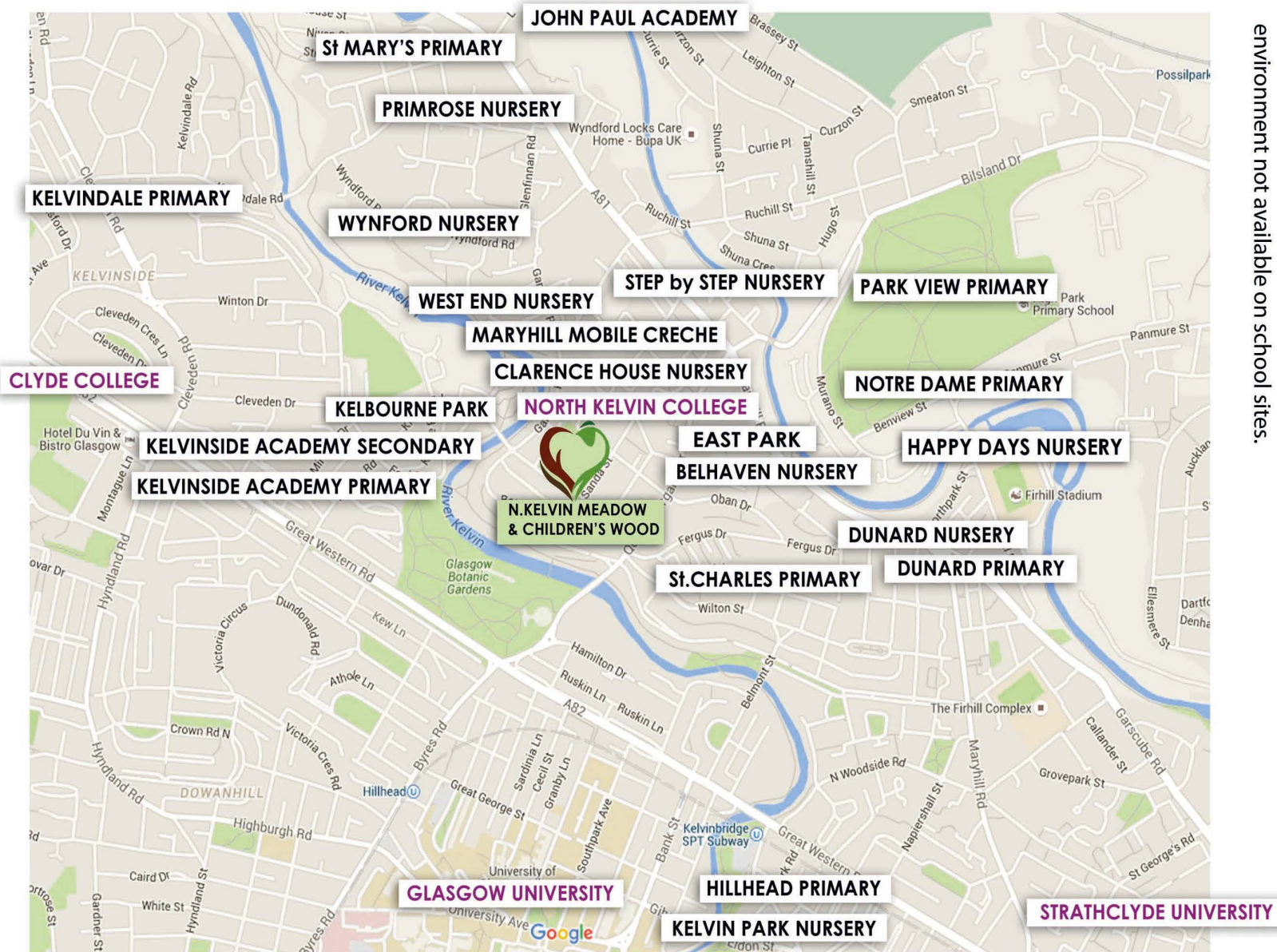


21st CENTURY EDUCATION

The map below this is all of the schools and colleges The Children's Wood are currently connected to in various different ways: research, schools sessions, training and teachers volunteering. Most of these groups can walk to the land for outdoor learning. You can see the full list on following page. The list of groups and educational establishments using the space is growing all the time. The Children's wood provides a high quality outdoor learning environment not available on school sites.



