



South West Locality Open Space Action Plan

March 2017

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Introduction

This is one of four Open Space Action Plans to support delivery of Open Space 2021, Edinburgh's Open Space Strategy.

Open Space is a key element of Edinburgh's physical, social and environmental fabric and Open Space 2021 sets guiding standards for existing and new open space provision as the city grows.

Through standards based on open space quality, size and distance from homes, the Strategy aims to increase the number of people that can benefit from greenspaces that are sustainably managed, biologically diverse and contribute to health and wellbeing.

The Open Space Profile shows how the Locality compares to the overall picture of open space across the city, highlighting changes to provision.

It is a working plan, to be reviewed periodically to capture collective efforts which lead to the improvement and extension of Edinburgh's green network. Actions, including estimated costs, may be subject to review, further feasibility studies and change.

The Action Plan sets out proposals to help reduce inequalities in access to good quality open space and play provision. In time, it will reflect local environment priorities emerging through co-production of Locality Improvement Plans by Community Planning partners.

The first version shows citywide priorities identified by Edinburgh's annual parks quality assessment and actions carried forward from the existing Play Area Action Plan (2011-16) and previous Open Space Strategy (2010).

The Action Plan will co-ordinate ongoing open space management actions with those relating to development, including changes arising from individual planning decisions and the delivery of new parks and play areas through the adopted Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP).

Further details may be included as related strategies, guidance and projects are progressed, in particular those relating to allotments and food growing, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, outdoor sports facilities, green networks and play.

Open Space Profile

Audit

The Open Space Audit (2016) recorded urban open spaces over 500 square metres within the Locality and categorised these by their main function or type.

Changes to greenspace provision since 2009/10 include:

- Creation of new greenspaces at: Dreghorn Polofields – including path link to Bonaly Country Park; Bellrock Park – the former Fairmilehead Water Treatment Works; and Fountainbridge Green - replacing the loss of open space through redevelopment at Gibson Terrace/Dundee Street;
- The quality of several large public parks has improved to meet quality standards, including: Colinton Mains Park, Kingsknowe (Dovecot Park), Paties Road Recreation Ground and Redhall Park. Saughton Park has improved to 'good' quality but remains short of 'good+' standard expected of a 'Premier Park';
- Junior Play Area at Dumbryden Gardens (no. 66) has been removed and new play facilities have been created at Bellrock Park and Ratho Moorings;
- Woodland management and new path connection provided at Redford Woods through development of a new care home on former Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes store;
- New Allotment provision has been created at Dumbryden;
- Loss of outdoor sports facilities includes the Caledonian Bowling Green and Longstone Bowling Green; and
- Lothianburn and Torphin Golf Courses are no longer in active use.

The following maps show a picture of where Edinburgh's greenspace standards from Open Space 2021 are being achieved and where there are deficiencies in access to greenspaces or play areas. To reduce inequalities in access to provision, quality data is mapped against the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD - 2016)

