



Annual Report 2019-20

WELCOME FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am delighted to introduce you to Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust 2019-20 Annual Report.

Over the past year, ELGT has delivered the largest programme yet with a project programme worth nearly £1.3m. In June, last year we launched our new Strategy Plan 2019-2023 which enabled us to review our vision, values and goals. This annual report demonstrates the success that we have achieved over the past year against our new strategic objectives

We secured a financial framework agreement with the City of Edinburgh Council for up to £2million over the next 4 years which enables us to deliver more and larger projects in partnership with the local authority. These types of projects include the development of Little France Park new active travel route and new and upgraded play parks across the city as part of the play action plan. We are also fully engaged with the Thriving Greenspaces Initiative to help develop sustainable management of our greenspaces in the longer term.



Last year we were successful in receiving 3-year funding from the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership for our Out & About healthy lifestyle projects which has been particularly important through the Covid-19 crisis.

Our partnership work with the Greenspace Health Framework has been able to link the NHS estate with its surrounding greenspaces to help improve the health and wellbeing of its users.

It has been just under a year since we re-launched the Tree Time initiative in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and The Woodland Trust. This has involved raising awareness of how important trees are, especially street trees in an urban environment and collecting donations to help replace the trees that have been lost. It is now part of the long-term plan for a "Million Tree City" by 2030 to help address climate change and make the city more sustainable.

Charlie Cumming, ELGT Chief Executive

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ELGT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-20

Greenspaces for people and wildlife

3 new play areas upgraded
73 new allotment plots
6,800 bulbs planted
1,019 new trees
600m of new hedging
6.8 hectares of wildflower meadow



Increased active travel

1 strategic route feasibility study
2,833m of upgraded paths
2,224m of new paths
11 new information signs
10 bike club sessions



Improved physical and mental health by engaging with greenspaces

32 outreach sessions with 430 people
83 physical activity sessions with 502 attendees. 10 gentle exercise sessions with 17 older people. 62 walking activities with 364 attendees. 49 woodland sessions to improve 102 peoples' wellbeing. 25 gardening sessions with 31 people. 81 healthy eating cooking sessions with 163 people Facilitated 15 courses and 8 talks on healthy eating for 179 people. Trained 5 volunteer walk leaders

97%

felt less isolated

94%

are more comfortable using greenspaces

95%

eat more healthily

97%

felt their mental health is better

Greater appreciation/understanding of greenspaces and natural capital

650 people consulted on 6 landscape designs and management plans
26 networking events attended with 114 people
62 community activities delivered with 2,301 people
57 conservation sessions with 763 volunteers
126 outdoor learning sessions with 1,261 pupils & 12 teachers
12 upskilling sessions, awarding 9 young people the Saltire award

Our Vision:

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



SILENT DISCO IN MOREDUN WOODS

WHAT WE DO AND WHY:

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.



WEST PILTON PARK TIDY UP



PILRIG PARK VOLUNTEERING

IMPROVING GREENSPACES

ELGT aims to 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.

This year ELGT have developed landscape project proposals in 3 areas that are deficient in quality greenspace. These include Conference Square in the city centre business district, Coalie Park in Leith and West Pilton Park. The work involved running 4 consultation sessions with local stakeholders which have included businesses, residents and local organisations. These will be used to develop funding proposals to enable the vision to be delivered.



CLERMISTON PARK

We have delivered biodiversity improvements at Little France park through the creation of **6.8** hectares of wildflower meadow, planting **600m** of hedging and building **2** bee banks with the aim of creating Edinburgh's first Living Landscape Park. ELGT has also been involved with planting over **6,800** bulbs in South Edinburgh.

Through the Thriving Greenspace Initiative, we have been engaged with the management and improvement of greenspaces within Edinburgh. We have produced a management plan for Clermiston Park through running 2 consultation sessions with the local community.

LITTLE FRANCE PARK



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ELGT has supported local communities by identifying improvements to park facilities and delivered **3** new play parks in Leith Links, West Pilton Park and Henderson Gardens worth **£472,643**. This has involved 30 new pieces of equipment being installed along with safer surfaces. This has included outdoor gym equipment which has increased physical activity and outdoor play.

Through the Tree Time initiative, we have promoted the benefits of trees and raised over **£32,152** to enable us to plant **43** new standard street trees. We have also planted over **61** tree standards in parks across the city as part of a tree replacement programme. A new community orchard at Campbell park was created involving the planting of **15** fruit trees. New woodland creation has taken place in Little France, Craigmillar and Bonaly Country Parks with the planting of **915** tree samplings. Craigmillar Castle Park has also seen a WIAT programme delivered to help manage the woodland.

