



WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL LDP2 EVIDENCE REPORT
BACKGROUND PAPER

West Lothian Play Sufficiency Assessment

(DRAFT DECEMBER 2024)

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Introduction

What is a Play Sufficiency Assessment?

Under the Planning Scotland Act 2019, Local Authorities are legally required to conduct a Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA). This assessment evaluates the availability and quality of play spaces for children and teenagers across West Lothian. The goal of the PSA is to gather insight into where children play, assess the quality of these spaces and determine if they effectively meet the needs of young people. This will allow any gaps in provision to be identified and addressed. The findings from the PSA will be used in preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

The Importance of Play

Access to play spaces is important for young people at all stages of childhood and adolescence. For young children, early experiences of play help with cognitive development and motor skills. The unstructured play that children participate in at play areas allows them to be imaginative and explore their surroundings. Safe and engaging spaces for older children and teenagers are equally important, providing opportunities for socialisation, exercise and building a sense of independence. Play spaces are also useful for carers and parents to meet and socialise, supporting wider community wellbeing. Therefore, outdoor play areas are key to good placemaking. Proximity, natural environments, opportunity for social connection, and protection from traffic positively influence the use of play spaces.

Key Findings

- The minimum standard acreage of outdoor play space is met in less than half of localities
- Overall quality of formal parks has significantly improved since 2020
- 2 out of 104 formal play parks are not fit for purpose, reduced from 11 in 2020
- Children are generally more satisfied with play spaces than adults
- Having play spaces and outdoor areas close to homes is important
- Areas for improvement:
 - Equipment to keep all ages entertained, particularly older children
 - Accessibility and play for those with disabilities and additional needs
 - Maintenance
 - Provision of toilet facilities and seating
 - Quality and provision of play equipment being designed into new housing developments
 - Geographic disparities
 - Public access to free outdoor sports pitches

Engagement

- West Lothian Council conducted two sets of surveys in preparation of the PSA. The first, named ‘How good are our outdoor play spaces are and how can we make them better?’, involved one survey of under-18s and another of adults. These surveys ran from June to August 2024.
- The under-18 survey gathered 744 participants. The demographic spread included 46% males, 47% females and 7% of participants who preferred not to say or used other gender identities. 3% were aged under 5, 11% aged 5-11, and the majority (86%) were aged 12-17.
- The adult survey gathered 415 participants, the majority of whom were parents.
- The second set of surveys named ‘How good is your place?’ covered a wider range of place-based topics including play and recreation. Four separate surveys were disseminated to gather information from children aged under 13, young people aged 13-18, adults, and disabled people. The surveys gathered 194, 151, 16 and 1 participants, respectively.

Open Space Plan

The Open Space Plan (OSP) is a strategic document that guides the management, improvement and development of outdoor spaces in West Lothian. It includes a locality-based assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of play spaces and formal parks, which has been used to inform this PSA. The OSP (2020-2024) was replaced in December 2024 by the Draft OSP (2025-2034). As the new plan is still in draft form and therefore subject to change, this PSA is intended to be updated accordingly.

From this point forward, “OSP” refers to the Draft OSP (2025-2034), unless stated otherwise.

Formal and Informal Play

For the purposes of this PSA, **formal** play areas are equipped spaces that are specifically designed for children to play and have fun. They can be divided into the following types:

- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)
- Local Area for Play (LAP)

A full explanation of the features of each type of formal play area is provided as Appendix 1.

Each formal park that contains a play area is also categorised into a type, a full description of which is provided as Appendix 2:

- Country Park
- District Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Local Park

Informal play spaces are also a part of the PSA. These are spaces that are unequipped and not always intentionally designed for the purpose of play, but nonetheless provide recreational opportunity for children and young people. These can include natural spaces, gardens, woodland, sports fields and other public spaces.

Community Surveys

Two sets of community surveys were conducted in preparation of the PSA. The first, named 'How good are our outdoor play spaces are and how can we make them better?' will be referred to as the Outdoor Play Spaces Survey, and the second, named 'How good is your place?' will be referred to as the Your Place Survey from this point onwards.

The location of participants in the Outdoor Play Spaces Survey can be viewed in Figures 1 and 2. The majority of participants aged under 18 are concentrated in Livingston, while adult participants appear to be more widely dispersed.

Current Satisfaction

When asked to rate the quality of their play spaces, children answered more positively than adults in the Outdoor Play Spaces Survey (Figures 1 and 2). Specifically, children under 5 gave an average rating of 6.1 out of 10, children aged 5-11 rated the spaces at 6.9, and those aged 12-17 rated them highest at 7.2 out of 10. Adults tended to rate play spaces less favourably, with an average score of 5.5 out of 10.

Under-18s appear to highly rate play spaces in Uphall, Broxburn, Winchburgh, West Calder and Polbeth, while other areas have a greater mixture of results.

Adults appear to rate play spaces in the south-west of West Lothian lower in comparison to other areas. Winchburgh, Linlithgow and Beecraigs Country Park are rated comparatively highly, and other areas have more varied scores out of 10.