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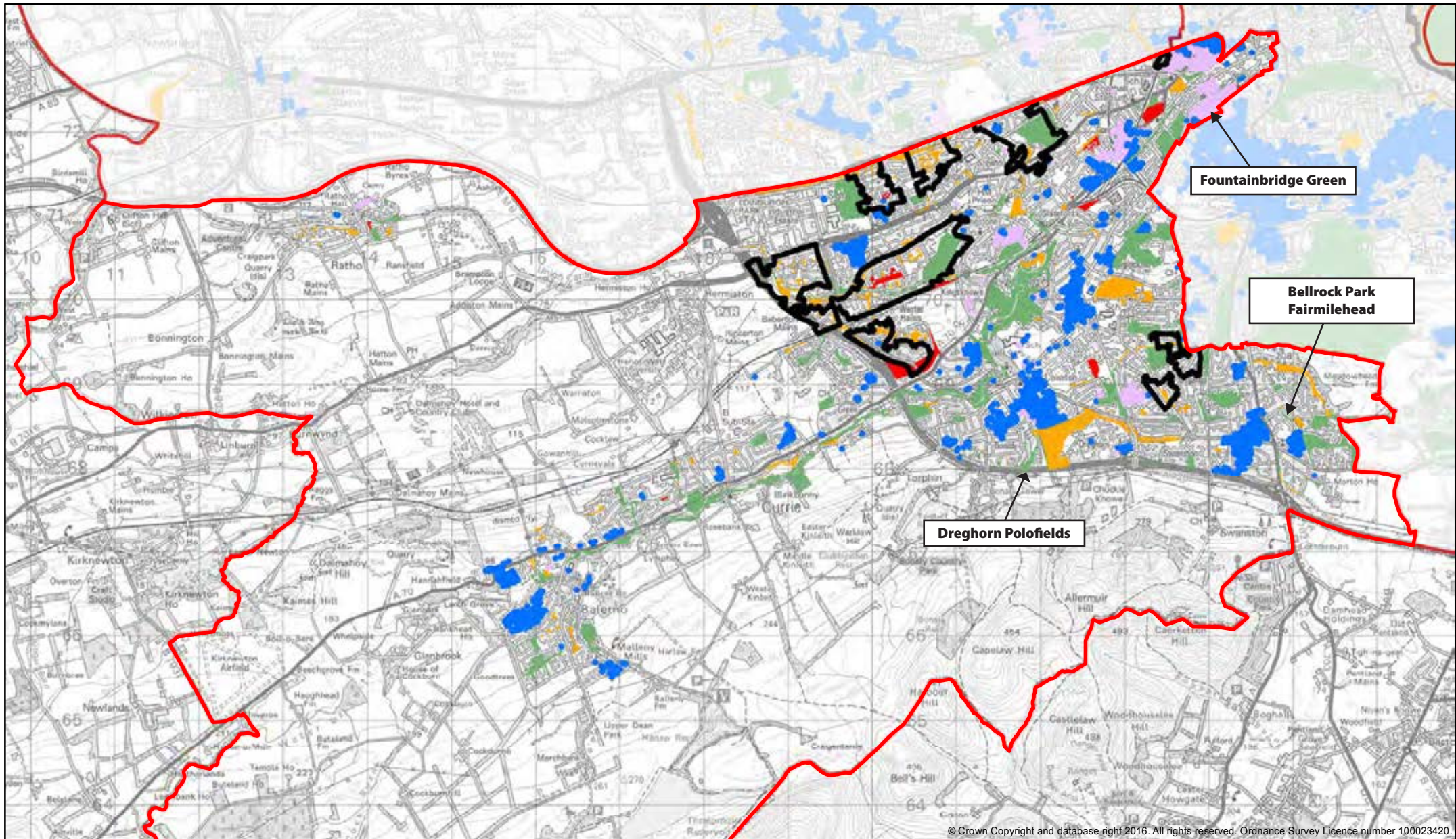
Local Greenspace Standard

Open Space 2021 requires all homes to be within 400 metres walking distance of a good' quality, accessible greenspace of at least 500 sq.m.







75.8% of homes in the South West Locality are served by the local greenspace standard by comparison with **87.7%** across the city. Some **24.2%** of homes are not served by the standard, represented by the areas shown in blue in the map overleaf. Residential areas which are served by the standard are indicated by the black and white base map only, whilst places highlighted in pink reflect improvements in access to greenspaces since 2010.

Areas not served by the standard include the southern edge of Ratho, northwest and southeast Balerno, parts of Currie along the A70 and Riccarton Mains Rd, Clovenstone/Harvester Way - Wester Hailes, northeast of the Calders, Sighthill, Broomhouse, Saughton and Stenhouse, Murrayburn and Dumbryden, Chesser, Hutchison Rd/Moat Drive, parts of Colinton, Shandon and areas of Swanston, Comiston, Frogston Terr/Ave.

The areas of the city underlined above have been identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation as within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland from SIMD 2016.



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Legend	Quality grade	 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (20% most deprived areas in Scotland)	 Homes now served by standard but not in 2010  Homes without access to a good quality local greenspace	<h2>South West Locality</h2> <h3>Access to Local Greenspace in 2016</h3>		
	 Good				 Fair	 Low

Large Greenspace Standard

Open Space 2021 requires all homes to be within 800m walking distance of an accessible large greenspace of at least 2 hectares.