"Many of our families live in high rise flats with no garden, come to school by crossing a busy concrete road, and then the children play in a concrete playground. Having this local greenspace and encouraging the use of it may be the only chance some children will get to experience nature."

Local School Headteacher

"This is such a great inner-city open space, a real 'secret garden' which serves as an open-air community centre and a place where kids can climb trees and discover nature. It's really heartening that the Scottish Government is taking local concerns seriously."

Julia Donaldson (2013), author of *The Gruffalo*

Nurseries & Schools

1. Belhaven Nursery
2. Clarence House Nursery
3. Dunard Nursery
4. Happy Days Nursery
5. Kelvin Park Nursery
6. Maryhill Mobile Creche
7. Primrose Nursery
8. Step by Step Nursery
9. West End Nursery
10. Wyndford Nursery

11. Dunard Primary
12. Hillhead Primary
13. St Charles Primary
14. St. Mary's Primary
15. Kelvindale Primary
16. Kelvinside Academy
17. Notre Dame Primary
18. Park View Primary
19. East Park School
20. Kelbourne Park School

21. John Paul Academy
22. Kelvinside Academy



Universities & Colleges

1. Glasgow University
2. Strathclyde University
3. Clyde College
4. North Kelvin College

See appendix 3 for importance of NKM CW for teacher training

EXISTING PROJECTS

Below is a sample of the projects achieved in our community over the last four years and which were initiated and implemented originally by volunteers and now with a mix of volunteers and our paid staff.

1. GP Referral Scheme

Local GPs referring patients to Meadow as therapy

2. Glasgow University Research Projects

Outcomes showing improved learning and creativity after time spent on the Meadow (see appendix4).

3. Clyde College Asylum Seekers Maintenance Group

4. Training & Development

2 volunteers trained to Level 1 Forest School,
10 volunteers trained to Level 1 and 2,
2 volunteers in training for Level 3 Forest School,
5 volunteers trained in Outdoor First Aid,
32 teachers trained in Outdoor Learning

5. Early Years Scotland Wednesday Playgroup

Run by local volunteers

6. Saturday Outdoor Learning Club

Cooperatively run - First of its kind

7. Friday Under 7 Forest School

Funded by The Lottery. TCV support local volunteers

8. Weekly Schools Sessions

Working with local schools to meet the Experiences and Outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence

9. Education Committee

Local teachers creating resources for teachers to use with their classes on the Meadow and Wood. Two packs launched 2014-15 and working on 2016. See Appendix 5 for one example)

10. Glasgow Equality Group Annual Conference

Run by local volunteers in collaboration with the Goethe Institute 2014,2015,2016

11. Sensory Garden

Raised beds for local Additional Support Needs schools

12. Forest School as transition from Nursery to Primary

April to June 2016

13. Teacher Training course placement - Strathclyde University

Started January 2016 - placement for Sustainable Development Course



Summary of Events

CATEGORY	CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLES
Playgroup	Weekly Weds/ Fridays (am) playgroup, breaks even with a small weekly surplus	Den Building, Clay Making, Gardening
Fundraising Events	Run with the primary intention to generate income for the group to support other events	Christmas Craft Fair, Forest School's Fun Run, Burns Night Ceilidh, Wine Tasting
Meadow Events	Run for the benefit of the community, may generate income for the group	Nature Festival, Conservation Volunteers, Goethe Institute
Children's Events	Run for the benefit of the community, with a strong emphasis on activities for pre-teenage children. May run at a loss or break even	Halloween, West End Festival Events, Reindeer at the Meadow, Easter Club
Outdoor Learning	Run by Forest School's trained volunteers on Saturday (am)	Rope skills, Den building
Schools Engagement	Run for the benefit of local schools, typically involving external expertise over a series of sessions. Generally needs to be covered by other costs	RSPB Garden Festival, West End Festival, Halloween Lanterns

