



West Lothian **OPEN SPACE PLAN**



Tippetknowe Play Area, Winchburgh

2020 – 2024

Executive Summary

Introduction

The West Lothian Open Space Plan 2020 to 2024 (Open Space Plan) provides an overview of open space in West Lothian. The Open Space Plan seeks to ensure open space within the council boundary and ownership is managed to deliver meaningful benefits to local communities.

In summary, the Open Space Plan will:

- Create and maintain an inventory of open space
- set general standards and objectives for open space
- ensure these standards and objectives reflect current legislation, national guidance, and council corporate objectives
- monitor performance on these standards and objectives
- identify priorities for capital investment based on these standards and objectives
- outline the council's operations and investment related to open space.

The Open Space Plan will also help inform and support important parallel policy initiatives, including the Local Development Plan (LDP), assessment of individual planning applications, and the various individual open space related strategies/plans employed by individual council service areas. The Open Space Plan will also distil legislation, national guidance, and council priorities into simple objectives and standards that can be used to guide other groups and organisations' operations and investment related to open space.

There are multiple council service areas operating within the sphere of open space and wider greenspace related activities. A summary of the operational activity of each is provided in the main document. Where appropriate, some service areas will also provide a comprehensive service plan to compliment and augment the Open Space Plan.

Active Open Space

The council has adopted the government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 (2008) definition of open space. At present, when applying the council open space standards and assessing performance against those standards, the council considers only certain categories of open space that are defined as 'active open space'. These spaces predominately owned by the council, are mostly available for unrestricted outdoor public recreation, and they have established regular maintenance schedules. When the council look to improve formal parks and play areas, through internal investment and grants or through advising developers or others, they are looking to improve or create 'active open space'.

Benefits of Open Space

Well planned and managed open space provides a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to communities. These include:

- Mental and physical health benefits associated with outdoor recreation and exposure to nature
- a sense of local character
- opportunities for sustainable and active travel
- food growing to reduce indirect carbon emissions, food costs, and contribute to healthier diets
- carbon and pollution capture
- flood mitigation
- improving the quality of surface water runoff
- protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- providing links to other open spaces through green and blue networks
- economic benefits including attracting new residents and businesses to surrounding areas, hosting businesses, tourism, and income from harvest resources including timber, energy, and various agricultural products
- outdoor educational resource
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by providing free recreation opportunities
- social inclusion and fostering community spirit.

Open Space Plan Standards

In order to measure the value of open space and ensure that it is protected, enhanced, and expanded, where appropriate, it is important to set clear standards. PAN 65 suggests that standards should contain three elements: quantity, quality, and accessibility. West Lothian Council has adopted this approach.

Total open space provision (quantity) can provide a useful guideline on provision within individual settlement areas and provide a broad basis for comparative assessments when identifying priorities.

Open spaces need to be at least maintained in a 'fit for purpose' condition (quality). They should serve local communities by providing a level of service and functionality that meets as wide a range of benefits as practical, while being safe.

Open spaces need to be accessible to as wide a range of users as practical (accessibility). Their location should be widely known and access should be safe and easy; be it walking, cycling, horse riding, driving, or using public transport.

Open Space Plan Objectives

The following Open Space Plan objectives will be monitored through suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and reported via committee and through the West Lothian Asset Management (WLAM) review panel:

- all active open spaces (surveyed sites) will be fit for purpose before 2028/29 (maintained annually thereafter)
- the average score for all quality subcategories across formal parks (and other scored open spaces) will be maintained
- the council will aspire to meet the quantity standard for all settlements
- the council will aspire to have all residents have access to the hierarchy of active open spaces
- all planning applications for development (10 or more dwellings) will be reviewed by council Open Space Officers and others as appropriate
- all 'land safeguarded for open space' (in LDP) will be identified and surveyed by 2025, thereafter considered active open space

Open Space Investment

Various service areas have a revenue budget that contributes to day-to-day maintenance of open spaces and wider green spaces, including allowing the council to meet its legal obligations to ensure council assets are safe. However, addressing poor open space standards, improving the general quality of open spaces and wider greenspaces, and replacing assets that naturally or unnaturally reach the end of their life across West Lothian, requires more significant investment. The life expectancy of an open space asset can be determined by various factors including quality of construction materials, level of footfall, local ground condition, and anti-social behaviour and accidental damage etc. These larger scale investments are 'capital works'. In general, each service area decides upon a list of priority capital projects annually and may develop longer term management projects, based on ensuring public safety, or maintaining and improving service delivery. These are reported to the Council Executive when considering the capital programme.

In relation to urban parks, council Open Space Officers initially identify parks that are considered 'unfit' i.e. scoring less than 40 on the quality standard, or parks that may soon fall into an unfit condition due to high footfall or other factors that are acceleration deterioration. They then consider the quality, accessibility, and quantity standards of the surrounding area prior to determining the list of priorities for capital investment.

Financial Resources Overview

The council has a number of funding streams that are utilised for the maintenance and development of Open Space assets across West Lothian. There are 2 Primary sources of funding as follows:

Revenue Budget – The revenue budgets across Nets, Land and Countryside services are used to maintain all of the service assets, a proportion of the service budget is used to maintain the authorities Parks and Open Spaces.

Revenue funding is set annually, and for the financial year 2020/21 circa £4.1m of the service budget impacts directly or indirectly to parks and open spaces.

Capital Budget – The council is currently in the early years of an agreed 10 year Capital Programme, which commenced in the financial year 2018/19 and is scheduled to run until the financial year 2027/28. The Capital programme is based on an in depth, and projected, funding requirement identified at the outset of the programme, which is augmented as new projects are approved. The programme is based on the funding required to maintain open space assets (parks, cemeteries, play areas and sports facilities) in a “fit for purpose” condition. The financial commitment to maintenance of Open Space Assets is in the region of £17.1m for the remaining years of the Capital Plan from 2020/21 to 2027/28.

This funding is apportioned annually in order to improve assets, or complete projects, deemed as priorities based on the criteria within the attached Open Space Plan. The table below lists the annual allocations for the duration of the Open Space plan until 2024:

Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Funding	£2.891m	£3.4m	£1.850m	£1.745m

In addition to the Revenue and Capital Budgets other sources of funding are allocated on a more specific or ad hoc basis to improve or provide open space assets for communities, these include:

Developer Contributions – These are collected from developers as part of the planning process around new development. The funds can be allocated to a specific development in order to provide or improve open space assets impacted by or required by the development.

Other funding – Funding on a more ad hoc basis can also be utilised to improve and maintain open space assets. In normal circumstances additional one off funding is normally allocated to particular projects and may be provided in the form of match funding to increase the levels of improvement that can be made to an asset from the council capital resources. Examples of ad hoc funding include:

HRA contributions

Town Centre Improvement Funds

Village Improvement Funds

Match funding from external funding providers and partner organisations

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1	Background	7
1.2	Changes in Plan Format for 2020 to 2024	8
1.3	Definition of Open Space	9
1.4	Active Open Space	8
1.5	Local Decision Making	12
1.6	Multiple Benefits of Open Space	12
2.0	THE OPEN SPACE PLAN PROCESS	14
2.1	Open Space Inventory	14
2.2	Baseline Quality Standard Survey	14
2.3	Settlement Review	15
2.4	Consultation	15
2.5	Objectives and Standards	16
2.6	Priority Projects	16
3.0	WORKING WITH OTHERS	18
3.1	External Organisations	18
3.2	Community Involvement	18
4.0	POLICY CONTEXT	20
4.1	National	20
4.2	Regional and Local	21
5.0	THE OPEN SPACE PLAN OBJECTIVES	23
6.0	OPEN SPACE STANDARDS	24
6.1	Quantity	24
6.2	Quality	25
6.3	Accessibility	27
7.0	OPEN SPACE PROVISION IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS	29
8.0	COUNCIL SERVICE AREAS	32
8.1	Urban Parks	34
8.2	Grounds Maintenance	36
8.3	Local Biodiversity and Local Geodiversity Sites	38
8.4	Green and Blue Networks	41
8.5	Play Areas	43
8.6	Food Growing Areas	45
8.7	Cemeteries	47
8.8	Countryside, Country Parks & Semi-Natural Sites	49
8.9	Trees and Woodlands	53
8.10	Core Path Plan, Rights of Way, and Other Public Access Routes	57
8.11	Sports Facilities	60
8.12	Public Arts	62

TABLES

Table 1	PAN65 Open Space Category Description	10
Table 2	Park Hierarchy, Accessible Woodland, and Play Area Hierarchy and Typical Features	26
Table 3	Park Hierarchy Minimum Size and Accessibility Standards	28
Table 4	Annex Publication Timeline	32

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Settlement Reviews

Appendix 2 Quality Standard Survey Methodology

ANNEXES

Annex	Service Area	Publication
A	Food Growing	Jan 2021
B	Cemeteries	May 2021
C	Play Areas	Nov 2021
D	Countryside, Country Parks, and Semi-Natural Sites	2022
E	Trees and Woodlands	2022
F	Core Path Plan, Rights of Way, and Other Public Access Routes	2022
G	Local Biodiversity and Local Geodiversity Sites	June 2021
H	Green and Blue Networks	June 2021
I	Sports Facilities	TBC
J	Public Art	TBC

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Almondvale Park, Livingston

1.1 Background

West Lothian Council is committed to ensuring the authority area is well served with a wide range of public parks, play areas, sports pitches and other open spaces. The West Lothian Open Space Plan 2020 to 2024 (Open Space Plan) provides an overview of open space in West Lothian, a plan for future investment in open spaces, and a summary of ongoing maintenance.

The Open Space Plan seeks to ensure open space within the council boundary and ownership is managed to deliver meaningful benefits to local communities, and that these benefits are aligned with open space legislative requirements, national guidance, and other council priorities. The Open Space Plan will summarise this legislation, national guidance, and council priorities in order to provide an understanding of open space issues and assist services and other external parties investing in West Lothian's open space to get the most out of this investment. The Open Space Plan further aims to distil the legislation, national guidance, and council priorities into simple objectives and standards that can be used to guide the council and other groups operations and investment.

The initial West Lothian Open Space Strategy adopted in 2005 gave an undertaking to review the Open Space Plan every 5 years. The document was reviewed in 2010 and again in 2015. This document presents the review and refresh for the period 2020 to 2024.

The Open Space Plan establishes a clear inventory of important open spaces in West Lothian and will therefore help inform and support important parallel policy initiatives, including the Local Development Plan (LDP) adopted in 2018 and its forthcoming update, LDP2, assessment of

individual planning applications, and the various individual open space related strategies/plans employed by individual council service areas with a role in open space and wider green space.

In summary, for West Lothian, the Open Space Plan will:

- create and maintain an inventory of open space
- set general standards and objectives for open space
- ensure these standards and objectives reflect current legislation, national guidance, and council corporate objectives
- monitor performance on these standards and objectives
- identify priorities for capital investment based on these standards and objectives
- outline the council's operations and investment related to open space.

The Open Space Plan is comprised of a number of sections, which are mostly included in this document. The exceptions are:

- GIS file (map and data table)
- Excel database summarising open space data.

These are held by NETs, Land and Countryside Service and used for operational purposes.

1.2 Changes in Plan Format for 2020 to 2024

The Open Space Plan format has changed since the review in 2015. Changes are intended to improve readers understanding of the council's approach to open space while also supporting the delivery of a wider range of open space benefits by the multiple service areas operating in open space.

Summary of changes:

- updated open space quality standard process to reflect a wider range of benefits e.g. ecosystem services and economic benefit
- clarification of how open space standards relate directly to capital spend in urban parks
- removed demographics and West Lothian context from main document i.e. those elements that will fall out of date
- removed the action plan, replaced with objectives related to standards
- addition of summary information on all council service areas operating in open spaces and wider green spaces
- additional reference to local and national legislation and guidance on open space
- additional guidance for planners and developers on open space standards
- settlements' summaries on open space are more frequently updated.



Almondvale Park, Livingston

1.3 Definition of Open Space

The council has adopted the government’s Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 (2008) definition of open space. PAN 65 provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces. PAN 65 defines open space as:

“Any vegetated land or structure, water, path or geological feature within and on the edge of settlements, and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function. Some spaces may combine green and civic elements.”

Table 1 below describes the various broad categories of open space from the PAN 65 methodology. These categories are at the top of a hierarchy of open spaces that includes subcategories representing spaces of regional, settlement, neighbourhood, and local importance. For example the public parks and gardens category includes sub-categories; Country Parks (regional importance), District Parks (settlement importance), Neighbourhood Parks (neighbourhood importance), and Local Parks (local importance). This allows assessment of the various types of open space against their standard level of provision (see **Table 3**).

It is important to note that the PAN 65 descriptions of different types of open space are not intended to be prescriptive, but are merely a guide to what might generally be expected to be seen in each of the categories of open space across West Lothian. Where there are specific local (West Lothian) standards for types of open space, these are defined in **section 6.2**.

It should also be noted that the council has a responsibility for all land within its ownership. This includes considerable land outwith settlements. The current Open Space Plan is concerned primarily with open space in and around urban settlements and in the related green/blue networks and access

routes that connect these settlements. However the council intends to move towards a more comprehensive plan that collectively addresses all 'green space' within its portfolio. This is reflected in the Annexes that will support and augment the Open Space Plan. Wider green space the council has a responsibility for includes agricultural land holdings, former bings, woodland areas, and other semi-natural spaces. The Open Space Plan includes multiple references to these areas. As information related to these spaces improves and the council begin to objectively quantify their value, it is the intention to work toward a Green Space Plan in future years that will allow application of standards and investment prioritisation across a wider range of council assets.

Table 1 – PAN65 Open Space Category Description

Category	Description
Public parks and gardens	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These may also be owned or managed by community groups.
Private gardens or grounds	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use.
Amenity greenspace	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.
Playspace for children and teenagers	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually linked to housing areas.
Sports areas	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable.
Green corridors	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.
Natural/semi-natural greenspaces	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.
Allotments and community growing spaces	Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.
Civic space	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people and for wildlife.
Burial grounds	Includes churchyards and cemeteries.
Other functional greenspace	May be one or more types as required by local circumstances or priorities.

1.4 Active Open Space

Open space in residential areas comprises three elements:

1. gardens and private open space
2. active open space (including informal play/recreational space, equipped play areas and sports pitches)
3. passive open space (including amenity greenspace/landscaped areas providing visual or separating different buildings or land uses, green corridors and areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats).

At present, when applying the council open space standards and assessing performance against those standards, the council considers only certain sub-categories of open space within certain categories. This allows the council and developers to focus on improving and increasing those spaces that can be objectively defined as valuable to the public and their quality can be quantified i.e. we have sufficient information on their features and dimensions etc. to make objective decisions.

The following sub-categories are considered 'active open space':

- Allotments
- District Parks
- Local Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Playspaces
- Soft Play Area Swing Parks
- Sports Basketball Courts
- Sports Bowling Greens
- Sports Centre and Playing Fields
- Sports Football Pitches
- Sports Kick Pitches
- Sports Playing Fields
- Sports Tennis Courts
- War Memorials.

These spaces predominately owned by the council, are mostly available for unrestricted outdoor public recreation, and they have established regular maintenance schedules. When the council look to improve formal parks and play areas, through internal investment and grants or through advising developers or others, they are looking to improve or create 'active open space'. At present the scale and complexity of more semi-natural open spaces and rural green spaces make it more difficult to define 'value' in these other spaces. As such investment and advice related to these areas is considered on a case by case basis, considering public use (often measured with people counters), formal designation status (e.g. SSSIs and Local Biodiversity Sites), and on existing condition.

If an area of active open space should change to a different kind of active open space, e.g. creation of an allotment site within a park, the area will still be safeguarded as open space. If the new use should decline, then the nature of the space will revert back to what it was before.

It is intended that prior to the 2024 refresh of this plan, further categories of open space may be added to the definition of active open space as and when baseline inventories and survey methodology are created for these types e.g. natural/semi-natural greenspaces (including woodlands) and green corridors.

1.5 Local Decision Making

The West Lothian Local Development Plan adopted in 2018 (LDP) is the main planning policy document that sets out a vision of how West Lothian should develop in a sustainable way. It is used by the council for making decisions on development proposals and planning applications. Conserving and improving open spaces is one of the core strategies in the LDP. Scottish Planning Policy (2014) requirements in relation to open space are fulfilled through integrating the Open Space Plan with the LDP and through consultation on individual planning applications.

The LDP protects those individual open spaces identified as being of most value; these are referred to as 'Land Safeguarded for Open Space'. It also outlines those exceptions whereby development on existing space may be permissible. These are outlined in LDP Planning Policies **ENV21 and ENV22**.

