other parks and greenspaces uses.



We will support community gardening in our parks and greenspaces. We will also investigate how areas such as back courts and vacant and derelict land can be positively used as community gardens.

We will work with partners to identify new food growing locations.

We will review our management of allotments.

We will produce a Food Growing Strategy.

Volunteering

The benefits of volunteering have already been discussed in this document, but it is important to note the health benefits of active exercise. Whether this is through volunteering in parks and greenspaces and carrying out regular physical exercise or as a volunteer coach encouraging young people to become involved in outdoor activity, the community health benefits are immense.

Skills and confidence development allows people to become more employable, thereby helping to increase economic opportunities for citizens, and help lift people out of poverty.



CASE STUDY 5 – FRIENDS OF HOUSEHILL PARK/NIVS



Househill Park is a linear park and open space situated on the south west of Glasgow city, serving the communities of Pollok, Househillwood, Nitshill, Crookston and Priesthill. It is adjacent to the large Silverburn shopping centre and runs both side of the Lavern Water, forming part of the Lavern walkway. The park has a play area, a community rose garden and a multi-use games area. It is a popular place for dog walkers and walking groups who use the park constantly.

Unfortunately, one of the main issues throughout the park has been litter, in the grass areas, on the fence lines and in the Lavern Water.

The Friends of Househill Park was formally constituted in April 2018 and they decided that their first activity as a Friends group would be to start cleaning up their park.

Frequently, new and forming Friends groups start their events and activities off with a clean-up. This helps everyone in the group get to know each other and allows the group to start with organising relatively small events and building skills and confidence together. Often, organising a first event like this also encourages the group to create a social media presence and generate support for the group's aims and activities.

The group contacted the Neighbourhood Improvement and Enforcement Service in Community Safety Glasgow (part of the Glasgow City Council family), which runs the Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteer programme. The NIV programme encourages individuals and groups to improve their local environment, making it cleaner and safer for everyone in their community. NIVs take part in a range of activities from picking litter to reporting environmental issues. They receive support from the Neighbourhood Improvement and Enforcement Service who supply tools, liaise with other Council services and participate in clean-ups.

The Friends also received support from McDonalds via their 'Love where you Live campaign'.

Over 50 local people turned out to the Friend's first clean-up on a wet Sunday afternoon, and the event was a tremendous success. The local Baptist church supported the event, supplying a starting and finishing point and refreshments. Many bags of litter, bikes, and shopping trolleys were cleared in a well organised and fun event.

The event was so successful, the group immediately set about organising their next clean up event which included a free BBQ at the end. They also plan a community BBQ, an away day to Largs and a community gala day to raise awareness of the group, bring the whole community together and to share in each other's dreams and visions for the park. They aim to improve information to the local community through posters, leaflets and social media and organised a leaflet drop through the local area, schools and nurseries.



Cultural opportunities

Links between creative activities and health improvement are long established. Music, drama, art, movement are all aspects of our cultural environment that can be practiced in the outdoors, multiplying the therapeutic benefit of the cultural activity with the health benefits of greenspace.

Glasgow Life leads on cultural activity in Glasgow and supports Glasgow's reputation as a world class cultural venue with a range of iconic high profile cultural events and festivals. Many of the internationally significant cultural events are supported by Glasgow's parks and greenspaces.

Culture is economically significant to the city and important in developing and sustaining healthy, vibrant and connected communities.

We will support Glasgow Life and other partners in developing and delivering cultural programmes in parks and greenspaces.

KEY ACTIONS

4. We will work with partners to improve the healthy and cultural activities (including play), for all ages and abilities delivered and promoted outdoors
5. We will work with partners to create a network of high quality connections through and between our parks and greenspaces that are suitable, safe and attractive for all ages and abilities
6. We will support allotments and community growing throughout the city, and will produce a Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.

A LEARNING CITY

Learning does not need to take place solely within schools, colleges and universities. The outdoor environment has massive potential for learning and personal development in areas such as communication, problem solving, skills development and team working.



In Glasgow we are fortunate to have many different types of open space to support lifelong learning. From outdoor nurseries, forest schools to volunteer and employment opportunities, Glasgow's parks and greenspaces can support creative and challenging activities, encouraging responsible and confident citizens who value and appreciate our beautiful city.

The Council's Strategic Plan 2017-2022 sets out priorities for ensuring that each young person reaches their full potential, and for delivering excellent and inclusive education. The key actions within this section align with those priorities.

Schools

Outdoor learning is becoming increasingly important part of the school curriculum – it is embedded within the **Curriculum for Excellence**³⁴, which states:

'Outdoor learning experiences are often remembered for a lifetime. Integrating learning and outdoor experiences, whether through play in the immediate grounds or adventures further afield, provides relevance and depth to the curriculum in ways that are difficult to achieve indoors. Learning outdoors can be enjoyable, creative, challenging and adventurous and helps children and young people learn by experience and grow as confident and responsible citizens who value and appreciate the spectacular landscapes, natural heritage and culture of Scotland.'

Early Years

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the early learning and childcare entitlement to 1,140 hours per year per child by 2020, from 600 hours per year in 2014. This gives an opportunity to expand the provision of outdoor learning opportunities on a permanent basis in our parks and greenspaces.

Although over 90% of those taking part in our consultation agreed with the use of parks and greenspaces for education, there were comments made about ensuring that spaces were allowed to remain 'wild' and that there should be space for relaxation and quiet – not all spaces need to be full of activity. In planning use of space for education, we will be mindful of retaining access for people and wildlife to wild and quiet spaces.

CASE STUDY 6 – OUTDOOR PLAY IN CASTLEMILK

In October 2017, a collaboration between 8 local nurseries came together to form an outdoor nursery lead by the Jeely Piece Club in Castlemilk Woodlands. They call themselves the Welly Wanderers.

This collaboration is the first of its kind in Scotland with nurseries from the third sector, public and private sectors working together in partnership. Funding for this exciting pilot project comes from Glasgow City Council and is managed and supported by Inspiring Scotland.



The initial project was from October 17 to June 18, however it has just been the project has been extended till August 19. This pilot is looking forward to 2020, the year that the Scottish Government has set to increase the number of free hours of childcare from 16 hours to 30 hours. There is a strong case to say that outdoor learning in the early years is the way forward.

The Welly Wanderers operates in Castlemilk Woodlands 4 days per week. Each nursery is out one day per week. This means that 64 children get the opportunity to access the outdoors on a weekly basis. Over the period of the pilot, 192 children will have been out in the woodlands learning and playing.

The outcomes for children playing and learning in the natural environment are incredible. Children are much more physical, there are no space limitations which allows freedom of play, fun and risk, children's social skills, self-confidence and self-esteem are greatly improved, there are positive changes in behaviour and the natural environment assists with cognitive and emotional development. The list of benefits goes on.

It is not just the children who benefit from this, the community is sharing in their responsibility of looking after the woodlands. Establishing and maintaining an area for safe and stimulating use is challenging in inner city green spaces. Local volunteers work hard to clear weekend litter and debris from the areas allocated for the Outdoor nursery. Frequent people traffic in the woods has an impact on each site, and considerations are given to minimising the effect upon wildlife and the natural forest.

Foxes and hedgehogs are making use of the pathways made by the children's wellingtons and lots of new undergrowth and spring shoots are coming up in the areas which have been cleared. The streams are flowing more freely since the children and adults have removed large stones, and in time minnows and tadpoles will return.

There is great support for the project from the Woodlands Officer in Castlemilk Park and Glasgow City Council Land and Environmental Service.

As a pilot project there has been great initial success on many different levels for a range of participants and the wider community. This project will continue to develop through practice and sharing knowledge with other outdoor groups locally, nationally and internationally. The outdoor project has created a focus for many different professionals to work together in partnership towards a common goal of safeguarding local children and providing innovative opportunities to learn and to enjoy childhood.

We will promote parks and greenspaces for outdoor learning spaces.

We will review our current resources to establish how they can additionally support this.

We will work with schools to assist with the delivery of outdoor learning through the Curriculum for Excellence.

We will work with early years providers to establish suitable areas for outdoor learning spaces and establish criteria for schools and nurseries using parks and greenspace.

Lifelong learning, skills retention and skills development

With significant financial challenges in the public sector in recent years, reductions in traditional horticultural skills retained in the parks section are an inevitable consequence. Efficient working principles have meant that staff originally trained and delivering their horticulture skills in parks and greenspaces are now multi-skilled and work across a range of disciplines. While this may deliver a more efficient front line service, the traditional skills and knowledge of the workforce are being lost.

It is important to offer opportunities for lifelong learning. Supporting opportunities for learning and skills development for all our citizens enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, personal development and employability. Lifelong learning can enhance the understanding of the world around us, provide people with better opportunities and improve quality of life.

We will work with universities and colleges to support horticultural education and to provide opportunities for internships and placements.



CASE STUDY 7 – SRUC

In April 2017, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) approached Glasgow City Council with a proposal to deliver horticultural courses from Glasgow Botanic Gardens. They already had a positive partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, and were looking to build on that success by offering HNC level courses in both Horticulture and Garden Design from Glasgow Botanic Gardens.

The partnership allows teaching in the classroom and library areas of Glasgow Botanic Gardens, along with use of designated glasshouse areas and areas within the Gardens for practical work. The arrangement also benefits the Gardens by having a number of students on site and being able to align specific practical projects with their availability.



We will work with partners, including Scottish Government, to investigate opportunities for apprenticeships and new employability programmes.

We will investigate how our procurement practices can deliver additional training and development opportunities.

We will investigate sponsorship opportunities for apprenticeships.

We will examine how external funding packages may support training.

We will look at how our staff can cascade skills to local community groups to support capacity building within those organisations.

We will investigate the expanded use of schemes like Community Payback and Re-create.

We will develop links with further education providers.

We will explore the potential of expanded intern/graduate programmes.

We will explore the potential of partnership working with colleges and universities to expand our horticultural training.

Interpretation

One of the key ways of increasing environmental awareness and knowledge is by providing good quality on-site interpretation. Our parks and greenspaces have a huge array of built and natural heritage and there are many ways to use these as learning opportunities. This allows informal, lifelong learning and also supports outdoor learning delivered through educational establishments. There is already a great deal of on-site interpretation throughout our parks and greenspaces, but there is an opportunity to review this and ensure that information is provided in the most accessible way.

We will review our provision of signage and on site interpretation to ensure we maximise learning opportunities for both natural and built heritage in parks and greenspaces.

KEY ACTIONS

7. We will promote parks and greenspaces for outdoor learning spaces
8. We will investigate opportunities to retain and develop horticultural skills

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Equality Act (2010)³⁵, and further legislation, holds public bodies accountable for advancing equality within Scottish society.



Planning and development

Glasgow's parks and greenspaces are free for everyone to use and enjoy. They support many different sectors of the community to come together in shared spaces and in doing this they can help support stronger communities. Our planning and development of parks and greenspaces must support and value Glaswegians in all their diversity and make these vital spaces accessible, connected and welcoming.

