

**BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND 2025**  
**EDINBURGH**  
**INSPIRING**  
**CAPITAL**



# INTRODUCTION

What is now Edinburgh has had human settlements since Mesolithic times c8,000 years ago. Recognized as the capital of Scotland since at least the 15th century, it is the seat of the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament, the highest courts in Scotland, and the Palace of Holyrood house, the official residence of the monarch in Scotland.

With a population of just over half a million it is the second- most populous city in Scotland and the seventh in the United Kingdom. The city' s historical and cultural attractions have made it the UK' s second- most visited tourist destination, attracting 5 million visits, including 2.4 million from overseas.

The present day environment reflects this long and complex history and the need to cater for exceptionally high levels of human pressure.

The city's entry into Beautiful Scotland is based on partnerships.

## Inspiring partnerships

The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society is Scotland's national gardening society based in the city for 200 years but covering the country with a programme of education, information and awards.



The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has had a series of four successive gardens in Edinburgh since 1670 with nowadays three others elsewhere in Scotland and has a world-wide programme of research combined with a continuing commitment to the city.



The City of Edinburgh Council manages over 11,600 hectares of parks, nature reserves, greenspaces, rivers, lochs, waterways and shorelines, including 43 cemeteries, 186 sport pitches, 213 play areas and partners with 14 Its Your Neighbourhood groups.



An Inspiring Year

# SUMMER



# AUTUMN



# WINTER



# SPRING



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Community organisations, academic institutions, and government services work together to preserve and enhance the city's natural environment. The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and a Nature Emergency in 2023 and aims to be a net zero and nature positive city.

Edinburgh's distinctive cityscape is shaped by its geology, featuring volcanic hills and sedimentary formations that create diverse natural habitats. These landscapes support a wide variety of wildlife species within the city.

The city has nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including Arthur's Seat, Duddingston Loch, and the Firth of Forth, which is also a Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. Additionally, Edinburgh manages 90 Local Biodiversity Sites covering 3,282 hectares, with ancient woodlands spanning 1,067 hectares. Edinburgh cooperates with other stakeholders to manage the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

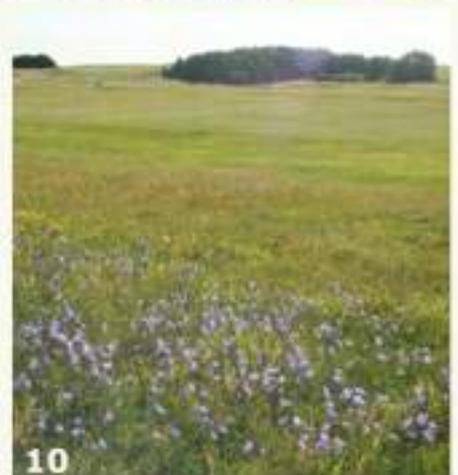
## **A city with a mountain in the middle**

Holyrood Park covers 259 hectares and rises to 251 metres at Arthur's Seat. Managed by Historic Environment Scotland, it is a world-famous geological feature and home to over 350 species of higher plants including 60 that are rare nationally, leading to SSSI designations for the park and adjacent Duddingston Loch. There are many breeding waterfowl and several birds of prey nest here too. There are 111 archaeological sites within the park including the first evidence of agriculture in the area.

Edinburgh is committed to integrating environmentally friendly practices across various sectors. For example The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh and Bruntsfield Links sustainable golf course management has led to the prestigious GEO Certified designation. These certifications acknowledge efforts to minimize environmental impact, conserve resources, and support the local community.



1. Salisbury Crags
2. Sticky Catchfly
3. Adders tongue Fern
4. Hutton's Section
5. & 6. Arthurs Seat
7. Northern Brown Argus on Rock Rose
8. Maiden Pink
9. The Royal Burgess Golfing Society
10. Scottish bluebells on a golf course



The City of Edinburgh is dedicated to tackling climate change and boosting biodiversity through strategic planning and partnerships.

