



## Edinburgh Living Landscape

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a partnership project between the Scottish Wildlife Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Green Surge. It is made up of a range of projects that will create, restore and connect green areas of the city to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes that are enjoyed by residents and visitors. Landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change. Other organisations are also lending support to the initiative, including Edinburgh University, SEPA, the Cockburn Association, and the OPENspace Research Centre.

### Benefits of a Living Landscape

Allowing grassland habitats to develop in a more natural manner in urban settings by reducing grass cutting or sowing flowering plants offers these benefits:

- biodiversity will increase as birds, mammals and insects are attracted to more natural, wilder areas;
- costs of intensively maintained areas of grassland can be reduced;
- planting flowering species will add colour to the cityscape throughout the seasons; and
- less regular cutting slows rainwater run-off and helps lock-up carbon in soils, reducing CO2 release.

### What does a Living Landscape look like?

For parks and green spaces, the Edinburgh Living Landscape will mean changes to how some of our outdoor spaces will look. The project involves a range of measures, including -

- reducing how often some areas of grass are cut;
- leaving some areas to grow, allowing natural grassland to thrive;
- mowing walkways through these areas of meadow so they can still be explored and enjoyed;
- tree planting and creating woodlands; and
- increasing our use of herbaceous perennial planting.

You can see some examples on [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape)

## Which areas are being considered?

Areas where the grass is not used for any particular recreational purpose and are labour intensive to maintain. These will typically be steep banks, under groups of trees, small areas that are fenced off and difficult to operate machines in and large, seldom used areas (sometimes referred to as 'green deserts').

Each local grounds maintenance team has identified areas where grass-cutting can be reduced without impact on recreational use. Local people will also have the opportunity to comment on the suitability of certain sites and make additional suggestions via existing Neighbourhood Partnership meetings.

## Will reducing the number of grass cuts save money?

It may save money as less time is spent cutting grass. However, the time saved by reducing cuts will mean that grounds maintenance teams should have more scope to look after shrubs, flower beds and hedges, as well as better maintain those grassed areas that require more frequent cuts. We plan to invest in machinery and training to enable our staff to maintain attractive green spaces that are well cared for and good for wildlife.

## Are areas just being left?

No. Each site will still be monitored by local grounds maintenance teams. This will include a maintenance strip being cut as standard to ensure sites retain a managed appearance. Litter will be picked and weeds will be dealt with as normal. Some areas will continue to be cut more regularly than others to ensure the sites are visually attractive.

## Will people be able to walk in longer grass?

Yes, using local knowledge, pathways will be mown through areas of longer grass to ensure they remain accessible and can be explored and enjoyed.

## Will longer grass attract litter and hide dog fouling?

All sites should be maintained to current standards. Please keep reporting all litter or dog fouling complaints to your locality team to deal with as normal. Environmental wardens can issue fines to members of the public who drop litter, dump illegally and don't pick-up after their dogs.

## How can I find out more?

Details of the programme plan can be viewed at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape). For enquiries please contact:

Localities	Email	Phone
North East	<a href="mailto:northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk">northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>	0131 529 3111
North West	<a href="mailto:northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk">northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>	0131 529 5050
South East	<a href="mailto:southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk">southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>	0131 529 5151
South West	<a href="mailto:southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk">southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>	0131 527 3800
Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries	<a href="mailto:parks@edinburgh.gov.uk">parks@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>	0131 608 1100