- **All newly created large greenspaces should be of 'good' quality regardless of type**
- **Council managed large greenspaces should be of 'good' quality for City Parks, Community Parks and Recreation Grounds and 'good+' for Premier Parks and Natural Heritage Parks.**

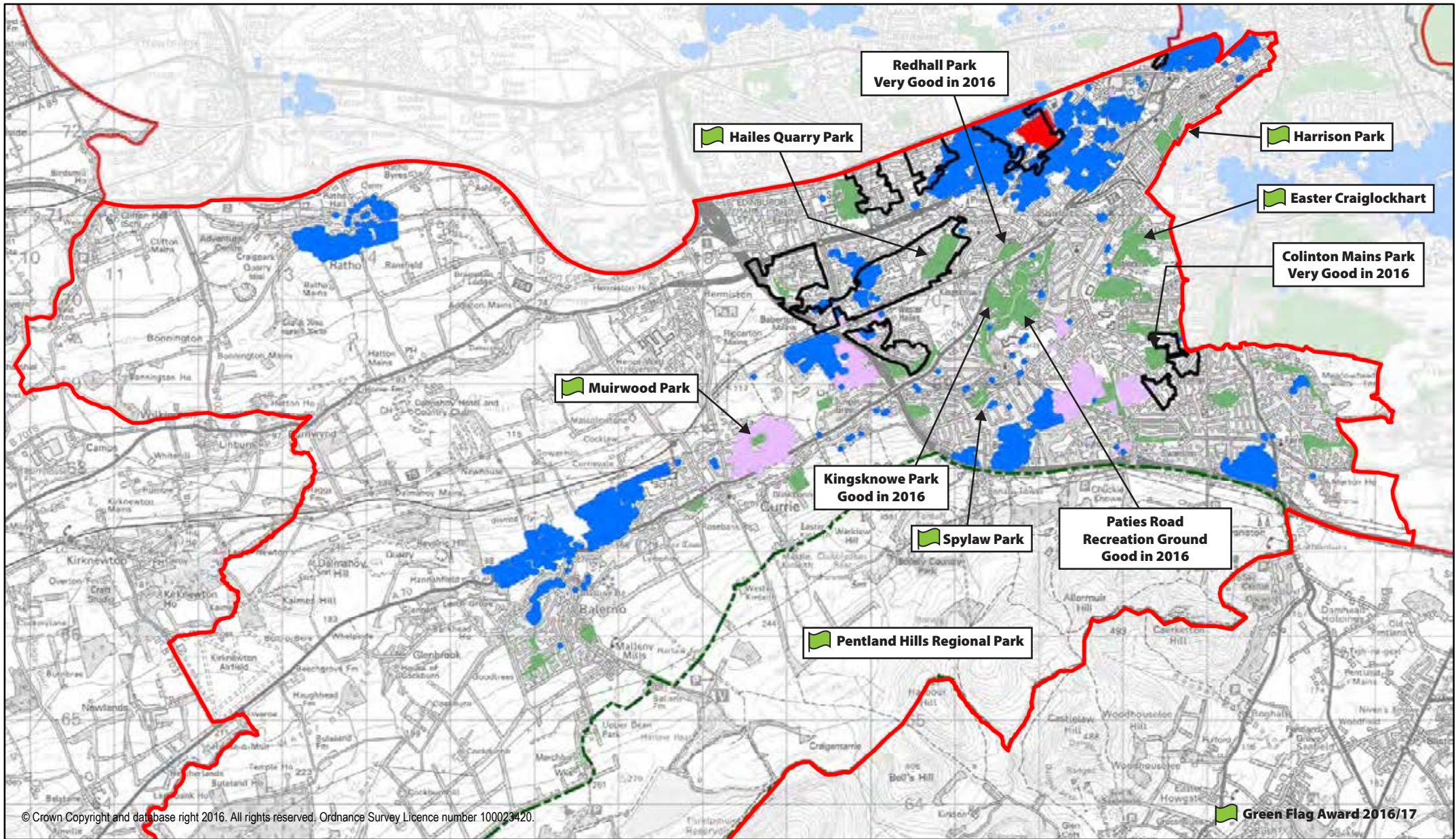
69% of homes are served by the large greenspace standard by comparison with **79%** across the city. Some **31%** of homes are not served by the standard, represented by the areas shown in blue in the map overleaf. Residential areas which are served by the standard are indicated by the black and white base map only, whilst places highlighted in pink reflect improvements in access to greenspaces since 2010.

Since 2010, the Parks Quality Score of the following parks has improved to meet the large greenspace standard: Colinton Mains Park, Kingsknowe (Dovecot Park), Paties Road Recreation Ground and Redhall Park.

Curriemuirend has been allocated for housing and allotments through the LDP and as a result, improvement to the existing greenspace at Clovenstone Drive is required.