### **Climate Change Initiatives**

Edinburgh aims for net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. To achieve this, the Council is working with investors, the Scottish Government, and city partners to expedite key projects and establish a regulatory framework that encourages investment and innovation. By working with statutory partners citywide, the Council ensures all procurement and commissioning in Edinburgh supports this strategy. This involves securing commitments from all public sector partners to use their procurement powers to transition to net zero and foster a circular economy. Public sector investment and purchasing decisions should align with net-zero goals by 2030, creating markets for circular and net-zero economy businesses. The Council promotes renewable energy, public transport, and electric vehicle adoption. However, recent reports show a slight increase in emissions and slow green technology uptake. The Council acknowledges the need for stronger policies and public engagement to meet the 2030 target.

The Edinburgh Climate Strategy includes green infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable transport.

Plans feature low-carbon parks with solar lighting, sustainable drainage, and eco-friendly maintenance.

Granton Waterfront is undergoing a £1.3 billion transformation into Europe's first net-zero coastal town, with 3,500 sustainable homes and green spaces.

### **Biodiversity Action Plan**

The Council's Biodiversity Action Plan focuses on habitat restoration, species protection, and public awareness.

- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh leads in conservation research, holding specimens of 273,000 plant species as well as cultivating many endangered plants.
- Marine initiatives have reintroduced 30,000 European flat oysters into the Firth of Forth.
- Efforts to preserve ancient woodlands, such as Craigmillar and Corstorphine Woods are ongoing.

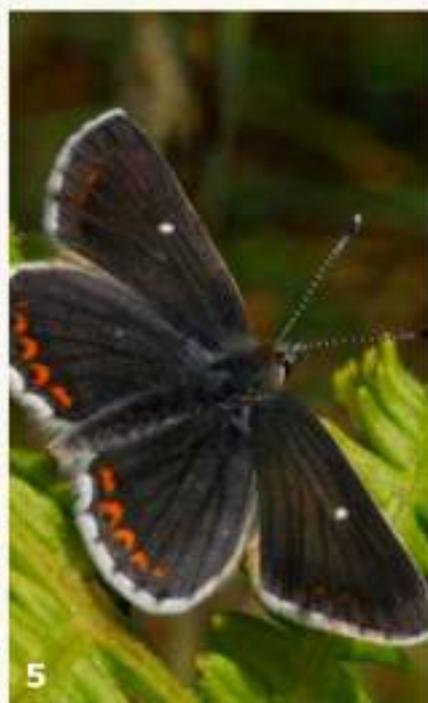
### **Urban Greening & Planting Initiatives**

The Edinburgh Million Tree City project aims to have one million trees by 2030, with current numbers over 884,000 trees.

The Council partners with communities, schools, and volunteers for tree planting and maintenance. Since 2021, over 125,000 trees have been planted, with a target to plant an additional 125,000 by 2030.



1. Raingardens in front of the Granton gas holder.
2. Rain gardens in a car park in Northfield Grove.
3. Rain water planter at Ferryhill school
4. Leith Links wildflowers from WWS.
5. Northern Brown Argus butterfly @ P Kirkland
6. Oysters Restoration Forth
7. Grey heron at Inverleith Park
8. Wildlife haven at Figgate Park



For over ten years, through the Living Landscape Programme, The Council, in partnership with local conservation groups, is restoring and creating wildflower meadows in parks and open spaces. This initiative, featuring partners like the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, transforms green spaces into biodiverse, climate-resilient areas. These meadows support pollinators such as bees and butterflies by providing essential habitats. Edinburgh has adopted a biodiversity-friendly grass-cutting strategy, reducing mowing to enhance wildlife habitats, expanding designated wildflower meadows and long-grass zones, and supporting urban biodiversity while maintaining accessibility. Glyphosate is no longer used on our parks and estates—its use is limited to city centre streets and some invasive non-native species such as giant hogweed.

### **Introducing the Our Nature Estate Programme Pilot:**

Launched in 2024, this initiative expands the Edinburgh Living Landscape by adopting a relaxed mowing strategy in certain residential areas to enhance biodiversity, especially for pollinators. New grassland maintenance standards will be introduced in 2025 to support Edinburgh's aim for a more biodiverse urban environment, aligning with conservation efforts.



**Edinburgh  
Nature  
Network**

Edinburgh is also the first Scottish city to establish a comprehensive Nature Network to protect and enhance local species and habitats.