The Open Space Plan is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and has provided important information that has influenced the outcome of strategic land use decisions. The Open Space Plan has enabled council Open Space Officers to review individual planning applications and make recommendations to Planning Services based on the open space standards. Developers are obliged to make adequate provision of open space and associated access as required by the Supplementary Guidance laid out in the council's **Residential Development Guide 2018**, which reflects the Open Space Strategy 2015. Developers are obliged to make sure any new open space is properly designed, managed, and maintained in order to ensure no negative impact on open space standards occurs from their development.

1.6 Multiple Benefits of Open Space

Well planned and managed open space provides a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to communities. These include:

- Mental and physical health benefits associated with outdoor recreation and exposure to nature
- a sense of local character
- opportunities for sustainable and active travel
- food growing to reduce indirect carbon emissions, food costs, and contribute to healthier diets

- carbon and pollution capture
- flood mitigation
- improving the quality of surface water runoff
- protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- providing links to other open spaces through green and blue networks
- economic benefits including attracting new residents and businesses to surrounding areas, hosting businesses, tourism, and income from harvest resources including timber, energy, and various agricultural products
- outdoor educational resource
- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by providing free recreation opportunities
- social inclusion and fostering community spirit.

These benefits are reflected across the 15 measures described in the quality standard, **Appendix 2**. The ideal in creating and improving open space is to realise a wide variety of benefits.

2.0 THE OPEN SPACE PLAN PROCESS



Eliburn Park Play Area, Livingston

The preparation of the original 2005 Open Space Plan involved a number of broadly sequential stages. These stages are summarised below. Further information on a number of these stages is provided later in the Open Space Plan.

2.1 Open Space Inventory

The original 2005 Open Space Plan created an inventory of urban open space sites including at a minimum their name, location, type, and dimensions. There were in excess of 1,800 sites mapped and input into the original database (2004) i.e. all sites in West Lothian that were classified as urban open space under PAN 65 typology and greater than 0.2 Ha in size. Site boundaries were identified from Ordnance Survey maps and confirmed by various council officers and consultants on site. Many boundaries were updated in 2017/2018 to reflect changes since 2005 e.g. sites lost to development, new sites constructed, and changes to boundaries for a variety of reasons.

2.2 Baseline Quality Standard Survey

In 2004, council officers prioritised all sites in terms of importance i.e. category 1 = most important, 2 = important, 3 = less important. In general all active open space was classified as category 1 i.e. the most important. The Open Space Audit 2004 was a baseline quality survey limited to just category 1 sites. The survey was designed to add some descriptive data for the site and to score the site's quality on a simple numeric scale. 750 sites were surveyed and the survey attributed a total score between 0 and 75. The survey was designed to capture quality related to a wider range of benefits than could be captured by a Land Audit Management System (LAMS) survey or the council's internal CONFIRM reporting system. Additional details captured for the sites surveyed included site description, opportunities for improvement, problems, and ownership details.

While historically only those sites subject to capital investment were resurveyed to quantify improvement, in preparing this new Open Space Plan it was decided to survey all urban parks in 2017/18 and then resurvey them at least every 5 years. This was used to estimate a general deterioration rate as well as quantifying improvement as and when investment is complete. In addition, the survey methodology was changed to reflect a wider range of benefits associated with open space.

The original inventory plus the additional detail captured in 2017/18 became the Open Space Database. This database is a GIS file (map and related data table). This database provides a descriptive, quantitative, qualitative and spatial record for all urban parks within West Lothian, and more limited records for all other open spaces within settlement boundaries. At present the database does not include all those valuable urban semi-natural spaces and any of the valuable rural green spaces the council own and manage for public/environmental benefit.

In the future it will be important to capture all the green space owned by the council on the database in order to ensure that at least the basic requirements are being met by the council as a responsible landowner i.e. ensuring that its legal duties are met and for the prudent and sustainable, long-term management of all the council land assets. This will include Country Parks, semi-natural spaces, tree/woodland areas, core paths, rights of way, and other public access routes.

It is understood that review of the council's land assets has been undertaken from time to time by Property Services and Planning Services with a view to disposal of those areas which had been identified as surplus to operational requirements and hence identified for potential development and a subsequent capital receipt. It will be important that any future surveys for the Open Space/Green Space Plan include the identification of these areas which are now no longer required, for example due to changes in demographics or provision of new facilities as part of development and also areas where land acquisition would help to deliver significantly increased benefits e.g. adjacent to well used sites or to provide a missing link in a green network.

2.3 Settlement Review

The database was used to create a settlement review for each of West Lothian's settlements. This provides a simple spreadsheet and text that provide a summary of each settlement's open space provision, and its performance in relation to the quality, quantity, and accessibility standards. This is a useful tool in considering the impact of new developments and in identifying priorities for new investment. **Appendix 1** provides the settlement review as at September 2020. These reviews are provided as and when required e.g. planning application review, identifying sites for local investment by community group or external funds etc.

2.4 Consultation

The council consulted with key stakeholders during the implementation of the 2005 strategy, facilitated through the internal West Lothian Open Space Strategy Working Group. The two

subsequent five year refreshes (utilising consultants) included ongoing consultation with this group and other internal council services. The group includes representatives from all service areas whose work relates to open space. Consultation informed the content of the original strategy, the baseline methodology, review of open space standards, and the selection of priority projects. Consultation with this working group will remain a feature of the Open Space Plan in future. All five year refresh plans require to go through the Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel before formal approval by the Council Executive.

2.5 Objectives and Standards

Earlier incarnations of the Open Space Plan comprised a vision, aims, and an action plan, in addition to the three core standards: quantity, quality, accessibility. This has been simplified to form a short list of overall objectives for the Open Space Plan (**section 5.0**). These objectives are directly linked to improving the three open space standards throughout West Lothian.

Historically the open space strategy and subsequent refreshes concentrated on informing capital spend related to urban parks only. Other service areas had, and continue to have, their own individual plans and priority projects related to their specific interest and remits. Their objectives, standards, and priority projects may be informed by legislation, national guidance, and corporate priorities that relate only to their specific service area.

However, overall open space standards where appropriate should ideally be reflected in all service areas' operations and plans. This is valuable in prioritising spend across a number of different service areas as well as ensuring local priorities, legislation, and national guidance on open space is informing all service areas and performance can be measured e.g. biodiversity should be a consideration of all open space service areas.

2.6 Priority Projects

Various service areas have a revenue budget that contributes to day-to-day maintenance of open spaces and wider green spaces, including allowing the council to meet its legal obligations to ensure council assets are safe. However, addressing poor open space standards, improving the general quality of open spaces and wider greenspaces, and replacing assets that naturally reach the end of their life across West Lothian, requires more significant investment. These are 'capital works'. In general, each service area decides upon a list of priority projects annually and may develop longer term management projects, based on ensuring public safety, or maintaining and improving service delivery. These are reported to the Council Executive when considering the capital programme.

In relation to urban parks, council Open Space Officers initially identify parks that are considered 'unfit' i.e. scoring less than 40 on the quality standard. They then consider the accessibility and quantity standards of the surrounding area prior to determining the list of priorities for capital investment. For example, an unfit park in an area with a good quantity of open space, with lots of good parks within easy reach of residents would be a lesser priority than an area with very little good open space within reach. Where standards are poor, and there is a lack of formal parks, investment

in areas other than parks may be considered e.g. green networks or community woodlands which could augment active open space in an area. In general, the amount of capital funds approved by the council as part of the 10 year budget setting exercise in early 2018 should allow all urban parks to become and remain fit for purpose in the current capital period (2017/27).

Capital works in service areas other than urban parks are determined by individual service area plans. See relevant **Annexes**. There is an aspiration that the council will work towards a more uniform method of developing wider green space inventories and standards that will help prioritise investment across all council service areas operating under the open space asset category.

3.0 WORKING WITH OTHERS



Glebe Park Play Area, Uphall

Council revenue and capital investment in open spaces is limited and currently allows the council to keep assets in a 'fit for purpose' condition only (see **section 6.2** for definition). In order to maximise available resources to make improvements and to ensure West Lothian open spaces deliver what local communities want, the council will often work with external organisations and the public to secure external grants and volunteering opportunities to improve open spaces.

3.1 External Organisations

Partnership working with external agencies provides significant additional resources to protect, enhance, and create open space. Historically there have been many joint projects involving the council. For example, works to improve the Livingston North and South Blue/Green Networks have involved liaison with Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) and The Woodlands Trust Scotland (WTS), and there have been joint projects with Sustrans to improve active travel routes through green spaces. Council capital funds allocated to open space may be used as leverage to pull in additional external match funding or investment, which may influence priorities i.e. one unfit site or settlement with poor standards may be chosen for investment over another if there is potential to bring in external funding for an individual site or settlement/other area.

External funding sources related to open space include Forest and Land Scotland, landfill funds, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, West Lothian Development Trust, and the Water Environment Fund.

3.2 Community Involvement

In order to ensure open space meets the needs of its users, council officers will work closely with local community groups and individuals when developing projects and completing core work. This can include involving communities in quality surveys, offering guidance to community groups on their own projects, consulting school children and local residents when developing capital projects, and advising local elected members on projects that have arisen from communities. Where appropriate, the Community Choices methodology and framework for consultation will be adopted.

The council also maintains an online presence relating to open space. Specific issues can be reported directly online to the council, as can feedback on all individual parks, woodlands, and public access routes etc. As and when an open space is allocated capital funding this information can (along with other ad hoc or systematically collected information) form a starting point for additional consultation.

Consultation range and expenditure will depend on the scale and nature of investment proposed. Typically any works that relate to a safety requirement may have no (or limited) consultation opposed to works that relate to a need or desire to improve an open space beyond repairs i.e. if adding new features or changing use of a site.

Individual service area summaries or Annexes contain additional detail on the consultation processes applied by individual council service areas.

4.0 POLICY CONTEXT



Quarry/Froggy Park, Livingston

4.1 National

The preparation of the original open space strategy in 2005 was in response to the requirements set out in Scottish Planning Policy, Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65, and the National Planning Framework in place at that time.

Scottish Planning Policy is the Scottish Government's vision for the planning system, setting the framework for the council's individual development plans including how individual planning applications are assessed. The current Scottish Planning Policy 2014 states that:

“Development plans should be based on a holistic, integrated and cross-sectoral approach to green infrastructure. They should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits, strategies and action plans covering green infrastructure’s multiple functions, for example open space, playing fields, pitches, outdoor access, core paths, active travel strategies, the historic environment, biodiversity, forestry and woodland, river basins, flood management, coastal zones and the marine environment. Plans should promote consistency with these and reflect their priorities and spatial implications. Strategic development plans should safeguard existing strategic or regionally important assets and identify strategic priorities for green infrastructure addressing cross-boundary needs and opportunities. Local development plans should identify and protect open space identified in the open space audit and strategy as valued and functional or capable of being brought into use to meet local needs.”

In summary Scottish Planning Policy encourages local authorities to take a strategic approach to planning and managing open spaces, and to consider quantity, quality, and accessibility.

PAN 65 provides more detailed interpretation of national policy and advice for users on the functions of the planning system with regard to open space including:

- Protecting valued areas, and ensuring appropriate provision with, or close to, new development
- the interactions with the planning policy framework
- the broad values attached to open space
- types of open space
- links to design and placemaking
- developing open space strategies, including conducting audits
- requirements for development plan policies
- interactions between open space strategies and development management
- approaches to securing appropriate delivery, management and maintenance of open spaces in parallel with new development.

Identified as a 'National Development' initially in National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2 2009), and subsequently NPF3 2014, the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a large scale, long term open space initiative. The vision is to transform Central Scotland (by 2050) into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality. The initiative takes in 19 local authorities across Central Scotland, including West Lothian. It aims to connect and enhance existing environmental assets, and deliver a range of interventions where the need is greatest, benefitting people, the environment and the economy. The Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) invests significantly in West Lothian, including by leading projects developed by the council and securing grant funding that may not be available to the council.

4.2 Regional and Local

4.2.1 Strategic Development Plan

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Planning Area (SDPA), which was designated by Scottish Ministers on 25 June 2008 comprises City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, South Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian Councils. The key role of the SDPA is to prepare and maintain an up-to-date Strategic Development Plan for the area, the first of which SESplan (SDP1), was approved by Scottish Ministers on 27 June 2013.

SDP2 was submitted to Scottish Ministers for examination on 26 June 2017 but subsequently rejected. SESplan's key role was to prepare and maintain an up to date Strategic Development Plan for the South East Scotland area, the purpose of which was to communicate strategic level and cross-boundary planning policy on issues including housing, transport, employment, infrastructure and energy, and apply national planning policy and guidance from the Scottish Government. With the advent of a new Planning Act in July 2019, SDPA were replaced by Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), but secondary legislation is awaited to outline how these will function.

A Strategic Development Plan sets a regional framework for open space planning and delivery, and is used to inform the Local Development Plans prepared by each of the member Authorities in the region. Specific SDP 1 Green Network Technical Guidance was produced in 2019 relating to potential cross boundary initiatives. In the absence of SESPlan, SNH will continue to lead on the wider cross boundary green network co-ordination.

4.2.2 Local Development Plan (2018)

The Open Space Plan contributes to and secures the outcomes sought by the Local Development Plan 2018 (LDP). Local Development Plans set out the local vision, priorities, and policies for development. This includes establishing local planning policies for the protection and enhancement of open space. Where appropriate, the LDP protects open space and identifies where there is scope for improvements. There is a presumption against the development of open spaces identified (and mapped) in the LDP (Policy ENV 21 and ENV 22).

4.2.3 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2013-2023

West Lothian's Community Planning Partnership, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2013 to 2023 includes 8 outcomes to help make West Lothian the best place possible for everyone to live, work and do business. These outcomes determine the objectives of all underlying plans and related operations;

Good quality, accessible open space makes a significant contribution to the following outcomes:

- We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities
- we make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.

Good quality, accessible open space also makes a contribution to:

- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- we are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities
- our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business
- we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities
- people most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances
- older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life.

5.0 THE OPEN SPACE PLAN OBJECTIVES



Torphichen Park

There are multiple benefits of open space as outlined above (**section 1.6**). If applied throughout service areas, the objectives below will deliver these benefits and fulfil council obligations across legislation, national guidance, and council priorities.

Publication of a new plan implies change. Essentially, the desired change is to ensure that while council service areas continue to deliver their own clear legislative and operational responsibilities, they also consider wider national and local 'open space' legislation, policy, and guidance is reflected in their plans and operations.

The following Open Space Plan objectives will be monitored through suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and reported via committee and through the West Lothian Asset Management (WLAM) review panel:

- all active open spaces (surveyed sites) will be fit for purpose before 2028/29 (maintained annually thereafter)
- the average score for all quality subcategories across formal parks (and other scored open spaces) will be maintained
- the council will aspire to meet the quantity standard for all settlements
- the council will aspire to have all residents have access to the hierarchy of active open spaces
- all planning applications for development (10 or more dwellings) will be reviewed by council Open Space Officers and others as appropriate
- all 'land safeguarded for open space' (in LDP) will be identified and surveyed by 2025, thereafter considered active open space

6.0 OPEN SPACE STANDARDS



Balbardie Park, Bathgate

In order to measure the value of open space and ensure that it is protected, enhanced, and expanded, where appropriate, it is important to set clear standards. PAN 65 sets out how local authorities should prepare open space strategies and audits and advocates a 'standards based approach' for the assessment of open space provision and need. PAN 65 suggests that standards should contain three elements: quantity, quality, and accessibility. West Lothian Council has adopted this approach.

The West Lothian standards were developed in context of historic and existing guidance from Fields in Trust, Greenspace Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland, and with consideration of standards applied by other Local Authorities. The standards are considered appropriate and applicable to West Lothian.

The standards outlined below are intended to:

- Be realistic rather than aspirational
- allow Planning Officers to readily evaluate local and major development applications
- provide a structured basis for assessing sites and settlements against a consistent methodology
- allow priorities for capital investment in open space to be identified.

6.1 Quantity

Quantity is a consideration in ensuring appropriate provision of open space, although perhaps of lower relative importance than accessibility and quality. Total open space provision can provide a

useful guideline on provision within individual settlement areas and provide a broad basis for comparative assessments when identifying priorities.

Fields in Trust recommend a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 6 acres (2.4 hectares) for 1,000 people. "Outdoor playing space" is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature for sport, active recreation or children's play. This standard is applied in West Lothian using active open space as defined in **section 1.4**.