Saughton Park remains below the Good+ standard, resulting in a large number of homes deficient in terms of access to a large greenspace, including parts of Whitson, Stenhouse and Saughton identified in the SIMD 2016 as within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. Lack of access to a large greenspace also exists to the northwest of Balerno and Currie.

Parks awarded a Green Flag in 2016 include: Easter Craiglockhart Hill LNR, Hailes Quarry Park, Harrison Park, Muirwood Park, Spylaw Park and outwith the urban area, The Pentland Hills Regional Park.



Legend	Large Open Space meeting standard	Homes now served by standard but not in 2010	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (20% most deprived areas in Scotland)	South West Locality Access to Large Greenspaces in 2016
	Large Open Space not meeting standard	Homes still not served by the standard in 2016		

Play Access Standard

Open Space 2021 requires all homes to have access to at least one of the following:

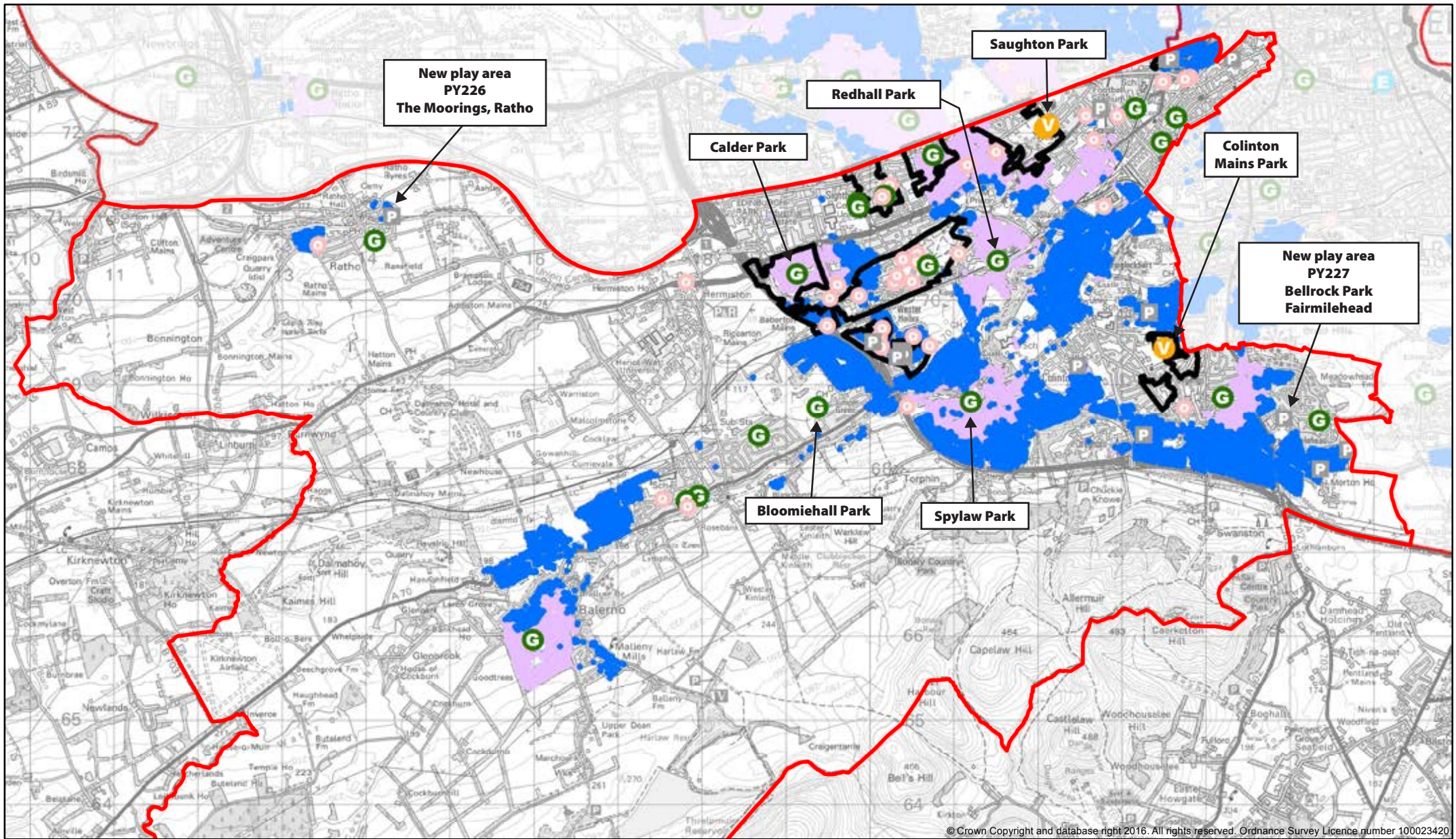
- A play space of good play value (51 – 70) within 800 metres walking distance
- A play space of very good play value (71 – 100) within 1200 metres walking distance
- A play space of excellent play value (101 +) within 2000 metres direct distance