In collaboration with partners, this network identifies key conservation habitats and connects urban green spaces via nature corridors. It integrates parks, woodlands, and wetlands to preserve biodiversity and addresses flood-prone areas with nature-based solutions like wetlands and meadows.

### **Linking Leith: first ENN Pilot**

The Edinburgh Nature Network pilot in Leith includes initiatives to improve local green spaces. In 2023, funding from Greenspace Scotland allowed the Thriving Greenspaces team to design nature-rich parks in Leith, benefiting both the environment and the community. The project creates vibrant community spaces with art installations, gardening activities, and enhanced park safety, fostering environments where wildlife and people thrive. Among the initiatives is the establishment of the Wilding Wee Spaces project, which involves working with schools (more about this later in the portfolio). Additionally, nature neighbourhood plans are being developed with partners such as Earth in Common and Granton Community Gardens. The project includes the establishment of It's Your Neighbourhood groups under Keep Scotland Beautiful.

## **Sustainable Waste Management, Transport, and Circular Economy**

Edinburgh is advancing in sustainable waste management, transport, and the circular economy by implementing initiatives to reduce waste and promote reusable products. Future changes will involve community development and digital infrastructure, with residents expected to work from home more and use active travel or public transport. Food production is a key sector, with improved access to local, high-quality food, increased community food growing, and reduced food waste.

### **Key Initiatives**

- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Policies like banning single-use plastics, carrier bag charges, and composting programmes aim to cut waste.
- **Reusable Alternatives and Circular Economy:** Campaigns promote reusable bags and sustainable alternatives, integrating circular economy principles into construction and business sectors.
- **Festival City & Environmental Responsibility:** During its festivals, which double the city's population, sustainable waste and energy management is crucial. Festivals monitor energy use and waste, deploying rapid response teams and recycling stations to maintain cleanliness.
- **Supporting Businesses and Community.** The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland help businesses adopt sustainable practices. Projects like the Edinburgh Tool Library encourage repair and reuse. The Keep Scotland Beautiful campaign Clean Up Scotland, raises awareness of our litter problem and encourages citizens to take action.

Community composting in parks, reduced pesticide usage, low-emission zones and green corridors improve urban health. The Brake the Cycle programme recycles bikes, promoting cycling. Annually, £12 million supports urban cleanliness, engaging over 8,500 volunteers. Legal graffiti zones provide artistic spaces.

### **Sustainable Transport**

Edinburgh leads in sustainable transport, with 36% of trips on foot or by bike and 125 km of cycleways. The city allocates 7% of its transport budget to cycling and connects paths with green spaces via the Innertube Map. The city supports electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure development to reduce fossil fuel reliance. Public transport includes Scotland's largest diesel-electric hybrid bus fleet, cutting carbon emissions. The tram line connecting the airport to the city centre and Leith is a key sustainable transport component.



1. Dog fouling campaign in Holyrood Park.  
 2. Volunteers engaged in litter picking,  
 3. Tram line.



The Council recently completed the installation of public toilets at Leith Links, marking the final addition of four unisex blocks that have been set up in this area, as well as in the Meadows and Inverleith Park. The cycling routes in Edinburgh continue to grow, thanks to the efforts of the active travel team.



# HORTICULTURE

Edinburgh's horticultural landscape is diverse, featuring both formal gardens and wild green spaces. The city aims to balance conservation efforts with aesthetic appeal.

## **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)**

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), founded in 1670 is a world-renowned centre for plant research and conservation. The living collection holds approximately 13,500 plant species. The ambitious Edinburgh Biomes Project is restoring historic glasshouses and safeguarding the Living Collection, preserving global plant diversity for future generations. RBGE spans over 70 acres just a mile north of the city centre and features:

- Rock Garden, Alpine Houses & Woodland Garden
- Arboretum & Pond
- Chinese Hillside & Rhododendron Collection
- Scottish Native Plants Collection in the Heath Garden

The RBGE Herbarium contains millions of specimens, supporting global plant research. Collaborations with organizations and botanic gardens in Scotland and worldwide are advancing plant conservation research to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss.