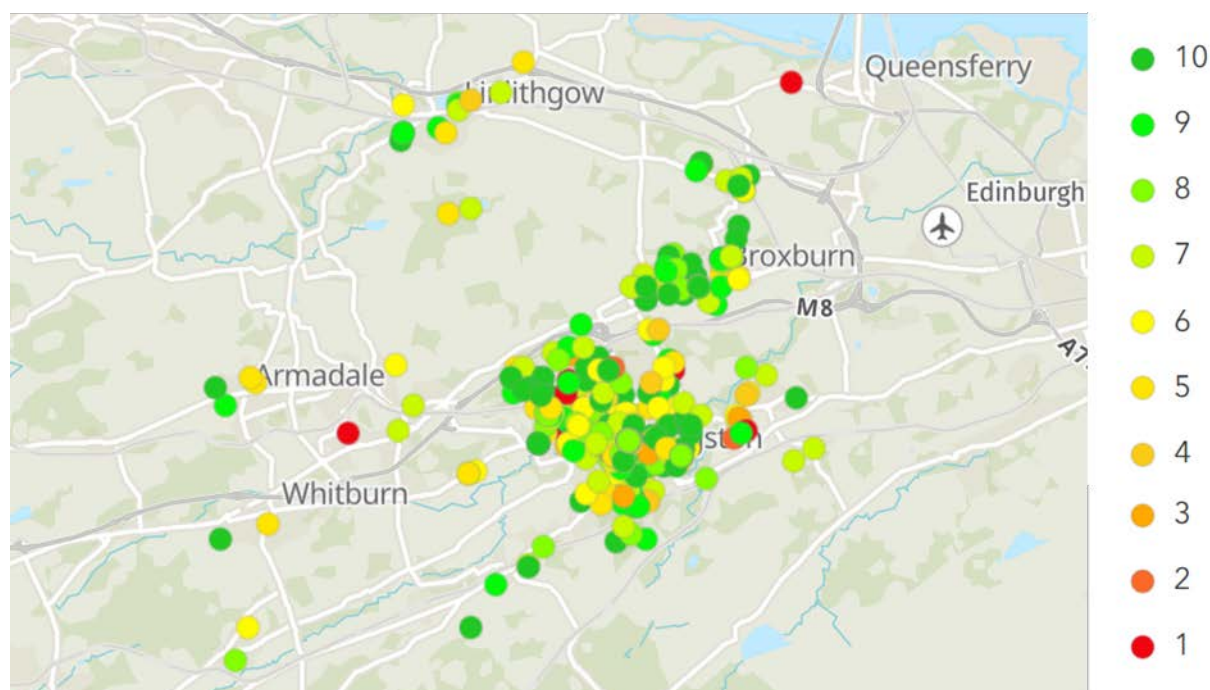


Figure 1. Under-18s were asked to drop a pin on the map to mark the area they play or hang out in most. They were then asked to rate how much they like it on a scale of 1 to 10. *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

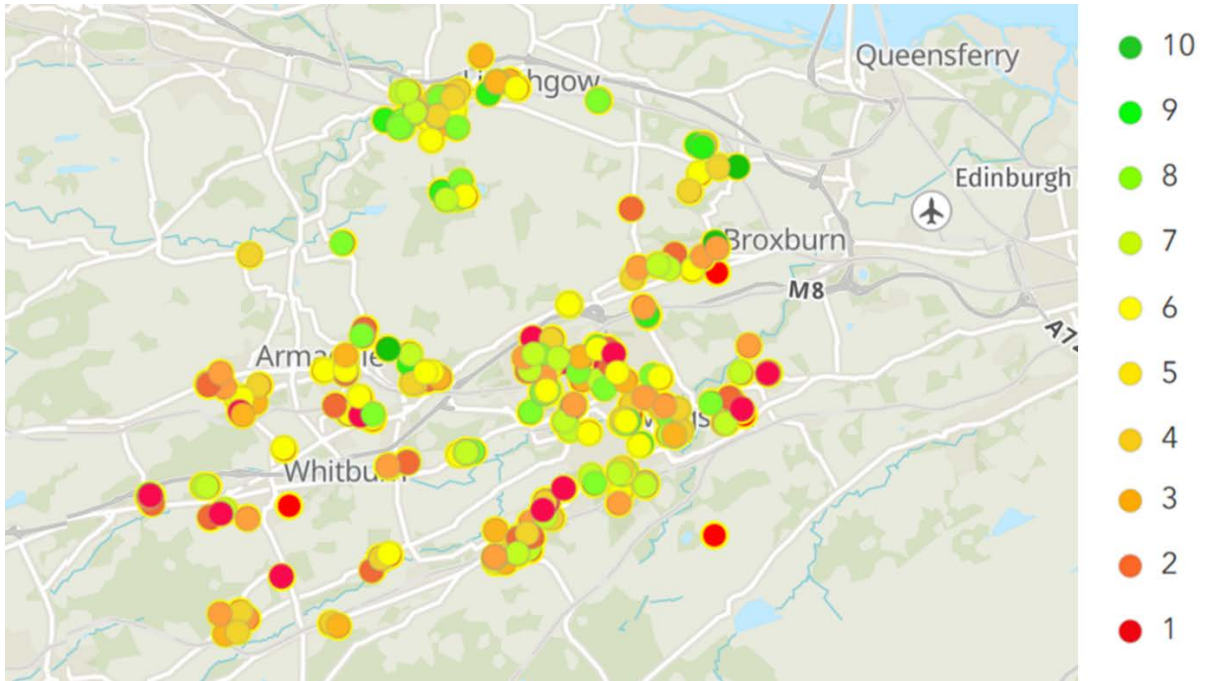
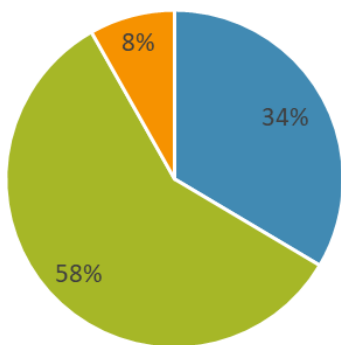


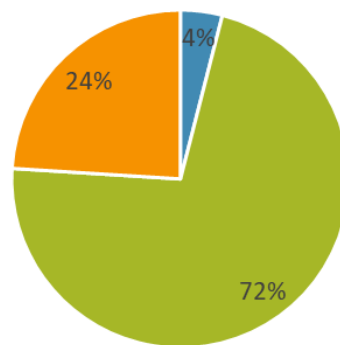
Figure 2. Adults were asked to drop a pin on the map to mark their local play space for children. They were then asked to rate the site on a scale of 1 to 10. *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

Children are generally more satisfied with play spaces than adults (Figures 1-3). Adults have more concerns, as shown by the greater percentages of negative responses. Children are more likely to believe play spaces are exceptionally good, possibly because they have different standards or expectations to adults. Children may prioritise fun, variety or excitement, while adults may assess play spaces based on safety, maintenance and functionality.

Children aged 12 and under



Adults



■ Great ■ Good ■ Not good

Figure 3. Children aged 12 and under and adults responded to “How do you feel about the quality of play spaces where you live?” *Your Place Survey*

Accessibility was rated highly when adults were asked about the positives of their local play spaces (Figure 4). Another survey question found that 69% of adults feel that children and young people can access nature and outdoor play spaces under their own steam. 86% of under-18s believe that they have good access to nature, indicating that this is a strength of the outdoor spaces in West Lothian. On the other hand, by far the most common reason given by under-18s for not playing or hanging out in places that they would like is that they are too far away (Figure 8). This opinion was shared by a third of participants.