ELGT has produced a management plan for the 'T' woods in the Pentland Hills as part of the work with the Pentland Hill Regional Park.

ELGT has worked with the NHS estate through the Greenspace and Health Framework at Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Royal Edinburgh Hospital to improve the access to local greenspaces ensuring it supports biodiversity.

We produced over **5,000** innertube maps for Little France Park which have been distributed in local places of work to encourage more active travel.



"Leith Links Community Council reported that all the users of the new Leith Links Play Park are absolutely delighted with the new design and facilities"

Feasibility studies and designs have been developed at Huntershall Park and to Shawfair in Midlothian as part of the extension of the active travel network at Little France Park and the Pentland to Portobello strategic route.

Following on from feasibility work by LFGNP, the Shale Trail in West Lothian has involved working with landowners to create a new **£310,000** 16 mile active travel trail to help improve access to heritage sites.

This year we have upgraded **2,833m** of paths and created **2,224m** of new paths across the region.

Working in partnership with the Boys Brigade, we created **73** new allotment plots at Letham Gardens which was on vacant and derelict land in Leith.

We have also created new plots on unused space at Balbernie in Oxbgangs alongside Dune-din Canmore Housing Association.

"I really enjoyed the occasion, it brought back some great memories of planting my first ever tree and this event has brought everyone together in the spirit of the community."



IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

Our belief is that we can improve physical and mental health through activities in greenspaces which help to tackle social and health inequalities.

Through the Out & About healthy lifestyle project in South Edinburgh, we have developed and delivered over **76** physical activity sessions which involved **618** attendances of people facing health inequalities and older people including those with dementia.



"I had never been to Little France Park before. It is a great place to jog. I love the social aspect of the group and my fitness has improved so much."

ELGT has also developed and delivered **17** physical activity sessions in Dumbiedykes and Little France Park involving **48** attendees.

"I am so glad I made it today. I feel energetic and good. I will try to take the same route once or twice before I see you next week."



OUT & ABOUT CASE STUDY

RT lives in the flats in Moredun with her husband and 2 children. She attended our gardening sessions with her daughters after seeing a poster in her flats. At this time RT wanted to meet new people and have something to do. She felt that there weren't many activities happening in the area.

RT has attended many of the gardening sessions and has felt that the sessions have given her the chance to learn something new, to do something fun with her children and to meet other people. She said that they look forward to the sessions every week. Coming along to gardening gave the family the confidence to try other activities.

"It was good to meet new people and learn new healthy things"

RT also attended the cooking sessions at Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre and interacted with us at our taster sessions, engagement events and drops ins. She felt this widened her friendship circle and support network.

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We delivered **49** woodland activity sessions for **102** participants to help people feel more confident in their local greenspaces. These sessions included working with Dads Work in East Lothian. We also ran 2 Branching Out programmes with people who suffer with isolation and mental health issues.

"It was just so nice to be outside, I'm not a very outdoorsy person, it was amazing to just realise that it is possible to do things outside and I liked seeing my little one being in mud and the rain and realising that that's ok, it helped reduce my anxiety around this"



WOODLAND ACTIVITIES AT MOREDUN

To help encourage young people to be active we ran **10** bike club sessions with **20** children in Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park.

"I think Bike Club is really enjoyable because you can be outside and you can get exercise"



BIKE CLUB AT VALLEY PARK

ELGT have developed and supported **62** health walks with **364** attendees across the city. This included facilitating training for **5** walk leader volunteers.

"Since I started taking part in the walks, I have become physically fitter, more energised and feel happier. I benefit from walking and talking with different people"



WALKING GROUP IN OXGANGS

wellbeing



GARDENING IN MOREDUN

We have delivered **21** community gardening sessions with **207** attendees. Working in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food we have helped deliver **76** healthy cooking sessions using local produce with **162** participants. This has also involved facilitating **23** food courses and health talks for **179** people.

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

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.

ELGT has been working in partnership with several different communities to address a number of local issues which have been highlighted through the local improvement plans. This has involved **29** outreach activities with **927** people to help understand the needs of the local people. This has taken place in the following areas, Craigmillar, Moredun, Gilmerton, Gracemount, Burdiehouse, Inch, Dumbiedykes, Oxbgangs, Wester Hailes, Clermiston, West Pilton, Pilrig, Leith and West Lothian. We have also developed and delivered **21** community networking events for **182** people that have helped bring local people and organisations together.