## **Edinburgh's Parks & Gardens**

Edinburgh has 315 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, covering 2,925 hectares, and thousands of private gardens, including historic key-holder gardens in the New Town. The city has received 35 Green Flag Awards. The city's parks and gardens are classified based on size, function, and significance:

- Premier Parks: Large parks serving both visitors and residents, notably Princes Street Gardens, which receives millions of visitors annually.
- City Parks: Serving citywide and local recreational needs.
- Natural Heritage Parks: Semi-natural greenspaces, including woodlands and river valleys (e.g., Pentland Hills Regional Park).
- Community Parks: Designed for local community events and gatherings.
- Gardens: Spaces focusing on horticulture, flower beds, and seating.
- Recreation Grounds: Primarily used for sporting activities.

Edinburgh is one of the few local authorities retaining a horticultural nursery. The Inch Plant Nursery produces over 500,000 plants annually for streets, parks, gardens, and civic functions. A shift from labour-intensive annual bedding plants to sustainable perennial planting is underway, with permanent plantings replacing annuals in roundabouts, parks, and streetscapes. However, seasonal bedding remains in key sites, including the iconic Floral Clock in Princes Street Gardens.

The Council Bereavement Service manages 43 cemeteries, churchyards, and one of three crematoria across the city. There are areas dedicated for natural woodland burial and multi faith scattering points. The Council supplies bulbs for planting and conduct species monitoring in nearly all cemeteries. New cemetery rules promote responsible dog walking and encourage using these spaces for peaceful contemplation.

# ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH



1. Rock Garden.
2. Newly replanted Queen Mother's Memorial Garden.
3. Renovation of Palm Houses.
4. Victoria amazonica Public Display Glasshouses.
5. Chinese Hillside - one of the largest plantings of wild collected Chinese plants outside China.
6. Botanics Cottage with annual Pictorial Meadow mix on beds either side.





7. Innovation in cultivating Scottish native *Saxifraga hirculus* utilising chilled running water in Nursery.

8. Translocation of *Cicerbita alpina* Cairngorms National Park cultivated in the nursery.

9. First flowering in Scotland of Titan Arum, *Amorphophallus titanum* in 2015 and has flowered every two years since.

10. Volunteers planting primulas.

11. Edible garden volunteers.



# EDINBURGH'S PARKS AND GARDENS



1. Princes Street Gardens
2. St Cuthbert's Kirkyard
3. The meadows cherry blossom
4. Lauriston Castle
5. Inverleith Park

## **The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society**

The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (The Caley) was established in 1809 by a group of 17 Edinburgh worthies at the Royal College of Physicians. They established a Society for the 'encouragement and improvement of the best fruit, the most choice flowers and most useful culinary vegetables'. The Society has always welcomed both professionals and amateurs. From its early days, Caley activities have focused on a mix of the theoretical and practical sides of horticulture. Medals and certificates were awarded and still are annually at the AGM as a means of recognising important contributions -and contributors -to horticulture in Scotland.

We believe sharing knowledge and experience is important and we organise a series of practical demonstrations and workshops at our base in Saughton Park, Edinburgh.

The Saughton Gardens renovation (€5.7M project) a partnership between The Caley and The Council has created a leading horticultural space which includes extensive perennial planting, a traditional rose garden, a winter garden, and wall fruit. Caley volunteers are responsible for the demonstration garden and greenhouse, raised beds for edibles, a rock garden, a crevice garden, ericaceous bed as well as working co-operatively with Edinburgh council staff. All the wall fruit and the physic garden are looked after by The Friends of Saughton Park. The Caley also runs a demonstration allotment at Bridgend.

This year Face to Face workshops ran from 10.00am - 1.00pm on Saturdays at Saughton Park or Bridgend Allotment

January 18 - Planning Growing for Scottish Conditions - Saughton Park

February 22 - Growing Under Cover (early seed sowing) - Saughton Park

March 8 - Growing Protected Crops - Saughton Park

March 29 - Changed to; Planning Growing for Scottish Conditions (2nd run due to popular demand) - Saughton Park

April 26 - Changed to; Planning Growing for Scottish Conditions (3rd run due to popular demand) - Saughton Park

May 10 - Maintenance - the plot progresses- Caley Allotment (Bridgend)

August 23 - Harvesting, Storage and Showing - Caley Allotment (Bridgend)

Shows have always been held. Currently:

March - Spring Bulb Show

May- Auricula and Primula Show

June - Cacti & Succulent Show

September - Late Summer/Early Autumn Show

October - Apple Day

November - Late Chrysanthemum Display

# ROYAL CALEDONIAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



1. Children's bulbs at the spring show.
2. The Auricula & Primula show in May.
3. The cacti/succulent show jointly with BCSS Lothian.
4. - 7. Roses at Saughton in June.
8. The crevice garden.
9. Some of the many perennials at Saughton.