KEY ACTION 1 commits us to working to improve the distribution, multi-functionality and accessibility of our parks and greenspaces. Through the parks development programme and other funding sources, we will develop parks and greenspaces that are accessible and easy to use.

We will connect greenspaces together, encouraging active travel.

Working with the Glasgow Open Space Strategy, we will ensure parks and greenspaces are equitably distributed across the city.

We will ensure that Equality Impact Assessments are carried out on new projects and policies.

Placemaking

Placemaking has an important part to play in how we develop new spaces and how we manage existing spaces, as it requires the involvement of whole communities to establish how space is used and developed.

We will ensure engagement in planning and designing projects in parks and greenspaces reflect the diversity of Glasgow population.

CASE STUDY 8 – VICTORIA PARK COMMUNITY PLACEMAKING

In autumn 2016, Glasgow City Council commissioned consultants to undertake community placemaking for Victoria Park. This aimed to consolidate previous consultation outcomes and development ideas and to establish a positive way forward involving the stakeholders and community representatives of the areas surrounding the park.

Community placemaking is a process which designs public spaces collaboratively with communities and stakeholders, so that all interests are dealt with in a holistic way. The desired outcome is to ensure that the space is valued and used.

Over 40 individuals participated in the placemaking, capturing the input of 17 organisations.

The placemaking identified that there was a desire to improve Victoria Park and confirmed it as a much valued greenspace. However, it also identified that there were issues to overcome in improving Victoria Park, including poor communication between stakeholders, poor coordination of activities and fragmented development initiatives.

Following the community placemaking, a short term working group was established, facilitated by Dumbarton Road Corridor Trust, in order to work on the action plan. The aim of the group was to bring together an effective, representative management forum which would work together as equal partners to create a long term development plan for Victoria Park.

The working group contained representatives from 17 organisations, including local Community Councils, Glasgow City Council and the Friends of Victoria Park, and one of its main recommendations was that a new organisation (a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) would be established which would develop the identified opportunities and deliver the long term development plan for the park.

Vision statement

Victoria Park will provide high quality, accessible facilities which are freely available and meet the recreational, leisure, health, educational and environmental needs of the community.

Victoria Park will be managed by an effective collaborative partnership that recognises and protects the park's historic and landscape significance for the benefit of its local communities and visitors in an inclusive, imaginative and environmentally friendly manner.



Events and activities

Events, activities and cultural projects are essential in developing and enhancing community cohesion. Glasgow Life leads on cultural activity in Glasgow and parks and greenspaces can help support a wide range of cultural projects in the outdoors.

KEY ACTIONS 4 AND 9 commit us to supporting Glasgow Life and other partners in developing and delivering cultural programmes in parks and greenspaces. We will work with partners to support culturally diverse events and activities in parks and greenspaces.

KEY ACTIONS

9. We will work with communities and other partners to support culturally diverse events and activities in parks and greenspaces

PLACES

The most popular and enduring parks and greenspaces are those that people want to use, and that serve a useful purpose.



Glasgow has over 3,500 hectares of greenspace from formal parks to woodlands, growing spaces to wild flower meadows, and a huge diversity of natural and urban heritage. For example, there are over 90 formal parks and gardens, historic cemeteries, over 1,000 hectares of woodland, 12 local nature reserves and over 80 hectares of wildflower meadows.

Glasgow's City Development Plan sets out a number of key actions related to the environment:

- Help to care for Glasgow's historic and green environments and increase the City's resilience to climate change
- Increase access to open space and the green network and improve its quality
- Protect and enhance the built heritage as a core asset of a vibrant and distinctive place
- Protect and manage Glasgow's heritage assets and ensure that development enhances their character and features to contribute to the identity of local places
- Apply the placemaking approach to the design and development of areas where people live, work and spend leisure time
- Improve opportunities for movement between neighbourhoods by active travel and public transport
- Enhance the ability of Glasgow's natural environment to adapt and become resilient to climate change
- Ensure that people in existing communities have access to the open spaces they need and create new spaces and green infrastructure in new development areas
- Maintain and enhance the quality and integrity of the city's biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape.

The Glasgow Open Space Strategy will provide a resource which identifies quantity, quality and accessibility of open space within Glasgow, and will provide opportunities for prioritising investment based on the requirement to provide accessible and connected spaces.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Glasgow's parks and greenspaces from formal parks to wild areas and woodlands contribute to the health and well-being of its citizens. However, there is tremendous potential for these spaces to support a range of other priorities.



The Council's Strategic Plan 2017 -2022 identifies a number of outcomes and priorities to make Glasgow a 'sustainable and low carbon city'. The key actions listed in this section align with those priorities, especially in promoting and enhancing the city's natural resources, exploring green energy initiatives and on active travel.

With investment and careful planning, spaces can become truly multi-functional, providing not just a space for leisure and health, but a space that contributes to improving air quality and mitigating flood damage, producing renewable energy and a space that is rich in diverse natural habitats, supporting and protecting a range of species.

We will manage parks and greenspaces in a way that allows them to adapt to a changing environment while enabling them to continue to deliver primary public health benefits.

We will work with partners to deliver a connected network of spaces.

We will investigate opportunities for spaces to be used for flood alleviation and green energy generation.

We will work to increase the green surface area of the city through promoting the use of vacant and derelict land and backcourts for community growing.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

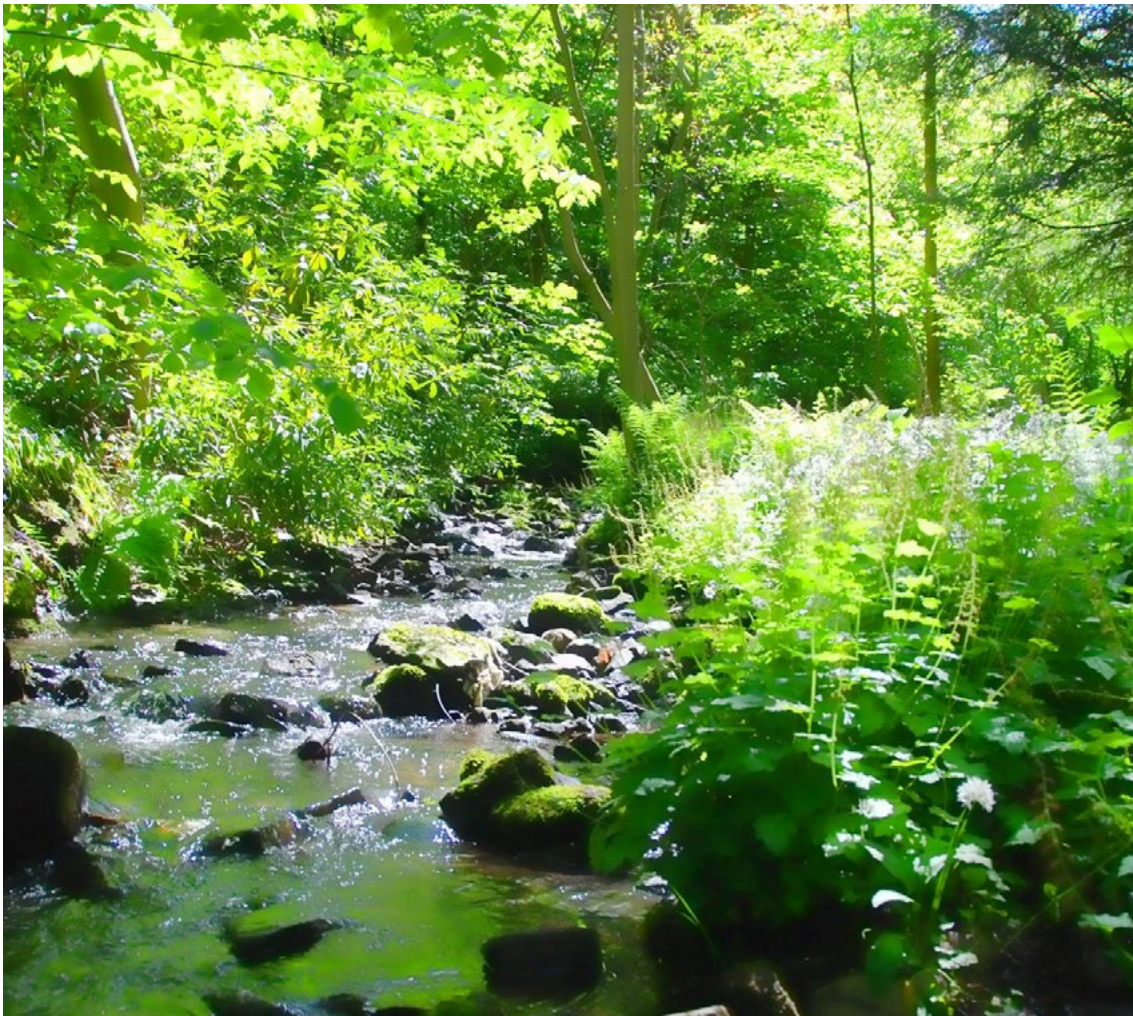
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004³⁶ placed a statutory duty on all public bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity. **The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011**³⁷ placed a requirement on those bodies to produce a publicly available report on their biodiversity actions.

There already is an integrated network of habitats within Glasgow that provides a variety of healthy and high quality ecosystems, but it is imperative that we work to protect and enhance this. Creating and maintaining green networks not only supports human health by connecting accessible spaces, but also allows other species to move to new areas to find the best conditions.

The document 'Scotland's Biodiversity, a Route Map to 2020' supports the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and sets out 'Six Big Steps for Nature':

- Ecosystem renewal
- Investment in natural capital
- Quality greenspace for health and education benefits
- Conserving wildlife in Scotland
- Sustainable management of land and fresh water
- Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystem (not present in Glasgow).

Glasgow City Council, in partnership with the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Partnership, has prepared a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) which supports these principles and sets out a series of ecosystem statements, species and habitat action plans. The LBAP takes an ecosystems approach to biodiversity and enhancement. This aims to protect individual species and habitats by conserving the whole of the environment in which they are found.



CASE STUDY 9 – FRIENDS OF GLASGOW'S LNRS

The Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves (LNRS) were formed in April 2011. Their basic aims are to:

- Raise awareness of the Local Nature Reserves and wildlife in the City;
- Lobby and work with Glasgow City Council and others to ensure that this environmental resource is protected, managed and enhanced;
- Promote partnership working;
- Organise or support practical conservation events; and
- Raise funds to support the above.

Since their formation, they have created an informative website and Facebook page; published leaflets; erected 'woodcrete' bird and bat boxes; planted hedges; undertaken clean-ups; raised funds to allow the Council to install a pedestrian traffic island between Hogganfield Park and Cardowan Moss LNRS and hosted guided walks and wildfowl feeding events.

Their most ambitious project involved raising around £14,000 to purchase and install 5 Biohavens (artificial floating islands) on Hogganfield Loch. The 'Friends' hoped that the islands would help achieve a number of beneficial outcomes for wetland birds at Hogganfield Loch including creating:

- nesting opportunities, that would not be susceptible to wave action and flooding; and
- a safe location to rest, roost and preen.