There are also recommended minimum sizes for the various park types (**Table 3**). While many existing parks may not comply with this standard, opportunities to enlarge parks will be considered as appropriate and any new parks built should comply with these standards.

6.2 Quality

Open spaces need to be at least maintained in a **'fit for purpose'** condition. They should serve local communities by providing a level of service and functionality that meets as wide a range of benefits as practical, while being safe.

Determining a quality survey methodology is made difficult by the diversity of spaces (e.g. character, scale, and function vary greatly). This problem can be addressed by recognising that quality criteria are not absolute measures, but rather provide an informed, common sense approach on which a consistent judgement of the quality of a space can be determined. However, it would be of no value to assess a single football pitch or a small isolated play area using the same criteria as a District Park. As such only formal parks are currently scored with the quality standard. The condition of play areas, sports facilities, cemeteries, and other facilities are assessed using different criteria, outlined in the relevant **Annex**.

It is the intention of the council to widen the scope of assets that are assessed by the quality standard with subsequent refreshes of the open space plan e.g. Country Parks, semi-natural spaces, green networks and woodlands quality should be quantified.

Appendix 2 outlines the quality standard survey methodology. This survey was revised in early 2017 to reflect the full range of open space benefits. In summary, each site is given a score between 1 and 5 (low to high) for each of 15 quality criteria. These scores are then totalled, giving an overall score out of 75. A site with a score of 40 or above is considered 'fit for purpose'.

To assist the scoring of different park types, Table 2 below sets out the range of features that might typically be provided throughout the park hierarchy. In addition, the general size of the space and its catchment area should be taken into consideration.

For example, a Local Park that can be seen in its entirety from a single entrance may be scored 5/5 for 'Orientation and Interpretation' if it has an entrance sign and one good interpretation sign,

whereas a District Park may require a network of way markers and interpretation of various key features to score 5/5.

In all cases where scoring may be difficult, or very subjective, an explanatory note will be entered into the database along with the score e.g. there may be a lack of play or sport facilities in a Local Park as it is of high historic value with many manicured flower beds. In general, where criteria score lower than 3, a note should be entered to the database outlining the reason. Therefore when a low scoring park is looked at in terms of potential capital investment it will be clear what investment may be appropriate and what may be inappropriate.

Table 2 – Park Hierarchy, Accessible Woodland, and Play Area Hierarchy and Typical Features

Park Type	Feature
Country Park	Visitor Centre (including facilities)
	Ranger Service
	Unique facilities / attractions
	Offers diverse recreational use
	Offers diversity of habitat / landscape
	Offers signage / interpretation
	Provision of paths / access including waymarked routes
	Public transport connections
	Car park provision
	Country Park management
District Park	Offer diverse recreation use
	Offer facility for formal / informal sport
	Offer diversity of habitat / landscape
	Provide toilet facilities
	Provide changing facilities
	Provide Play Area
	Provide seating / litter bins
	Lit core path network
	Provision of paths / access
	Receives regular maintenance
	Car park provision (circa 36 spaces)
	Formal landscape features
Neighbourhood Park	Offer diverse recreational use (e.g. MUGA, Football Pitch, Fitness, MTB etc.)
	Provide Play Area (NEAP type, see below)
	Provide seating / litter bins
	Provision of paths / access
	Community event space
	Receives regular maintenance
	Formal landscape features
	Car park provision (typically 24 minimum spaces)
Local Park	Provide for limited local recreation use
	Provide Play Area (LEAP type, see below)
	Provision of paths / access
	Receives regular maintenance

Woodland Type	Feature
Accessible Woodland	Land under stands of trees, with, or with the potential to achieve tree crown cover of more than 20%
	Unrestricted open access or restricted but permissive access

Play Area Type	Feature
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	For children 0-15
	Close to well used pedestrian route
	Well drained, reasonably flat, grass or hard surface
	At least 30m from nearest dwelling
	Sign indicating play area with contact details of operator
	Sign discouraging dogs
	Fenced if within 15m of road
	Minimum 9 unique pieces of play equipment
	Recognisable boundary
	Seating and litter bins
	Convenient and secure parking facilities for bicycles
Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	For children 0-12
	Close to well used pedestrian route
	Well drained, reasonably flat, grass or hard surface
	At least 20m from nearest dwelling
	Sign indicating play area with contact details of operator
	Sign discouraging dogs
	Fenced if within 15m of road
	Minimum 6 unique pieces of play equipment
	Recognisable boundary
	Seating and litter bins
Local Area for Play (LAP)	Primarily for under-6's
	Close to well used pedestrian route
	Well drained, reasonably flat, grass or hard surface
	At least 10m from nearest dwelling
	Sign indicating play area with contact details of operator
	Sign discouraging dogs
	Fenced if within 15m of road
	Minimum 3 unique pieces of play equipment
	Recognisable boundary

6.3 Accessibility

Open spaces need to be accessible to as wide a range of users as practical. Their location should be widely known and access should be safe and easy; be it walking, cycling, horse riding, driving, or using public transport.

Table 3 below outlines the accessibility standard. For each level of the park hierarchy, accessible woodland and play areas, the recommended maximum distance that all residents should have to travel to reach is outlined, as is a population guideline where applicable. The broad principle is that

people should be close to at least some type of active open space, while it is reasonable that they may have to travel longer distances to reach larger, less abundant open space with more facilities, particularly if they live in small settlements or in the countryside.

The 500m maximum distance that applies to play areas and Local Parks equates to roughly a 5 minute walk/2 minute cycle.

When applying this accessibility standard to the existing play areas and urban parks held in the Open Space Database, it is possible to identify those settlements which do not meet the standard for having particular park types present, and also to identify particular areas within settlements that are not within recommended distances of play areas or the various park types (**see Appendix 1**).

It should be noted that maximum recommended distances to play areas and parks are 'as the crow flies'. As such when considering individual planning applications or capital projects, the practicalities of reaching active open space should be considered. For example a park may be 500m from a small proposed development, but barriers to the community have to be considered e.g. railway line, water courses, poor path network etc.

Table 3 – Park Hierarchy Minimum Size and Accessibility Standards

Sub-Category	Minimum Accessibility Standard	Minimum Size (Ha)	Population Guidelines
Country Park	10km	-	50,000+
District Park	4km	17 ha	10,000 to 50,000
Accessible Woodland	4km	20 ha	-
NEAP	1km	1,000m ²	-
Neighbourhood Park	1km	3 ha	2,000 to 10,000
Local Park	500m	1 ha	250 to 2,000
Accessible Woodland	500m	2 ha	-
LEAP	500m	400m ²	-
LAP	NA	100m ²	-

7.0 OPEN SPACE PROVISION IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Woodmuir Park Play Area, Breich

The West Lothian Residential Design Guide reviewed, updated, and adopted in 2018 sets out the council's position on the provision of open space associated with new developments. Developers are required to ensure new developments provide residents with access to active open space that meets the standards outlined in the Open Space Plan.

When the number of proposed properties and location is known, proposed new developments of more than ten properties are systematically assessed by council Open Space Officers in relation to the open space standards, by considering the following questions:

1. Will the relevant settlement continue to maintain an acceptable quantity standard with the anticipated increase in population?
2. Are all proposed properties within accessibility standards of a play area and the various park types?
3. Are all existing individual play areas and parks accessible from the new development fit for purpose?

If all questions are answered in the affirmative, or only question 3 is negative, there will be an initial presumption in favour of trying to satisfy active open space requirements through a financial contribution from the developer that will upgrade any existing facilities in the immediate locality that are not 'fit for purpose' i.e. off-site in another part of the settlement.

If all facilities are fit for purpose, those predicted to become unfit soonest will be targeted for investment. There is a presumption that active open spaces are all degrading over time, and the pressure of additional residents will accelerate this degradation toward an unfit state. Where the level of financial contribution is significant, some or all of the contribution may be used to address

poor Open Space standards elsewhere in West Lothian i.e. if all local sites are predicted to remain fit for purpose for many years.

Where Questions 1 and/or 2 are answered in the negative, open space provision should be delivered on-site. Where this is the case, council Open Space Officers will advise on appropriate provision. In general, new active open space should be created to ensure all residents are within minimum distance of the various types where accessibility standards apply. The quantity of new open space added should not reduce the overall quantity standard for the settlement.

Any new active open space provided should be fit for purpose and remain so for a period of at least 10 years. The council's quality standard (**Appendix 2**) can be provided to support developers.

For smaller developments, where Questions 1 and/or 2 are answered in the negative, but developer contributions would not allow creation of new active open space on-site, these contributions will be used to upgrade any existing facilities in the immediate locality that are not fit for purpose, or contributions may be held and pooled by the council to allow for improvement in local open spaces, or potential creation of new active open space locally at a later date. This may include investment in green infrastructure and flood prevention i.e. not exclusive to active open space.

Active open space provision related to new developments may include:

- only on-site provision of new facilities
- contribution to external sites within accessible distances
- contribution to improving overall West Lothian standards, or
- a combination of all three of the above features.

Whatever the nature of the provision, the overall expenditure should directly relate to the developer financial contributions outlined in the Residential Development Guide (2018). In some cases where there is a clear understanding of the extent and features of local semi-natural open spaces or other passive open spaces, there may be investment in these spaces with agreement of all parties e.g. community woodland investment.

In new, strategic Core Development Areas (CDAs), other provisions will apply.

If open space provision by developers includes the creation of any new facilities, these facilities should be maintained indefinitely by the developers or their factors to a standard acceptable to the council. Maintenance plans should be developed and presented to council officers alongside open space designs as they will form part of the approved planning application. Designs should include provision of signage that will inform residents who are responsible for maintenance and include contact details.

The principle of multi-functionality can be applied to all categories of open space in developments, and offers the opportunity to make good use of design innovations and the latest technology. For example, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) do not only include retention basins or ponds, but can also incorporate green roofs, swales, raingardens, reed beds, street trees and wetlands. Street trees can be used instead of traffic bollards and trees can also be used to aid traffic calming. The Scottish Government's publication "Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking" can be referred to for ideas on placing green infrastructure at the core of planning developments. The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) have many useful publications, including "Trees in Hard Landscapes: A guide for delivery" which includes information on designing with trees – using trees as positive assets, as well as technical design solutions to ensure the long-term health of trees above and below ground.

Green Infrastructure, design and place making link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/green-infrastructure-design-placemaking/pages/2/>

TDAG link: <http://www.tdag.org.uk/guides--resources.html>

8.0 COUNCIL SERVICE AREAS



Bridgend Pump Track

There are multiple council service areas operating within the sphere of open space and wider greenspace related activities. A summary of the operational activity of each is provided below. Where appropriate, some service areas will also provide a comprehensive service plan to compliment and augment the open space plan. This will be in the form of an Annexe to the Open Space Plan. Table 4 below details each service area and the timelines for the delivery of the service plans, where this is required.

Table 4 –Annex Publication Timeline

Service Area	Section	Annex	Expected Publication	Responsibility
Urban Parks	8.1	N/A	N/A	Open Space Team
Grounds Maintenance	8.2	N/A	N/A	Grounds Maintenance Team
Food Growing	8.6	A	Jan 2021	Open Space Team
Cemeteries	8.7	B	May 2021	Cemeteries Team
Play Areas	8.5	C	Nov 2021	Open Space Team
Countryside, Country Parks, and Semi-Natural Sites	8.8	D	2022	Parks & Woodland Team
Trees and Woodlands	8.9	E	2022	Trees & Woodland Team
Core Path Plan, Rights of Way, and Other Public Access Routes	8.10	F	2022	Parks & Woodland Team

Local Biodiversity and Local Geodiversity Sites	8.3	G	June 2021	Planning Services (Development Plan Team)
Green and Blue Networks	8.4	H	June 2021	Planning Services (Development Plan Team with advice from SNH & SEPA)
Sports Facilities	8.11	I	TBC	
Public Art	8.12	J	TBC	Community Arts Team & Planning Services

Some service areas have dedicated revenue and/or capital budgets, some have teams of operatives and officers, while others relate only to legislative obligations or national guidance but may have no dedicated resources related to open space issues. In general, each service area will have their own unique legislative requirements, national guidance, and local objectives and measures, while also being subject to wider overarching legislation, national guidance, and local objectives and measures related to open space.

Only those services involved in managing council owned open space assets that are freely accessible to the public are included in this plan. For example, some of the sports facilities (where booking and charges apply) including open space are managed by West Lothian Leisure on behalf of the council. Likewise some of the open space around social housing areas is funded and maintained by Housing Services or a housing association. This is particularly a feature of Livingston as a former new town. Many housing developments also contain open space managed by a private housing developer often through a factor arrangement. Much of the open space around schools is not accessible to the public and is maintained by the council for pupils only.

Each summary contains, as a minimum the following details on individual service areas:

- description
- strategic summary
- operational summary
- service standards
- asset inventory and condition survey
- improvement plan
- community involvement.

8.1 Urban Parks

There are over 100 formal urban parks in West Lothian. These include Local, Neighbourhood, and District Parks. Most parks contain a variety of features, listed in **section 6.2**.

8.1.1 Strategic Summary

The Open Space Plan can be considered the strategic plan for West Lothian Urban Parks.

8.1.2 Operational Summary

Many council teams work in urban parks:

- the NETs, Land and Countryside Service Grounds Maintenance Team is responsible for regular grass cutting, weed control, shrub/hedge and wildflower meadow maintenance. They also maintain football pitches and some drainage features within parks
- the Play Team is responsible for maintaining Play Areas within urban parks including regular inspection and replacement or refurbishment, where required
- the Cleaner Communities Team is responsible for emptying bins, removing fly tipping, and discouraging dog fouling in parks
- the Parks & Woodland Team is responsible for trees and woodland areas including inspection, safety, management and development in urban parks
- the Road Maintenance Team is responsible for the maintenance of adopted footpaths in urban parks
- the Flood Risk Management Team is responsible for reducing overall flood risk, maintaining and upgrading drainage, ensuring the attenuation of surface water from developments, and improving the quality of runoff. They also have a role in protecting the water environment and maintain and protect water-related assets.

Council Open Space Officers are responsible for improving and repairing parks where the above regular maintenance operations are insufficient to keep the park in a fit for purpose condition. Typically this can include adding play equipment, repairing or improving footpath networks, signage, and enhancing biodiversity and green network connectivity. This is done through a programme of capital works or by working with colleagues, community groups or other external organisations, and identifying and securing external grants.

8.1.3 Service Standards

The majority of urban parks do not have individual management plans. All regular and ad hoc maintenance is scheduled within the council's CONFIRM job management system. This includes a minimum of weekly litter collection, twelve cuts of amenity grass areas per annum, annual cutting of wildflower areas (and removing arisings), annual shrub and hedge pruning, and two chemical weed control visits. Ad hoc maintenance required as and when identified by officers or the public is typically responded to within 7 working days. Play Areas are inspected at least every 10 working days. Pitches are lined every year. The quantity,

quality, and accessibility standards as outlined in **section 6.0** are applied across all urban parks.

8.1.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

Comprehensive details of all urban parks are held within the Open Space Database. The parks are condition surveyed after capital investment or at least every 5 years as outlined in the quality standard methodology.

8.1.5 Improvement Plan

In addition to regular scheduled maintenance, every year, a number of sites are identified as priority projects as defined in **section 2.6**. The level of investment is generally appropriate to ensure sites are brought into a fit state and remain fit for purpose for a minimum of ten years. The level of investment over the council's present 10 year capital period is intended to ensure all urban parks are fit for purpose by 2028/29.

8.1.6 Community Involvement

A minimum consultation range for capital investment will include local elected ward members, Community Councils, Grounds Maintenance, Open Space Officer, Play Coordinator, any active Regeneration Group, and any other named individuals from local/national organisations that have expressed an interest in a park.

If the improvement does not relate to safety requirements, consultation may become broader to proactively engage local residents and the wider community. Generally, the scale of consultation will relate to scale and type of works and budget. Where appropriate, the Community Choices methodology and framework for consultation will be adopted.

In addition the community may have an ongoing involvement in a site or wider area. Community Groups may proactively maintain elements of a site either ongoing or ad hoc, and also conceive and complete their own improvement projects in liaison with council officers. In general council officers will encourage all community groups where they support maintenance of existing assets and in particular support establishment of new community groups where these groups can assist and enhance core maintenance of an open space site.

8.2 Grounds Maintenance

8.2.1 Strategic Summary

The Grounds Maintenance Team deliver the Council's grounds maintenance objectives, which were reviewed in 2019 to coincide with the Transforming Your Council budget changes.