10



11

- 10. Saughton bandstand.
- 11. Writing with plants.
- 12. The winter garden has year round interest.
- 13. The Society's patron, the Princess Royal, opening Caley's educational greenhouse in June 2025.
- 14. The winter border in December.
- 15. The micro hydro scheme uses energy from the Water of Leith to heat the buildings.



12



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14



15

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community engagement is central to Edinburgh's identity, with over 2,500 people participating annually in outdoor learning, conservation events, and citizen-led biodiversity surveys. A network of over 80 Friends of Parks groups exemplifies civic involvement, working tirelessly to preserve and enhance local green spaces through fundraising, clean-ups, tree planting, community walks, and conservation initiatives.

The Council is developing a new Volunteer Strategy to support and expand community involvement in conservation and horticultural activities. Thousands of volunteers contribute each year through litter-picking groups, park friends groups, and environmental projects. Partnerships with charities such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, and The Conservation Volunteers provide residents with opportunities to engage in local sustainability efforts. Corporate volunteering also plays a key role, with businesses involving staff in park clean-ups, tree planting, and other environmental projects.

A highlight of the year has been the Friends of Edinburgh Greenspaces Event at the City Chambers, celebrating the return of community gatherings post-pandemic. This event expresses gratitude to the volunteers who make Edinburgh's parks special places, and is attended by Parks Officers, Natural Heritage staff, and the Horticultural Team. Friends of greenspaces groups host year-round engagement events, from Macmillan Cancer Support gatherings to Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, picnics in the park, and orchard planting.

Key community-driven initiatives include 'It's Your Neighbourhood', where 14 community groups collaborate on environmental improvements, and the 'Clean Up Edinburgh' campaign, which unites communities in keeping areas tidy. Community-led projects such as tree planting, habitat restoration, and public events foster civic pride and engagement.

There are many ways to volunteer in Edinburgh, with Duddingston Kirk being a standout example. Jock Tamson's Gairden has transformed the historic church's glebe land to produce food for the local community. The kirk garden club meets in the hall, while nearby Dr. Neil's Garden is lovingly maintained by a voluntary trust.

The city prioritises developing accessible green spaces, ensuring inclusivity for people of all ages and abilities. Sensory gardens, wheelchair-friendly pathways, and community-designed spaces are integrated into parks and gardens. Edinburgh's Play Strategy promotes natural play environments and intergenerational engagement in green spaces.



1. TCV volunteering day
2. Friends of St Margaret's Park
3. Tree planting
4. Friends of Starbank Park Macmillan Cancer Support tea
5. New conservation collection planting of Wollemi Pine RBGE
6. Verification of new wild origin plant material Living Collection RBGE
7. Caley flower show volunteers at Scone garden fair

## **Health and Education in Edinburgh**

Edinburgh has 186 pitches for football, rugby, cricket, and multi-use sports, alongside facilities for public bowling, tennis, croquet, and golf, there's no shortage of outdoor sports opportunities.

- **Accessible Sports:** Inclusive recreational spaces, like the outdoor cardio and weights gym equipment at Hailes Quarry Park, promote fitness in the fresh air for people with disabilities.
- **Therapeutic Activities:** The Branching Out Programme offers woodland therapy to encourage mental well-being through nature.
- **Outdoor Play:** With 192 children's play areas, 24 ball courts, 18 toddler areas, and five skate parks, young people have ample opportunities for physical activities.