More specifically, they hoped that they would be used by Great Crested Grebes despite research indicating that this hadn't happened before in Scotland.

The islands proved successful, with Great Crested Grebes raising young in 2016 and 2017 and a variety of birds using them for resting and preening. These were seen as a demonstration project and, as a result of their success, additional islands have been installed by the Seven Lochs Project. The Group are clear that partnership working is crucial and as such joined the TCV Community Network and are represented on the Friends of Glasgow Parks Forum.

In undertaking their projects they have worked with volunteers from local communities, the Seven Lochs Project, Glasgow University PhD students from China, TCV, and the RSPB Glasgow Local Group. They have also been supported by officers from Glasgow City Council and MyParkScotland whilst funding has been obtained from a variety of sources including Volunteering

Matters Action Earth, EB Scotland Ltd, Glasgow Natural History Society, Forestry Commission Scotland and donations from the public. In recognition of their work, the Friends won 'Glasgow City Council Environmental Initiative Award' as part of the Evening Times Streets Ahead Awards in 2017.

More details of the Group's activities and previous events can be found here: <http://friendsofglasgowlnrs.wordpress.com>

We will implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Many of Glasgow's key grasslands are already protected as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) or within Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). LNRs and SSSIs give statutory protection and there is a presumption against development affecting SINCs. Grasslands range from short mown grass to vibrant wildflower meadows. Areas of longer vegetation are better for biodiversity and mitigating the effects of climate change, slowing down the rate of water movement in heavy rainfall. Longer vegetation also helps remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Since 2001, grasslands and wildflower meadows have been created and managed in the city at a wide variety of sites. In addition, the council has been working with local farmers to manage active farmland for biodiversity including large areas of species rich grassland. Community groups in all areas of the city have been actively involved with wildflower meadow creation and enhancement projects through sourcing funding and materials and carrying out wildflower planting and sowing seed and we have relaxed cutting regimes across large areas of council-owned grassland. Reduced cutting allows wildflowers to bloom and set seed. Unmanaged areas provide habitat for nesting and hibernation by bees.

We will continue to preserve and enhance existing key grasslands and create new wildflower meadows as part of an integrated habitat network.

Glasgow also contains a large number of wetlands, some of which are of regional importance. Wetlands form some of the most important wildlife sites in the city with rich swamp, fen and bog communities supporting many locally rare plant species and hosting a rich diversity of associated fauna.



We will continue to preserve and enhance existing key wetlands and create new ponds and marshes as part of an integrated habitat network.

Pollinator Plan

Across the world, pollinators are under threat. Animal pollination (the transfer of pollen between male and female plants) is essential for plant fertilisation of many species. A Pollinator Strategy for Scotland has been prepared by Scottish Natural Heritage. The Glasgow Pollinator Plan supports the national strategy by detailing local action to help halt pollinator declines and reverse the losses. The aim of the Plan is to have as an outcome a robust, healthy and diverse population of pollinating invertebrates in Glasgow.

We will implement the Pollinator Plan.

Trees and woodlands (urban forest)

There is a growing body of academic research from around the world documenting the significant economic, environmental and social benefits of trees within the built environment, such as streetscapes and public realm. The benefits help to alleviate some of the challenging aspects of urban living.

Economic benefits include increased property prices and land values and faster property sales which encourage inward investment and growth; reduced energy costs through regulating the microclimate; enhancing tourist and recreational facilities thereby attracting tourist spend to the city; and remediation of contaminated land.

In addition, there are significant environmental benefits, such as:

- filtering water
- improving air quality by producing oxygen and uptake of air pollutants
- providing wind break
- regulating soil moisture content
- aiding noise mitigation measures
- carbon sequestration
- improving soil structure and fertility
- reducing soil erosion
- providing important habitats and enhancing biodiversity in general.

The societal benefits of having good quality and accessible trees and woodlands mirror those of parks and greenspaces.

In addition to trees, recent research has indicated that planting hedges in urban environments, particularly on streets, may further enhance the benefits above, in that they may be more able to absorb street pollution at the level it occurs.

We will work with partners to enhance and develop appropriate urban forest street planting, open space and public realm schemes.

Parkland trees and woodlands are not only vital for biodiversity but play a key role in physical and mental health and well-being of residents and the production of natural resources.

Providing an accessible and connected urban forest can improve physical and mental health by encouraging people to walk, cycle participate in events and learn in our woodlands. Our urban forest can provide opportunities for getting together, for volunteering and for employment.

Urban forests provide carbon sequestration, reduced flood risk, reduction in soil erosion, climate change adaptation, timber production, cultural heritage and a sense of place. Timber from trees and woodlands can also provide opportunity as a sustainable energy source through biomass systems that can help in economic development through lower energy costs as well as skills and job creation.

We worked with Forest Research and **Forestry Commission Scotland in 2013/14³⁸** to undertake a survey to quantify the urban forest structure, environmental effects and value to communities. The core findings for Glasgow's urban forest (council, public sector and private) are:

- Tree cover 15% of the city's area at 112 tree per ha
- Has a replacement value of £4.6 billion
- Provides ecosystem services of £4.5 million per annum
- 812,000m² rainfall intercepted each year
- 283,000 tonnes of air pollution removed each year
- Removes an estimated 9,000 tonnes of carbon each year, worth enough to offset 177% of the total estimated annual CO₂ emissions produced by all cars owned in Glasgow
- Stores 193,000 tonnes of carbon (worth c.£40m)

This demonstrates the economic and environmental necessity of protecting and enhancing woodlands in our city.

We will work with partners and communities to enhance the condition of our woodlands and parkland trees, the accessibility of our woodlands and to create a sustainable network of sites within the city.



Buildings

There are many different types of buildings within our parks and greenspaces, from huge sports and leisure complexes to iconic museums, sports pavilions and glasshouses, and we understand that the buildings play an important part in supporting and enhancing biodiversity. Some species rely on the built environment for breeding or roosting sites, such as swifts and bats. Greening buildings can also help with insulation against heat and cold, increasing efficiency.

Where refurbishment programmes are being carried out, we will make sure the use of green infrastructure such as living roofs, Sustainable Urban Drainage, raingardens etc. are considered.

Many of the buildings in our parks and greenspaces have enormous heritage merit. Others may not have great architectural value, but are of great importance to the communities in the surrounding areas.

Where sustainable, long term uses can be found for buildings in parks, we will support community and other uses.



Active travel

Active travel is using physical activity like walking or cycling, rather than motorised vehicles for all or part of a journey. Walking and cycling (and better use of public transport) improves health and well-being and is better for the environment.

We want to help meet the Scottish Government's **Cycling Action Plan for Scotland**³⁹ vision of '10% of everyday journeys to be made by bike by 2020', and recognise the health and wellbeing benefits that will deliver.

For active travel to be successful there needs to be a network of accessible paths which connect centres of population to schools, shops, public transport hubs, leisure destinations and workplaces, without the need to use heavily trafficked roads. Glasgow City Council has been successfully working with **Sustrans**⁴⁰ and other partners to develop a network of connections between communities and destinations, and that work will continue to expand greenways through Glasgow's parks and greenspaces.

Although a significant length of the National Cycle Network runs through and connects Glasgow's parks and greenspaces, it will take a number of years to achieve the vision of a fully integrated active travel network. The Glasgow Open Space Strategy will further identify opportunities for linking parks and greenspaces together and to the wider network.

Glasgow's Strategy Plan for Cycling⁴¹ sets out how we intend to increase walking and cycling in the city.

We will work with partners to develop and enhance active travel routes and develop connections between our parks and greenspaces.

Renewable energy

There are many sources of renewable energy which can be used to benefit local communities. As technology progresses there are many of these options that can be considered within our parks and greenspaces, without significantly changing the primary use of the space. For example,

- Ground, air or water heat pumps
- Hydro power
- Wind power
- Biomass
- Solar power

CASE STUDY 10 – POLLOK PARK SAWMILL HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME

This mid-nineteenth century former sawmill, located in Pollok Country Park, is a 'B' listed building currently classed as being 'At Risk' in the 'Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland'. It is located near Pollok House, adjacent to the stable block. Originally the sawmill had a wooden water wheel to drive equipment such as bench saws and lathes, much of which is in situ. This was replaced in the late 19th Century with two vertical axis turbines which generated electricity.

The first Turbine was manufactured by J&W Jolly in Massachusetts, USA on April 17th 1890, and the second turbine was manufactured by Carrick and Ritchie of Waverley Engineering Works. A full feasibility study, including a flow-duration study to determine the potential energy that could be harnessed from the river, has suggested that in the order of 200MWh could be generated annually.

To avoid changing the building in any way, replacing these turbines with re-engineered replicas of the original turbines is considered the most sympathetic and efficient option, with the sustainable electricity being exported for consumption at Pollok House.

In early 2018, contractors were appointed and the project commenced. A number of surveys needed to be undertaken, including habitat surveys for bats, fish and mammals, topographical and flood risk, invasive species, flow monitoring, and condition and electrical.

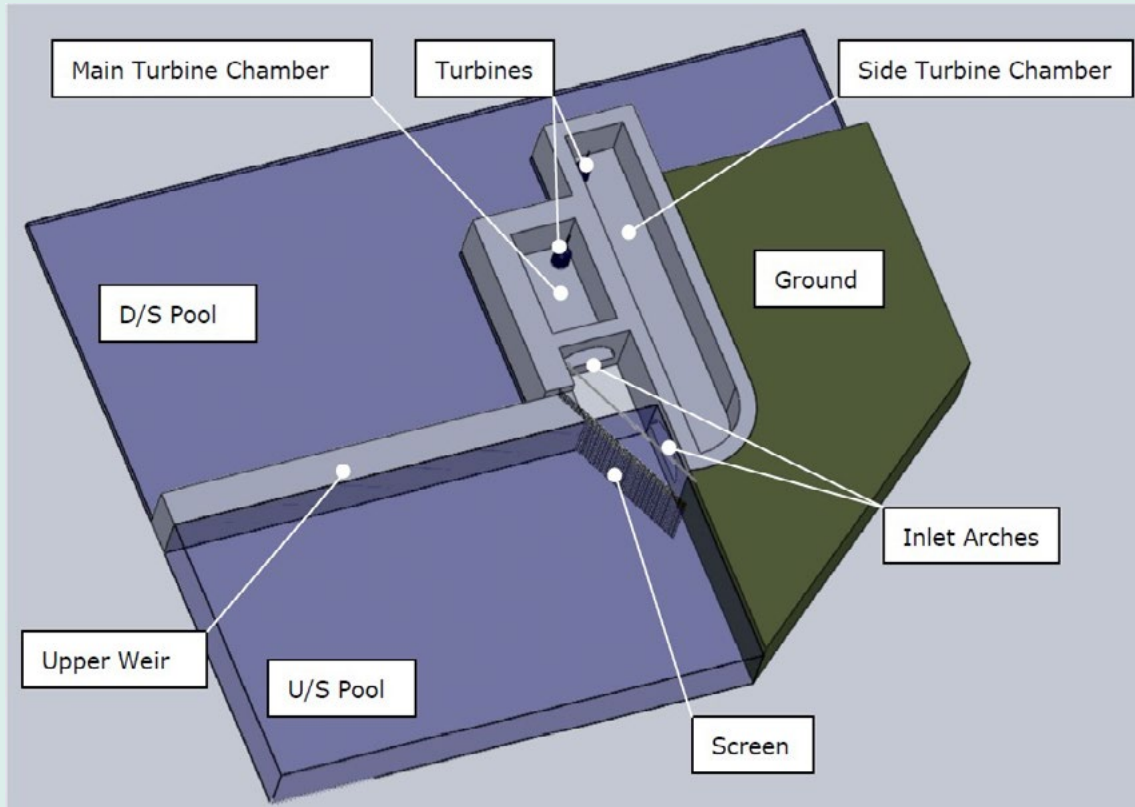
Approval was sought from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in the form of a controlled activity licence and a planning application has been submitted to the Council for approval.