68% of homes in SW Edinburgh are served by the Play Access Standard by comparison with 67% citywide. Some 32% of homes are not served by the standard, represented by the areas shown in blue in the map overleaf. Residential areas which are served by the standard are indicated by the black and white base map only, whilst places highlighted in pink reflect improvements in access to greenspaces since 2010.

The Play Areas at Calder Park, Redhall Public Park, Spylaw Park and Bloomiehall Park have improved from 'fair' to 'good', whilst at Saughton Park, the play and skate facilities have improved to 'very good' play value. Colinton Mains Park play area has improved from 'fair' to 'very good'.

Areas not served by the standard include the northwest and southeast of Balerno and western parts of Currie; Baberton, Westburn Avenue, Sighthill; Clovenstone/Harvester Way; Longstone Rd, Stenhouse Rd and Chesser; Craiglockhart and Meggetland; Greenbank; and to the north of the Bypass – parts of Colinton, Hunter's Tryst, Swanston, Fairmilehead.

The areas of the city underlined above have been identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation as within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD 2016).



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<p>Legend</p> <p>PY 123 New Play Spaces are shown with a PY site ref.</p> <p>○ Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 (20% most deprived areas in Scotland)</p>	<p>Play Spaces contributing to standard</p> <p>ⓔ Play space of 'Excellent' Play Value</p> <p>Ⓨ Play space of 'Very Good' Play Value</p> <p>ⓐ Play space of 'Good' Play Value</p>	<p>Access to Play Space from homes within urban area</p> <p>Ⓛ Homes now served by standard but not in 2010</p> <p>Ⓜ Homes still not served by the standard in 2016</p>	<p>Other Play Spaces not contributing to standard</p> <p>Ⓟ Stand alone Ball Court</p> <p>Ⓠ Other Council</p> <p>Ⓡ Other non-Council</p>	<h1>South West Locality</h1> <h2>Play Area Access in 2016</h2>
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Allotments and Community Growing

Existing allotments include: Saughton, Stenhouse, Chesser, Hutchison, Slateford Green, Wester Hailes and Redhall. New provision has been created at Dumbryden.

Through the Edinburgh Biodiversity Plan, Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries, Edible Edinburgh, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust and Edinburgh Living Landscape are working to increase create community gardens in areas of deprivation subject to funding. The Council's housing investment strategy is also investigating use of land to support tenants to grow fruit and vegetables.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

A new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy will be prepared to examine demand and capacity for outdoor sports facilities. The Open Space Strategy continues to support the long-term objective to direct investment to multi-pitch venues.

Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

Quality surveys will be carried out to identify those cemeteries and burial grounds which could be improved to benefit public access to greenspace. Friends of Groups will be supported to contribute towards the improvement of historic burial grounds, through volunteer activities and fund-raising, in recognition of their heritage and recreational value as local greenspaces.

The Green Network

The Water of Leith (Core Path 18) and Union Canal (Core Path 15/15W) provide key east-west connections through the Locality, connecting a number of greenspaces and providing onward links to the north of the city, city centre, Braid Hills and Pentland Hills, Bonaly and Hillend Country Parks to the south. In the north of the Locality, delivery of the tram has also provided new green links between Carrick Knowe and Edinburgh Park Station.

There are a number of Edinburgh Living Landscape (ELL) sites across the SW locality helping to improve biodiversity of the green network including: Marchbank Park, Currie High School, Baberton Mains Park, Hailes Quarry Park, Wester Hailes Education Centre, Whinhill Park, Paties Road, Cockmylane and the margins of Harrison Park East and Murieston Crescent.

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Across the city, The Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership are progressing work to identify, develop and support strategic green network and landscape scale partnership projects to restore, create or reconnect habitats. Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, City of Edinburgh Council Planning and Transport, Localities and Edinburgh Living Landscape are also carrying out ongoing cycle path management as funding opportunities arise.

