

The Edinburgh Nature Network

Street Greening Opportunities



Street planters in Leith

There are 12 great opportunities to improve the potential of Edinburgh's streets in nature restoration actions that were identified through the ENN.

These opportunities include:

- Planting trees along roads and tram network.
- Creating corridors of greenery (hedges, trees etc.) to allow the safe passage of key species.
- Encourage the creation of windowsill boxes and balcony planters for pollinators in private homes and businesses.

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.

Spotlight

These are just some of the incredible habitats and species covered in the opportunities in this area. Please check the accompanying table or the [ENN story map](#) to get more details on the actions connected to each species.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee



Speckled-Wood Butterfly



Windowsill planters



Wildflower meadows



Trees lining the street in Balerno

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

ENN Action Number	Area	Action	Category	Species
CRO20	Central	<p>Create habitat using nature-based solutions to traffic pollution; both emissions and noise. Planting of trees, hedgerows and meadows along main roads in the city centre (e.g. Lothian Road, Newington Road, South Bridge, George Street etc.) will mitigate noise and air pollution, and the heat island effect. The pavements in some of these areas are narrow so vertical planting will create connectivity where tree planting isn't possible.</p>	Create	
CRO21	Central	<p>Create vertical gardens with shade tolerant species in Cowgate and around bridges in Old Town. This will mitigate the canyon effect, where tall buildings flank both sides of city streets creating an artificial canyon-like effect. It is associated with negative consequences including increased urban heat island effect, low light levels and reduced air quality. The North Bridge and other bridges in the area should become hanging garden bridges with plants and climbers on the side to trap particulates.</p>	Create	
EN036	Central	<p>Enhance open areas used for hospitality (e.g. cafés, pubs, restaurants etc.) for wildlife. Many spaces use plastic plants and flowers to create the appearance of green, living walls and floral planters. Business owners can demonstrate the benefits that can be achieved through natural planting and enhancements.</p>	Enhance	
CO026	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<p>Connect Easter Craiglockhart Hill to Wester Craiglockhart Hill. Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Course sits between these two sites. Planting native trees and hedges will provide woodland connectivity between Easter Craiglockhart Hill and Wester Craiglockhart Hill through the golf course.</p>	Connect	

CO027	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<p>Connect habitat in Craiglockhart Hills and Braid Hills. Both hills are home to a range of priority habitats and species. Creating a corridor will allow wildlife to move between the Local Nature Reserves. Street tree, hedge and meadow flower planting will be required to provide connectivity through residential streets and gardens.</p>	Connect	
CO028	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<p>Connect Astley Ainslie with Braid Hills, Bruntsfield Links and The Meadows. Street tree, hedge and meadow flower planting will be required to provide connectivity through residential streets and gardens, Grange Cemetery and James Gillespie's Primary and High Schools. Using stepping stone habitat to connect the larger greenspaces, it should include nectar-rich flowering meadows, windowsill boxes and balcony planters to support Buglife's B-line insect pollinator pathway.</p>	Connect	
CR036	Craiglockhart and Morningside	<p>Create nature-based solutions to provide more ecosystem services to tackle the pollution from traffic along the road network, both in terms of emissions and noise. Planting of trees, hedgerows and meadows along main roads (e.g. Morningside Road) would help mitigate noise and air pollution.</p>	Create	
CO005	Leith	<p>Connect Leith Links and Pilrig Park with green corridors. This would connect two of the largest greenspaces in Leith, providing habitat for wildlife across the built-up areas in the city and better access to nature for those commuting through the city.</p>	Connect	

CO006	Leith	<p>Connect Leith Links and Lochend Park with green corridors. Connections should be made through street greening and enhanced through other outdoor spaces between the parks such as Eastern Cemetery, Leith Academy playing fields and Hermitage Park primary school.</p>	Connect	
EN004	Leith	<p>Enhance Leith Walk to provide more habitats and ecosystem services, due to high demand. Street trees were removed during tramline works. There are opportunities for street greening and habitat creation.</p>	Enhance	
CR033	Liberton, Inch and Little France	<p>Create habitat along the road network. Plant trees, hedgerows and meadows along main roads (Dalkeith Road, Lady Road, A7) and at Cameron Toll roundabout to reduce noise and air pollution from vehicles.</p>	Create	
CO029	Stenhouse and Saughton	<p>Connect larger parks and greenspaces with green corridors from Saughton Park through Balgreen Community Garden to Roseburn Park. These areas should be connected through schools, private gardens and the disused bowling club. Native trees, shrubs and hedges, as well as wildflowers will form a green corridor. Inclusion of wetland habitat and rain gardens will help with flood regulation along Water of Leith.</p>	Connect	