Upon completion, it is anticipated that in the order of 80 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be avoided by local consumption of the electricity generated.

This project also demonstrates the evolution of the sawmill and how that reflects on Glasgow, from a water-powered sawmill cutting lumber for construction to the generation of sustainable electricity, helping to reduce the city's environmental impact.



Waverley Turbine Plaque



Sawmill Infrastructure



Pollok Sawmill and weir viewed from downstream

We will explore opportunities to develop renewable energy production within our parks and greenspaces.

Flood mitigation

The Council is committed to improving how we mitigate flooding and improve water quality. As the urban environment becomes more developed, parks and greenspaces offer unique opportunities to absorb rainfall and hold flood water. The objectives of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) are:

- Flood Risk Reduction
- River water quality improvements
- Enabling economic development
- Habitat improvements
- Integrated investment planning

The vision is that rather than putting water underground, as was done in the past, we should develop how we use water to create areas which will break-up the city's hard landscaping, hold and absorb rainfall and surface water and help the urban environment to adapt to climate change.

We will work with partners to make the best use of our parks and greenspaces to mitigate flooding.

CASE STUDY 11 – GREATER EASTERHOUSE INTEGRATED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Background

The emerging Glasgow City Development Plan (CDP) sets out a requirement for a Strategic Development Framework (SDF) for Greater Easterhouse to be developed.

In 2014 and 2015 a scoping exercise for the Greater Easterhouse SDF was undertaken. This aimed to provide an overview of Greater Easterhouse's place characteristics and identify and examine the key issues and opportunities affecting the area. The scoping report identified that each neighbourhood area within Greater Easterhouse possesses unique physical land use and geo-spatial localised issues. However, there are a number of overarching issues, such as:

- An abundance of unproductive brownfield land comprising vacant and derelict land; and sites identified on the effective housing land supply register with no development programmed;
- Poor quality poorly managed and maintained disconnected green spaces;
- Poor connectivity throughout neighbourhoods;
- Poor community facilities and local shopping facilities; and
- Poor play provision.

The scoping exercise recommended an integrated green infrastructure focus should be applied to help reduce the quantity of vacant and derelict land, reconnect neighbourhoods, support improved surface water management and attract private sector house building. The scoping exercise also highlighted that the Greater Easterhouse area is well positioned to take advantage of adjacent green belt land within the Seven Lochs Wetland Park. The abundance of vacant land throughout the area presents an opportunity to create well connected quality green infrastructure as a means of re-connection which may be used as a catalyst for place making and investment providing new development and economic growth towards regeneration of the Greater Easterhouse area.

As a result of this, the Greater Easterhouse Integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy was developed through a partnership approach between different Services in Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. This strategy identified green corridor connections to the Seven Lochs Wetland Area which would help address some of the outlined area challenges.

Developing the Design

In 2016 and 2017, with the support from Scottish Natural Heritage Green Infrastructure Fund, Glasgow City Deal Fund and Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, the project progressed designed details and implementation plans to create two improved green-blue corridors within the Greater Easterhouse neighbourhoods of (1) Cranhill and Ruchazie; and (2) Blairtummock to link with gateway parks of the Seven Lochs Wetland.

The main focus for each of these enhanced corridors was to deliver multi-functionality. This included helping create opportunities to slow and storage surface water and unlock development sites; delivering new and enhanced habitats for biodiversity; new landscape features and paths for healthier and happier lifestyles.

Some of the activities being implemented within the designs included:

- The restoration of the Whamflet Burn in Blairtummock Park and the Light Burn in Cranhill Park;
- The creation of new and enhanced wetland, meadow and grassland habitats for supporting species such as the special Fossorial Water Voles;
- The planting of new trees and upgrade and enhancement of the path network;
- The creation of landscape features for encouraging natural play.

Community Engagement

During the detailed design development the project held a series of interactive community design workshops to involve local people in the plans. The workshops were delivered in partnership with local housing organisations, environmental organisations and community groups to target the people living closest to the proposed new / enhanced corridors. The workshops focused on specific design elements, such as seating, features, signage, entrances to help build local ownership and interest.

Local residents, school children and park users were invited to drop in and find out more through sharing ideas on the ground and learning about the park and its ecology through games, drawings, model making and installations. The series of workshops attracted over 430 local participants.

KEY ACTIONS

10. We will implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and will work with communities and partners to manage a sustainable, integrated network of parks and greenspaces, supporting a variety of habitats and uses

11. We will work with communities and partners to enhance the condition and distribution of our woodlands, parkland and street trees

12. We will investigate appropriate and sustainable uses for buildings, opportunities for renewable energy production and flood mitigation in our parks and greenspaces

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Urban parks and greenspaces have always been an important setting for arts and cultural programmes. Some of our historic parks contained bandstands and hosted regular music events with Victorians promenading, enjoying fresh air and cultural activities. Our parks and greenspaces have also traditionally provided space for political speeches and rallies, providing a significant setting for Glasgow's rich political heritage.



Kelvingrove Park has been used twice for International Exhibitions in 1888 and 1901 as well as being used for the Scottish National Exhibition in 1911, and Bellahouston Park held the 1938 Empire Exhibition. Bellahouston Park has hosted two Papal visits. The hugely popular and fondly remembered 1988 Garden Festival was held on the banks of the Clyde. All of these international events and more have brought visitors to Glasgow and contributed to today's view of Glasgow as being a successful, vibrant, cultural city.

Today, few of the traditional bandstands and promenades exist. Today, our parks cater for different tastes and requirements. Some of the traditional areas have been transformed into vibrant cultural spaces, like Kelvingrove Bandstand and Queens Park Arena, and some have been lost through lack of use or maintenance. Some of our parks host national and international events and attract tourists and income to the city and many of our parks and greenspaces offer just as important opportunities to bring communities together in local activities and events.

Parks and culture are mutually beneficial. Culture can play an essential role in revitalising and animating park and greenspaces, and parks and greenspaces can support artists and arts organisations by providing new spaces and audiences which can support long term and in-depth partnerships between artists and communities.

KEY ACTION 10 commits us to supporting Glasgow Life and other partners in developing and delivering cultural programmes in parks and greenspaces. We will work with partners to support culturally diverse events and activities in parks and greenspaces.

Our parks and greenspaces are also well used for local, national and international sporting events, for example, the 2014 Commonwealth Games (the 'greenest' games ever), 2018 European Championships and annual events like the Great Scottish Run. A number of our parks host 'Parkrun' which supports local people running 5K on a weekly basis.

Glasgow's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023 aims to grow the number of tourists from 2m to 3m per year and to grow the value of spend from £482m to £771m. Tourism is a key part of the city's economy and parks and greenspaces help to support that. However, we must also acknowledge that when a park or greenspace is used to deliver a large sporting or cultural event, the everyday park users are displaced, and are sometimes disgruntled at the disruption.

Our consultation showed general support for events and activities in Glasgow's parks and greenspaces, however, when asked specifically what kind of activities they would like to see LESS of, 49% of respondents said 'large, paid for events and activities'. When asked if they would support 'paid for' events in parks and greenspaces, 70% said 'yes – if profits were invested in parks'.

This shows that communities may be willing to put up with some disruption for large scale event programming if there was a positive end benefit and if communities were better engaged in the planning of those events.

We will work with community and organisational partners to increase the use of parks and greenspaces throughout the year.

We will discuss large scale events with the local communities, ensuring information is dispersed and that concerns are addressed where appropriate.

We will investigate mechanisms to invest event income directly into parks and greenspaces.

Locally organised events and activities are essential in bringing communities together and helping local groups to build capacity within the community. Every day, there are football, rugby, hockey matches and training in our parks, improving the health of the participants and supporting community coaching and volunteering. Annual gala days, Hallowe'en and fireworks events bring people together for fun.

We will support the use of parks and greenspaces for local community events and activities, making application processes as easy as possible and ensuring information about statutory applications, e.g. licences is widely available.

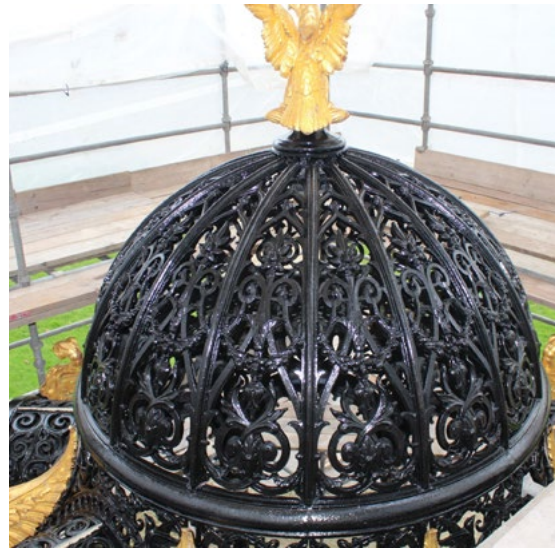
KEY ACTIONS

13. We will support the use of parks and greenspaces for events and activities, supporting local groups in delivering community events and engaging with communities in the delivery of large scale events



CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Conservation is an active process of maintenance and managing change. It is about understanding and valuing our natural and built heritage and interpreting it to ensure that it is relevant for today's communities.



Glasgow's parks and greenspaces embrace a rich diversity of natural heritage, buildings, monuments, fountains, gates and fences along with designed landscapes, which all contribute to the city's character and help to instill a sense of identity and distinctiveness within our communities.

Our heritage estate entices visitors to the city and adds to the attractiveness of Glasgow as a tourist destination. Some of our parks were designed by the world's best known and celebrated landscape designers and are spaces we can be justifiably proud of.

While there has been significant investment in many of our parks heritage assets, many challenges remain, not least securing funding from within and outwith the Council.

We will seek funding, within and outwith the Council, to carry out maintenance and refurbishment of our heritage estate.