8.2.2 Operational Summary

The Grounds Maintenance Team is responsible for the routine maintenance of all housing open space, schools, parks and road verges.

A basic service is provided, in the main consisting of grass cutting and weed management in summer, with hedge cutting and shrub bed maintenance completed during the winter months. These tasks are delivered on a geographical basis, with teams covering east and west areas.

In addition, the team also deliver a Garden Maintenance Scheme on behalf of Housing Services during the summer months, as well as maintaining a variety of outdoor sports facilities.

8.2.3 Service Standards

The following Service Standards were introduced for open space areas in 2019:

<i>Task</i>	<i>Annual Frequency</i>
General Open Space Mowing	12 visits
Parks / Sports Pitch Mowing	16 visits
Road Verge / Rural Path Mowing	1 visit
Wildflower Areas	1 visit
Weed Management (All Surfaces)	2 visits
Shrub Pruning/Bed Clearance	1 visit
Hedge Cutting	1 visit

Garden Maintenance Service Standards consist of:

- 11 grass cutting cycles
- 4 strimming cycles
- 1 hedge cut

The Service Standards for outdoor sports facilities vary depending on the type of sport.

8.2.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

The Service use Confirm Environmental to record the assets being maintained. A review of the database is underway, which will be used to revise future work plans.

The Grounds Maintenance Team work in conjunction with the Council's Open Space Officers, reacting to any minor issues raised through condition surveys.

8.2.5 Improvement Plan

The Service was restructured to reflect the changes introduced through the Transforming Your Council initiative in 2019. Having worked these for a year, it is clear that some adaptations are required.

A vehicle and plant review is planned for 2020, with specific replacements identified and procured as existing leases expire.

The other priority relates to weed management. Historically, Plant Protection Products have been used for this, having been proven as the most cost effective method. However, this has resulted in health and environmental concerns over the past few years. While the products used have been assessed and approved for use, there is a requirement to review the current method. The Council have also committed to minimising the use of Plant Protection Products, particularly Glyphosate. A voluntary industry led initiative, Amenity Assured, will require any organisation using Plant Protection Products to demonstrate Best Practice, including staff training, communication and the use of Integrated Weed Management. The Service are committed to achieving this industry standard.

8.2.6 Community Involvement

A small part of the Grounds Maintenance budget will be subject to Community Choices participatory budgeting in the near future. A comprehensive consultation exercise is planned over the summer period in 2020, which will then shape service delivery going forward.

8.3 Local Biodiversity and Local Geodiversity Sites

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities (i.e. not just in protected sites).

While the council does not employ a dedicated biodiversity officer, biodiversity should be considered in all plans and operations including the Open Space Plan as part of the Scottish Governments Biodiversity Duty on all local authorities. There are approximately 130 Local Biodiversity Sites (LBS) throughout West Lothian. In the absence of a biodiversity officer, the council works with the Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) to administer and organise the LBS system.

TWIC is the Local Environmental Records Centre for south-east and part of central Scotland that collects, collates and disseminates information about wildlife in West Lothian. TWIC is part of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) and a member of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

In terms of Geodiversity, the British Geological Survey surveyed West Lothian in 2005/06 and identified over 200 potential Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS). Just over 50 LGS have been confirmed and included in the Local Development Plan. The Lothian & Borders Geo-conservation Group (LABGCG) assist the council with LGS issues.

West Lothian's Local Geodiversity Sites have been selected to represent the variety of landscapes, landforms and rock features of the area. These sites have particular value either for education and tourism, for academic research, for the history of science or for their aesthetic appearance.

8.3.1 Strategic Summary

The current West Lothian Local Biodiversity Strategy (Local Biodiversity Action Plan - LBAP) ran until 2009. It has not been updated and there are currently no plans to update it.

Priority strategic habitats include:

- Rivers and streams
- Farmland – grass and cultivated land
- Woodland
- Lowland raised bog
- Heather moorland
- Coastline
- Oil shale bings
- Union Canal.

The 2009 LBAP maintains the direction of the strategic approach of the initial West Lothian 1998 - 2003 LBAP to delivering biodiversity enhancement in West Lothian, with the focus on projects and co-ordinated initiatives that, wherever possible, are cross cutting. The need to

enhance and increase the mosaic of biodiversity in West Lothian habitats and the key species of which they are composed, remains the main objective of the LBAP.

The Council signed the Scottish Geodiversity Forum charter in 2017 and prepared a Geodiversity Action Plan (2017).

8.3.2 Operational Summary

All 130 LBS are identified in the West Lothian Local Development Plan (2018) and shown on the related Proposals Maps. Planning Policies ENV17 – ENV20 relate to protection of: international, national and local nature conservation sites, as well as LBS and Local Geodiversity Sites and also species protection and enhancement. There are separate planning policies relating to: the protection of water environment, riparian corridors, woodland, forestry trees, hedgerows and peatlands and carbon rich soils.

TWIC also screen all planning applications in West Lothian and provide species information to Planning Services as part of the Development Management process when considering planning applications.

The council's Park & Woodland Team is responsible for trees and woodland areas including inspection, safety, management, and development. They also have responsibility for overseeing access management across West Lothian including core paths, rights of way and other public access routes. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity is a key consideration for this work.

With Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) assistance, Planning Guidance was initially adopted in 2015 relating to "Planning for Nature: Development Management and Wildlife". This sets out for developers and their agents what is required on natural heritage features in relation to submitting a planning application. It has been reviewed and updated with SNH help and presented to committee in September 2019.

8.3.3 Service Standards

The council has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with TWIC that is reviewed annually. The council is the lead on a number of actions outlined in the 2017 Geodiversity Action Plan.

8.3.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

Although somewhat out of date, in 1994 a survey of all habitats (Phase 1 Habitat Survey) was commissioned by the former West Lothian District Council and Scottish Natural Heritage for the whole county and carried out by Scottish Wildlife Trust.

For planning, policy and environment initiatives this remains invaluable information albeit in some areas such as Livingston this is well out of date. It created a picture of the habitat

variety of West Lothian at that time but it is also the baseline on which the success of biodiversity enhancement will be monitored and assessed.

An audit of animal and plants in West Lothian for the 2005 - 09 LBAP indicated that there were over 5,000 species present, ranging from the very rare to the common. Many species are still unrecorded.

The British Geological Survey remains the most up-to-date review of geodiversity in West Lothian

8.3.5 Improvement Plan

There is no current proposal to update the previous LABP due to staff resource and budget issues. However, officers in several Services across the council continue to work on many projects that involve biodiversity protection and enhancement. LABGC assist with preparing leaflets and related information for priority Local Geodiversity Sites.

8.3.6 Community Involvement

There are a number of species experts who sit on the West Lothian LBS Steering Group that meets annually. Their expertise currently covers flora, insects and moths. It also includes the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, and officers from Planning Services and the Park and Woodland Team.

WLC Park and Woodland Team organise interested volunteers to undertake a number of biodiversity surveys, Citizen Science will be used where possible to input into the LBS and future LBAP review processes.

The main LABGC Group have a volunteer subgroup that assists with preparing leaflets and related geological information.

8.4 Green and Blue Networks

In 2015 West Lothian Council prepared draft Supplementary Planning Guidance that identified potential areas to enhance and establish green networks throughout West Lothian, '*West Lothian place-based Green Networks (2015)*', although it received some limited consultation with interested parties, it was never formally adopted by the council. The aim of green networks is to safeguard and protect existing areas of interconnected mainly semi-natural green spaces and identify the key needs and opportunities to enhance them. Green networks represent corridors that allow species to spread and move throughout an area creating larger, more viable habitats to sustain healthy populations of wildlife.

An updating and revision of the Green Network Supplementary Guidance due in 2020 will include spatial proposals to avoid the fragmentation of existing green networks and identify key opportunities to enhance them.

In recent years, increasing awareness of the social, environmental and economic value of 'green infrastructure' has highlighted the importance for authorities of gathering and managing data on their open space resources.

Individual elements of green infrastructure can serve a useful purpose, without being connected. However, when green infrastructure components are linked together to form green networks further combined benefits are achieved at a strategic level. Green networks are an excellent delivery mechanism to meet a wide range of Scottish Government's objectives including enhancing biodiversity and encouraging active travel by enhancing public access routes.

Most types of open space form key components of the green network. Developing open space audits and strategies provides critical information to ensure that these assets and the network as a whole are properly understood and managed. For more information see the **Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)** website.

Green network partnerships help deliver the green networks. Key agencies, local and strategic planning authorities and third sector organisations have developed a range of partnerships, most notably regional structures, including Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership (LFGNP).

8.4.1 Strategic Summary

It is helpful to consider green networks as a hierarchy of three levels:

- local authority-wide;
- settlement-wide and
- local or neighbourhood-level;

and when establishing how best to deal with them in the Local Development Plan (LDP), focussing on:

- What can usefully be shown at the whole plan level
- what is better shown at the settlement level
- what is more appropriately dealt with through supplementary guidance.

8.4.2 Operational Summary

Early dialogue between the council and Scottish Natural Heritage provided an opportunity to discuss the priorities for green networks in relation to the LDP. These early discussions suggested that the aim should be to two-fold:

- To safeguard and protect existing areas of interconnected green networks
- to identify the key needs and opportunities to enhance them.

The council's Park & Woodland Team is responsible for trees and woodland areas including inspection, safety, management, and development. They also have responsibility for overseeing access management across West Lothian including core paths, rights of way and other public access routes. Maintaining and enhancing green and blue networks is a key consideration for this work.

8.4.3 Service Standards

Service Standards will be developed and incorporated into the Annex.

8.4.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

Through the revision of the 2015 draft supplementary guidance there will be a mapping of the majority of the asset. However, due to the large and disparate nature of the green network across West Lothian, there are no current plans to undertake a condition survey.

8.4.5 Improvement Plan

The draft Green Network Supplementary Guidance is under review in winter 2019/spring 2020.

8.4.6 Community Involvement

Once the Planning Guidance is considered by the council's Development & Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP), it will be subjected to public consultation alongside issuing it to developers and other interested parties for comment, before being reported to the Council Executive in 2020 for consideration for adoption.

8.5 Play Areas

There are over 400 play facilities in West Lothian's parks and open spaces, catering for a range of ages and abilities. This figure includes public play areas, school play areas, facilities for wheeled sports, youth shelters, multi-use game areas (MUGAs), and kick-pitches. However, for the purposes of the Open Space Plan, play areas are all play facilities maintained by the council and publicly accessible i.e. excludes school play areas and any private play areas.

8.5.1 Strategic Summary

Play Areas are assumed to have a lifespan of no more than 15 years. As such, in addition to regular maintenance inspections to identify immediate safety risks, the play areas are all either replaced or refurbished as they reach the end of their life. The lifespan of an individual play area relates to the type of equipment, construction material, intensity of use, and exposure to weather.

8.5.2 Operational Summary

The Play Team inspects and maintains all play areas on council owned or leased land. Play areas within school grounds are only inspected (as these sites are maintained by the schools). Each play area is inspected at least every 10 working days. There is also a periodic independent inspection. High risk safety issues are resolved within 24 working hours by either replacing or removing equipment, parts, or foreign objects and contaminants. In addition to regular inspection, faults may be reported by the public.

While some privately built and maintained facilities may be accessible to the public, the council has no role in the management of these sites. Typically they are maintained by a factor on behalf of the local residents.

8.5.3 Service Standards

All residents living in West Lothian settlements should live no more than 500m from a play area. All play areas should be inspected at least once every 10 working days and remain in a fit for purpose condition.

8.5.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

All play areas are mapped within the council's GIS database and within its CONFIRM system. Private and school play areas are also mapped. While the condition of play areas and quality is not measured on a numeric scale, they are all graded during the independent inspection cycle i.e. both surface and equipment is graded as poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent.

8.5.5 Improvement Plan

All play areas are on a rolling review programme. This programme determines when they will next be assessed for refurbishment or upgrade.

8.5.6 Community Involvement

In general, a play area refurbishment which simply replaces parts will not include consultation. If a large number of pieces of equipment are to be replaced or an entire play area replaced or built, local schools will be consulted as part of the design process. This is typically a service provided by a play equipment contractor employed by the council. Where appropriate, the Community Choices methodology and framework for consultation may be adopted.

8.6 Food Growing Areas

8.6.1 Strategic Summary

The development of food growing areas in West Lothian is guided by the West Lothian Food Growing Strategy 2020-25. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Part 9 makes it a statutory duty for councils to produce a 5-year 'Food Growing Strategy', an annual allotment report, and to keep and manage a list of people requesting allotments. The strategy provides an audit of existing food growing initiatives and states the council's intentions for increasing food growing opportunities by responding to community demand and promoting and supporting a variety of community food growing approaches throughout the area (e.g. allotments, community gardens, growing in parks).

8.6.2 Operational Summary

West Lothian's operational model for allotments and community gardens on council land is to lease the site to a community group, who have responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance and management of the site. Other, less formal, food growing initiatives may only require a maintenance agreement between the community group and NETS, Land and Countryside Services.

The development of new growing sites is driven by community demand, and prioritised using geographic and population data.

8.6.3 Service Standards

Each allotment site has its own management rules, and community gardens have their own guidelines.

A new standard for the strategic provision of allotments specific to West Lothian has been set through the Food Growing Strategy, at 7 allotments per 1000 households.

New legislation through the Community Empowerment Act also states that if the number of people on the allotment waiting list is more than 50% of the total number of plots on council owned/leased land, there is a duty on Local Authorities to make reasonable steps towards increasing the number of allotment sites.

8.6.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

There are currently 2 allotment sites on public (council-owned) land and 3 formal community gardens (with leases). There are another 7 sites where communities are growing on public land through more informal management agreements.

8.6.5 Improvement Plan

In order to adhere to the new standard, the council will seek to create another 3 allotment sites with up to 40 plots each over the next 5 years.

We will also promote various methods of food growing on our website and will continue to work with communities to support demand for other kinds of growing projects throughout the area.

8.6.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement is fundamental to the development and management of food growing areas.

Stakeholders were formally engaged in the creation of the Food Growing Strategy through workshops, an online survey and face-to-face meetings. Informal discussions with stakeholders also contributed to the strategy.

Where there is demand for a new allotment and/or community garden, consultations are carried out with the surrounding communities.

The council continues to engage with communities about food growing areas through formal meetings, informal advice and support.

8.7 Cemeteries

West Lothian Council manages and maintains all council owned cemeteries, churchyards and war memorials. There are 33 burial grounds in West Lothian reflecting the dispersed settlement pattern of the area. Of these burial grounds, 21 are cemeteries and 12 are churchyards. The primary difference between a cemetery and a churchyard is that a cemetery is a burial ground which is not typically associated with a church. In Scotland, these are normally owned and operated by local authorities. Churchyards on the other hand are graveyards in the grounds of a church, the maintenance of which was transferred to local authorities as part of the Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act 1925.

8.7.1 Strategic Summary

Of the 21 cemeteries, 11 are in regular use and 10 are no longer open for new lair burials. The closed cemeteries tend to be located in town centres or beside operational cemeteries. As an old cemetery reaches capacity, and in order to try and maintain as local a provision as possible, a new cemetery is located on nearby ground, although in practice, this has not always been possible.

Burial capacity remains at the main West Lothian cemeteries of Livingston (Adambrae); East Calder (Almondell); Whitburn (Blaeberry); Bathgate (Boghead); Fauldhouse (Extension); West Calder (Hermand Park); Linlithgow (Kingscavil); Kirknewton; Uphall (Loaninghill); Winchburgh, and Armadale (Woodbank) for periods of time ranging from approximately 30 years and beyond.

8.7.2 Operational Summary

The Cemeteries Team are responsible for all cemetery activity including burial and maintenance activity associated with the burial service and the routine seasonal maintenance of the grounds. In addition to burial and maintenance activity, the team are also responsible for the West Lothian memorial / headstone stability programme, which is a 5 year cyclical programme of inspection across all cemeteries and churchyards.

8.7.3 Service Standards

Service standards for cemeteries are aligned, where possible, to the comparable standards for grounds maintenance in terms of grass cutting, weed control and shrub bed maintenance. However the ability to ensure that standards are maintained are closely aligned to burial demand which is the primary purpose of the service.

8.7.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

All cemeteries and churchyards are mapped within the council's GIS database and within its CONFIRM system.

8.7.5 Improvement Plan

West Lothian cemeteries are strategically planned to ensure localised burial capacity is maintained well into the future. Most local cemeteries have pre identified extension areas and land already earmarked for future use.

8.7.6 Community Involvement

Communities are involved in cemetery management and maintenance through a variety of surveys and forums including the citizen's inspection panel.