### **Community Events & Education**

- **Saughton Park and Gardens:** Hosts horticultural workshops and outreach programs with The Caley (Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society).
- **Eco-Learning Initiatives:** Local schools engage in projects like biodiversity studies, outdoor classrooms, and school gardens to enhance environmental education.
- **Public Engagement:** Citizen science projects, such as pollinator monitoring and tree planting, promote community involvement.

## **Eco-Schools Programme**

Edinburgh's 269 schools, including nursery, primary, secondary, and special schools, participate in the Eco-Schools programme. Ninety-six have achieved Green Flag status, the highest award for sustainable environmental practice. This programme empowers children and young people to tackle issues like waste, water, energy, and biodiversity. Edinburgh City Council supports Forest Schools on council-owned land, such as the Forest School at Lauriston Castle, where children engage hands-on with nature, building skills and environmental awareness.

## **Wilding Wee Spaces**

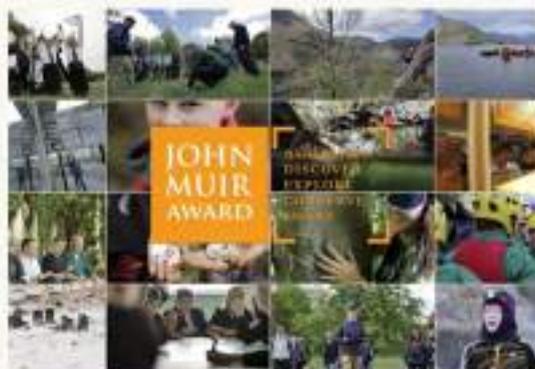
The Wilding Wee Spaces project transforms small urban areas into biodiverse spaces by letting them grow wild. Led by the City of Edinburgh Council Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education Team, in partnership with schools, it contributes to the Edinburgh Nature Network by supporting the creation of ecologically rich spaces. These areas are co-designed with learners and serve as outdoor classrooms, aiming for all Edinburgh schools to have such spaces stewarded by pupils.

## **John Muir Award**

The John Muir Award encourages environmental responsibility by helping participants discover and share nature. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) programme, aligned with the award, enhances biodiversity along the John Muir Way. Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, it trains individuals in wildlife conservation to address the green skills shortage and provide access to quality green spaces. TCV aims to combat climate change through tree planting and offers environmental traineeships to 72 local individuals over three years, supporting Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy and creating pathways into green jobs. The initiative also promotes sustainability, improves soil health, and contributes to net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.



1. Outdoor learning
2. Princes street garden play area
3. Outdoor gym
4. Wilding Wee Spaces
5. Fitness classes
- 6.-8. John Muir Award



## **Caley - Allotments and Teaching**

The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society runs a demonstration allotment at Bridgend Allotments and works with schools on educational gardening programmes. They also hold the annual School Daffodil Growing Competition to encourage children to learn about growing plants.

## **Grow & Learn**

These Caley awards provide alternative learning opportunities for individuals who find mainstream education challenging. The 'Roots' level offers core gardening tasks, while 'Nurture' builds on this knowledge. Both awards include practical gardening hours, personal goals, and portfolio-based assessment. Through hands-on gardening experiences, learners gain skills in horticulture and develop personal goals. Participants grow their horticultural expertise while also promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

## **Community Gardening & Food Growing**

Edinburgh is committed to advancing community gardening and food-growing projects, aiming to promote local food production, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen community bonds. The city fosters these initiatives through various strategies, including allocating 1,500 allotment plots across 28 sites, implementing the Cultivating Communities strategy (2017- 2027), and launching the Right to Grow Initiative. This initiative encourages residents to cultivate food on council- owned land, supported by the upcoming 'Grow Your Own' community fund, which will provide grants of up to £5,000 from April 2025. Additionally, the Council collaborates with The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations ( FEDAGA) to offer training and reduce plot abandonment, while leasing land for community gardens in areas like Duddingston, Craigmillar, and Fountainbridge.

## **Urban Croft: Earth in Common**

Formerly known as Leith Community Crops in Pots, Earth in Common began as a Leith residents' movement reclaiming land for healthy food and nature access. Situated at Leith Community Croft, Earth in Common tackles issues like a flawed food system, climate change, and social inequality on multiple levels. Central to their mission is the Urban Croft model, which seeks to build community solidarity, boost the local economy, and promote skill training. This model aims to inspire communities across Scotland to transform neglected urban spaces into thriving urban crofts, empowering them to contribute significantly to food sovereignty.