Open Space Actions proposed in the South West Locality to meet the Strategy's standards are set out in the following table and map:

Map Ref	Action	Type	Description	Who's involved?	Estimated Cost	Funding	Timescale	Status
a)	Saughton Park	Large Greenspace	Restore the park to its former glory as a visitor destination which showcases horticultural excellence and offers exceptional recreational and visitor facilities, opportunities for learning and volunteering and engenders a sense of pride in the neighbouring communities	Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries, Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, Friends of Saughton Park	£5.2m	73% costs funded by Heritage Lottery Fund 'Parks for People'. Remainder of costs to be met by Council and other external funding	2016 - 2020. Due to re-open in August 2018, followed by ongoing events and activities programme	In progress. Construction phase to commence in early 2017
		Play Space	Potential to also improve play facilities to 'Excellent' play value					
b)	Spylaw Park	Play Space	Play Value raised from 'fair' to 'good'. Working with community to seek additional external funding to raise play value to 'very good'	Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries and local community	£30,000	No allocated budget	Outstanding target from 2011-16 Play Area Action Plan	Subject to progress of local fund raising

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c)	Newmills Park	Large Greenspace	<p>Provision of new 3 ha linear park to meet the Council's large greenspace standard</p> <p>Provision of publicly accessible play area to meet play access standard to 'very good' play value</p> <p>Deliver the first section of a green network link providing an off-road connection between the Water of Leith and Kirknewton</p> <p>Opportunity to provide allotments</p>	Developer	£320,000	Developer (HSG 22) LDP Greenspace Proposal GS11	With development	Planning application submitted 15/05100/FUL
d)	Longstone Southern Parkland	Large Greenspace	Creation of 2 hectare Southern Parkland, including path circuits, decking and boardwalk, footbridge, wetland with reed bed, meadow grass landforms and native species grassland	Developer	Not known	Developer	With development	Not started
e)	Clovenstone Drive	Large Greenspace	Enhance 4ha of existing greenspace at Clovenstone Drive as part of Curriemuirend HSG 31 development, including provision of play space and upgrade football pitch.	Developer/ Housing & Regeneration / Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries	£400,000	Developer (HSG 31) LDP Greenspace Proposal GS10	With development	Not started
		Play Space						
	Curriemuirend Park	Playing Fields						
		Allotments	LDP proposal to provide housing and allotments at Curriemuirend Park.		£100,000			