8.8 Countryside, Country Parks & Semi-Natural Sites

8.8.1 Strategic Summary

The Parks & Woodland Section is responsible for the management and development of three Country Parks namely Almondell & Calderwood, Beecraigs and Polkemmet, together constituting some 597 hectares and attracting an estimated 1,811,600 visitors in 2018/19. In addition, the section has a responsibility for a further 868 hectares of countryside, and biodiversity & semi-natural sites owned by West Lothian Council.

Parks & Woodland are also responsible for woodland areas and trees on all council assets,

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Part 1, sets out that management of access is the responsibility of access authorities, and gives them duties and powers to manage access in their areas. Parks & Woodland fulfil this role for West Lothian Council. The main duties are:

- To uphold the exercise of access rights over any route, waterway or other means by which access rights may be exercised
- to plan for a system of core paths that gives the public reasonable access throughout their area
- to establish one or more local access forums for their area
- to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

These areas are covered separately within this Plan and in their own separate annexes.

8.8.2 Operational Summary

The range of services is diverse and includes the following:-

- Frontline Country Park visitor services including three visitor centres
- Beecraigs caravan and camping site
- Beecraigs animal attraction
- Beecraigs skills area and mountain bike trails
- Barbecue hire facilities in each Country Park
- Polkemmet bowling green
- Ranger Service
- environmental education, Forest Schools, work experience, and public events
- management of access across West Lothian including the Core Path Plan, Rights of Way and other public access routes
- partnerships such as Friends groups, Polkemmet Park Run, work parties, etc.
- commercial franchises & event management
- commercialisation and income generation
- habitat management
- Local Nature Reserves, Local Nature Parks, and other community open space resources

- asset management and Scottish Integrated Administration and Control System (SIACS)
- woodland management strategies and management plans
- tree and woodland safety
- Trees & Woodland operative tasks
- tree advice to Planning Services
- grounds maintenance and facility maintenance by Parks & Woodland operatives
- Biodiversity and access planning related advice•
- Biodiversity enhancement works including carbon capture
- Visitor management projects
- “ParkPower”

8.8.3 Service Standards

The section measures and monitors its performance against their main activities, which feed into the overall objectives of NETs, Land and Countryside Services and ultimately the council, through the council's performance management system – Covalent. The section has a published suite of performance indicators which are reported to the public through the council's website. As a service we regularly review our performance to assess our performance measures for reliability and relevance, and to implement changes and improvements based on customer feedback.

The visitor centres, Animal Attraction, Beecraigs Caravan & Camping Site, Trees & Woodland and Ranger Service all have their own service standards.

8.8.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

An asset inventory is in development, which contains details of the majority of sites managed within the council's GIS database. This database is a GIS file (map and related data table). Each site is patrolled on a regular basis to check the condition of the infrastructure and furniture and any required work is noted on either Confirm or the maintenance database. From there work is carried out as resources allow on a priority basis. Currently there is no quality standard methodology for grading country parks or other countryside/semi-natural sites in West Lothian; however the council has been looking to have some assets assessed to a Green Flag standard.

There is a need to include in the baseline quality survey inventory, referred to previously, all areas managed by Parks & Woodland including Country Parks, semi-natural sites, tree and woodland areas, Core Paths, Rights of Way and other public access routes.

Independent assessments by VisitScotland are currently conducted every two years for each Country Park, and yearly by VisitScotland and the AA for the Beecraigs Caravan & Camping Site.

8.8.5 Improvement Plan

In addition to regular scheduled maintenance, every year, a number of improvements are identified for a number of sites. The level of investment is generally appropriate to ensure sites remain at an acceptable standard, fit for purpose for the level of use that they receive. The level of investment over the council's present 10 year capital period will have limited impact on council sites other than where there is investment through woodland management projects, also limited due to the funding available (internal and external).

Parks & Woodland are however proactive in searching for appropriate funding opportunities to further develop their resources, especially within the Country Parks.

The current review of the core path network across West Lothian aims to highlight opportunities for greater connectivity and encourage greater use by the public.

8.8.6 Community Involvement

Generally, the scale of consultation relates to type of project work and budget.

A minimum consultation would aim to include local elected ward members, Community Councils, proactively engage those currently using the area or facilities - local residents and the wider community and where appropriate named individuals from local/national organisations, Open Space Officer, and any others that have expressed an interest in the specific project.

Where the improvement relates to safety requirements consultation would be minimal or not carried out.

There are a number of sites where the community have an ongoing active involvement in the management and development of the site, usually in the form of a Friends Group. Other community groups may proactively maintain elements of a site either ongoing or ad hoc, and also conceive and complete their own improvement projects in liaison with council officers. In general council officers will encourage all community groups, where resources allow, where they support maintenance of existing assets and in particular support establishment of new community groups where these groups can assist and enhance core maintenance of council assets managed by Parks & Woodland.

The Ranger Service provides significant support to the community through their education programme with schools, their Forest Schools, public events programme and support to a wide range of community groups. In addition the Rangers provide information and interpretation on West Lothian's Country Parks, countryside and semi-natural sites both at Visitor Centres, on sites, online and in person.

The Local Community Leisure Trust “West Lothian Leisure” now runs the Visitor Centre, driving range and golf course at Polkemmet Country Park. It is hoped that this partnership can develop for the benefit of all user groups within that Park.

8.9 Trees and Woodlands

8.9.1 Strategic Summary

Trees and woodland make a significant contribution to quality of life, the local economy and the environment. They provide a wide range of ecosystem services not least in sequestering carbon dioxide and mitigating against climate change.

West Lothian Council owns approximately 1000 ha of forest and woodland varying from the 270 ha forest in Beecraigs Country Park, to the numerous smaller shelterbelts and woods across the region. A notable feature of the 'new town' design of Livingston is its extensive woodland and tree cover providing screening along main roads, separating neighbourhoods and providing attractive green networks through which recreation and travel routes run. A large investment into this was made by the Livingston Development Corporation (LDC) but the council has never had the same resources to manage this in the manner that was anticipated.

Over the decades many of the former bings in West Lothian were reclaimed and restored to woodland with a network of paths which are now well used for outdoor recreation.

There is also a large population of individual trees along streets, in school grounds, council house gardens, and parks. These trees and woodland are located on landholdings which fall under the responsibility of a number of council services. Park & Woodland through the Trees & Woodland Team is responsible for the management of all trees on land owned by West Lothian Council, however the budgets for this work are held by a number of council services.

The council through its own landholding and also through its educational and economic development activities has the opportunity to contribute in a significant way within West Lothian to Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29.

8.9.2 Operational Summary

The range of services is diverse and includes the following:-

- Woodland/forestry management
- tree safety
- customer enquiries and inspections
- arboricultural and forestry operations
- tree and woodland related planning advice
- tree health and disease/biosecurity
- forestry policy and legislation as related to WLC
- asset management and Scottish Integrated Administration and Control System (SIACS)

- individual tree management
- veteran tree management
- trees in the landscape.

8.9.3 Service Standards

The team measures and monitors its performance against their main activities, which feed into the overall objectives of NETs, Land and Countryside and ultimately the council, through the council's performance management system – Covalent. The team has a published suite of performance indicators which are reported to the public through the council's website. As a team we regularly review our performance measures for reliability and relevance and to implement changes and improvements based on customer feedback.

The largest forested area owned by the council is at Beecraigs Country Park and from which significant volumes of timber area harvested is certified under UK Woodland Assurance Scheme. It is independently audited and recognises that the forest is managed in a sustainable manner and meets the UK Forest Standard. The aim is that all the council's woods be managed in line with the UK Forest Standard, including managing them to mitigate against and can adapt to climate change; safeguards biodiversity, water, historic environment and landscape; takes account of people's use of the woodland.

8.9.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

Only limited pro-active management of the council's woods and tree population has been carried out over a number of years, due to limited resources, with most of the work being in response to windblow and other safety issues. An extensive amount of emergency work has been required over the past few years due to an increasing number of severe gales which have damaged large areas of forest and many individual trees.

At present there is no complete inventory of the individual trees or woodland areas in the council's ownership but work is underway to create this in a GIS database. Beecraigs Forest has a 20 year Long-term Forest Plan (LFP) and Urban Woodland Management Plans (UWMPs), including public access improvements, have been prepared and approved by Scottish Forestry for Almondell & Calderwood and Polkemmet Country Parks. Further UWMPs are due to be submitted to Scottish Forestry (SF) for 2 extensive areas within Livingston. SF are also encouraging both the council and Woodland Trust Scotland, to which about 50% of the LDC woods were transferred, to prepare LFPs for their connected woods throughout Livingston, to give a much needed holistic approach to the restructuring and management of the woods across the town.

Over 10,000 individual trees were captured as part of the NETS, Land and Countryside survey of maintained ground but their attributes and condition were not recorded. The most pressing survey work is the safety inspection of all trees within zones of highest risk from

tree failure, the majority of which were not included above. Currently individual trees and woodland belts within these zones are being mapped and their condition assessed and recorded on GIS database, in most cases for the first time.

There is a need to include in the baseline quality survey inventory, referred to previously, all areas managed by Park & Woodland including Country Parks, semi-natural sites, tree and woodland areas, Core Paths, Rights of Way and other public access routes.

8.9.5 Improvement Plan

The aim is to have up to date management plans for all the woods owned by the council. A full plan in line with those required by SF for the purpose of felling permissions and grant applications will be prepared for the larger areas with simpler management statements for smaller woods and those requiring less pro-active management.

Priority for preparing the plans and undertaking the subsequent operations will be based on the numbers of people using the woods or being affected by them and their current condition. However, trees and woods do not remain the same over time and even those woods in 'good condition' need to be thinned to give the remaining trees space to grow or be felled and re-planted/naturally regenerated to sustain the woods, which is a legal requirement under the Forestry and Land Management Scotland Act 2018.

A limited capital budget for 'Sustainable Woodland Management' over the past few years has enabled the first phase of the restructuring of Beecraigs to be undertaken. For the foreseeable future, the improvements will be funded from the sale of timber from Beecraigs and to a limited extent from other woods, supplemented by grants from SF and other sources, which are currently limited. This will constrain the improvements to those woodland open space areas that are eligible for funding.

The council's capital budget funds two members of the Trees & Woodland Team and there is a small budget for additional arboriculture work. The in house team will continue to develop the tree safety management plan and undertake the required surveys within High Risk Zones and then Medium Risk Zones as resources allow. These then need to be undertaken on a cycle of no more than three years. Once the first round of tree safety surveys have been completed the number of potentially dangerous trees should reduce and with it the amount of reactive works required.

Unfortunately there are a number of tree diseases which recently have begun to affect certain species of trees within West Lothian. These include *Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch and Chalara or Ash dieback disease and it is expected that significant numbers of these species will succumb and require removal within the next few years. Information on the numbers of trees of these species is being collated and a tree health report is to be prepared to inform the likely scale and impact of these and other tree diseases on the council.

8.9.6 Community Involvement

Generally, the scale of consultation relates to scale and type of project work and budget.

A minimum consultation would aim to include local elected ward members, Community Councils, proactively engage users of the area, local residents, and the wider community and where appropriate named individuals or local/national organisations, Grounds Maintenance, Open Space Officer, and any others that have expressed an interest in the project.

For SF funded projects a minimum level of consultation is a condition of their grants/permissions and they publish notices of these on their website. Where trees or woods are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area Planning Services are consulted.

Where the improvement relates to safety requirements consultation would be minimal or not carried out.

There are a number of sites where the community have an ongoing involvement in the management and development, usually in the form of a Friends Group. Other Community Groups may proactively maintain elements of a site either on an ongoing or ad hoc basis. Some also conceive and complete their own improvement projects in liaison with council officers. In general council officers will encourage all community groups, where resources allow, where they support maintenance of existing assets and in particular support establishment of new community groups where these groups can assist and enhance core maintenance of council assets managed by Park & Woodland.

8.10 Core Path Plan, Rights of Way, and Other Public Access Routes

8.10.1 Strategic Summary

West Lothian offers a wide range of opportunities for outdoor access. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives the right of responsible non-motorised access (but allows mobility scooters) to most land and inland water in Scotland. This responsible right of access extends to walking, including taking your dog for a walk, as well as cycling, equestrian activities and many other activities.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code explains how you can take responsible access when outdoors. It gives useful advice and guidance on how to act when faced with different situations. The Ranger Service helps promote the Code.

Every local authority in Scotland is required under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to prepare a Core Paths Plan to 'provide the basic framework of routes sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout the area.' Core Paths aim to promote access and reduce the potential for conflict between the needs of land managers and those of access users. The development of the plan aimed to ensure that each town and village had a basic framework of paths available for recreation and everyday journeys by local people and visitors. The routes identified as Core Paths were selected through public consultation and aimed to meet the needs of communities and visitors. The Core Paths Plan is currently being reviewed by the Ranger Service to ensure that the network still meets the needs of our communities, to highlight opportunities for greater connectivity and encourage greater use by the public.

Unlike some local authorities, West Lothian Council does not have an Outdoor Access Officer. This role is fulfilled by the Parks & Woodland section including the Ranger Service and Country Park Operatives.

Areas of work include:

- Administrative support for the West Lothian Outdoor Access Forum
- developing an Outdoor Access Strategy for West Lothian
- review and implementation of the Core Paths Plan
- providing advice and guidance on outdoor access
- path maintenance, establishment, and implementation projects
- rights of way and related issues
- promotion of responsible outdoor access.

Outdoor Access Forum

West Lothian Outdoor Access Forum brings together parties with an interest in developing and managing outdoor access. The Forum's functions are to:

- Advise on the exercise of access rights
- assist with the development of the core paths plan

- offer assistance in disputes about access rights.

The Forum is made up of people appointed by the local authority and will include:

- Land owners/managers or their representative
- individuals (e.g. walkers, cyclists, canoeists, horse-riders)
- agencies (local health and tourist boards).

The Forum meets approximately twice a year. Meeting notes are available on the council's website.

8.10.2 Operational Summary

The range of responsibilities is diverse and includes the following:-

- 194 km core paths
- 578 km Rights of Way (asserted, vindicated & claimed RoW)
- 311 km other paths.

8.10.3 Service Standards

The Parks & Woodland section measures and monitors its performance against their main activities, which feed into the overall objectives of NETs, Land and Countryside Services and ultimately the council, through the council's performance management system – Covalent. The section has a published suite of performance indicators which are reported to the public through the council's website. As a service we regularly review our performance to assess our performance measures for reliability and relevance, and to implement changes and improvements based on customer feedback.

8.10.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

On a rolling programme the Rights of Way and the Core Path have been monitored by the Ranger Service for a number of years. Work recommended on these has been identified and reported on. However, funding for the work has been limited and only priority work has been carried out. The Core Path Network is being assessed with the intention of a public review in 2020.

The majority of these networks are on private land. Parks & Woodland work with private landowners, where possible, to ensure that these routes remain open and passable for use. A significant proportion of the access network is owned and managed by the Council.

There is a need to include in the baseline quality survey inventory, referred to previously, all areas managed by Parks & Woodland including Country Parks, semi-natural sites, tree and woodland areas, Core Paths, Rights of Way and other public access routes.

8.10.5 Improvement Plan

In addition to ongoing maintenance operations, every year a number of improvements are identified for key routes. The level of investment is restricted by the limited capital budget available and external funding (e.g. Woodland In And Around Town projects and Shale Trail).

8.10.6 Community Involvement

Generally, the scale of consultation relates to scale and type of project work and budget.

A minimum consultation would aim to include the Access Forum, landowners, local elected ward members, Community Councils, local residents and the wider community and, where appropriate, named individuals or local/national organisations, Grounds Maintenance, Open Space Officer, and any others that have expressed an interest.

Where the improvement relates to safety requirements / improvements consultation would be minimal or not carried out.

There is a longer term intention to investigate the possibility of an volunteer access team. However, this will only be possible when we have the staff resource to support this.

8.11 Sports Facilities

There are many football pitches, sports centres, and other sports pitches and facilities in West Lothian. Most are under direct maintenance by NETs, Land and Countryside Service. In addition, a number of sports centres and associated outdoor facilities are managed by West Lothian Leisure (Xcite).

8.11.1 Strategic Summary

The development and maintenance of sports facilities in West Lothian is guided by the West Lothian Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy. The latest version of the strategy was approved in 2009 and a new strategy is currently in development, and will become an Annex of this plan in due course.