EMERGING PROJECTS

1. Growing fresh food for The Food Bank

In collaboration with the Food Bank & Maryhill Integration Network

2. Development of schools projects

Ongoing - Strengthening existing work with local schools and starting initiatives with new schools

3. Develop Research Hub with Glasgow University

Ongoing - Departments involved: Psychology / Education / English Literature / Public Health and others to be confirmed

4. Development of infrastructure of Meadow and Wood

Planting / Orchard / Outdoor Classroom / Toilet / Research Hub / Performance Space / Inclusion for Elderly and Special Needs/Meeting space

5. Local Teacher Training and Volunteer Training

Forest School - "How to Teach the Curriculum Outdoors"

6. Green Gym

Training for local people with TCV
GPs ALREADY REFERRING PATIENTS

7. Education Committee

Through our work with schools, local teachers have joined CW Education Committee. UK Space Agency funding for the next Education Pack which is being created for November 2016. Creation of further Education Packs and events. Teacher training and collaboration

8. Development of Intergenerational Activity

Working with Oran Street Residential Care

9. Placemaking

Boosting local pride / sense of well-being / productivity

9. Creating jobs

Ongoing/Paid positions/sessional work/ more employment opportunities as CW grows. Already there are two paid positions on the land



EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY



Economic Development

The Children's Wood's Sustainable Futures Programme helps to build on the economic development of the city.

Boosting Economy

Local businesses say that they are busier when the Children's Wood events are on, bringing people from out with the community, as well as from within. The Children's Wood is providing jobs for people in the area. During events businesses have stalls. Children's Wood are providing employment and volunteering with room for growth.

Improving Education

Teachers say the Children's Wood activities are creating motivated and resilient children. They have also reported that children (and staff) are less stressed when learning in our space. Over 20 schools and nurseries currently use the land for outdoor learning and fun. Learning outside improves attention span, creativity, child initiated interactions, self-esteem and well-being in children and reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety in adults. (see appendix 4)

Providing Work

The Children's Wood Sustainable Futures Programme is providing jobs for the community and volunteer roles for many vulnerable people within our area, such as unemployed, elderly, asylum seekers and those with additional support needs. This opportunity will create a well-adjusted and integrated community.

Collaboration

The Children's Wood works to build a culture of team work within the community between schools, families and different resident groups. For example, the Wednesday playgroup often meets with children from a local additional support needs school. We create opportunities for primary children to socialise with elderly residents from a local day care centre. Often our events involve diverse groups who work together, and we believe that by collaborating and integrating varied groups we are creating a more tolerant and equal place to live.



Regeneration

The Children's Wood received full planning permission from Glasgow City Council planning committee, to grow and develop the land known as North Kelvin Meadow and The Children's Wood as a community garden and greenspace.

Improving the Land

There are many local people initiating activities and maintaining the land for the community to enjoy. The Children's Wood have built raised beds, a sensory garden, a community garden, children's play area with mud kitchen, willow house, trails, meadow patches and an orchard and more. The Children's Wood has full planning permission to develop the land into a community park and garden, (see Appendix 6). The land is a relaxing oasis for people to enjoy and gives the community a sense of pride in having co-created the space. There is more room for growth.

Regeneration

Children's Wood plan are to build on the regeneration of the area. For example, they have drawn up plans to develop the existing shed into a community resource; a meeting and storage space with solar panels to create energy. See Appendix 7 for the Children's Wood plans for the existing shed. If this goes ahead, the space will be used more by various and diverse groups within the community: artists, writers and others. The plans to upgrade the existing shed into an innovative eco building will allow for running water, toilets and electricity. This will allow the community to grow and be even more inclusive. Schools and other groups have agreed they would come more often if these facilities existed.

