

OUR DEAR GREEN PLACE

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





Parks matter. Parks are for People. People make Glasgow



Parks and greenspaces matter

They matter to the people who live, work and visit Glasgow.

They help to keep us mentally and physically healthy, they help reduce the impact of climate change, they provide us with spaces to meet and bring our communities together.

Glasgow is literally the 'Dear Green Place' – the literal translation of its name from the Gaelic, and the city has a proud history of creating and protecting parks and greenspaces.

Glaswegians are justifiably proud of their parks and are passionate and vocal about protecting them. Glasgow has an impressive range of vibrant parks and greenspaces 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, wellbeing and their enjoyment.



Our parks and greenspaces benefit us by:

- Providing free, accessible areas for play and exercise
- Providing space in the city where we can relax, contemplate and come to terms with the stresses of modern life – supporting good mental health
- Connecting city spaces together
- Helping to regenerate neighbourhoods by providing attractive and accessible spaces for communities to use and for businesses to invest in
- Bringing communities together to support and use their greenspace
- Helping to offset the effects of climate change

To create this new vision for our parks and greenspaces, we asked people, through a series of workshops and questionnaires, what they thought parks and greenspaces should look like in the future how we could go about making that happen.

They developed a vision of parks and greenspaces being lively, welcoming and safe places; sustainable, well connected and accessible to all, providing opportunities for activities and shared use for current and future communities.

To develop our parks and greenspaces into spaces fit for the future, our communities came up with several themes and areas for action.

Communication

- Improving information sharing between the Council and greenspace groups, and between groups themselves
- Improving community involvement in making decisions about their greenspaces
- Improving signage and marketing for parks and greenspaces, both for citizens and visitors
- Supporting the work of the Glasgow Friends of Parks Forum

Health and well being

- Improving how parks and greenspaces are connected, creating green corridors, making them more accessible
- Demonstrating the importance of social spaces in parks and greenspaces; creating welcoming, inclusive spaces
- Supporting community growing
- Linking with health providers

Re-wilding

- Creating a new way of maintaining parks and greenspaces which is managed, but supports improvements in habitats for a range of species

- Looking at opportunities for sustainable drainage, green energy and active travel

Activities and events

- Supporting community events and activities
- Acknowledging the benefit of large events to the city, but ensuring that there is engagement with local communities to reduce any negative impact
- Supporting outdoor education for all ages
- Supporting the development of new events, activities and commercial ventures within parks and greenspaces, but requiring that these be developed in conjunction with communities to assess their impact

Community guardianship

- Having a say in how parks and greenspaces are managed and developed
- Understanding the opportunities presented by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 but being clear that there is currently very little community desire to transfer ownership of parks and greenspaces into community hands

Our Vision

To deliver our vision for parks and greenspaces in Glasgow, we have developed a series of 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.
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.
4. We will work with partners to improve 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

7. We will promote parks and greenspaces for outdoor learning spaces

8. We will investigate opportunities to retain and develop horticultural skills

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

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 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

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

14. We will work with partners to prepare a heritage asset plan for parks and greenspaces
15. We will review signage/website/social media to ensure reporting mechanisms are available and well publicised.
16. We will work with partners to develop a single access point for information on Glasgow's parks and greenspaces
17. We will seek to develop a multi-agency working network to develop approaches to greenspace in Glasgow.
18. We will maximise funding opportunities from internal and external sources
19. We will investigate alternative delivery mechanisms to support service delivery
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
22. We will develop a quality monitoring system that involves communities and addresses the quality of the visitor experience to our parks and greenspaces