Conservation is not just about the built environment, and we have significant designed and wild landscapes in Glasgow; e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves, designated Fields in Trust – where areas of significant natural characteristics or usage are protected.

In many areas, we are working with community and organisational partners to develop and deliver heritage projects, e.g. Springburn Winter Gardens Trust, Provan Hall – with the Seven Lochs Wetland Park team and Provan Hall Community Management Trust, Shawmuir Lodge – with Glasgow Building Preservation Trust. We are also managing the creation and restoration of many wildlife habitats throughout the city.

Our aim is to acknowledge the value of local character and heritage and understand how significant that is to our communities, and to support the protection, enhancement and management of those assets where possible. Our challenge is to grasp opportunities and secure resources to maintain and manage our heritage estate.

We will work with the Glasgow Open Space Strategy to ensure that the development of the city through the strategic planting of urban trees, woodlands and greenspaces continues to retain Glasgow's historic and unique character.



CASE STUDY 12 – SHAWMUIR LODGE

Shawmuir Lodge is a small, B-listed, stone gatehouse to Pollok Estate, now Pollok Country Park. It had lain unoccupied since the mid 1980's and been riven by fire damage and ravaged by rot and in consequence was identified on the 'Buildings at Risk' Register.

In March 2015 Executive Committee approval was given to lease the property to Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust (SBPT) in order to allow conversion and management of the building for use as a holiday-let apartment. The Trust had successfully raised funds to allow renovation and conversion to proceed during Spring/Summer 2015. Unfortunately, however, the Trust was wound up in April 2015, immediately prior to the project going on site.

Following this and in co-operation with Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT) secured a new end user, The Scottish Veterans' Garden Association (SVGCA). SVGCA is a private charitable organisation specialising in housing ex-service personnel for life and as a social enterprise re-invests any surplus rental income into maintaining its properties.

The Scottish Veterans' Garden Association, otherwise known as 'Homes for Heroes' with GBPT acting as its agent, produced a well-informed and sympathetic refurbishment of the existing rooms to create a long-term, single bedroomed, residential property. The funds already raised by Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust were able to be carried to the new project. These funds would have been unavailable to a Local Authority. GBPT and Homes for Heroes were able to confirm a project budget of approximately £330,000.00 with GCC Land and Environmental Services and Department of Regeneration Services closing a small funding gap.

Works commenced in spring 2017, to the design and under the active supervision of Conservation Architect, the appointed works contractor, delivered an extremely well finished home, incorporating retained features (plaster cornices), original slate to front elevation and matching slates to other roof faces and hand finished leadwork to a standard rarely seen in modern buildings.

A new tenant, a veteran of the British Armed Forces, moved in immediately prior to Christmas 2017 and an official opening took place in March 2018.

KEY ACTIONS

14. We will work with partners to prepare a heritage asset plan for parks and greenspaces.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Anti-social behaviour – or the perception of it – can have a huge impact on the reputation and liveability of a neighbourhood. Most places in the city are actually decent places to visit, live and work, but fears about safety can discourage people from going there.



Safety in parks and greenspaces is a complex matter. In many cases in the past, responses to insecurity (or the perception of insecurity) in parks have been to remove vegetation and install lights and CCTV. Realistically, these actions on their own and in isolated spaces do little to reduce anti-social behaviour or crime in our parks and greenspaces. People avoid spaces that are unused and unloved, and these have the potential to provide locations for anti-social behaviour. Active, lively, well used spaces are less likely to suffer vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

We will work with partners to develop popular activity and event programmes that involve whole communities, and increase community use of parks and greenspaces for night time activities.

What is necessary to create and maintain safe parks and greenspaces is integrated approach involving design, activity, maintenance and ownership/ stewardship. Recent research has indicated that there is a connection between park and greenspace use and crime **reduction**⁴².

When adjacent to residential areas, green spaces have been shown to create neighbourhoods with fewer violent and property crimes and where neighbours tend to support each other. Where people use parks in a positive way and in substantial numbers, people feel more secure.

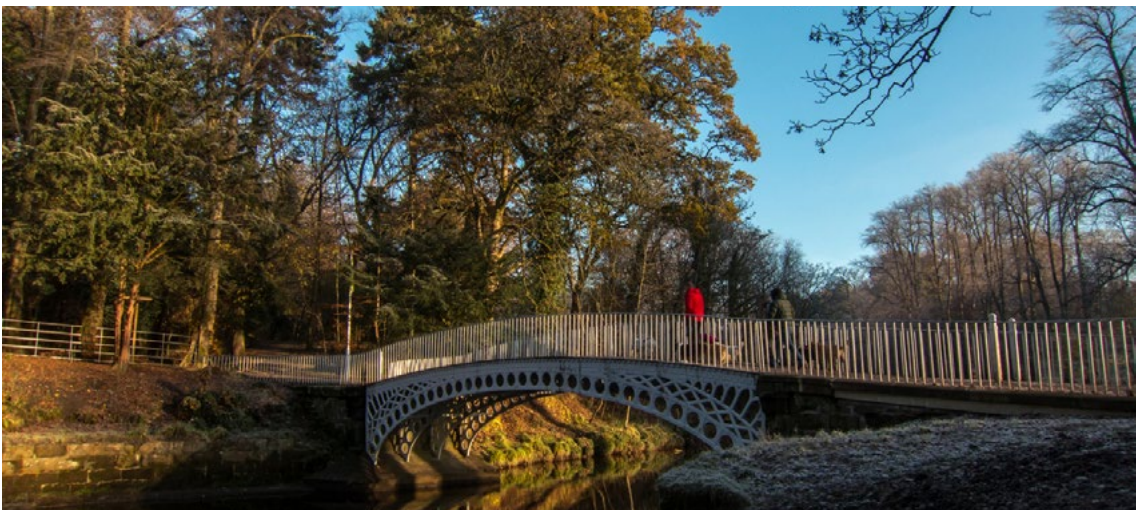
KEY ACTION 2 commits us to working with communities to improve their local spaces. We will involve communities in planning and developing parks and greenspaces through placemaking. We will work with communities to nurture stewardship of parks and greenspaces.

KEY ACTIONS

15. We will review signage/website/social media to ensure reporting mechanisms are available and well publicised.

AWARENESS

Glasgow is the 'Dear Green Place' – the literal translation from the Gaelic. There are over 90 parks and gardens in the city, connected and supplemented by acres of gardens, paths, trails, woodlands, and water.



Much of Glasgow's national and international marketing is based around parks; beautiful buildings in parks (Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries, the Burrell Collection, the People's Palace), events in parks (the Commonwealth Games, the Great Scottish Run, Proms in the Park, National Pipe Band Championships, concerts at Kelvingrove Bandstand, Bellahouston Park and Glasgow Green), fountains and statues (the Doulton Fountain in Glasgow Green, the Stewart Memorial Fountain in Kelvingrove Park, historic cemeteries like the Glasgow Necropolis which hosts tours, ghost tours and frequent filming, to cite a few.

Our city is made more attractive to visitors because of its parks and greenspaces.

Glasgow's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023 has among its priority actions;

- Cultural tourism – our parks heritage and ability to host music and arts events and exhibitions make parks and greenspaces important in delivering this action
- Destination marketing – positioning Glasgow as a 'Gateway to Scotland', attracting a higher proportion of inbound tourists from the UK and international markets
- Events strategy – our parks and greenspaces host many local, national and international outdoor sporting and cultural events.

Currently, we do not offer tourists a high level of digital interaction to help them plan visits to Glasgow's parks and greenspaces. We have information on our major parks, along with some heritage trails, held on the Council's website, but there is little interactive information available for smart phone and tablet users when they are out and about.

There are areas of good practice – for example the **Clyde Walkway app**⁴³, released in October 2017 and MyParkScotland website but these do not at present give a readily accessible single access point for information on Glasgow's parks and greenspaces.

We have been working in partnership with **MyParkScotland**⁴⁴ to develop a portal which will give this access and information, but it still requires more work with communities to establish awareness and use.

We will work with partners to develop a single access point for information on Glasgow's parks and greenspaces.

Our major parks are not well signposted from other tourist attractions in the city, from the city centre and from main travel hubs.

Our parks and greenspaces also contribute to the daily lives of our citizens. To support and develop community use, we should be providing our communities with up to date and relevant information on walks, paths, trails, activities, events, venues, opportunities for exercise, reflection and contemplation, gathering etc.

We will work with partners to improve the availability of information.

We will work with partners to review tourist information in and around the city about our parks and greenspaces. Through volunteering and employability programmes and through exploring commercial opportunities in parks and greenspaces, we will encourage business opportunities in 'active tourism' and outdoor recreation.

KEY ACTIONS

16. We will work with partners to develop a single access point for information on Glasgow's parks and greenspaces



DELIVERY

Delivering the vision will require:

- developing a shared vision and outcomes with communities and other partners,
- combining resources to create additionality,
- continuous communication with communities, involving them in planning and decision making,
- supporting communities to develop the capacity to share responsibility for parks and greenspaces through a variety of models.



We will also have to examine how the services we are responsible for are delivered to make best use of the resources we have available. We need to look at how we attract additional and different funding for parks and greenspaces, both capital and revenue.

Changing the way we think about parks and greenspaces is key.

Looking at Nature Based Solutions which are inspired by nature, rather than looking solely at traditional or engineered solutions to challenges can deliver a range of benefits for health, the economy, communities and the environment because they can deliver attractive and accessible greenspace which is integrated with the landscape. Thinking about our parks and greenspaces as facilitating wellbeing and activity rather than just as assets that need to be maintained will give a more innovative perspective on what functions the spaces need to perform and how they should be maintained.

We also need to know what success looks like and how we know when we have achieved it. We will need to monitor and evaluate where we are, what we have done and where we go next. We need to think about how we demonstrate the benefits of parks and greenspaces and how we use that to lever in funding to support the vision.



PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships are key to delivering a multi-dimensional approach to the safeguarding and improvement of parks and greenspaces.



Whereas once, Glasgow's Parks Department decided what was to be delivered, how it was to be delivered and funded, and delivered the works, we are now part of a much larger, dynamic organisation. While this provides many opportunities, sometimes the emphasis on the importance and quality of our parks and greenspaces is reduced. The vision of parks and greenspaces being at the core of a co-ordinated approach to supporting communities to become healthier, happier and more resilient requires co-operation, clarity and openness between partners. Achieving this vision demands partners establish shared vision, goals and outcomes. It requires organisations to acknowledge that some challenges are just too complex for one organisation to manage on their own.

Partnership doesn't have to be formal. It can be, but less formal co-operation between organisations and communities can take various forms, recognising varying skills, roles, responsibilities and capacity each partner can offer to achieve shared goals.

Benefits of adopting a shared approach can be:

- Aligned priorities
- Aligned budgets
- Additional value achieved by combining resources for a shared outcome
- Building community resilience through developing community ties and collaborative working.