Employment

The Children's Wood currently employ two funded paid positions; Schools and Community Engagement Officers, who work on maintaining the land and building the community. They bring schools to the land for outdoor learning and organise events. If the Children's Wood continues to do well, funders will pay for another two positions after one year and from here they will expand and develop to provide more job opportunities for local people.



All of the following points are addressed in relation to *The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015*



Public Health

The community of Maryhill and North Kelvinside is suffering from many 21st Century problems, impacting on the health of the population. These problems are urgent and cannot be resolved through housing development.

Food poverty

Many people in the area are literally starving. CW hope to supplement traditional food banks by providing people with fresh fruit and vegetables from our community garden and orchard. Currently all foodbank food is non-perishable, pre-packaged, and so there is a need for more healthy and sustainable options. The Children's Wood intends to show people how to cook with local produce through cookery classes.

Inequality

The land is situated in one of the most unequal places in the UK (see Appendix 2). All Children's Wood activities are free and accessible to local people: every week volunteers deliver an Outdoor Learning Club for all ages of children, along with a playgroup for pre-school children on Wednesday and Fridays - 9 of the volunteers are trained in Forest School. CW also work with schools and parents to encourage families to get outside and see this space as 'their land.' The schools say they have noticed the impact of the land on learning and development. The proposed housing development will only exacerbate income inequalities in the area to the detriment of the poorest in our community.

Achievement Gap

Through the Children's Wood's work with schools, CW are addressing the achievement gap through activities on the land. In collaboration with Glasgow University, research has been conducted into the effects of the meadow and wood on learning. Studies have revealed that spending lunchtime playing on the land improved attention span and creativity in primary school children when compared to lunchtime spent in the school playground (see Appendix4). These children are then bringing their parents to the space outwith school and so contributing to further community growth. There is no proposed compensation for this by the housing development.

Unemployment

In a time of austerity and cuts, places like the meadow and wood are even more important for communities since they provide hope and optimism for a better future. The Children's Wood provides volunteering opportunities for people out of work, single parents and other groups within the community. Having this wild space helps to give people a sense of purpose and meaning, especially given the growing employment and volunteering opportunities.

Building high-end housing on the land will create more problems within the area and will prevent poorer families from being able to connect with their community in a shared, safe space.



Social Well-Being

The Children's Wood project has built a strong 'rural like' community in an urban setting. A diverse group of people from North Kelvinside and Maryhill co-exist and work together to achieve a better place to live.

Loneliness

The Children's Wood work with older people within the community, such as a local day care centre, to bring together school children and the elderly so that they can chat, play and learn from each other. The Children's Wood's oldest volunteer is 87 and many others are in their 60's to 80's. This is an intergenerational project.

Stress

Teachers and parents have said that they feel more relaxed and less stressed when they come to the land for outdoor learning and fun. Local GP's now prescribe time on the meadow for those suffering from depression and anxiety.



Environmental Well-Being

Many describe the land as the heart of an urban setting. The meadow and wood itself plays an essential role in the biodiversity of the area and The Children's Wood activities help to educate thousands of people about the benefits of nature, conservation and how to make a difference in the world.

Green Corridor

The land provides a corridor for animals and insects to freely move between the Botanic Gardens and river Kelvin to the canal.

Mitigating Climate Change

There are over 500 trees on the land and these help to absorb excess water and flooding, as well as absorbing carbon dioxide.

Creating Environmentally Aware Citizens

The impact of childhood nature experiences determines environmental attitudes in adults. People who participated in 'wild' nature activities as children are more likely to have pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours later in life (see Appendix4).

Biodiversity

The meadow flowers provide a healthy habitat for bees and other insects.

Local people's leisure time at the meadow and wood is low carbon and non-consumerist activities - over 20 school and nurseries can walk to the land for outdoor learning.

There are various compost bins on the land - diverting waste from landfill (methane is powerful greenhouse gas)