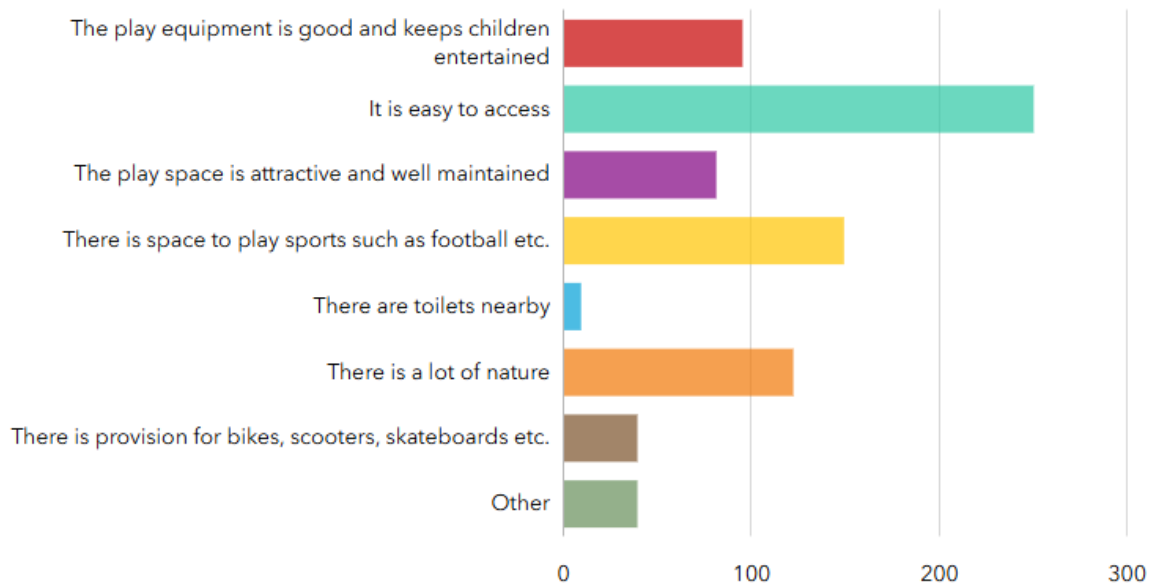


Figure 4. Adults responses to “What are the good things about the outdoor play spaces near you?”
Outdoor Play Spaces Survey

Where do Children Play and Hang Out?

Survey responses displayed in Figures 5 and 6 give a picture of how young people in West Lothian spend their time outdoors. There are some differences in perceptions between adults and children, for example, “small park” was the most common answer from adults, whereas children say that they spend less time in small local parks in comparison to some other places.

“In the street” was a popular answer from both age groups, and points to a reliance on informal spaces for play. This could reflect a lack of formal play areas within easy reach of homes. While streets can serve as play spaces in some contexts, they often raise concerns around safety and may not offer the same benefits and infrastructure as designated play areas. “Outside shops” was also a popular response from children, with over 40% of under-18s saying they hang out there on a weekly basis.