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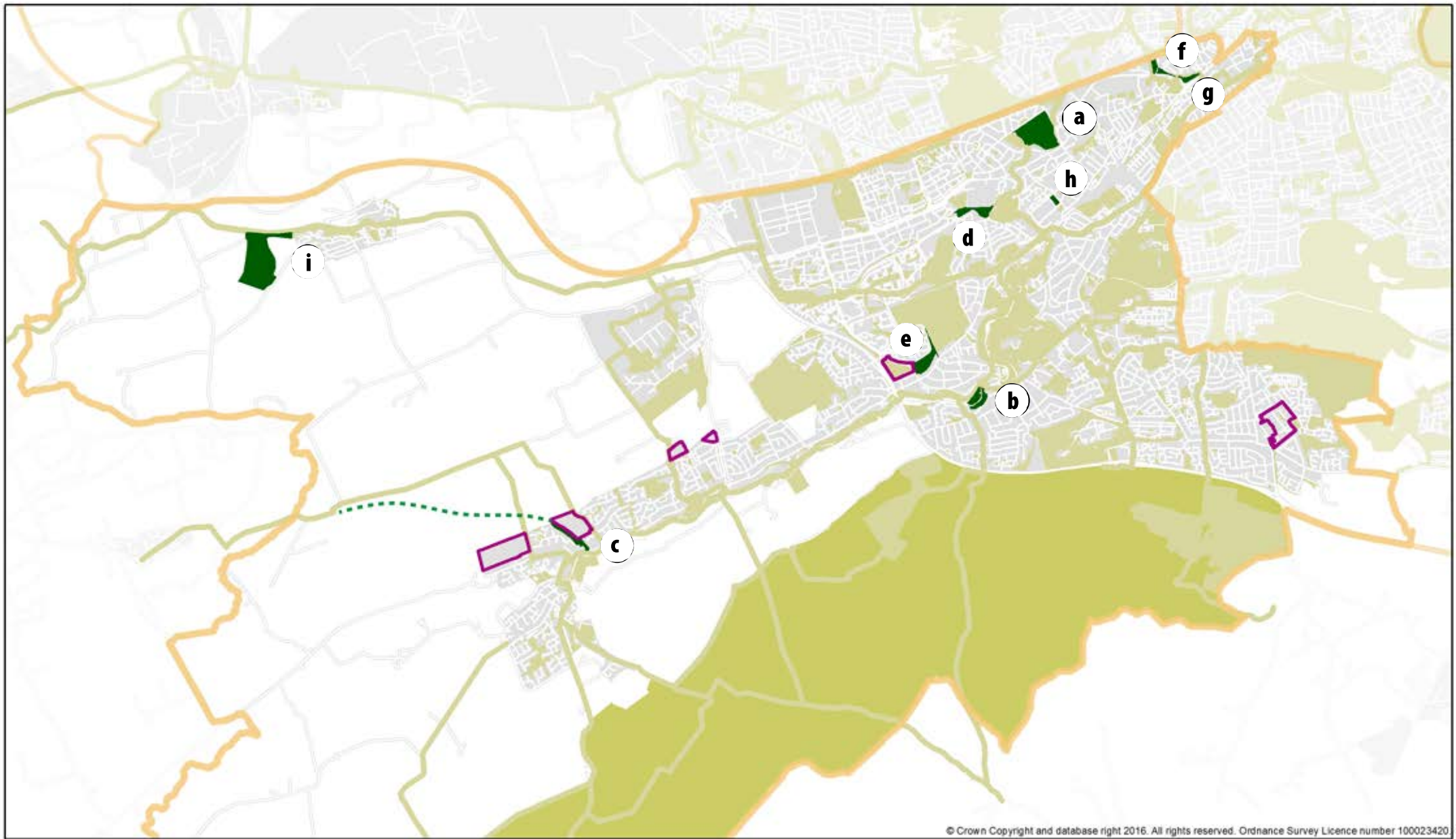
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f)	Roseburn to Dalry Community Park and Union Canal	Create new pedestrian/cycle link between Union Canal and North Edinburgh Paths at Roseburn via Dalry Community Park	i. Sauchiebank Ramp & surrounding greenspace, crossing of Mid-Calder rail link, elevated path between Mid Calder railway crossing to Dalry Road including greenspace proposals and improvements to Dalry Community Park. This is to include renewal of the play area and sports pitch, lighting, seating and wayfinding to celebrate the new link. Toucan crossing to West Approach Road and link to Union Canal via Gibson Terrace.	Planning and Transport, Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries, Developer	£5.9m	No allocated budget. External funding to be sought.	2017-20	Feasibility Study and link to Union Canal completed.
			ii. Potential future Edinburgh - Glasgow Railway line crossing proposals between the Roseburn Path and Sauchiebank		Not known		Not known	Initial feasibility study completed.
			iii. Potential future West Approach Road Bridge Crossing proposals connecting between the Dalry Community Park and Dundee Street		£1.4m	Not known		
			iv. Opportunity to extend Dalry Community Park as part of redevelopment of Fountainbridge as set out in LDP Greenspace Proposal GS1 / Fountainbridge Development Brief.		£100,000	Developer	With development	Not started

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g)	Yeaman Place to Union Canal	Green Network	Create new pedestrian/cycle access from Yeaman Place to Union Canal as part of potential future redevelopment of the site	Developer, Planning and Transport	Not known	Developer	Subject to redevelopment of land adjacent Union Canal	Not started
h)	Chesser Avenue	Civic Space	Opening up to public access of open space which forms setting of listed building at Chesser Avenue	Developer, Planning and Transport	Not known	Developer	With development	Not started. Planning application approved for a new events space/public square at Chesser Avenue, including parking.
i)	Craigpark Quarry	Large Greenspace	Restoration of the quarry to provide a new country park linked to the redevelopment of part of the quarry for residential use. Proposals include earthworks, native grassland, tree planting, formation of path networks, water body and drainage infrastructure.	Developer	Not known	Developer	With development	Infill of quarry, earthworks and seeding in progress



Legend

- Greenspace Action
- Open Space and Core Paths Network
- Other Potential Access
- LDP Housing Proposal

**South West Locality
Strategic Greenspace Actions**

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