

Strategy

2019 – 2024



OUR VISION

Everyone in Edinburgh and the Lothians has access to quality greenspaces to improve their health and wellbeing.



WHO WE ARE

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust has been working since 1991 to improve the quality of life for communities, through practical environmental projects. Our programme of environmental improvement and community involvement projects are designed to benefit people, wildlife, landscape and heritage and to help re-connect people with their natural environment. We are part of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership which supports the Edinburgh Living Landscape initiative and helps to deliver the Central Scotland Green network. We are unique in that we are the only greenspace organisation which is a delivery body that works across the region.



OUR GOALS

- Quality Greenspaces
- Healthier Lifestyles
- Engaged Communities

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



OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

Prioritise places and neighbourhoods where this offers significant benefits in terms of improving people's visual surroundings.

Create more biodiverse and healthy environments to mitigate against climate change. Increase green active travel routes to bring benefits in terms of reduced carbon emissions and greater rates of physical activity, as well as added opportunities for visiting and experiencing the natural environment. Improve access to provide opportunities to create and enhance green corridors and networks, bringing additional ecological benefits.



OUTDOOR LEARNING



ACTIVE TRAVEL

Improve physical and mental health through the use of greenspaces

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.

Increase community engagement to highlight the importance of greenspaces

Support and empower communities to reconnect with nature in their immediate surroundings. Encourage local communities to become actively involved in local projects. ELGT will champion the role that greenspaces and the natural environment play in delivering positive social, economic and environmental benefits through placemaking activities. Support outdoor learning activities to encourage greater awareness and understanding of the value that the natural environment brings for the development of young people.



WOODLAND WALKS



VOLUNTEERING



BOXERCISE IN THE PARK

We encourage communities to reconnect with nature in their immediate surroundings.

ACCOMPLISHING OUR OBJECTIVES

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 the region
- 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 increased tree cover 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
- Work with landowners and local authorities to increase the biodiversity of vacant and derelict land

Improve physical and mental health by using greenspaces

- Deliver and develop 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
 - Inactive young people
- Develop and support new local walking groups
- Create, develop and support community gardens

Increase community engagement to develop appreciation of greenspaces

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



ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS

Business planning and delivery

Produce 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 will promote the work we do and highlight their benefits and impact.



ELGT is governed by a board of community related trustees 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 and we work closely with Scottish Forestry, NHS Lothian, Sustrans and other organisations to deliver against agreed outcomes.



www.elgt.org.uk



109/11 Swanston Road
Edinburgh EH10 7DS
Tel 0131 445 4025