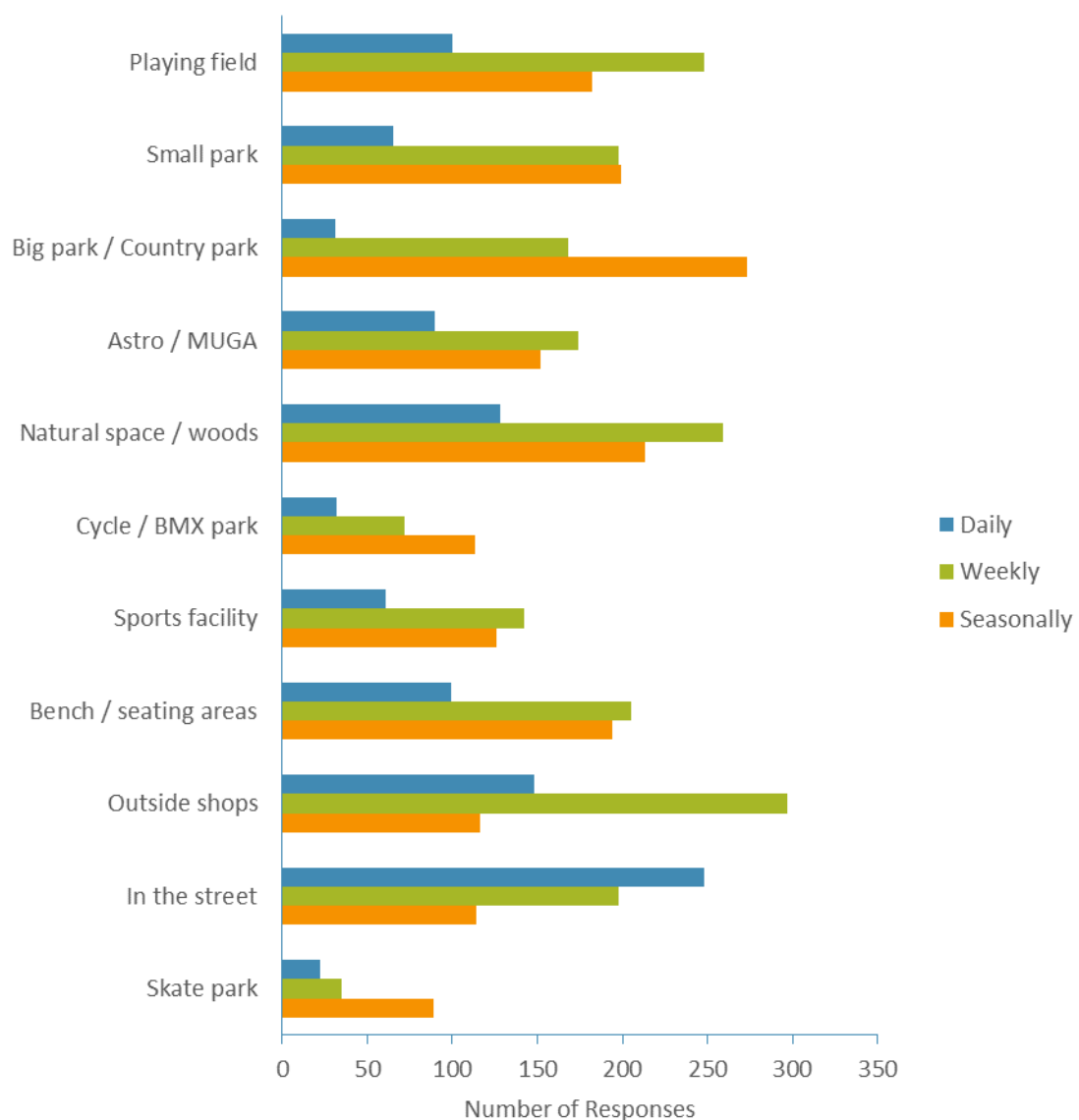


Figure 5. Under-18s responses to “Where do you usually play or hang out? And how often do you play or hang out there?” *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

Playing fields and natural spaces were also significant choices, suggesting that they are often fairly accessible and appealing to young people. Figure 5 shows that country parks are visited on a seasonal basis more commonly than daily or weekly. This makes sense as country parks are further away from most properties than smaller parks. Less popular play areas seem to be more specialised spaces such as BMX and skate parks.

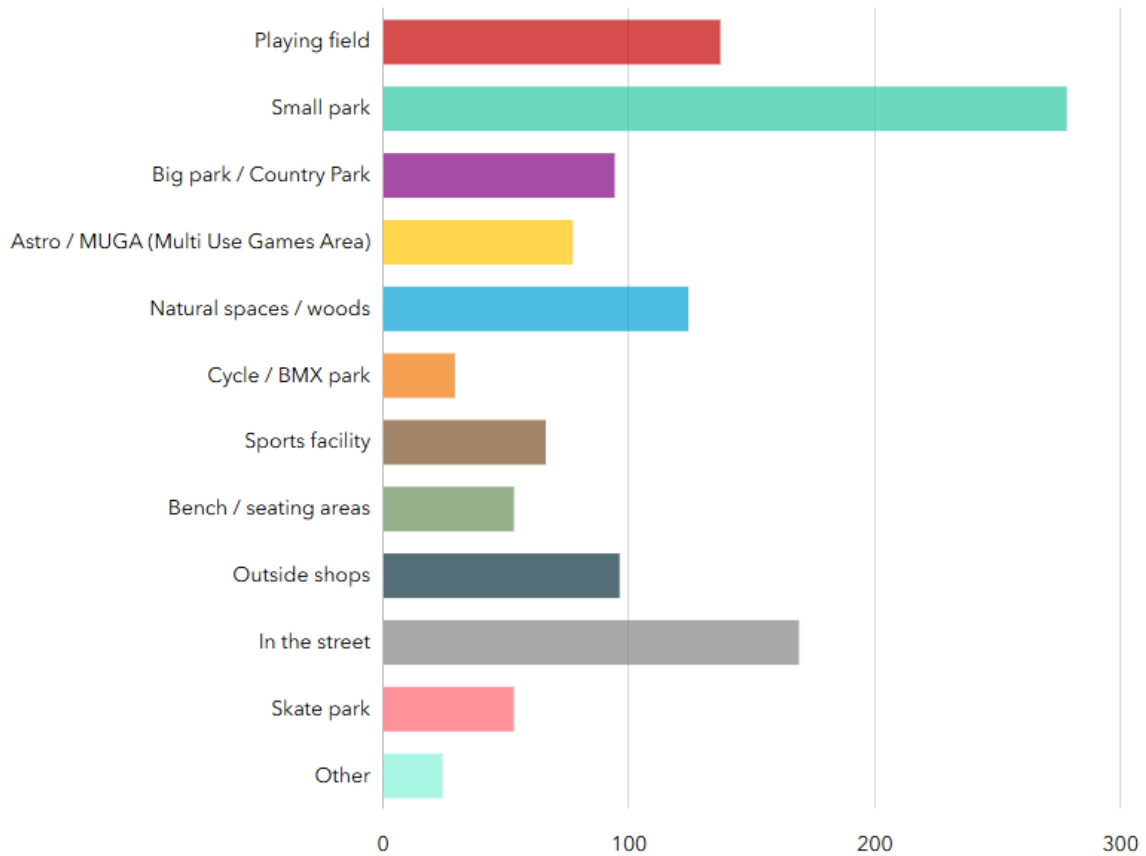


Figure 6. Adults responses to “Where do children usually play or hang out?” *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

Barriers to Play

Figure 7 displays barriers to play identified by adults. The most prominent theme is age related dissatisfaction, with people commonly answering that there is not enough for older or younger children to do at play spaces. Another popular response refers to negative stigma that older children face in these shared spaces, which may deter their presence or discourage younger children and families.

A lack of toilets was another major concern. This response aligns with Figure 4, where toilet availability received low ratings. Adults, especially those with younger children or babies, require access to well-maintained toilets and changing facilities to feel comfortable using these spaces for extended periods. Not having enough seating further limits the usability of outdoors play spaces, because it is needed for those accompanying children to parks, and provides a place for rest and social interaction for all. A lack of accessibility and play for disabled people also gathered over 100 responses, as did poor maintenance, which could refer to broken equipment, litter, or general upkeep.

Adults do not perceive that play spaces are especially dominated by either gender in a negative way.