## **Granton Community Gardens**

Located in North Edinburgh, Granton Community Gardeners is a community-led charity focused on growing, cooking, and sharing food. They create and maintain community gardens, organize communal meals and events, and support anyone interested in food growing. Their innovative approach ensures that everyone in the community has access to nutritious food, fostering a sense of togetherness and well-being.



1. Council allotments

2. Caley vegetable beds

3. Council allotments

4. Friends of Saughton Park  
apple picking

5. Salad

6. Earth in Common urban croft

7. Raised beds

8. Preparing for a show



## **PARTNERS**

There are many remarkable individuals and organisations collaborating to ensure the success of these initiatives, and here we highlight just a few:

### **The Conservation Volunteers**

In partnership with the Council, TCV enhances parks and natural spaces by supporting tree planting, habitat restoration, and meadow management, working closely with local community groups and conservation organisations.

### **Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust**

ELGT delivers practical environmental projects across the city and surrounding areas, from tree planting and habitat restoration to community gardening and outdoor learning. It works closely with schools, local groups and the Council to make greenspaces more accessible and ecologically rich.

### **Scottish Wildlife Trust**

The Scottish Wildlife Trust plays a central role in conserving Scotland's natural heritage. In Edinburgh, it supports urban biodiversity through the Living Landscape initiative—creating wildlife corridors, restoring habitats, and engaging communities in nature-based solutions.

### **University of Edinburgh**

Through its world-renowned research in ecology, climate science and urban planning, the University partners with the Council and RBGE to inform evidence-based green strategies—contributing data analysis, GIS mapping, and student involvement in sustainable city planning and biodiversity monitoring.

### **RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)**

RSPB Scotland contributes expert guidance on urban wildlife, especially birds and pollinators. In Edinburgh, it supports habitat creation and species protection, raising public awareness of the importance of wildlife-friendly gardens, parks and green infrastructure.

### **NatureScot**

As Scotland's nature agency, NatureScot funds and advises on major environmental programmes in the capital—including species recovery, rewilding, and landscape planning. It works in partnership with local authorities and NGOs to protect and enhance the city's natural assets for both people and wildlife.

### **FEDAGA (Federation of Edinburgh & District Allotments and Garden Associations)**

FEDAGA represents the city's allotment holders and gardening groups, advocating for access to growing spaces and helping organise local shows, seed swaps and skills-sharing events. It is a strong community voice in Edinburgh's gardening and food-growing scene.

### **And many others...**

Friends of Parks, community gardening groups, local naturalists and conservationists.

# LOOKING AHEAD

As Edinburgh continues to evolve, its commitment to environmental sustainability and community involvement continues.

## Plans for 2025-2030 include:

Expanding Edinburgh's Nature Network to incorporate more urban green corridors.

Increasing wildflower meadows and tree-planting projects, targeting an additional 50,000 trees planted by 2030.

Further development of green-blue infrastructure to enhance climate resilience.

Strengthening public engagement through educational campaigns and technology-driven conservation initiatives.

Development of the Thriving Green Spaces Strategy for Edinburgh 2050, ensuring long-term sustainability and enhancement of the city's greenspaces.

Implementation of a new Volunteer Strategy by the City Council to support and expand community involvement in conservation and horticulture.

RGBE biodomes project continues along with plant conservation initiatives in Scotland and further afield.

The Caley will further develop its educational role making use of the new glasshouse at Saughton park.



EDINBURGH THRIVING GREENSPACES IN 2050

This illustration was created by Sarah Hancock and was inspired by the public 'Postcards from the future' vision statements 'Postcards from 2050' - January 2023

EDINBURGH  
THE CITY OF AMBITION

## WHAT YOU WON'T SEE ON TOUR

A few of the many outdoor spaces in Edinburgh that time will not permit us to visit on a four hours judging tour



1. The Water of Leith Conservation Trust
2. Colinton Tunnel mural
3. Portobello community groups initiatives
4. Cramond Village and Foreshore Community Vision
5. Corstorphine Hill woodlands
6. Granton Gas Holder