

# The Edinburgh Nature Network

## Wellbeing and Access Opportunities



Cycle route along the Firth of Forth towards Portobello

There are 31 incredible opportunities to enhance the wellbeing of the local population by improving their access to nature that were identified through the ENN.

These opportunities include:

- Improving path or access points in greenspaces and along active travel routes
- Improve wildlife watching opportunities
- Connect travel routes to enhance access
- Provide ecosystem services through habitat addition

Using the location, action description, and species in the accompanying table, we hope you can find an opportunity that is right for the aims of your organisation.

## City Spotlight

Though there are plenty of areas in the city that require improvements, here is a few spotlight locations included in the list. Please check the accompanying table or the [ENN story map](#) to get more details on the actions connected to each place.



Water of Leith



BioQuarter



Leith Links



Pentlands



Granton Waterfront

**Edinburgh Nature Network** is a long-term strategic approach to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape of Edinburgh, highlighting opportunities to take action across the city.

## Get Involved

If your organisation has an ongoing or completed project relating to one of these actions, please log it in [our survey](#).

Get in touch with us at [thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk)



ENN Action Number	Area	Action	Category	Species
CR023	Burdiehouse	<p><b>Create habitat using nature-based solutions in existing housing estates and future residential developments surrounding Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park.</b> This will expand habitats and associated benefits from the park into the wider area. Greenspace within new residential developments should be an extension of the park and connected to other greenspaces. Sharing information on the benefits of nature-based solutions will improve support. Solutions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs and living walls providing air purification, temperature regulation and flood regulation.</li> <li>• Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding.</li> <li>• Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters providing stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.</li> </ul>	Create	<p>Birds</p> <p>Invertebrates</p> <p>Pollinators</p>
EN040	Burdiehouse	<p><b>Enhance accessibility to Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park.</b> It provides a range of ecosystem service benefits, but there are issues with accessibility, which limits the numbers of people who receive those benefits.</p>	Enhance	
EN038	Central	<p><b>Enhance Union Canal to create better habitat connectivity for pollinators and other wildlife.</b> Adding green walls and biomatrix rafts to create diverse floating ecosystems will provide more habitat and ecosystem services for people and wildlife.</p>	Enhance	Pollinators
EN049	Colinton, Wester Hailes and Bonaly	<p><b>Enhance Union Canal for pollinators.</b> There is high demand for insect pollination services along Union Canal corridor. As well as planting wildflower meadows alongside the canal, adding biomatrix rafts to provide diverse floating ecosystems with nectar-rich flowering plants will provide more habitat for pollinators and increase ecosystem service benefits for people.</p>	Enhance	Pollinators

CO020	Corstorphine	<b>Connect Corstorphine Hill and Ravelston Woods with stepping stone habitat.</b> Expanding the provision of native habitat through nearby school grounds, such as Mary Erskine School for Girls, would provide a corridor for wildlife and ecosystem services for people and wildlife.	Connect	
EN043	Corstorphine	<b>Enhance private gardens to support a range of wildlife.</b> Raising awareness of the detrimental impacts of urban creep and the many ways you can support wildlife in your garden will encourage people to support biodiversity. Encouraging a 'wild' garden, creating hedgehog highways by cutting holes in adjoining fences and creating wildflower meadows to provide a food resource for pollinators will all support wildlife.	Enhance	Pollinators Hedgehogs
PR041	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<b>Protect woodland within Astley Ainslie.</b> Many of the trees within Astley Ainsley Hospital grounds are veteran trees, some of which date back to the early 19th century. The woodland provides habitat for wildlife as well as ecosystem services such as flood regulation and air purification. The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) however the area is earmarked for development.	Protect	Native Tree Species
CR010	Cramond	<b>Create wildlife watching opportunities to better connect people with nature.</b> Creating an observatory or fixed-point binoculars with interpretive signage will help people view and understand wildlife. There are currently no observational points to allow marine mammal viewing or bird watching. This would help with connectivity between the two shores of the Firth of Forth by helping people understand that mobile species travel across the estuary.	Create	
CR011	Cramond	<b>Create woodland by planting native trees in Muirhouse.</b> There is demand for more ecosystem services in Muirhouse for noise regulation and health and wellbeing. Tree or hedge planting will diffuse noise. Planting fruit bearing species will provide food for people, birds and other wildlife, as well as better access to nature and the wellbeing benefits associated with this.	Create	Birds