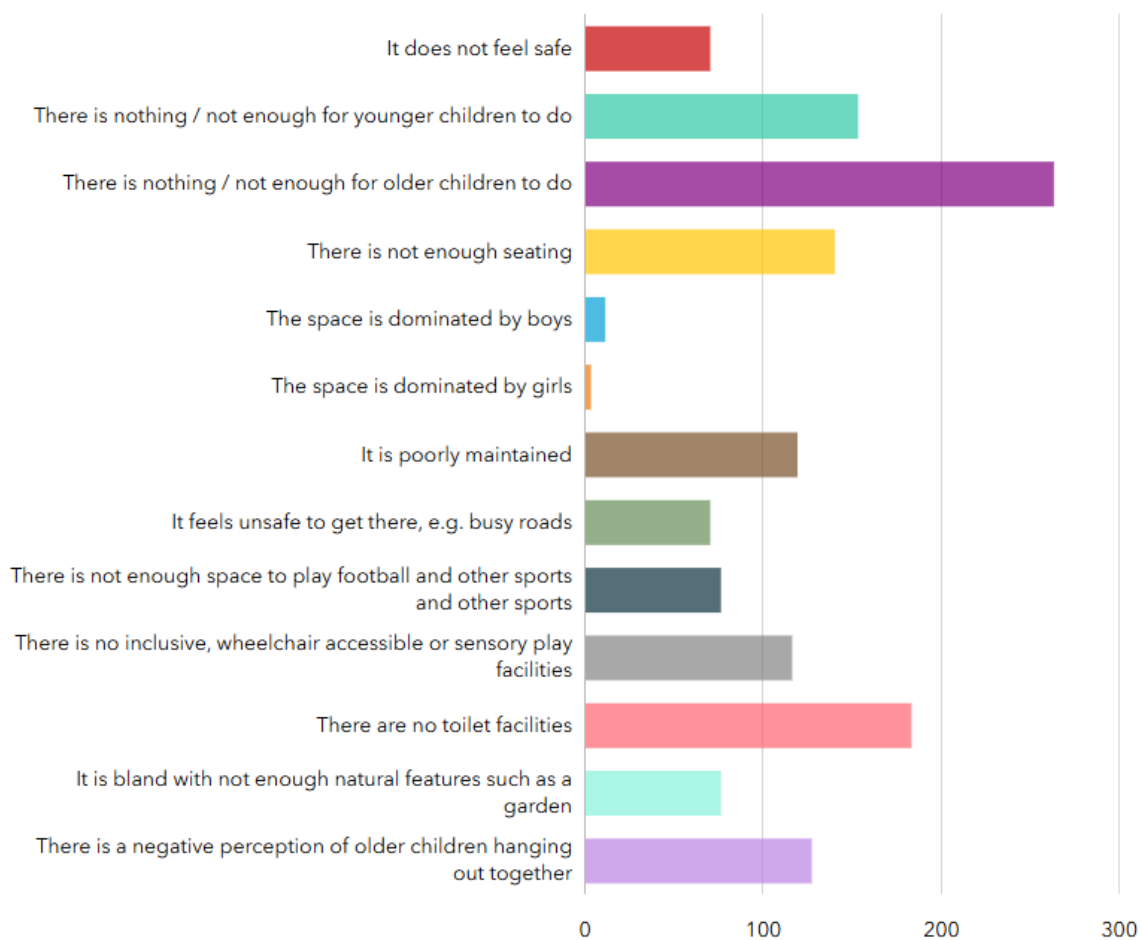


Figure 7. Adults answered “What things don't you like about the outdoor play spaces near you and what barriers exist that prevent full usage of outdoor play areas?”

By far the most common reason given by under 18s for not playing or hanging out in places that they would like is that they are too far away (Figure 8). This is followed by there not being enough to do there, which is similar to the adult responses.

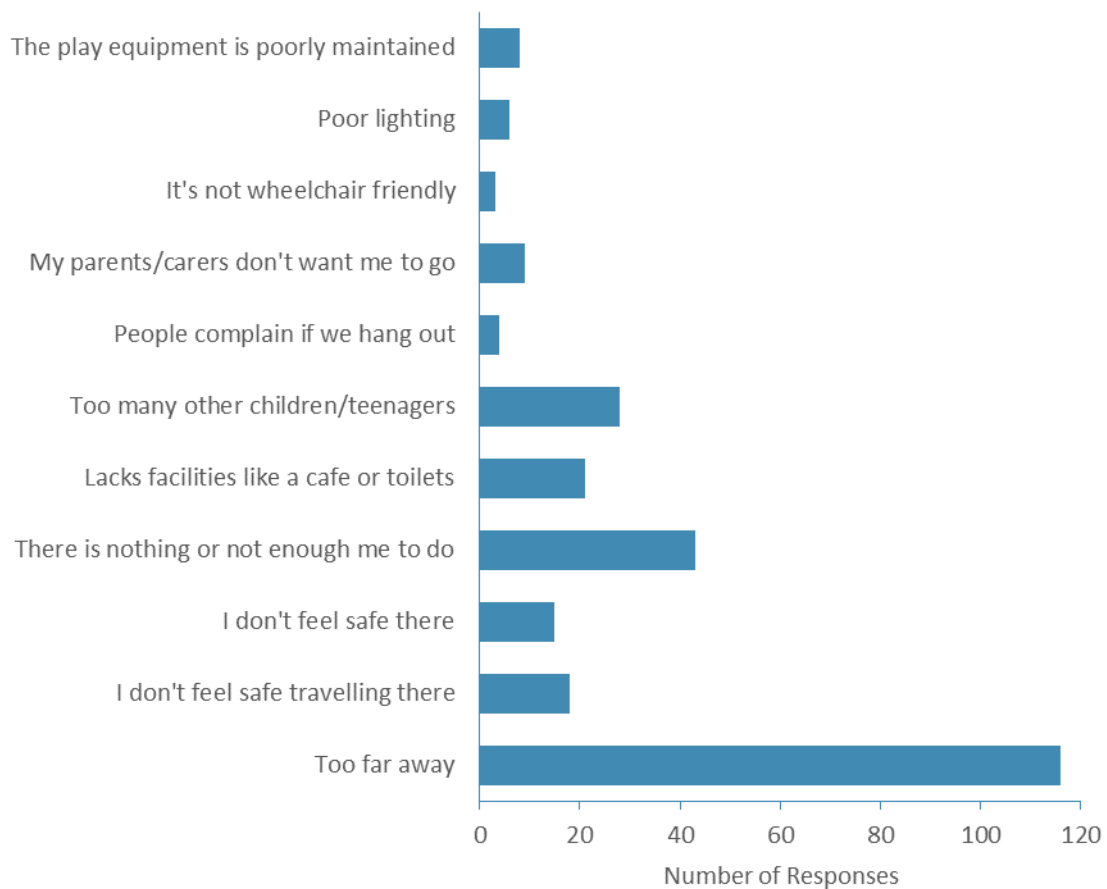


Figure 8. Under-18s answered the question “What is stopping you from playing or hanging out in areas that you would like to but don’t?” *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

Around twice as many girls as boys expressed concern about not feeling safe while travelling to play spaces, suggesting that this may be a gender-specific barrier to play (Figure 9). Of participants that answered “my parents/carers don’t want me to go”, around 70% were female, which also suggests that safety concerns are more common for girls than boys in association with visiting play areas. However, the numbers of boys and girls who said that they don’t feel safe while present at the play space was closer to equal. 100% of participants who said they don’t visit play areas because they are not wheelchair friendly were female. The number of responses to these options is quite small, which limits reliability of the observed differences between genders.