Through our engagement work we have developed and delivered **61** community events for **2219** people. These have included bat walks, owl displays, magical woodland walks and other activities that help generate a greater appreciation of nature. These have occurred in the following locations: Craigmillar Castle Park, Little France Park, Harrison Park, Hailes Quarry Park, West Pilton Park, Princes Street Gardens and North Edinburgh Cycleways. It has also involved heritage community events as part of the Shale Trail in West Lothian.



"The bat walk was great and brought the local community together to enjoy and share the interactions with nature. It has encouraged the local families to use and explore the park more often. There are more people now joining the local friends of park group to help look after and improve the park for future generations"

Our volunteering programme involved **16** conservation sessions with **286** volunteers which included a number of corporate organisations. These have taken place in the following sites: Little France Park, Craigmillar Castle Park, West Pilton Park, Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park, Hailes Quarry Park, Harrison Park and in West Lothian. The activities have included, tree thinning, path clearance, litter picking and bee bank creation which help people feel more positive about their local community.

"Really enjoyed the Hailes Quarry Park event with our daughter. Thanks very much to all involved"

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OUTDOOR LEARNING AT CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE PARK

To help improve and promote greenspaces we carried out **41** environmental enhancement activities with **477** people. These took place in the following parks: Inch Park, Colinton Mains Park, Bonaly Country Park, Little France Park and Campbell Park. This involved planting up bulbs and trees to help improve the appearance of their local environment.

As part of the development of outdoor learning, ELGT have delivered **126** sessions with **1261** pupils and awarded **84** John Muir Discovery Awards. This has also involved working with 12 teachers and **12** parents to help improve their confidence in delivering outdoor activities.

Through partnership working, we have supported **10** Friends of Parks groups to help improve local greenspaces which have included Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park and West Pilton Park. We have also attended **26** working group meetings to help develop and support local organisations.

To help develop the skills and confidence of young people we delivered a 12 week up-skilling programme in Craigmillar Castle Park which included them receiving the Saltire Award to **9** participants.



YOUTH BUILD AT CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE PARK

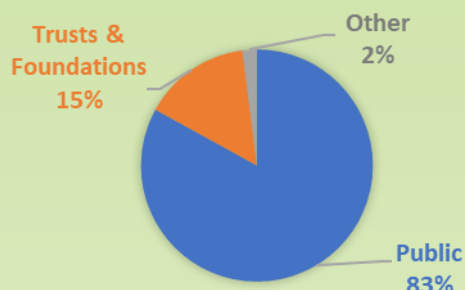
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income

Public: £1,154,119– 83%

Trusts & Foundations: £206,493– 15%

Other: £29,653-2%

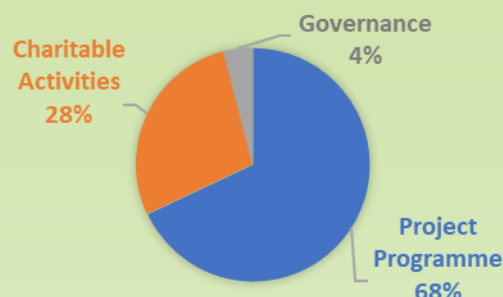


Expenditure

Project Programme Costs: £920,370-68%

Cost of Charitable Activities: £370,461-28%

Governance: £51,625-4%



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Barratt Homes
Boys Brigade EL&D Battalion
Castansa Trust
City of Edinburgh Council
Colinton Lettings
Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Dads Work
Dunedin Canmore Housing Association
Edinburgh and Lothians Health Foundation
Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
FCC Communities Foundation
Fields in Trust
National Lottery Heritage Fund
Heineken
Historic Environment Scotland
HSBC
LEADER+

The Mushroom Trust
NHS Lothian
Paths for All
Postcode Lottery
Quaich Project
Royal Bank of Scotland
Royal Horticultural Society Scotland
The Robertson Trust
Scottish Forestry
Scottish Natural Heritage
SEStrans
Sustrans
Trees for Cities
Walter Scott & Partners
West Lothian Council
Woodland Trust Scotland

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VOLUNTEERS FROM BARRATT HOMES MAKING
A BEE BANK AT HAILES QUARRY PARK



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& LOTHIAN
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TRUST

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