



Strategy 2019-2024

Our Vision:

Everyone in Edinburgh and the Lothians has access to quality greenspaces which can help to improve their health & wellbeing

Our Goals:

Quality Greenspaces **Healthier Lifestyles** **Engaged Communities**

wellbeing

Who we are:

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust works to improve local greenspace for the benefit of local people. Since 1991 we have achieved this through practical environmental and educational projects in partnership with local communities and health-focused initiatives as a way to support more people getting outdoors. Our projects are designed to benefit people, wildlife, landscape and heritage and to help connect people with their natural environment. As well as working at the heart of local communities, partnership working is critical to our success. We are an active part of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership helping to deliver the Edinburgh Living Landscape initiative and we contribute to the creation of the Central Scotland Green Network.

Our Values:

- We care about people and the environment**
- We make things happen**
- We are a reliable partner**
- We inspire communities to make the most of local greenspaces**
- We are respectful and trustworthy**

What we want to accomplish:

- 1. Create, enhance and improve access to quality greenspaces for people and wildlife**
- 2. Improve physical and mental health by people using greenspaces**
- 3. Increase community engagement to develop an appreciation of greenspaces and natural capital**

Strategic objectives

1. Create, enhance and improve access to quality greenspaces for people and wildlife by prioritising places and neighbourhoods where this offers significant benefits in terms of improving people's visual surroundings. Create more biodiverse healthy environments and increase green active travel routes to bring benefits in terms of reduced carbon emissions and greater rates of physical activity. Deliver opportunities to visit and experience the natural environment by improving and enhancing green corridors and networks.

2. Improve physical and mental health through activities in greenspaces which help to tackle social and health inequalities. Maintain and improve people's physical and mental wellbeing through visiting woodlands, parks, gardens and landscapes, using and enjoying them, as well as being involved in their management. People have a greater connection to growing and eating healthy food through community gardening.

3. Increase community engagement to highlight the importance of greenspaces by supporting and empowering local communities to connect with nature by becoming actively involved in local projects. Champion the role that greenspaces and the natural environment play in delivering positive social, economic and environmental benefits through placemaking activities. Deliver outdoor learning activities to encourage greater awareness and understanding of the value that the natural environment brings for the development of young people.

What we will do to accomplish our objectives:

1. Create, enhance and improve access to quality greenspaces for people and wildlife

- Develop project proposals in areas that are identified as having a deficiency in quality greenspace
- Deliver improvements to the biodiversity of greenspaces
- Provide a greater role in the management and improvement of greenspaces within Edinburgh and the Lothians
- Deliver exemplar Living Landscape Parks
- Support communities to identify improvements to park facilities that increase activity and play in partnership with the local authorities
- Create and promote the benefits of trees and woodland management in urban and rural environments
- Work with landowners to improve access to greenspaces ensuring it supports biodiversity
- Develop, deliver and promote green active travel routes in partnership with local authorities and landowners
- Work with landowners and local authorities to increase the accessibility and biodiversity of vacant and derelict land

What we will do to accomplish our objectives:

2. Improve physical and mental health by using greenspaces

- Develop and deliver programmes of activities in greenspaces which help the following groups:
 - ◊ People in areas of disadvantage
 - ◊ Older people including those with dementia
 - ◊ People with mental health issues
 - ◊ Less active young people
- Develop and support new local walking groups
- Develop, create and support community gardens

3. Increase community engagement to develop appreciation of greenspaces

- Develop communities through outreach work
- Deliver and develop outdoor community events
- Develop conservation volunteering activities
- Promote greenspaces to enhance places
- Offer greater support for Friends of Parks and local groups
- Deliver outdoor learning programmes
- Develop skills and confidence of young people

How we will accomplish our goals:

Business planning and delivery:

ELGT has a business plan that prioritises actions for each year which are quantifiable.

Partner relationships

A stakeholder strategy ensures that we work with government bodies, local authorities, developers, landowners and local communities to deliver against outcomes through local action plans.

Funder relationships

A fundraising strategy ensures that we deliver against funder outcomes.

Staff development

We have dedicated staff who build strong relationships within the community. They motivate and inspire others to use their local greenspaces.

Raising awareness

Through a communications and marketing strategy we promote the work we do and highlight its benefits and impact.

How we are accountable

ELGT is governed by a board of trustees each bringing skills, experience and connections to our communities which ensures that we meet our goals and deliver meaningful benefit for people who use the greenspaces in the area. Our founder members are City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and Midlothian Council. ELGT works closely with Forestry Commission Scotland, NHS Lothian, Sustrans and other stakeholders to deliver against agreed outcomes.