8.11.2 Operational Summary

Sports facilities come within the scope of the council's Corporate Asset Management Plan, which covers both 'Open Space' and 'Property Asset Management' as football pitches, for example, are maintained within the wider open space portfolio, whereas the associated pavilions are West Lothian Council property assets. As such, any capital/revenue allocated to the development or maintenance of sports facilities may come within one of these asset management areas. Typically, buildings and their hardstanding grounds are maintained by Property Services, while pitches and other open spaces are maintained by Grounds Maintenance. West Lothian Leisure manages ten facilities (Xcite venues) throughout West Lothian.

8.11.3 Service Standards

The highest level assessment of sporting assets is detailed through the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and the Scottish Household Survey.

The Scottish Household Survey reports the national picture with regards to the satisfaction with leisure facilities at an authority level. This information is reported by both the LGBF and is an indicator within the Active Scotland Outcome Framework.

The LGBF also provides a comparative measure for all local authorities of the cost per visit to leisure facilities.

8.11.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

The current West Lothian Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy (2009) takes account of certain sports and activities. It does not detail all sporting assets within West Lothian.

Sports facilities are managed by a diverse group of organisations. Facilities may be managed directly by West Lothian Council (e.g. primary school facilities), through West Lothian Leisure (Xcite venues), or through lease arrangements to local sports clubs and organisations.

8.11.5 Improvement Plan

There is an aspiration to review some sports facilities including those associated with school grounds in order to consider improving public access where there may currently be restrictions e.g. school play areas opened at weekends, where maintenance resources would allow.

8.11.6 Community Involvement

Users of sporting facilities liaise directly with facility managers (e.g. Xcite) to address reactive maintenance issues. Investment in the estate is currently directed through the West Lothian Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy (2009).

Various community sports clubs manage use of individual facilities across the council assets including sports pitches and pavilions.

8.12 Public Arts

8.12.1 Strategic Summary

Public art has a key role to play in creating a sense of place and can be found in many open spaces. The West Lothian Public Art Strategy (2014-19) aims to outline and promote the value and importance of public art to the built environment, to publicise the council's commitment to the subject, to celebrate previous successes, to detail the role of key players, process and responsibilities involved and to set appropriate targets. The current Supplementary Planning Guidance that relates to developer contributions towards public art has been reviewed and updated in 2019, undergone public consultation and presented to the Council Executive for consideration for adoption in September 2019. These developer contributions are held within the West Lothian Public Art Fund.

8.12.2 Operational Summary

Public art project development includes a wide range of services, community group partnerships, Planning Services and developer consultation support which come together to deliver place based creative projects. These activities include:

- disbursement of public art grants to community groups within West Lothian to progress their specific idea for their locality (This is through the "Grassroots Grants Programme");
- community group support for public art project development
- delivery of public art projects in partnership with council services, such as Construction Services, NETs, Land and Countryside Service and Education Services, that are required by their individual planning applications and the related SG to deliver public art projects
- public art commissioning group
- artist recruitment and procurement support
- artist contract management
- planning application support as required to developers for outdoor sited public artworks
- public art strategy development in partnership with major housing developers for Core Development Areas (CDA) e.g. Winchburgh and Calderwood
- Public Art Fund contribution monitoring and reporting
- Public Art Strategy Group (PASG) quarterly meetings of officers.

8.12.3 Service Standards

The Community Arts Service measures and monitors its performance through project partnership and participant evaluations, Planning Services developer consultations and Creative Scotland recommendations on equitable pay for artists based on the Scottish Artists Union.

As a service standard, the PASG monitors and reviews the outcomes of each public art project which are assessed on multiple 'soft social indicators' such as levels of satisfaction

during project participation, durability of externally sited artworks and approval of planning applications for artworks which receive no objections from local residents in the area.

8.12.4 Asset Inventory and Condition Survey

West Lothian Council's Structures Unit has a programme of assessing public art installations across West Lothian that may have an engineering issue on a 2 year schedule. Recommendations are then reported to the Public Art Strategy Group, comprised of council officers from Community Arts and Planning Services that meets quarterly. Currently an estimated 10% of the Public Art Fund (PAF) annual budget is earmarked for artworks requiring immediate or future maintenance.

8.12.5 Improvement Plan

A 2018 mapping project assessed approximately 130 public art sited installations in West Lothian to identify those that may require interpretation. The PAF may fund this project as part of a large interpretation programme for public art in the area. There is the intention to develop a new public art plan for 2020 to 2025 which will outline future work.

8.12.6 Community Involvement

The council have used the West Lothian Public Art Fund to promote three rounds of "Grassroots" public art grants available to community organisations across West Lothian. Large sections of the community have been engaged by numerous artists working on diverse public art projects in many settlements. This has included both primary and secondary schools and the West Lothian Youth Action Project, Community Councils and many other local interest groups. Each public art project delivered by the council makes public engagement a signature requirement of the artists design method and so enables local people to inform and influence some of the final aesthetic decisions made by the appointed artist/s.

Appendix 1 - Settlement Review

The open space database can be used to create a summary of active open space provision and standards for each of West Lothian's settlements. This is a useful tool in considering the impact of new developments and in identifying priorities for new investment.

Each settlement listed below has a one or two page summary of its active open space including site names and size, and reference to the settlements quality, quantity, and accessibility standard. Also included is a map showing the facilities referenced across West Lothian.

Quantity is measured as the amount of open space available per one thousand people. West Lothian adopts the Fields in Trust recommend minimum standard of 6 acres (2.4 hectares) for 1,000 people.

Quality is measured by individual site survey score, with the survey reflecting the full range of open space benefits. In summary, each site is given an overall score out of 75. A site with a score of 40 or above is considered 'fit for purpose' i.e. meeting minimum standard.

Accessibility is measured as distance to open space. The broad principle is that people should be close to at least some type of active open space, while it is reasonable that they may have to travel longer distances to reach larger, less abundant open space with more facilities, particularly if they live in small settlements or in the countryside. The 500m maximum distance that applies to play areas and Local Parks equates to roughly a 5 minute walk/2 minute cycle.

It should be noted (for the purposes of the settlement review) that 'Playspaces' are play areas that are out with formal parks. In general all Local, Neighbourhood, District, and Country Parks also contain play areas.

Population estimates are mid 2015 estimates.

Contents

1.	Addiewell / Loganlea.....	3
2.	Armadale and Armadale CDA.....	4
3.	Bathgate / Boghall.....	5
4.	Blackburn.....	7
5.	Blackridge / Westrigg.....	8
6.	Breich.....	9
7.	Bridgend	10
8.	Broxburn	11
9.	Dechmont	13
10.	East Calder and Calderwood CDA	14
11.	East Whitburn.....	15
12.	Ecclesmachan.....	16
13.	Fauldhouse.....	17
14.	Greenrigg.....	18
15.	Kirknewton.....	19
16.	Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge	20
17.	Livingston	22
18.	Longridge.....	26
19.	Mid Calder	27
20.	Newton / Woodend	28
21.	Philpstoun.....	29
22.	Polbeth.....	30
23.	Pumpherston.....	31
24.	Rural	32
25.	Seafeld.....	33
26.	Stoneyburn / Bents	34
27.	Torphichen.....	35
28.	Uphall.....	36
29.	Uphall Station.....	37

30.	West Calder.....	38
31.	Westfield.....	39
32.	Whitburn	40
33.	Winchburgh and Winchburgh CDA.....	41

1. Addiewell / Loganlea

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Addiewell	2	1.44	
Local Park	1	1.44	
Meadowhead Crescent		1.44	52
Playspace	1	0.09	
Addiewell PS Play Area		0.09	
Loganlea	3	7.09	
Local Park	1	0.56	
Loganlea Road Green		0.56	56
Neighbourhood Park	1	6.51	
Loganlea Park		6.51	48
Playspace	1	0.02	
Loganlea Place		0.02	
Total	5	8.62	
Population	1,328		
Quantity Standard	6.49		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 3 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties are within 500m of a play area. Approx. 20 properties in Addiewell (Station Court, Faraday Place, and Blackburn Road) are not within 500m of any play area.

The majority of properties are within 500m of a formal park. Approx. 20 properties in Addiewell (Station Court, Faraday Place, and Blackburn Road) are not within 500m of any formal park.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, and 10km of a District Park. All Loganlea properties are within 4km of a District Park. The majority of properties in Addiebrowhill and Addiewell are not within 4km of a District Park.

2. Armadale and Armadale CDA

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	7.21	
Avondale Park		5.29	48
St Anthony's Park		1.92	54
Neighbourhood Park	3	41.45	
Drove Road Park		20.37	54
Watson Park		10.61	40
Wood Park		10.47	48
Playspace	8	2.96	
Birkenshaw Way		0.03	
Eastertoun Ball Court		0.17	
Glenwood Drive		0.05	
Gracie's Wynd Play Area		0.57	
Kerr's Way Play Area (Private)		0.16	
Mayfield Green		1.79	
McCallum Court		0.05	
Watt Avenue Play Area		0.13	
Sports Bowling Green	2	1.78	
Armadale West Bowling Club		0.89	
Watson Park Bowling Club		0.88	
Sports Football Pitch	1	3.09	
Volunteer Park		3.09	
War Memorial	1	0.05	
Armadale War Memorial		0.05	
Total	17	56.66	
Population	11,618		
Quantity Standard	4.87		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	5 out of 5 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Armadale are within 500m of a play area. Approx. 60 new properties in the South are not within 500m of any play area, and approx. 300 properties in new developments in this area are only served by a privately maintained play area.

The majority of properties in Armadale are within 500m of a formal park. Several hundred properties in the South of Armadale are not within 500m of any formal park.

The majority of properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. Approx. 100 properties in the East (Atlas Court, Etna Court, Old Golf Course Road, and Terrareoch Court) are not. The majority of properties are within 4km of a District Park. Approx. 100 properties in the North West are not. Armadale's population is at the lower end of the guideline population for a District Park. All properties in Armadale are within 10k of a Country Park.

3. Bathgate / Boghall

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
District Park	1	115.43	
Balbardie Park of Peace		115.43	61
Local Park	5	12.64	
Burghmuir Park		3.70	47
Limefield Park (Boghall)		4.48	50
Marchwood Crescent Park		1.67	47
Robertson Avenue Local Park		1.66	37
Windyknowe Park		1.13	43
Neighbourhood Park	3	37.84	
Boghall Playing Fields		12.58	45
Kirkton Park		17.75	60
Meadow Park		7.51	43
Playspace	11	1.66	
Birniehill		0.20	
Blackburn Road		0.03	
Charles Crescent		0.07	
Falside Crescent Grass		0.35	
Hope Park Gardens		0.15	
Limefield Playspace		0.07	
Meikle Inch Lane		0.08	
Philip Avenue		0.10	
Wester Inch Circle		0.16	
Wester Inch Pond		0.37	
Whiteside Play Area		0.09	
Sports Bowling Green	3	1.77	
Bathgate Bowling Club		0.68	
Kirkton Park Bowling Club		0.50	
Glenmavis Bowling Club		0.60	
Sports Football Pitch	2	4.36	
Creamery Park		4.20	
Limefield Five a Side Pitch		0.16	
Sports Playing Fields	1	1.77	
Standhill Park		1.77	
War Memorial	1	0.26	
Bathgate War Memorial		0.26	
Total	27	175.73	
Population	21,725		
Quantity Standard	8.09		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	8 out of 9 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties are within 500m of a play area. Several hundred properties in central Bathgate and in the Standhill area are not within 500m of any play area. The majority of the Belvedere area is also not within 500m of any play area.

The majority of properties are within 500m of a formal park. However, the majority of property in Wester Inch, Standhill, and Whiteside areas are not within 500m of any formal park. Wester Inch Ponds Play Area and its surrounding open space do serve as a Neighbourhood Park, although the ponds and wider open space are not in council maintenance/ownership.

The majority of properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. Wester Inch, Standhill, and Whiteside areas and Glenmavis area are not within 1km of any Neighbourhood Park. All of Bathgate is within 4km of a District Park, and 10km of a Country Park.

4. Blackburn

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	4.31	
King George V Park		2.55	54
Redhouse Place Green		1.76	51
Neighbourhood Park	1	18.21	
Murrayfield Park		18.21	57
Playspace	3	0.24	
Blackburnhall Garll Gardens		0.06	
Kidz Grove		0.13	
Murrayfield 1		0.04	
Sports Bowling Green	1	1.69	
Blackburn Bowling Club		1.69	
Sports Football Pitch	1	3.61	
Blackburn Juniors Football Field		3.61	
War Memorial	1	0.26	
Blackburn War Memorial		0.26	
Total	9	28.33	
Population	5,392		
Quantity Standard	5.25		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 3 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All properties in Blackburn are within 500m of a play area.

The majority of properties in Blackburn are within 500m of a formal park. However, there are approx. 50 properties in the North (Beechwood Road and Beechwood Gardens) that are not within 500m of any formal park.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, and 10km of a Country Park. Only approx. 30 properties (Happy Valley Road) fall out with the 4km standard for access to a District Park.

5. Blackridge / Westrigg

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	3.25	
Hillside Drive Grass		0.73	37
West Craigs		2.52	44
Neighbourhood Park	2	6.50	
Blackridge Park		3.03	50
Westrigg Park		3.48	48
Total	4	9.76	
Population	1,954		
Quantity Standard	4.99		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 4 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Blackridge meets all accessibility standards excluding that for District Parks. No properties are within 4km of a District Park, although Blackridge is approx. 2.5km from a Country Park.

6. Breich

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	5.34	
Breich Park / School site		5.34	59
Playspace	2	1.14	
Breich Green		1.12	
Community Centre Play Park		0.02	
Total	3	6.49	
Population	209		
Quantity Standard	31.04		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Breich meets all accessibility standards.

7. Bridgend

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	5.71	
Bridgend Park		1.76	60
Bridgend South Park		3.95	39
Playspace	1	0.13	
Bridgend Ball Court		0.13	
Total	3	5.84	
Population	776		
Quantity Standard	7.53		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 2 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All properties in Bridgend are within 500m of a play area and within 500m of a formal park.

No properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, and approx. 30 properties in the East are not within 4km of a District Park. All properties are within 10km of a Country Park. Bridgend's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for a Neighbourhood Park.

8. Broxburn

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
District Park	1	26.34	
Stewartfield Park		26.34	53
Local Park	3	11.74	
Liggat Syke		6.37	57
Park View Square		1.10	48
Wyndford Avenue		4.27	39
Neighbourhood Park	2	14.99	
Holmes Park		7.34	51
Station Road Park		7.65	44
Playspace	12	1.74	
Almondell Play Area		0.06	
Badger Brook		0.09	
Badger Brook Ball Court		0.16	
Buchan Park		0.21	
Craigseaton		0.03	
Parklands 1		0.10	
Parklands 2		0.11	
Strathbrock Family Unit		0.07	
Cardross Play Area		0.04	
Globe Park (Private)		0.21	
Holmes Road (Private)		0.62	
Nicol Place (Private)		0.06	
Sports Bowling Green	2	2.32	
Broxburn Bowling Club		1.08	
Buchan Park Bowling Club		1.24	
Sports Centre and Playing Fields	1	6.69	
Broxburn Sports Centre		6.69	
Sports Football Pitch	1	6.07	
Broxburn United Sports Club		6.07	
Total	22	69.9	
Population	9,896		
Quantity Standard	7.06		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	5 out of 6 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All areas of Broxburn are within 500m of a play area.

All areas are also well within the recommended distances of Neighbourhood, District, and Country Parks.

There is a large gap in Local Park provision in the centre of Broxburn. Much of this area is within 500m of a Neighbourhood Park, which means they are within the standard for public parks as a whole, however there is a strip of housing down the centre of Broxburn which is more than 500m from any formal public park. This includes Laing Gardens/Galloway Crescent/Clarkson Road/Globe Park/Port Buchan/Blyth Road/Badger Brook. Much of this area is not within council ownership.

9. Dechmont

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	1	2.44	
Dechmont Park		2.44	50
Total	1	2.44	
Population	711		
Quantity Standard	3.43		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility standard

The eastern residences of Badger Wood and Craiglaw are out with 500m of a play area.

All areas are within recommended distance of a District Park and Country Park.

The eastern end of Craiglaw is further than 500m from a Local Park, and further than 500m from any formal park.

None of Dechmont is within the recommended distance of a Neighbourhood Park. Dechmont's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for a Neighbourhood Park.