Overall, the responses did not display any other major differences between genders. Slightly more girls than boys said they don’t have enough to do at play spaces, and slightly more boys than girls stated that play spaces are too far away.

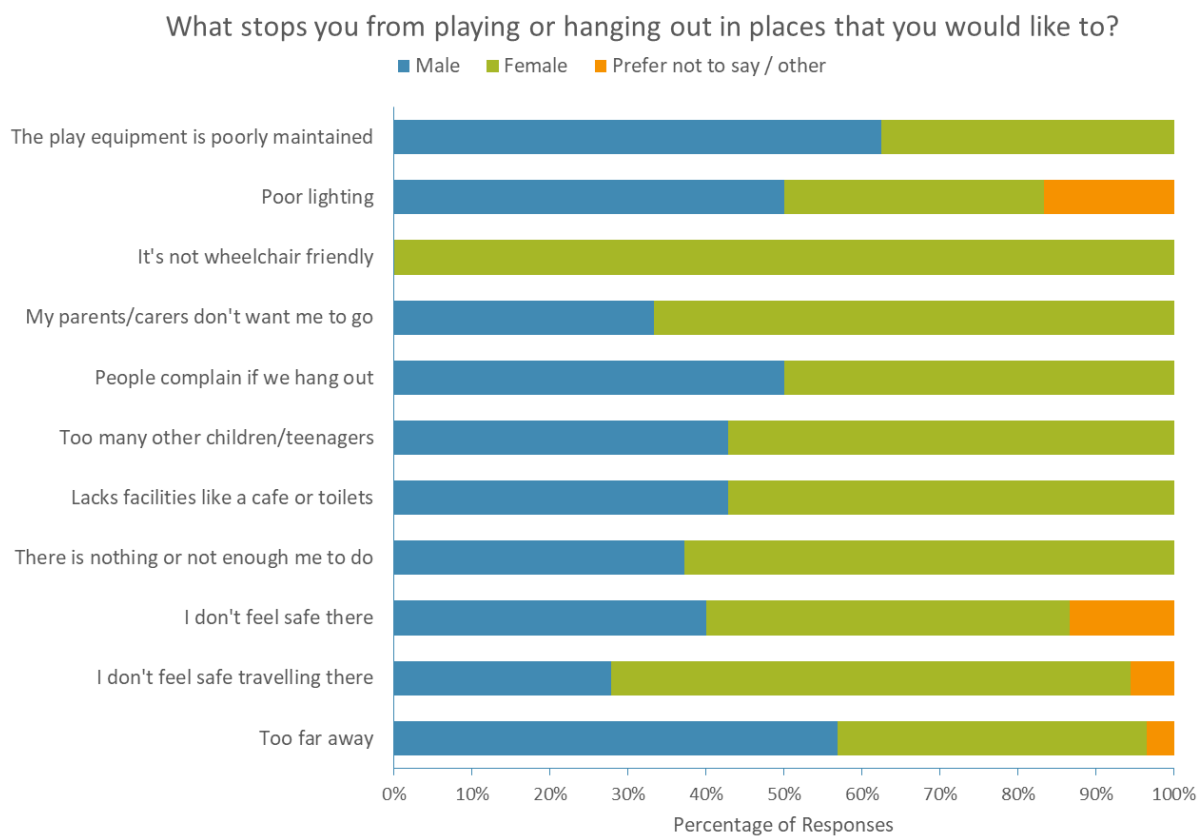


Figure 9. Under-18s answered the question “What is stopping you from playing or hanging out in areas that you would like to but don’t?” The chart displays the percentage of responses to each answer by gender. *Outdoor Play Spaces Survey*