EN012	Cramond	<b>Enhance access and connectivity along the coast.</b> A safe, green, walking and cycling route along the coast from Cramond through Granton to Leith would provide health and wellbeing benefits. This would also help ease the pinch point that occurs at Wardie Bay by spreading recreation along the coast.	Enhance	
EN014	Cramond	<b>Enhance Lauriston Farm.</b> Enhancements should include improving habitat connectivity from Lauriston Castle to the coast particularly for pollinators, creation of scrapes for additional wading bird habitat, food growing and flood regulation and health and wellbeing services.	Enhance	Pollinators Birds
EN059	Firth of Forth	<b>Enhance water quality within Firth of Forth.</b> Poor water quality is caused by marine pollution, including sewage, oil and fuel from boat traffic, plastics and discarded fishing equipment. Although widely used by people for recreation, many of the coastal waters along Edinburgh do not have bathing water status and it can be dangerous to human health (and wildlife) to go into the water at times. The entire coastline of Edinburgh should be safe for swimming.	Enhance	
CR012	Granton and Wardie	<b>Create wildlife watching opportunities to better connect people with nature.</b> Creating wildlife watching stations with fixed-point binoculars and/or more interpretive signage would help people view and understand the wildlife in this area. The new Granton Waterfront Regeneration development may have opportunities for ecological education such as a natural history museum about the local habitats and wildlife.	Create	
CR014	Granton and Wardie	<b>Create a new greenspace with access to nature to provide more health and wellbeing benefits to local people.</b>	Create	
CR028	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	<b>Create a new park to provide ecosystem services and access to nature for people living, working and commuting through the area.</b> There is high demand for ecosystem services and priority habitat. Addition of a new greenspace would provide services that are sorely lacking. Land being developed south of Edinburgh Park should incorporate a sizable area of greenspace into the design or an alternative piece of land identified of the same size.	Create	

CRO29	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	<p><b>Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet the demand for more ecosystem services such as air purification, flood regulation, noise regulation, temperature regulation and health and wellbeing.</b> There are large areas of artificial sealed surfaces around the Gyle Shopping Centre. Nature-based solutions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. Rain gardens can be implemented in car parks.</li> <li>• Native trees providing shade and ameliorate the heat island effect.</li> <li>• Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within the retail park to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.</li> </ul>	Create	
CRO30	Gyle, Hermiston and Sighthill	<p><b>Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet the demand for more ecosystem services such as air purification, flood regulation, noise regulation, temperature regulation and health and wellbeing.</b> There are currently large areas of artificial sealed surfaces around Hermiston Gait. Nature-based solutions should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding. Rain gardens are straightforward to implement in car parks.</li> <li>• Native trees providing shade and ameliorate the heat island effect.</li> <li>• Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within the retail park to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.</li> </ul>	Create	
ENO30	Inverleith and Stockbridge	<p><b>Enhance habitats along Water of Leith.</b> The river corridor is artificial with concreted banksides. Addition of native species planting through biomatrix rafts or equivalent will bring more benefits for wildlife and people.</p>	Enhance	