10. East Calder and Calderwood CDA

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	7.89	
Langton Gardens / Redcraig Open Space		5.86	40
Langton Park		2.03	33
Neighbourhood Park	1	14.01	
East Calder Park		14.01	37
Playspace	2	0.91	
Broompark Green		0.77	
Queens Gardens		0.14	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.77	
East Calder Bowling Club		0.77	
Sports Centre and Playing Fields	1	4.52	
East Calder Sports Centre		4.52	
Total	7	28.10	
Population		5,167	
Quantity Standard		5.44	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		1 out of 3 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

Currently, all areas of East Calder are within 500m of a play area except most of the Calderwood development.

There is a gap in Local Park provision in the north of East Calder (level with and north of East Calder Primary School), none of this area is within 500m of a Local Park. However, all areas of East Calder are within 500m of some type of formal public park.

All the areas are within the recommended distance of Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks.

11. East Whitburn

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	3.88	
Redmill Park		3.88	54
Playspace	1	0.30	
Mains Place Play Area (Private)		0.30	
Total	2	4.18	
Population	1,132		
Quantity Standard	3.69		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in East Whitburn are within 500m of a play area. However, there are 6 properties in the West (Hamilton Way) that are not within 500m of any play area, and approx. 25 properties in the South (Mains Place, Crofters Way, and Mains Farm Place) are only served by a private play area.

East Whitburn meets all accessibility standards related to formal parks, excluding these same properties in the South that are not within 500m of any formal park.

12. Ecclesmachan

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Playspace	1	0.15	
Ecclesmachan Play Area		0.15	
Total	1	0.15	
Population	198		
Quantity Standard	0.76		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	0 out of 0 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Ecclesmachan are within 500m of a play area. However, there are circa 20 properties in the South that are not within 500m of any play area.

Ecclesmachan is not within 500m of any formal park, nor within 1km of any Neighbourhood Park. Ecclesmachan's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for a Local or a Neighbourhood Park.

All properties are within 4km of a District Park and 10km of a Countryside Park.

13. Fauldhouse

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	3	7.30	
Caledonian Road		2.27	54
Lanrigg Road Green		1.69	46
Meadow Crescent Strip		3.34	55
Neighbourhood Park	2	13.16	
Eastfield Road Park		7.63	34
Fallas Park		5.53	36
Playspace	2	0.41	
Burnside Play Area		0.09	
Church Place Play Area		0.32	
Sports Football Pitch	1	2.73	
Park View (Fauldhouse United JFC)		2.73	
War Memorial	1	0.32	
Blackfaulds Place War Memorial		0.32	
Total	9	23.92	
Population		4,887	
Quantity Standard		4.89	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		3 out of 5 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

All properties in Fauldhouse are within 500m of a play area and within 500m of a formal park.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park and 10km of a Country Park. The majority of properties are within 4km of a District Park. Those properties west of Falla Hill Primary School are not within 4km of a District or Country Park.

14. Greenrigg

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	10.06	
Greenrigg Park		10.06	45
Playspace	1	0.09	
Polkemmet Road		0.09	
Sports Football Pitch	1	2.76	
Gibshill Park Football Park		2.76	
Total	3	12.91	
Population	1,033		
Quantity Standard	12.50		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Greenrigg are within 500m of a play area. However, there are approx. 10 properties across the South East (Dyke Court) and South West (Baillie Avenue) that are not within 500m of any play area. There is a private play area in Baillie Avenue.

The majority of properties are within 500m of a formal park. Most properties on Baillie Avenue are not within 500m of any formal park.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park and within 10km of a Country Park. All properties excluding most of the properties on Baillie Avenue are within 4km of a District Park. However, all properties are within 4km of a Country Park.

15. Kirknewton

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	7.85	
Kirknewton Park		7.85	49
Total	1	7.85	
Population		1,852	
Quantity Standard		4.24	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

The central areas of Kirknewton are within 500m of a play area, however areas in the west and east of Kirknewton are not (West end of Station Road and Braekirk Gardens and all of Caledonian Court; East end of Main St and Kaimes Crescent and all of Hillhouse Wynd).

The same areas are out with 500m of any formal public park.

Most of Kirknewton is more than the recommended distance from a District Park.

16. Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
District Park	1	146.21	
Linlithgow Loch and Park		146.21	52
Local Park	7	10.50	
Baillielands Park		1.75	45
Beechwood Playing Field		1.84	39
Douglas Avenue Park		1.70	52
Justinhaugh Drive Green		1.02	45
Preston Road Park		1.41	41
Sheriffs Park Strip		1.38	48
Springfield Road Green		1.39	52
Neighbourhood Park	3	22.80	
Listloaning Playing Field		4.20	43
Rosemount Park		6.67	50
Springfield Park		11.93	47
Playspace	9	1.02	
Deanburn		0.06	
Laverock Park		0.06	
Linlithgow Loch Playspace		0.14	
Mill Road		0.17	
Millerfield		0.17	
Oatlands Park		0.11	
Philip Avenue		0.16	
Springfield Drive Play Area		0.10	
The Vennel		0.05	
Sports Bowling Green	2	1.28	
Linlithgow Bowling Club		0.63	
Linlithgow Sports Club - Bowling Green		0.66	
Sports Centre and Playing Fields	1	31.03	
Linlithgow Leisure Centre		31.03	
Sports Football Pitch	1	3.33	
Prestonfield		3.33	
Sports Playing Fields	1	10.85	
Linlithgow Rugby Club		10.85	
Sports Tennis Courts	1	0.51	
Linlithgow Sports Club - Tennis Courts		0.51	
Total	26	227.53	
Population		13,515	
Quantity Standard		16.84	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		10 out of 11 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Linlithgow are within 500m of a play area. However, there are a few to the immediate west of Kingscavil Cemetery that are not within 500m. In addition, approx. 30 properties across Kettil'stoun Grove and Gardens are not within 500m of a play area.

The majority of properties are within 500m of a formal park. Those properties mentioned above are not, neither are an additional 8 properties on Braehead Park, and a dozen properties on Lovells Glen.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, excluding approx. 50 properties in the Kettil'stoun area. All properties are within 4km of a District Park, and 10km of a Country Park.

17. Livingston

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Allotments	2	3.07	
Deans Allotments		0.87	
Killandean Allotments		2.20	
District Park	4	183.57	
Almond Park		47.21	58
Almondvale Park		22.64	68
Bankton Mains Park		61.14	62
Eliburn Park		52.58	54
Local Park	8	19.54	
Bellsquarry Recreation Ground		5.41	42
Central Recreation Area / Deans Park		2.93	50
Clement Rise / Glebe Farm Park		2.56	57
Craigspark		1.77	63
Edmonton Green		1.99	47
Fells Rigg Green		1.84	52
Stonebank Local Park		0.96	50
Sutherland Way Park		2.08	55
Neighbourhood Park	9	115.42	
Falcon Brae Grass		4.38	51
Heatherbank Park		8.00	43
Howden Park (North)		57.38	46
Lanthorn (South)		4.88	63
Letham Park (Craigshill)		3.90	48
Livingston Village Park		16.67	48
Mosswood Playing Fields		5.04	39
Peel Park		10.82	66
Quarry Park		4.35	52
Playspace	69	9.02	
Adambrae		0.12	
Bankton Park West		0.11	
Bankton Way Play Area		0.12	
Birrell Gardens Play Area		0.25	
Buchanan Playspace		0.03	
Burnsknowe		0.05	
Bute Green		0.37	
Camps Rigg 103		0.40	
Chestnut Grove		0.06	
Chuckethall Road		0.10	
Clement Rise Ball Court		0.24	
Clova Drive Play Area & Goals		0.29	

Columbia Avenue		0.02	
Columbia Avenue Play Area		0.15	
Crathes Gardens		0.10	
Deans Ball Court		0.07	
Doon Walk		0.19	
Doon Walk Green		1.21	
Eliburn Nursery Class		0.01	
Everard Playspace		0.07	
Falcon Brae 42		0.00	
Forestbank Ball Court		0.07	
Forestbank Playspace		0.29	
Gowanbank		0.07	
Granby Avenue		0.05	
Harburn Avenue 120		0.01	
Haymarket Playspace		0.03	
Kestrel Brae		0.08	
Kirkfield West		0.03	
Kirkton South		0.06	
Knightsridge Adventure Area		0.41	
Ladywell East Playspace		0.20	
Lanark Avenue Playspace		0.15	
Larchbank Playspace		0.18	
Lenzie Avenue Ball Court		0.16	
Leven Walk Playspace		0.08	
Logan Way Playspace		0.03	
Moncrief Way 49		0.03	
Muirfield Way 52		0.01	
Murieston Valley		0.13	
Ogilvie School Campus		0.09	
Oldwood Place Playspace		0.18	
Onslow Green		0.29	
Orchard Place		0.17	
Palmer Rise 77		0.01	
Peveril Rise 23		0.03	
Peveril Rise 49		0.03	
Peveril Rise 99		0.01	
Play Pals		0.04	
Quentin Rise 12		0.01	
Raeburn Rigg 240		0.04	
Raeburn Rigg Grass		0.65	
Roseberry Place		0.09	
Rosehill Playspace		0.06	
Rushbank		0.08	
Sarazen Green Playspace		0.05	
Staffa		0.18	

Staunton Rise 49		0.00	
Sutherland Way Ball Court		0.25	
Sutherland Way Play Area		0.16	
Talisman Rise 30		0.01	
Talisman Rise 44		0.01	
Talisman Rise 64		0.01	
Templar Rise 4		0.01	
Templar Rise Steelway Goals		0.10	
Waverley Crescent Playspace		0.32	
Wellview Lane Playspace		0.11	
Wood Place 22		0.00	
Wood Place 33		0.00	
Soft Play Area Swing Park	1	0.22	
Knightsridge Community Centre		0.22	
Sports Bowling Green	5	3.69	
Bankton Mains Bowling Green		0.87	
Craigs Farm Bowling Green		0.68	
Harrismuir Bowling Club		0.65	
Letham Park Bowling Green		0.84	
Livingston Station Bowling Green		0.65	
Sports Centre and Playing Fields	1	41.34	
Craigswood Sports Centre and Playing Fields		41.34	
Sports Football Pitch	4	6.19	
Larchbank Kickspace		0.13	
Livingston Football Club Stadium Pitch		1.76	
Livingston Football Pitch Practice Pitch		1.73	
Station Park		2.57	
Sports Kick Pitch	1	0.27	
Livingston Village Kick Pitches		0.27	
Sports Playing Fields	2	9.44	
Centre Greenspace		0.18	
Livingston RFC		9.26	
Sports Tennis Courts	1	0.27	
Harrismuir Tennis Courts		0.27	
Total	107	392.04	
Population	54,640		
Quantity Standard	7.17		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	20 out of 21 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Most areas of Livingston are within 500m of a play area, except areas around the periphery and pockets throughout the town, including:

in the west –

the roads north and south of Simpson parkway A705, residential areas around Alderstone Business Park, Appleton Drive, Quarrywood Court

in the north –

Deans: Beechwood Park, east end of Middlewood Park, Woodlands Park, Golf Course Road, Player Green, Gallacher Green, Taylor Green, Eagles View

in the south –

Murieston: some of Easter Bankton, Bankton Glade, Murieston Road, West Cairn View, Wellview Lane, Skivo Wynd.

For future reference, in case they are re-designated as residential areas, these areas are also further than 500m from a play area: Houston Ind Estate, Brucefield Ind Estate, Almondvale Business Park.

There are gaps in Local Park and Neighbourhood Park coverage, and some areas out with 500m of any formal parks. These are areas around North Deans/Dechmont Law, Houston Ind Estate, Simpson Parkway/Kirkton, Charlesfield/Adambrae, all houses along Murieston Road and in the south of Murieston, Craigswood in the north of Craigshill.

All areas are within the recommended distance from District and Country Parks.

18. Longridge

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	2.02	
Longridge Park		2.02	49
Playspace	1	0.02	
Northfield Meadow		0.02	
War Memorial	1	0.07	
Longridge Cross		0.07	
Total	3	2.11	
Population	945		
Quantity Standard	2.23		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Longridge meets all accessibility standards.

It should be noted that the play area within Longridge Primary School grounds is fully accessible to the public.

19. Mid Calder

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	1	5.05	
Sommers Park		5.05	61
Neighbourhood Park	1	11.12	
Cunnigar Park		11.12	44
Playspace	4	0.86	
Avenue Park West Playspace		0.46	
Maryfield		0.15	
Ochiltree View		0.21	
Spottiswood Gardens		0.04	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.68	
Mid Calder Bowling Green		0.68	
Total	7	17.72	
Population		3,381	
Quantity Standard		5.24	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		2 out of 2 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

All areas are within 500m of a play area, except Almondside and Pumpherston Road/Mill Lane.

All areas are within the recommended distance of a Neighbourhood, District, and Country Park.

Although there is a gap in provision of Local Parks in Mid Calder, all areas are within 500m of a formal public park.

20. Newton / Woodend

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Playspace	1	0.18	
Duddingston Crescent		0.18	
Total	1	0.18	
Population	139		
Quantity Standard	1.30		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	0 out of 0 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Only those properties in Newton are within 500m of a play area, those in Woodend are not.

Newton (inc. Woodend) is not within 500m, 1km, or 4km of any formal park. It is within 10km of a Country Park. Newton's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for any formal park.

21. Philpstoun

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	1	2.63	
Philpstoun Playing Field		2.63	54
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.56	
Philpstoun Bowling Club		0.56	
Total	2	3.19	
Population	417		
Quantity Standard	7.66		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Philpstoun are within 500m of a play area. Two properties in the East of the main settlement, and all properties in Old Philpstoun are not.

The majority of properties in Philpstoun are within 500m of a formal park. Two properties in the East of the main settlement, and all properties in Old Philpstoun are not.

No properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. Philipstoun's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for a Neighbourhood Park. The majority of properties are within 4km of a District Park, Old Philpstoun and Wyndford Brae are not. All properties are within 10km of a Country Park.

22. Polbeth

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	2	4.73	
Ennis Park		2.85	47
Langside Gardens Green		1.88	41
Neighbourhood Park	1	20.81	
Limefield Park (Polbeth)		20.81	56
Playspace	3	0.48	
Burnside Terrace		0.05	
Fells Road Play Area		0.28	
Polbeth Community Centre Ball Court		0.15	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.83	
Limefield Park Bowling Green		0.83	
Total	7	26.85	
Population	2,366		
Quantity Standard	11.35		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 3 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

Polbeth meets all accessibility standards.

23. Pumpherston

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	1	1.54	
Letham Park (Pumpherston)		1.54	28
Neighbourhood Park	1	5.23	
Fraser Park (Drumshoreland)		5.23	64
Playspace	2	0.18	
Harrysmuir Playspace		0.08	
Heaney Avenue		0.10	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.60	
Pumpherston Bowling Club		0.60	
Sports Playing Fields	1	5.08	
Pumpherston Sports Ground		5.08	
Total	6	12.63	
Population	1,209		
Quantity Standard	10.45		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 2 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All areas of Pumpherston are currently within 500m of a play area.

Although there is a gap in provision of local parks in the north of Pumpherston, all areas are within 500m of any formal public park.

All areas are within the recommended distance of Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks.

24. Rural

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Bridgecastle		0.19	
Playspace	1	0.19	
Bridgecastle		0.19	
Threemiletown		1.85	
Local Park	1	1.85	
Redhouse Recreation Ground		1.85	51
Total	2	2.04	
Population	6,588		
Quantity Standard	NA		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

NA

25. Seafield

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	1	1.51	
Seafield Green		1.51	50
Playspace	1	0.01	
Seafield Institute		0.01	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.66	
Seafield Bowling Club		0.66	
Sports Football Pitch	1	3.60	
Seafield Football Pitch		3.60	
Total	4	5.78	
Population	1,320		
Quantity Standard	4.38		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All properties in Seafield are within 500m of a play area and within 500m of a formal park.

No properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. Seafield's population is lower than the recommended guideline population for a Neighbourhood Park. All properties are within 4km of a District Park and 10km of a Country Park.

26. Stoneyburn / Bents

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Bents		0.09	
Playspace	1	0.09	
Wallace Walk		0.09	
Stoneyburn		19.08	
Local Park	1	9.18	
Foulshiels		9.18	44
Neighbourhood Park	1	2.68	
Glenview Crescent Playing Fields		2.68	52
Playspace	1	0.08	
Burnlea Drive Play Area		0.08	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.92	
Stoneyburn Bowling Club		0.92	
Sports Football Pitch	1	6.10	
Beechwood Park		6.10	
War Memorial	1	0.11	
Stoneyburn War Memorial		0.11	
Total	7	19.17	
Population		1,976	
Quantity Standard		9.70	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		2 out of 2 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Stoneyburn and Bents are within 500m of a play area. A handful of properties in the west of Bents are not.