How to Improve

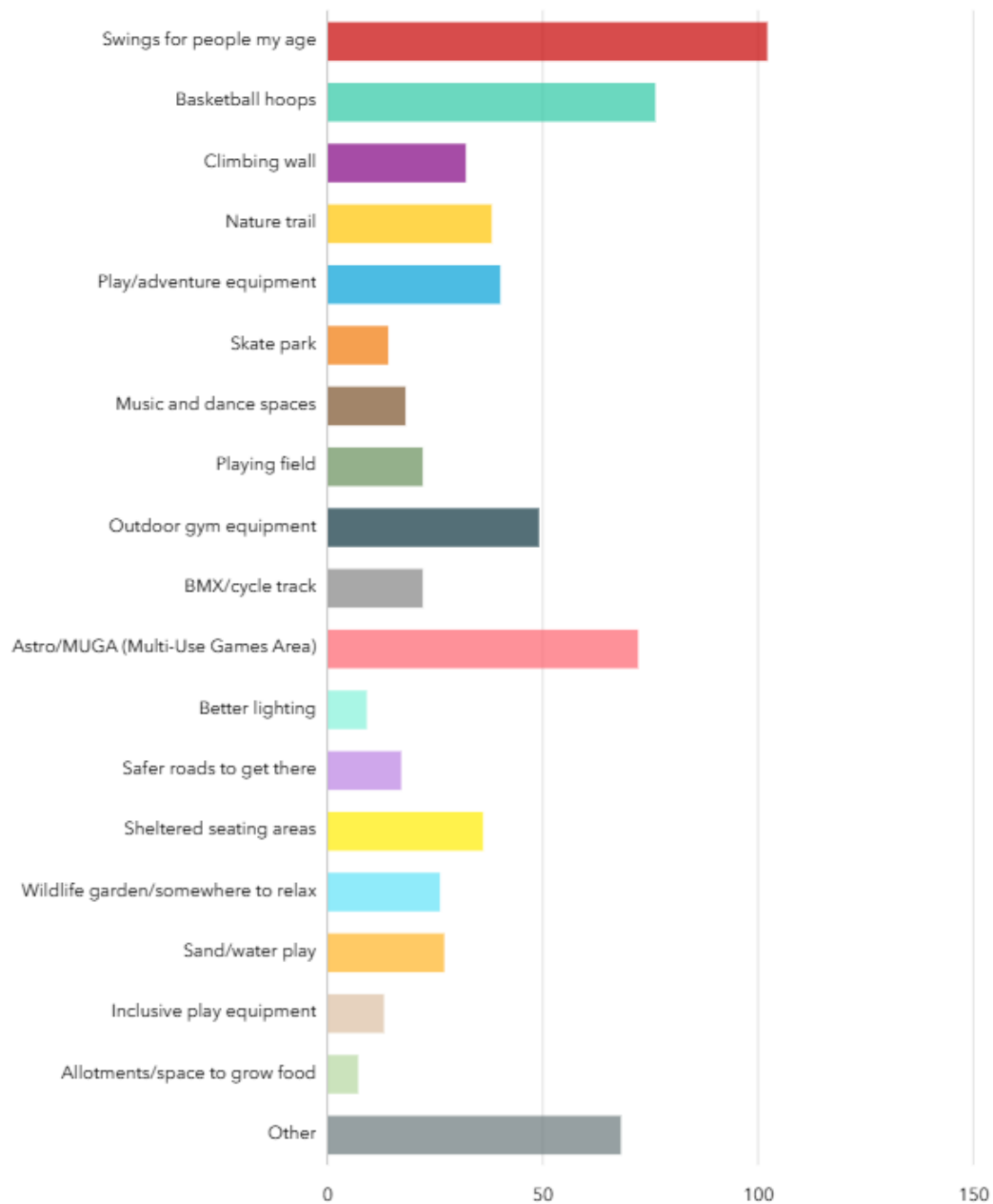


Figure 10. Under-18s answered the question “How could your local green spaces be improved?”
Outdoor Play Spaces Survey

The most popular improvement option for green spaces amongst under-18s was “swings for people my age” (Figure 8). This was a universal opinion among all age groups. This highlights the appeal of swing sets and indicates that existing play areas may not adequately cater to all ages. This response was followed by basketball hoops and Astro turf / MUGA (multi-use games area). These facilities appeal to older children and teenagers who may be more interested in sports and socialisation. When asked if there is anywhere they would like to play but don’t, the most popular response from under-18s was also Astro turf / MUGA. Implementing these facilities could create more age-inclusive environments for play.

Feedback from Survey Participants

Positive feedback highlights that people are particularly happy with the amount and quality of natural green spaces in West Lothian. Specific play areas received praise for their fun and engaging play equipment, and variety of activities available.

“There's a park over the street and its fun. You get to climb and balance on things.” (Child)

“I like cycling to my local nature park since I can see the greenery and the nature, and I think it improves my mental health.” (Child)

“Good, lots of greenery and walking paths.” (Teenager)

“Play spaces at Polkemmet and Beecraigs are sensational” (Adult)

“The new Auld Cathie Park is fantastic for kids and teenagers if they want to walk when the weather is good.” (Adult)

“We use the pump tracks in Uphall and Livingston and the Livingston skate park too. They're fantastic and would love to see more. Other favourite places are Somers park Mid Calder, Beecraigs - more nature based areas. We also use Bankton for their astro.” (Adult)

Negative feedback included several issues, such as poor maintenance and damaged play areas, antisocial behaviour and vandalism, and problems with dogs in the spaces. People also expressed concerns about lack of toilets, insufficient variety of play and sports equipment, and the distance or unsafe routes to reach some parks by foot.

“not that good small and not that much to play with” (Child)

“Some of the parks should definitely be improved as they are damaged or have a small variety of facilities for children. They have also just taken down xcite so we are now missing those sports facilities.” (Teenager)

“There is a lot of people under the influence.” (Teenager)

“Stop vandalism and older kids ruining places for younger kids” (Teenager)

“Poor provision for multiple sports only ever really for football. No facilities for toilet or changing.” (Adult)

“Simply not good enough in the local area unless you're willing to take transport to get there or travel through dark areas. Not happy about sending my child that way.” (Adult)

“Heavily graffitied and often broken glass. Bins never collected. But overall good space. Wish there was somewhere for bigger kids.” (Adult)

“Dogs should be nowhere near kids play parks and this message needs to be reinforced” (Adult)

Inequality concerns include a lack of facilities for certain age groups, poor accessibility for those with disabilities or additional needs, and geographic or socioeconomic disparities in play space quality.

“Well off areas seem to have better maintained equipment. Areas such as Whitburn/Armadale etc are not up to the same standard as Murieston/Linlithgow.” (Adult)

“ALL outdoor play areas in Deans are shocking. There is literally nowhere to play football on proper football areas. The area behind the community centre is ok, though it's always busy, it's concrete floor (which is great for the basketball) and the lighting NEVER comes on. I pay a lot for amenities for both my kids and I, the council provide nowhere near an adequate level that I would find acceptable” (Adult).

“Very little that can be accessed free. Cost of living crisis so people can't afford to pay to go to clubs etc. if it was free and well maintained then again it would attract more people” (Adult)

“There are not enough space places for ASD / additional needs kids. The places that have a few things are not gated enough for safety or have risks like ponds nearby.” (Adult)

“I am disabled with limited ability for movement. Making parks accessible for parents with young children is often overlooked. Having a fenced in area to prevent escaping children and to prevent dogs from approaching children is a must.” (Adult)

“Feel there are not enough fully fenced in parks within the Livingston area for autistic children that cannot use a park without gates for their safety.” (Adult)

“Play spaces mainly appeal to the under 10yr age group during the day. Most are not accessible for those with mobility or sensory needs. Parks are not maintained and once play equipment is destroyed it is usually removed and not replaced. There is nothing for teenagers.” (Adult)

“The areas are only for kids, not for teenagers” (Teenager)

“Most equipment isn't accessible for younger children” (Adult)

“Minimal facilities for a range of age groups” (Adult)

Several survey participants made comments referring to a lack of play provision within range of new housing developments.