CASE STUDY 13 – CASTLEMILK PARK PARTNERSHIP

Castlemilk Park is one of Glasgow's 90 public parks. Like many of Glasgow's other parks it was previously part of a landed estate that came into public ownership when the land was sold to the 'Corporation' for housing development in the early 20th Century.

Due to the topography of the area, the land previously known as Glen Wood, could not be developed and so the area was transformed into a public park. Castlemilk Park does not have the typical structure of many of Glasgow's parks, there are no formal flower beds, the area is heavily wooded, it has a burn and waterfall, has only one open grass area and has multiple exits and entrances with pathways and roads cutting through the park.

Castlemilk Park is in the heart of a strong community, a community that has one of the highest areas of deprivation in Scotland. Over the past 30 years Castlemilk has been an area of regeneration, where new housing development has been at the forefront of improving the area for its residents.

However until 9 years ago the Park was an eyesore, a battle ground for gangs, a drinking den, a place to evade the police, full of rubbish and fly tipping, a no go area and an embarrassment.

Nine years ago the community, led by Cassiltoun Housing Association, with support from the Forestry Commission, and Glasgow City Council decided to take the initiative to regenerate the park and turn it into an asset for the community. A feasibility study looked at both the problems that needed to be addressed but also asked the community to identify positive opportunities.

In 2010 the Castlemilk Park Partnership was formed (comprising of Forestry Commission Scotland, Jeely Piece Club, Glasgow Housing Association, Glasgow City Council and Cassiltoun Group) The project has attracted over £1million of funding over the past 9 years.

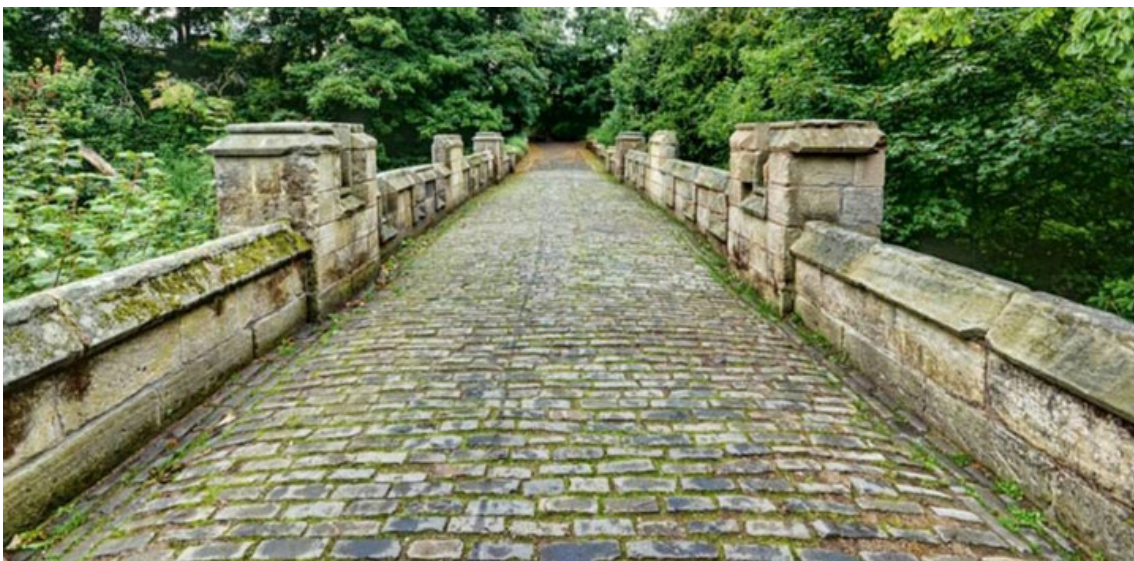
This has seen vast improvements, firstly by getting the basics right: opening up and improving the path network, encouraging people to use the woodland and turning around the negative public perception.

The funding has enabled us to deliver:

- Branching out sessions
- Employability programmes
- Health and wellbeing activities
- Volunteer programmes
- Educational programmes (including Forest Kindergarten)
- Outdoor theatre
- An annual programme of community events attracting thousands of people (including Fun days, International Peace Day, Fairy Festivals, Halloween walks)
- Improved biodiversity and woodland management

There are still challenges to overcome, the Park needs to have significant capital investment with new signs and entrance points, interpretation and restoration of historic features, improved lighting and significant annual maintenance programmes (including woodland management) for which we need to attract external funding. There is still some historic fly tipping in the water course that needs to be removed, low level anti-social behaviour (litter and dog fouling) and the installation and improvements to facilities for park users.

Castlemilk Park is now thriving; individuals and groups from across Castlemilk and Glasgow use the area for a wide range of activities and programmes. The park is well managed and importantly people from the local area are proud of the Park and its transformation and the role it plays in the transformation of people's lives.



CASE STUDY 14 – SPRINGBURN WINTER GARDENS TRUST

Springburn Winter Gardens Trust (SWGT) came to life in 2013 as grass roots community group with the primary purpose of saving and repurposing Springburn's A listed Winter Gardens which are located in Springburn Park.

In 2015, SWGT was formalised as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It had been galvanised into action following the demolition of Springburn Public Halls, a much loved B listed building and one of few remaining built heritage assets in the local area. The loss of the public halls emphasised the vacuum of heritage assets in the area and increased the importance of preserving the little that remains as a reminder of Springburn's illustrious industrial and social history.

The Winter Gardens have been on Historic Scotland's Buildings at Risk Register as a 'critical building at risk' since 1990. SWGT has worked closely with Glasgow City Council's Land and Environmental Services (LES) since 2015 to ensure the survival of the Winter Gardens and particularly to prevent the structure from complete collapse. Working with LES, a structural conditional report was commissioned and vital remedial works carried out. This was alongside landscaping and erecting safety fencing and signage. These activities were also supported by the Architectural Heritage Fund.

The Winter Gardens are a window on to the very history of Springburn itself. With £12,000 from the Reid Family to build Springburn Public halls in 1899, the Glasgow Corporation commissioned the construction of the Winter Gardens as a condition of this gift. The Winter Gardens were designed by Messrs. Simpson and Farmer in association with William Baird and Son of Temple Park Ironworks and architecturally, they are a fine example of their type with a large single span main hall of which only a few survive in Scotland. The design was inspired by the locomotive industry through which they were financed.

The overall heritage importance of the Winter Gardens is evidenced through association with key figures in the industrial development of Glasgow and in being one of the first features in Springburn Park. The Winter Gardens are also an important part of the Victorian tradition of providing open green spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of residents of industrial cities.

SWGTT is looking to repurpose the Winter Gardens as a community hub, catalysing regeneration in the area. Plans include performance, meeting and social space alongside a permanent heritage exhibition. A new kindergarten will support local children and make the most of outdoor play and a kitchen garden will be a hub for volunteering and training whilst servicing a cafe bar.

Collective Architecture was commissioned by SWGT in April 2018 to lead a design team to create aspirational design concepts and a heritage strategy that could be taken forward with funders.

Working in partnership is very much at the heart of SWGT. Current Partners include LES, Ng Homes, Friends of Springburn Park, Springburn Central Community Council, and Springburn Regeneration Forum amongst others.

In recent months, SWGT has secured additional funds from, for example, Central Scotland Green Network, Glasgow City Council's Local Area Partnership and Glasgow Life's Arts Development Fund to support a range of project activity in the local area.





Organisational partners

Internal

Within the Council family, many services are involved in the provision, management and maintenance of parks and greenspaces. For example:

- within Land and Environmental Services,
 - Parks Operations perform a delivery service and
 - Parks Development deliver development projects across the city
 - Events section leads on events and activities
- Development and Regeneration Services provide the statutory planning and development framework, manage the information in the Glasgow Open Space Strategy and fund and deliver large capital greenspace projects
- Glasgow Life leads on sporting, play and cultural events and activities in the city, many of which use parks and greenspaces
- Community Safety Glasgow leads on safety and engagement with volunteers through their Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteer Service
- Glasgow City Marketing Board leads on marketing for the city
- Jobs and Business Glasgow leads on employability, training and capacity building
- Property and Land Services and City Property lead on building management and maintenance
- Educational Services lead on providing education and appropriate facilities for our young people to learn.

External

Glasgow City Council works with a huge number of partners across parks and greenspaces, for example:

- RSPB
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- The Conservation Volunteers (Scotland)
- Glasgow Building Preservation Trust
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership Greenspace Scotland
- MyParkScotland
- Colleges and universities throughout the city
- Other local authorities
- NHS Scotland
- Housing associations and registered social landlords across the city

Each of these partners is engaged with the Council on specific, individual projects. There is an opportunity to develop from 'one-off' project based partnerships to developing a shared vision in relation to greenspace in Glasgow. For example, RSPB Scotland Giving Nature a Home project worked in partnership with Glasgow City Council to deliver the Glasgow Wildlife Garden Festival 2018.

We will seek to develop a multi-agency working network to develop approaches to greenspace in Glasgow.



CASE STUDY 15 – RSPB – GIVING NATURE A HOME

This was the fifth year of the festival and RSPB worked with partners, organisations and community gardens right across Glasgow to celebrate Glasgow Garden Festival's 30th Anniversary.

Together, they brought the festival to green spaces across the city and raised awareness of the wildlife that's on people's doorstep. In 2018, there was a series of events from April to September, with the main community events taking place in May and June.

RSPB formed a steering group with Glasgow City Council representatives as well representatives from Glasgow Museums and the Glasgow Natural History Society. 2018 was the Year of Young People and The Queen Bees, a group of students from Hillhead School, co-designed the festival too.

The main events programme for the 2018 festival had over 50 events. There were a variety of events city wide from art installations, wildlife themed walks, canoe trips and citizen science activities in all sizes of green spaces from community pocket gardens, stalled spaces, back courts, church yards, schools grounds and parks. Glasgow's fantastic biodiversity and green spaces were celebrated and how easy it is to get involved in your local greenspace group was highlighted.

A key part of the festival was for everyone involved to help create a green legacy.

Grow Wild kicked off the green legacy and created a green roof on top of the Glasgow Collective in the Barras. Hillhead School and the local shops and community around Gibson St. created a pollinator highway and Hyndland School and Pirie Park primary created a house sparrow meadows in Old Station Park and Elder Park.

In August 2018, the festival went to Glasgow Green as part of Go Live on the Green Festival, which ran as part of the 2018 European Championships in Glasgow. There RSPB showcased the biodiversity found and the work done together in green spaces across the city.

Since 2013, RSPB has engaged with over 20,000 people and worked with over 90 groups across the city to deliver the festival. They have been able to do this through partnership with Glasgow City Council and collaboration with them in conservation work and green spaces in the city.

Communities



We work alongside almost 50 'Friends of' groups throughout the city, and the Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum performs an invaluable role as an umbrella group, sharing experiences, skills and advocating for greenspace in Glasgow. We also work with Community Councils, Allotment Associations and Community Trusts as well as other community groups involved in working, volunteering and delivering in greenspace in Glasgow.