The majority of properties in Stoneyburn and Bents are within 500m of a formal park. Approx. 50 properties in the west of Bents (Cannon Crescent, Main Street, and Garden City) are not.

The majority of properties in Stoneyburn and Bents are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. A handful of properties in the west of Bents are not. All properties are within 4km of a District Park and 10km of a Country Park.

27. Torphichen

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	5.97	
Torphichen Park		5.97	57
Total	1	5.97	
Population	595		
Quantity Standard	10.03		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Torphichen are within 500m of a play area. Approx. 20 properties on the western and eastern fringes are not.

The majority of properties in Torphichen are within 500m of a formal park. Approx. 20 properties on the western and eastern fringes are not.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, 4km of a District Park, and 10km of a Country Park.

28. Uphall

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Local Park	3	6.56	
Glebe Park		2.72	52
Millbank Place East		1.71	43
Burn Edge Park		2.13	53
Neighbourhood Park	1	5.66	
King George V Playing Fields		5.66	41
Playspace	5	0.54	
Ball Court & Skatepark		0.26	
McLardy Court		0.07	
Thompson Court		0.04	
Craigengar Avenue (Private)		0.05	
South Middleton (Private)		0.12	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.80	
Uphall Bowling Club		0.80	
Total	10	13.56	
Population	4,702		
Quantity Standard	2.88		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	4 out of 4 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility standard

All areas are within 500m of a play area.

The gap in provision of Local Parks in the south-east of Uphall has been filled by designating the open space north of Loaninghill Park and north-east of Middleton Road as a Local Park. The new park is called Burn Edge Park.

All areas are within the recommended distance of Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks.

29. Uphall Station

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Neighbourhood Park	1	3.27	
Marrfield Park		3.27	51
Playspace	1	0.38	
Nettlehill Drive Play Area		0.38	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.77	
Uphall Station Bowling Club		0.77	
Total	3	4.42	
Population		932	
Quantity Standard		4.74	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	1 out of 1 park Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility standard

All areas of Uphall Station are within 500m of a play area.

Although there are no Local Parks in Uphall Station, all areas are within 500m of a formal public park.

All areas are within the recommended standards of Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks.

30. West Calder

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Allotments	1	0.80	
Northfield Cottage Allotments		0.80	
Local Park	1	1.48	
Burngrange West Park		1.48	41
Neighbourhood Park	2	12.56	
Burngrange East Park		5.49	52
Parkhead Recreational Ground		7.07	44
Playspace	2	2.09	
Parkhead Cottages Green		0.94	
The Glebe Green		1.16	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.53	
West Calder Bowling Club		0.53	
Sports Football Pitch	1	6.16	
Hermand Park		6.16	
War Memorial	1	0.17	
War Memorial		0.17	
Total	9	23.79	
Population	3,143		
Quantity Standard	7.57		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 3 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in West Calder are within 500m of a play area. Approx. 80 properties in the North (Westwood View, and Mossend Gardens) are not.

The majority of properties in West Calder are within 500m of a formal park. Approx. 80 properties in the North (Westwood View, and Mossend Gardens) are not.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, and within 10km of a Country Park. The western half of West Calder is not within 4km of a District Park.

31. Westfield

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Playspace	1	0.29	
Westfield Play Area		0.29	
Total	1	0.29	
Population	564		
Quantity Standard	0.52		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	0 out of 0 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

All properties are within 500m of a play area.

Westfield is not within 500m of any formal park. Westfield's population is within recommended guideline population for a Local Park.

Westfield is not within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park. The majority of Westfield is within 4km of a District Park, four properties in the North West are not. Westfield is within 10km of a Country Park.

32. Whitburn

Quality/Quantity Standard

Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
District Park	1	48.68	
Blaeberryhill Park		48.68	58
Neighbourhood Park	2	33.73	
Hunter Grove Park		13.72	60
King George V Playing Field		20.01	54
Playspace	4	1.23	
Croftmalloch		0.11	
Dixon Road Play Area		0.14	
Glenisla Court		0.04	
Whitburn Academy		0.94	
Sports Bowling Green	2	1.07	
Polkemmet Country Park Bowling Club		0.73	
West End Gospel Hall		0.34	
Sports Football Pitch	1	2.97	
Central Park		2.97	
Total	10	87.67	
Population	11,131		
Quantity Standard	7.88		
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)	3 out of 3 Fit for Purpose		

Accessibility Standard

The majority of properties in Whitburn are within 500m of a play area. Approx. 200 properties in the Heartlands development are not.

The majority of properties in Whitburn are within 500m of a formal park. Approx. 50 properties to the immediate east of Whitburn Academy are not.

All properties are within 1km of a Neighbourhood Park, 4km of a District Park, and 10km of a Country Park.

33. Winchburgh and Winchburgh CDA

Quality/Quantity Standard

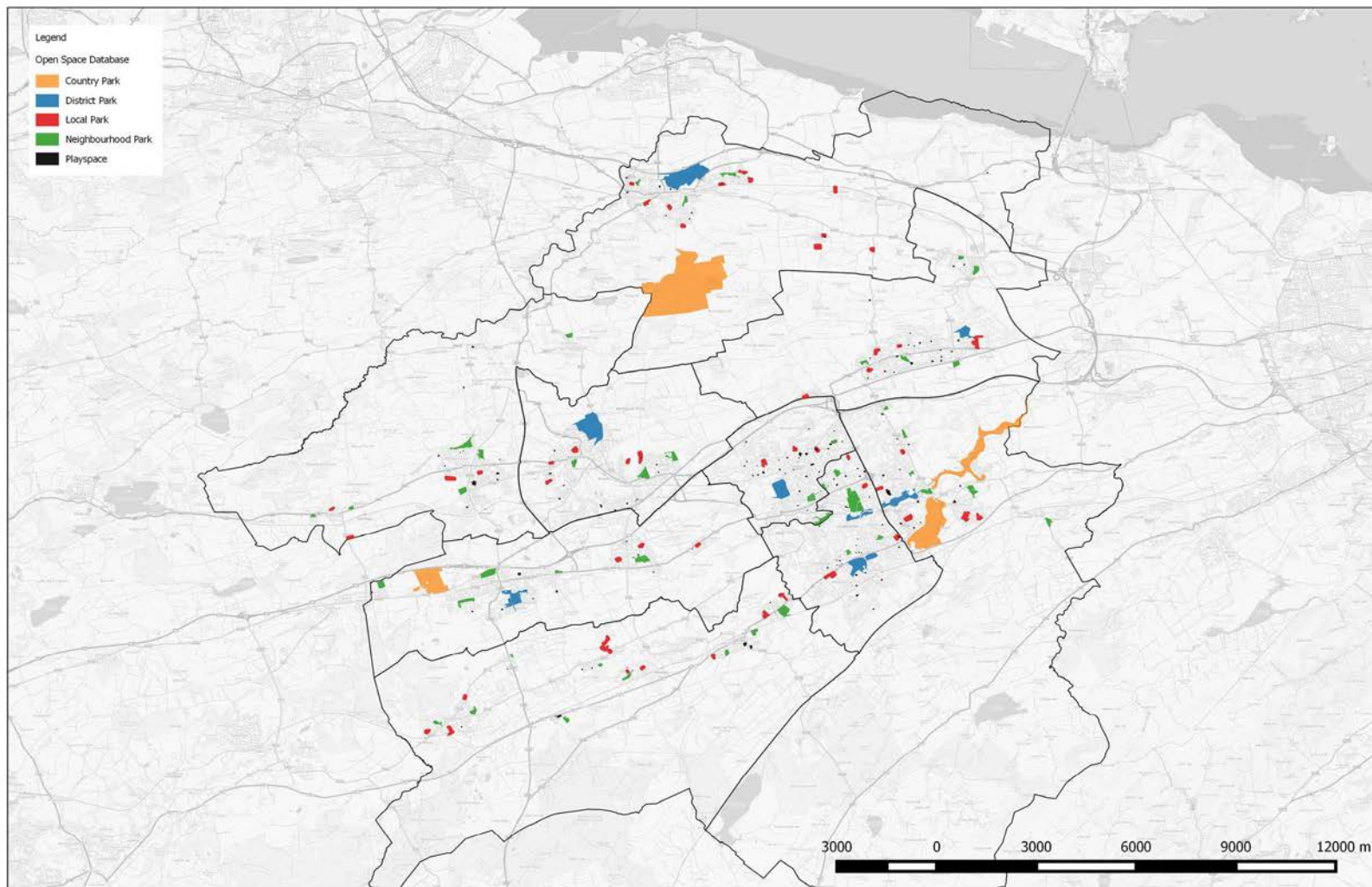
Type	Count	Area (Acres)	Quality
Allotments	1	1.47	
Winchburgh Allotments		1.47	
Neighbourhood Park	2	13.04	
Millgate Park		4.01	50
Niddry Park		9.03	45
Playspace	2	0.29	
Glendevon		0.17	
Millgate Green Playspace		0.12	
Sports Bowling Green	1	0.92	
Winchburgh Bowling Club		0.92	
War Memorial	1	0.14	
Winchburgh War Memorial		0.14	
Total	7	15.85	
Population		2,950	
Quantity Standard		5.66	
Quality Standard (Formal Parks)		2 out of 2 Fit for Purpose	

Accessibility standards

Most of Winchburgh is currently within 500m of a play area, except Station Road, Station View and Beattie Road in the north-east and Hillend View in the west.

There is a deficit of Local Parks in Winchburgh, resulting in some areas being over 500m from any formal public park. These areas are: Hillend View and Hillend Road in the west and Station View and Beattie Road in the north-east. However, these areas will be covered with the construction of Auldathie District Park in the west of Winchburgh and Daisy Park in the north-east, by Winchburgh Developments.

All areas are within the recommended distance of Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks.



West Lothian Council, Parks and Play Areas



Drawn by Simon Scott, Dec 2020
 ©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No.100037194

Appendix 2 - Quality Standard Survey Methodology

QU No.	Category	Sub-category	Score	Some things to consider	Notes
1	High Quality	Character and continuity	1-5	<p>Is the overall space attractive visually?</p> <p>Is there a unique character that distinguishes the space from others?</p> <p>Is there a consistent character and design element throughout?</p> <p>Is the design and features consistent with the surrounding area?</p>	Unique archaeological or natural features will be visible and ideally interpretation available.
2	High Quality	Community Involvement	1-5	<p>Are the community involved in group activities that make use of the space?</p> <p>Are the community contributing to maintenance, policing, and improvement of the space?</p> <p>Are the community engaged in council management of the space and decision making?</p>	Contribution by community can include across sports pitches, play equipment, managing pavilion, conservation projects etc.
3	High Quality	Material Quality	1-5	<p>Is there high quality material used in surface and feature construction?</p> <p>Are materials durable?</p> <p>Does new planting reflect best contribution to overall quality of space i.e. right tree right place, native species, low maintenance, contribute to biodiversity etc.?</p>	Poor quality would include cheap untreated benches, flimsy fences, whin-dust paths where tarmac is required to deal with high footfall.
4	High Quality	Sustainable resources	1-5	<p>Are materials in construction and maintenance from a sustainable source?</p> <p>Is water management sustainable?</p> <p>Is the use of herbicides sustainable and appropriate?</p> <p>Is manual and mechanical vegetation control and other maintenance at appropriate level?</p>	Sustainable materials may be difficult to determine, but should be able to determine if scoring park after an upgrade or if in contact with those responsible for maintenance.
5	High Quality	Adaptability	1-5	<p>Does the space afford flexibility to be managed or used differently over time according to changing needs and uses?</p> <p>Could amenity grassland or pitches become food growing?</p> <p>Could building be erected?</p> <p>Could habitats be changed economically?</p>	

Appendix 2 - Quality Standard Survey Methodology

6	Multifunctional	Biodiversity	1-5	<p>Have physical measures been taken to encourage biodiversity? Are there a variety of native plants, are there suitable habitats for native animals? Are non-natives controlled and removed? If there are water bodies are these clean with suitable surrounding vegetation to encourage biodiversity? If notable species and habitats are present, are there any protection measures?</p>	<p>Measures taken could include native planting, bird and bat boxes, areas of previously mown grass allowed to grow, wood piles for insects and amphibians etc. Suitable habitats could include wildflower meadow, areas where grass can grow long, old and new trees, areas with minimal disturbance etc.</p>
7	Multifunctional	Economic benefit	1-5	<p>Are groups or organisations benefitting economically through their use of the space (e.g. personal trainers/boot camps/food selling/wedding photography) Is the space sponsored? Does the space attract external investment in the space or surrounding area i.e. commercial or NGO, charity etc.? Does the council make any direct economic benefit from the space e.g. visitor centre, event charges, fishery? Is public benefitting from natural products on site? e.g. fresh water, cultivated food, wild food, timber or wood products, wood fuel, renewable energy.</p>	
8	Multifunctional	Networks	1-5	<p>Does the space have green links to wider open space? Does the space contribute to a quality blue network? Are there good sustainable transport links into nearby commercial and/or industrial areas i.e. getting people to work? Does the space link into wider recreational pedestrian or cycle networks including regionally significant ones?</p>	<p>When considering green networks, the extent by which buildings, roads, water, and paths inhibit wildlife travel and disturbance should be considered i.e. rope bridges, underpasses, green bridges etc. improve the quality of a network.</p>

Appendix 2 - Quality Standard Survey Methodology

9	Multifunctional	Regulating Services	1-5	<p>Is this the largest green space in the area?</p> <p>Is the space storing water from surrounding areas through vegetation or direct drainage? (or is it contributing to flooding?)</p> <p>Is the space improving water quality e.g. quality of run off, or standing water</p> <p>Does the space provide significant habitat for pollinators?</p> <p>Is there significant vegetation on site that can help to filter pollutants e.g. trees, bushes, long grasses, rushes/reeds, bog mosses,etc?</p> <p>Is there vegetation on site that is helping to prevent soil erosion e.g. plants on slopes, beside waterways, etc.? (or are there signs of soil erosion, e.g. bare ground on slopes?)</p>	
10	Multifunctional	Cultural Services (Variety of use)	1-5	<p>Are there any good views or nice places to relax/enjoy the surroundings here?</p> <p>Are there any places particularly good for studying plants or watching wildlife?</p> <p>Can people play a number of different sports activities here?</p> <p>Does play equipment cater to different ages?</p> <p>Are there features for other recreational activities? e.g. dog walking, picnics, public art etc.</p> <p>Is there a suitable space that allows for events and new activities? e.g. school sports days, gala, markets</p> <p>Does the space offer opportunities for learning and school use?</p>	

Appendix 2 - Quality Standard Survey Methodology

11	Safe and Welcoming	Accessibility	1-5	<p>Is the area within 500m of a community</p> <p>Is the majority of the space accessible to able bodied</p> <p>Is a large part of the space and its features accessible to buggies and wheelchairs</p> <p>Is car parking and public transport links appropriate for the size and function of the site</p> <p>Is any sports and play equipment accessible to all abilities</p>	
12	Safe and Welcoming	Entrances and boundary	1-5	<p>Are fences, gates, and vehicle barriers appropriate for space and attractive</p> <p>Are entrances in the right place, clear and welcoming or are they hidden or intimidating</p> <p>Could the site be easily found by new visitors to the area either on foot or by vehicle</p> <p>Does the space have a clear boundary</p>	
13	Safe and Welcoming	Maintenance	1-5	<p>Does the park have scheduled maintenance</p> <p>Is maintenance effective e.g. are damaged features being repaired, vegetation controlled, furniture treated, bins emptied</p> <p>Is it clear who maintains the site and how to contact them</p> <p>Is the area draining well or are there areas of flooding that could restrict access and potentially be unsafe</p> <p>Are there any areas of neglect</p>	
14	Safe and Welcoming	Orientation and Interpretation	1-5	<p>Is it clear that this is a park?</p> <p>Is it clear what is available in the space and where it is?</p> <p>Is it clear what the space links to? e.g. industrial estate, core path, neighbouring settlements etc.</p> <p>Is there any information about the wildlife/history/geography/folklore of the site?</p>	

Appendix 2 - Quality Standard Survey Methodology

15	Safe and Welcoming	Safety	1-5	<p>Are there areas where people may not feel safe during the day or at night</p> <p>How much of the park is visible from nearby houses and roads i.e. natural surveillance</p> <p>Are there signs of anti-social behaviour e.g. graffiti, fly-tipping, broken glass, damaged furniture, evidence of drinking and drug-use</p> <p>Do paths and entrances etc. allow for pedestrians to safely pass wheeled users</p>	
----	--------------------	--------	-----	---	--