EN031	Inverleith and Stockbridge	<b>Enhance habitat within private parks and gardens.</b> Residents and landscape gardeners managing private parks and gardens can enhance them to provide benefits for people and wildlife.	Enhance	
EN035	Inverleith and Stockbridge	<b>Enhance Water of Leith Walkway and associated infrastructure to allow more people to access it.</b> There are path and bridge closures, failing walls and damage to the path, which makes access problematic.	Enhance	
CO005	Leith	<b>Connect Leith Links and Pilrig Park with green corridors.</b> This would connect two of the largest greenspaces in Leith, provide habitat for wildlife across the built-up areas in the city and better access to nature for those commuting through the city.	Connect	
CO007	Leith	<b>Connect Meadows Yard Local Nature Reserve to Leith Links.</b> Meadows Yard is home to a species-rich wildflower meadow that supports different species of butterflies and bumblebees, as well as a wetland that provides habitat for amphibians. Connecting pollinator habitat from Meadows Yard, through Craigentiny Golf Course, Seafield Cemetery and into Leith Links would improve pollination services, allowing bumblebees to move from Meadows Yard to other sites. This would provide habitat connectivity for pollinators and other wildlife, whilst also providing more benefits for people through access to nature.	Connect	Pollinators Amphibians
CR006	Leith	<b>Create access to the inaccessible area of beach near Seafield.</b> It is important for rare and migrant birds and is valued by the bird watching community. Better access to coastline would provide more health and wellbeing benefits for people, especially those living nearby.	Create	
EN006	Leith	<b>Enhance Leith Docks.</b> Leith is disconnected from the coast and the docks lack habitat for wildlife. Creating floating habitats/biomatrix rafts for nesting birds in Victoria Quay and improving access to the coast for people will be beneficial. There is a derelict site at Marine Esplanade that can be improved to provide connectivity to the coast.	Enhance	Birds

PR005	Leith	<p><b>Protect existing woodland and other habitats along the disused railway lines.</b> It provides valuable corridors for wildlife and access to nature for people whilst commuting.</p>	Protect	
CR034	Liberton, Inch and Little France	<p><b>Create habitat using nature-based solutions at BioQuarter and Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.</b> Large areas of sealed surfaces cause surface water flooding and a heat island effect. This site is earmarked for future development, which provides opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green roofs and living walls providing air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.</li> <li>• Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and provides a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding.</li> <li>• Native trees providing shade and ameliorate the heat island effect.</li> </ul>	Create	
CR027	Newcraighall	<p><b>Create habitat using nature-based solutions to meet demand for ecosystem services such as air purification, noise regulation, insect pollination and health and wellbeing.</b> There are large areas of artificial, sealed surfaces, including tarmac and plastic 'grass' in supermarket and retail car parks, including Fort Kinnaird. Nature-based solutions should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native trees providing shade and ameliorate the heat island effect.</li> <li>• Native hedging, including berry-producing species, buffering noise from city traffic and providing a food resource and shelter for people, birds and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Rain gardens, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and reedbed habitat filtering surface water runoff and mitigating flooding.</li> <li>• Green roofs and living walls can be retrofitted onto existing buildings within retail parks and supermarkets to provide air purification, temperature regulation and water purification.</li> <li>• Nectar-rich flowering planters providing stepping stone habitat for pollinators to move around the city.</li> </ul>	Create	<p>Pollinators</p> <p>Birds</p>

PR029	Newcraighall	<b>Protect native woodland at Hunter’s Hall Public Park</b> , which provides habitat and ecosystem services for people and wildlife.	Protect	
CO003	Pentlands	<b>Connect the Pentland Hills with other areas of the city through off-road walking and cycling routes lined with natural habitats.</b> This will provide more sustainable access to the area, improve mental and physical wellbeing of those who visit and improve air quality by reducing the need for vehicles.	Connect	
EN021	South Queensferry and Dalmeny	<b>Enhance the John Muir Way for wildlife.</b> Section 7 of the John Muir Way is a walking and cycling route connecting South Queensferry to central Edinburgh. Although some of the route provides a green corridor for wildlife, it should be enhanced to provide better habitat connectivity and enhance native biodiversity.	Enhance	
EN052	Stenhouse and Saughton	<b>Enhance accessibility of Water of Leith.</b> This corridor provides access to nature and a range of ecosystem services, but accessibility from Stenhouse is difficult preventing people from obtaining those benefits.	Enhance	