The Community Empowerment Act, (Scotland) 2015 provides an opportunity for communities to control or manage greenspaces and to participate in the delivery of services alongside or instead of the Local Authority.

The Council has a process to progress asset transfer and participation requests, however, many groups have indicated that they would wish the Council to continue to provide a level of service in parks and greenspaces, and that communities could become more involved in the specification and co-production of that service. (Co-production of services is the delivery of public services through an equal and reciprocal relationship between the service provider and the communities using those services). This approach recognises the skills of communities and that they can be a critical part of any solution, without giving them the onerous responsibilities of financial sustainability, health and safety, insurance etc.

There are differing degrees of co-operative working that can be explored with communities in relation to parks and greenspaces – co-operative working, co-production, full asset transfer, leasing, etc. The challenge is to find the solution that is acceptable and sustainable within each community.

Key Action 3 commits us to supporting groups in developing participation opportunities.

We will continue to work with partners to embrace opportunities for greenspaces as they arise.

KEY ACTIONS

17. We will seek to develop a multi-agency working network to develop approaches to greenspace in Glasgow

DELIVERY MECHANISMS

This vision embodies a changing focus from Council delivery of management and maintenance of parks and greenspaces to an ethos of partnership, community empowerment, facilitation and supporting participation. It supports community involvement in budget and priority setting, in management and monitoring delivery in parks and greenspaces.



The Community Empowerment Act, (Scotland) 2015 offers communities opportunities to shape how their neighbourhoods are managed. It also offers potential for communities to participate in the provision and management of facilities and services within those neighbourhoods. The traditional role of local authorities as sole deliverers of neighbourhood services is changing.

For a considerable number of years, local authority budgets for parks and greenspaces have been diminishing. As non-statutory services, parks and greenspaces often lose out on funding for higher priority services within constrained budgets. There has, however, been significant capital investment in Glasgow's parks and greenspaces through external funding from sources such as the European Union, Scottish Government, and various Lottery funding streams. Unfortunately, many of these capital funding streams are not accompanied with the resultant support for maintenance, stretching already limited budgets.

Our current maintenance schedules are based on matching requirement to the available resources. Proper co-operative working with communities could see bespoke park/neighbourhood plans, based on different levels of use/activity/community participation within that distinct area. Co-production of services is a real possibility with engaged and capable communities; however, it requires a significant level of resource from the Council to offer technical and budgetary support and to support communities build capacity and resilience.

There is an acknowledgement that we cannot continue to provide the level of service that has been delivered in previous years and our response to date has been to amend service delivery according to the resources available. We acknowledge that this cannot continue if we wish to protect our parks and greenspaces for future generations, and it is now time to take a renewed look at how the service is managed and delivered.

The key is to examine how the service can be sustained.

Ensuring relevance to today's communities

Many of our parks and greenspaces were created for very different uses than those our communities currently use them for. Our parks and greenspaces need to be relevant for the uses of today's communities. This involves continuous engagement with and between communities to ensure awareness of needs and desires and increasing our ability to respond to these. It requires taking a placemaking approach to all new and redesigned spaces and projects, which involve all stakeholders in developing vision and decision making.

Key Action 2 commits us to involving communities in planning, developing and managing local spaces.

Community capacity

If communities are to be fully engaged in discussions, decision making and actions around the provision of greenspace, they need to have the ability to work on equal terms with service planners and providers. Similarly, if communities are to benefit from owning assets such as land and buildings, they must have the capacity to manage and develop them.

How that capacity is developed and retained is a challenge both for communities and for the Council. It requires training and transference of technical ability by developing bespoke volunteer training and employability schemes. It also requires that these skills are transferred between individual community members to ensure sustainability.

Key Action 3 commits us to supporting groups and individuals in developing participation and volunteering opportunities.

Funding

It is clear that the current model of local authority funding for parks and greenspaces is not sustainable. Funding is likely to continue to diminish for the foreseeable future.

We will maximise funding opportunities from internal and external sources

Some local authorities are investigating and moving to other structures for delivery, e.g. Trust models, where all of the assets and liabilities are transferred to an external organisation.

We will investigate alternative delivery mechanisms to support service delivery.

The continuing work on the Glasgow Open Space Strategy identifies the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in Glasgow. It will highlight deficiencies and over provision and will prove an invaluable tool to accurately review the distribution of parks and greenspaces and how they are connected to each other and to hubs for leisure, work and transport. Where there is under provision, these areas may become priority and where there is over provision, there may be opportunities to utilise the space better to benefit the community.

KEY ACTION 1 commits us to making sure that our parks and greenspaces are well distributed throughout the city. We will review the distribution of parks and greenspaces in Glasgow and investigate alternative uses which may be in the best interest of communities.

We will involve communities in these discussions.

KEY ACTIONS

18. We will maximise funding opportunities from internal and external sources

19. We will investigate alternative delivery mechanisms to support service delivery

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The majority of funding for green spaces in the UK comes from the public sector - from local authorities, UK and Scottish Governments and the European Union. A reduction in central government funding to local authorities led to a 10.5% decrease in spending on green spaces between 2010/11 and 2012/13⁴⁵, and this trend continues.



There is a distinct economic benefit to the city from good quality greenspace - local businesses and property developers benefit from additional greenspace through job creation, visitor spending and house prices. Scottish Natural Heritage published a factsheet in **2014**⁴⁶ which identified that:

- On average, housing developers would be willing to pay at least 3% more for land in close proximity to greenspace, with some putting the premium as high as 15-20%
- City parks add approximately 10% to the value of nearby property, with local parks adding 9% and amenity spaces adding 2.6%
- £15m invested in Glasgow Green attracted visitors who spent £30m net additional worth of sales in the wider economy.

Scottish Natural Heritage estimated in **2008**⁴⁷ that 11% of Scotland's total economic output depended on the sustainable use of the environment and that this accounted for £17.2bn a year, supporting 1 in 7 of all full time jobs.

The annual revenue budget for maintenance of all UK green spaces is approximately £2.7bn. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has estimated that if everyone had access to sufficient green space the benefits associated with increased physical activity could save the health system **£2.1bn per year**⁴⁸.

In 2016/17, all Council spending in Scotland was £15billion, £110million of which was spent on **parks**⁴⁹. 2016/17 investment in parks was estimated to produce additional benefits worth £1.3billion. Investing just 61p more per person in parks would generate an estimated £40million in social and environmental benefits for 2018/19.

All local authorities have a requirement to account for the value of their assets, but most of our parks have a nominal value set against them, as neither the land nor the infrastructure within the park has had a financial value applied. This can leave parks diminished compared to other infrastructure like buildings and roads, no matter how well loved they are or how much they contribute to Glasgow's success, vibrancy and sustainability.

The financial value of Glasgow's parks and green spaces has never been fully defined. Without a value attached, it is difficult to put forward reasoned arguments for adequate funding of parks and green spaces in this climate of diminishing budgets.

It is challenging to place a value on what parks mean to people. As previously discussed in this document, parks and greenspaces have a value in terms of health and wellbeing, economic benefit, bringing communities together, reducing anti-social behaviour and in improving air and water quality, cooling the urban environment, mitigating flood risk and providing habitat for wildlife. This is not currently measured and reflected in any balance sheet or asset register.

Many local authorities now define the social benefit of their parks and greenspaces, for example in 2016, Sheffield City Council stated that for every £1 invested in its parks, it received **£34 in services**⁵⁰, with 60% of the benefit coming from the contribution to health and wellbeing.

A recent study found that in City of Edinburgh's parks, for every £1 invested, there is about at £12 return in social, environmental and economic benefits. The study also identified that:

- Individuals will gain health and wellbeing benefits worth around £40.5 million
- The impact on social inclusion and community capacity is worth over £6 million
- Local businesses will gain additional money from visitors to parks in the region of £51 million
- Schools, nurseries and colleges are able to provide outdoor learning experiences of just under £1 million
- The awareness and understanding gained by visitors of their local environment is valued at just under **£5 million**⁵¹

In addition, a 2016 study by The Land Trust found that every £1 invested in their green spaces contributed £30 towards health and **wellbeing benefits**⁵².

We will value our parks and greenspaces using appropriate techniques to ascertain their true value for communities.

Strategy and Social Enterprise Strategy may offer opportunities for future investment in our parks and greenspaces.

We also need to examine new ways of developing investment and deriving income from parks and greenspaces, and determine how that income is directly used to benefit those parks and greenspaces. There are a number of areas that we will consider:

- Attracting external funding – this requires a dedicated resource to explore funding opportunities, manage relationships with funders and make applications. We are currently working with MyParkScotland to develop and promote endowments/personal legacy/giving. Currently, donations to Scotland’s Park Endowment Fund (MyParkScotland) are matched by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and further investigation is being carried out into how further private and business contributions can be invested into this fund. Sponsorship is an area that could be further explored.
- Partner funding – developing shared outcomes with partners will lead to shared funding streams to deliver these outcomes
- Income generation – examining what events and activities can be delivered in parks and greenspaces and which of these has income generating capacity. We already do this, but will increase focus in this area.
- Participatory budgeting – developing how communities can become involved in managing budgets for parks and greenspaces

In our consultation, there was opposition noted to income generation from public parks and greenspaces, particularly in relation to private nurseries (although we are also aware of concern over commercial dog walkers and commercial fitness companies) and to income from large scale events in parks.

Therefore, it is imperative that these issues are addressed, but also that any additional income generation in parks and greenspaces is carried out sensitively and appropriately.

Lottery and European funding has been successful in providing capital for green infrastructure projects within Glasgow. However, funding opportunities like these are often one-off, short term grant streams that do not provide for long term, strategic planning and rarely support the additional long term maintenance cost. Receiving the benefit of this opportunistic funding sometimes can result in projects being designed to fit funding streams rather than funding being available to provide bespoke solutions for any specific site.

This is a major issue - it is incredibly positive to allocate resources within the Council to seek funding to deliver both large and small scale infrastructure projects, but without resultant revenue funding to support maintenance (staff, equipment etc.), the long term sustainability of these improvements is put at risk.

What are now viewed as traditional sources of funding like European Union and Lottery funds may or may not continue to provide a range of funding opportunities, but exploring opportunities with organisations like the World Bank may also prove beneficial. The Scottish Government announced in February 2018 that it was committed to developing a publicly owned, ethical, inclusive investment bank by 2020, which would tackle funding for social and environmental challenges for the 21st century. This, in conjunction with the Council's Economic Strategy should form the backbone of a future parks and greenspaces investment plan.

We will develop a parks and greenspaces investment plan.



Nature Based Solutions

Many economic activities are dependent upon using natural resources, but we now acknowledge that those natural assets are not unlimited. However, the many ecosystem services and benefits to society and businesses like air and water filtration, pollination and climate mitigation that these natural resources provide (natural capital) are not accounted for in decision making. Incorporating natural capital into local and national accounting and decision making systems, both political and business, will support more resource efficient and sustainable decision making.

With this in mind, we are now examining Nature Based Solutions (NBS) in many areas as a response to the challenges that we face. NBS are actions that are inspired by, or copied from nature, rather than looking solely at traditional or engineered solutions to challenges. Many NBS will result in multiple co-benefits for health, the economy, communities and the environment because they will deliver attractive and accessible greenspace.



CASE STUDY 16 – CONNECTING NATURE

Through Connecting Nature, 11 European cities will invest in large scale implementation of nature-based solutions (NBS), measure the impact of this approach and share their experience on a global scale.

Connecting Nature is an Innovation Action funded by the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union. It is a five-year project that began in June 2017 with a kick-off meeting at Trinity College Dublin.

Glasgow is a Front-Runner City along with the cities of Genk and Poznan. This means that we have a responsibility to share our expertise with other cities in the consortium.

Why Nature-Based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions are actions which are inspired by, supported by or copied from nature. Many NBS result in multiple co-benefits for health, the economy, society and the environment, and thus they can represent more efficient and cost-effective solutions than more traditional approaches. Often these are referred to as blue/green infrastructure.

Why has Glasgow been chosen as a Front-Runner City?

- We're recognised as trying to understand the implications of a changing climate
- We collaborative & innovative in relation to NBS
- We try to deal with blue / grey / green spaces across departments, disciplines and partners. Working with MGSDP, CSGN, GCVGN, Greenspace Scotland, SNIFFER etc.
- Our NBS projects are now at a scale that they are impacting positively on policy, however the project will allow us to iteratively improve our data; monitoring; policies and opportunity mapping
- We support bottom up / top down solutions – As spatial planning aligns more closely with Community Planning and budgets are squeezed this project will allow us to identify opportunities for social enterprise and community collaboration.

What are we expected to deliver?

One of the outputs from the project will be to develop a Nature-Based Solution exemplar for Glasgow. This should be closely tied to the Open Space Strategy and the ongoing development of the Local Context documents (Open space masterplans).

We have identified that the exemplar should look to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space by:

- Delivering opportunity mapping for the whole city by combining city-wide spatial data sets
- Developing better understanding the quality, quantity and accessibility of our open space
- Establishing an evidence based for better informed decision making
- Identifying new top-down and bottom-up opportunities for NBS and integrated green infrastructure
- Strengthening new and existing partnership arrangements
- Stimulating business growth and innovation in relation to NBS
- Facilitating community action in relation to NBS

This exemplar will be focused on:

- Supporting the principles of the City Development Plan's Placemaking policy
- Seeking to Reconnect, Reinvent, Reconfigure, Respect, Repair, Refine, Reinforce or Reactivate our spaces and places through the development of multifunctional opportunities
- Contributing to the strategic objectives for open space development, in particular: creating inviting, walkable neighbourhoods that promote social interaction; improving visual amenity to promote wellbeing and sense of pride in place; enhancing accessibility and quality of open space; integrating opportunities to play and exercise; whilst supporting climate mitigation and adaptation agendas.
- Identifying how existing places can be activated through the creation of alternative uses or temporary creative functions.

KEY ACTIONS

20. We will value our parks and greenspaces using appropriate techniques to ascertain their true value for communities.

21. We will develop a parks and greenspaces investment plan.

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

It is important to understand that, firstly, we are delivering the correct services for and along with our communities, and secondly, that we are delivering them well.

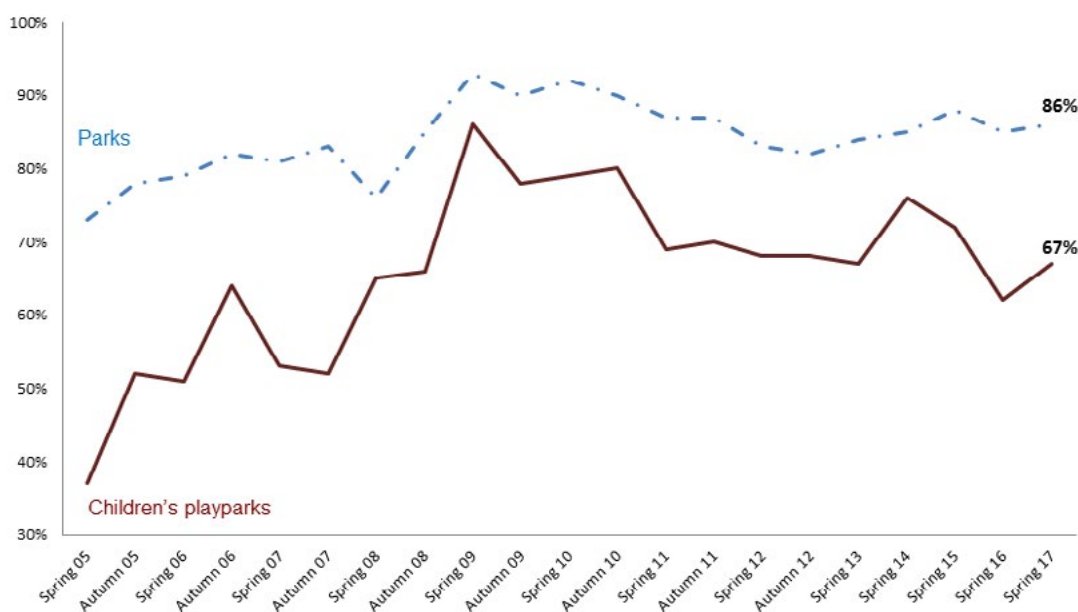


We currently measure performance in parks by random sampling areas and checking if they are maintained to the current specification. This produces monitoring results which we can judge to be acceptable or not. The Council is also part of the Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE), which collates a range of benchmarking statistics for parks and greenspaces, including:

- Maintenance cost
- Hectares maintained
- Charge per hectare
- Playgrounds/play value scores
- Environmental practices

These measures tell us how we perform against a set standard and how we perform year on year, but they do not give us a measure of how satisfied communities are with the service we perform.

Ipsos Mori carries out two household surveys a year on behalf of the Council⁵³, and the 2017 Spring survey identifies that 86% of respondents are highly or fairly satisfied with parks.



Base: Parks (677); Children's play parks (281)

The household survey also identifies that currently 66% of respondents use parks.

We will continue to benchmark our service performance against other local authorities through benchmarking groups.

We will continue to survey our communities to ascertain their satisfaction with the service provided.

Parks which have been awarded **Green Flags**⁵⁴ have been individually assessed against Green Flag criteria in the following categories:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Environmental management
- Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing and communication
- Management

However, the household survey does not give a measure of how local communities use and value their parks and greenspaces, or what specific changes need to be made in individual parks and greenspaces to support community use, and Green Flag judging criteria are not applied to all of our parks.

There is an opportunity to develop a more holistic quality monitoring system that combines the qualitative and quantitative aspects of our work, and involves our communities in assessing the level of service provision and what requires to be done to improve the quality of the visitor experience to our parks and greenspaces.

We will develop a quality monitoring system that involves communities and addresses the quality of the visitor experience to our parks and greenspaces.

KEY ACTIONS

22. We will develop a quality monitoring system that involves communities and addresses the quality of the visitor experience to our parks and greenspaces.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

Strategic Plan themes 2017-2022	Key Action		Links to community workshop themes	Links to other policies and strategies
A thriving economy	18	We will maximise funding opportunities from internal and external sources		City Development Plan Economic Strategy
	19	We will investigate alternative delivery mechanisms to support service delivery		City Development Plan Economic Strategy
	20	We will value our parks and greenspaces using appropriate techniques to ascertain their true value for communities		City Development Plan Economic Strategy
	21	We will develop a parks and greenspaces investment plan		City Development Plan Economic Strategy Social Enterprise Strategy
A vibrant city	5	We will work with partners to create a network of high quality connections through and between our parks and greenspaces that are suitable, safe and attractive for all ages and abilities	Health and wellbeing	City Development Plan Open Space Strategy Local Biodiversity Action Plan Age Friendly Glasgow Dementia Strategy Strategic Plan for Cycling
	9	We will work with communities and other partners to support culturally diverse events and activities in parks and greenspaces	Activities and Events	City Development Plan Open Space Strategy Economic Strategy Tourism and Visitor Plan
	14	We will work with partners to prepare a heritage asset plan for parks and greenspaces		City Development Plan
	16	We will work with partners to develop a single access point for information about Glasgow's parks and greenspaces	Communication	Tourism and Visitor Plan

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

Strategic Plan themes 2017-2022	Key Action		Links to community workshop themes	Links to other policies and strategies
Excellent and inclusive education	7	We will promote parks and greenspaces for outdoor learning spaces	Health and wellbeing	Curriculum for Learning
	8	We will investigate opportunities to retain and develop horticultural skills	Health and wellbeing	Glasgow's Strategic Volunteering Framework
A healthier city	1	We will make sure that our parks and greenspaces are well distributed throughout the city, offering the easiest access to most people, and are multifunctional	Health and wellbeing	City Development Plan Open Space Strategy Age Friendly Glasgow Dementia Strategy Strategic Plan for Cycling
	4	We will work with partners to improve the healthy and cultural activities (including play) for all ages and abilities, delivered and promoted outdoors	Health and wellbeing Activities and events	Play Strategy Glasgow Life Service Plan Sports Pitch Strategy
	6	We will support allotments and community growing throughout the city and will produce a Glasgow Food Growing Strategy	Health and wellbeing	City Development Plan Open Space Strategy
	10	We will implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and will work with communities and partners to manage a sustainable, integrated network of parks and greenspaces, supporting a variety of habitats and uses	Re-wilding	Local Biodiversity Action Plan City Development Plan Open Space Strategy Age Friendly Glasgow Dementia Strategy Strategic Plan for Cycling
	11	We will work with communities and partners to enhance the condition and distribution of our woodlands, parkland and street trees	Re-wilding	Local Biodiversity Action Plan City Development Plan Open Space Strategy

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

Strategic Plan themes 2017-2022	Key Action		Links to community workshop themes	Links to other policies and strategies
	12	We will investigate appropriate and sustainable uses for buildings, opportunities for renewable energy and flood mitigation in our parks and greenspaces	Re-wilding	City Development Plan Open Space Strategy
Resilient and empowered neighbourhoods	3	We will support groups and individuals in developing participation and volunteering opportunities	Health and wellbeing Communication	Community Empowerment Act Strategic Volunteering Framework
	13	We will support the use of parks and greenspaces for events and activities, supporting local groups in delivering community events and engaging with communities in the delivery of large scale events	Activities and Events Communication	Economic Strategy Tourism and Visitor Plan
	17	We will seek to develop a multi-agency working network to develop approaches to greenspace in Glasgow	Communication	Open Space Strategy
A well governed city that listens and responds	2	We will involve communities in planning, developing and managing local spaces	Communication	Community Empowerment Act
	22	We will develop a quality monitoring system that involves communities and addresses the quality of the visitor experience to our parks and greenspaces	Communication	Community Plan
	15	We will review signage/website/social media to ensure reporting mechanisms are available and well publicised	Communication	Tourism and Visitor Plan

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PAGE 4

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