“We are disappointed that there is no planned play space in this new housing development. Our children are too young to travel on their own therefore we need to drive to Kirknewton for a play space”

“Unfortunately there are no play parks which are near to the new development at Mansfield Lea. All kids between the ages of 5 to 10 play on the street which pose harm due to delivery vans, cars, construction vehicles etc. Kids deserve better place to play.”

“The Ellis Vale development in Armadale has an enormous amount of new houses and families with more coming, and no provision of play areas nearby. Because of that, the neighbouring children do not have a space to play together and meet each other. We have no community and have made no friends, and we feel like outsiders who know no one. It’s actually very depressing and it’s affecting my mental health as a mother without a village.”

“Would like to see more parks near new built estates. Appleton drive has no play park even though residents were promised one and the nearest one to kids is in between westcroft and eastcroft court that is privately owned and not well maintain/updated”

“It is concerning that in Bathgate, particularly in the Western Inch area, there are limited recreational facilities for children. The absence of running tracks and football cages is a significant oversight, especially considering the importance of physical activity for kids' health and development. Moreover, the lack of amenities for children older than eight years old means that they have few options to stay engaged and active within their own community. Investing in better play areas and sports facilities is essential to support the well-being and development of our youth”

“The park at east calder mansefield is terrible given the size of east calder, nothing for young teenagers to do. BMX track could be amazing but poorly maintained”

Ideas and suggestions from children largely focus on more or better play equipment. Many people mentioned wanting free and publicly accessible spaces to play football. Teens and adult propose more age-inclusive equipment, better accessibility and upkeep, a wider range of activities, and the introduction of sheltered seating.

“Make bigger swings and more stuff for wee kids and big kids.” (Child)

“other creative things that are funner like flying foxes” (Child)

“Make more Astro pitches that are free to get into!!” (Child)

“More better climbing equipment and paths to skateboard on” (Child)

“A place where I can sit down with a roof over my head.” (Teenager)

“taking care of outdoor areas and keeping them clean” (Teenager)

“make more football pitches that are free” (Teenager)

“more parkour” (Teenager)

“Many smaller parks cater for only very young children, getting a mixture of equipment helps to encourage older kids to play too. More to encourage imaginative play, or larger apparatus allowing multiple children to climb/play at once would be better. Too many nicer older wooden play equipment has been replaced by less exciting more metal and plastic ones. Ropes to climb and swing on need more maintenance but give a better natural experience.” (Adult)

“Raised beds, a garden area or sensory garden type thing included, or a wildflower patch(es).” (Adult)

“Older kids/adults might like outdoor gym like the one at Bankton Mains.” (Adult)

“Having just returned from Poland and visiting a number of cities it’s amazing to see how other countries are providing different play equipment for youngsters. Lots of parks next to each other but very much differentiated by age. The number of activities in local areas is amazing - a mix of simple things like outdoor chess / draught boards, ping pong tables, gym equipment, running tracks, pitches for multi sport, play equipment etc. for all of these play parks in Linlithgow you could really make more of them.” (Adult)

“It was refurbished with standard Kompan play park equipment for older children which is almost never used. The climbing frame that was removed in the shape of a boat had been heavily used by all ages, toddlers to teens. Don't install prescriptive equipment, nobody uses it after the first turn” (Adult)

“It would be great if a variety of sports were available. Football is everywhere but a basketball court would be fantastic for kids who have other interests. A cycle area for kids away from a road would also be brilliant” (Adult)

Open Space Plan

Assessment Process

The quantity, quality and accessibility of outdoor playing space in West Lothian is reviewed in the council's Draft Open Space Plan (2025-2034).

Fields in Trust recommend a minimum **quantity** of 6 acres of outdoor play space per 1,000 people, and this has been used as a minimum standard for assessment purposes. Outdoor play space includes both formal and informal play spaces that are safely available to the general public, and may be used for children's play, sport or active recreation. West Lothian has been separated into 32 localities and rural areas have been grouped together for the PSA.

Rating	Score
Excellent	60 - 75
Good	50 - 59
Reasonable	40 - 49
Not fit for purpose	< 40

Appendix 4 outlines the **quality** survey methodology used to assess formal parks in the OSP. The methodology involves assigning each site a score from 1 to 5 (low to high) for each of 15 quality criteria. These scores are totalled to provide an overall rating out of 75. A score of at least 40 is required for a park to be considered 'fit for purpose', meaning that it meets an acceptable level of functionality and safety. For the PSA, the quality score is further broken down into the ratings 'Excellent', 'Good', and 'Reasonable'. The corresponding scores are provided in the table to the left.

The **accessibility** standard is the maximum distance that residents should have to travel to a play area. This is different for each type of area and a table of distances is provided as Appendix 3. Descriptive, quantitative, qualitative and spatial data relating to play areas is stored in a GIS file which has been used to map park locations and accessibility zones.

Quantity

There are 107 formal parks in West Lothian which are both publicly accessible and managed by the council. These are Local, Neighbourhood, District and Country Parks, which generally all contain play areas. This data is derived from the OSP and has therefore been assessed by a council Officer.

The quantity of outdoor play space is one factor in determining whether there is adequate provision. Of the 107 formal parks in West Lothian, 51 are local parks. These typically include a LEAP and have limited local recreation use. 45 are neighbourhood parks, which may include a NEAP and more diverse features, such as sports facilities, seating or a car park. 8 are district parks which are larger and contain more features like paths, toilets, car parking, diverse habitat or landscape features, as well as a play area. There are also 3 country parks – Almondell & Calderwood, Polkemmet and Becraigs.

West Lothian has a total 1,297 acres of active open space, which is 7.06 acres per 1,000 people. This is on average more than the recommended supply for its population. However, of the 32 localities, the minimum quantity standard of 6 acres per 1,000 people is only met within 15 (Table 1). This was reflected in survey results which indicated that only 32% of adults feel that there are sufficient outdoor play spaces for children and young people.

Table 1. List of localities which do and do not meet the minimum quantity standard of outdoor play space.

Sufficient Quantity (More than 6 acres per 1,000 people)	Insufficient Quantity (Less than 6 acres per 1,000 people)
Addiewell / Loganlea Bathgate / Boghall Breich Bridgend Broxburn Greenrigg Linlithgow Livingston Philpstoun Polbeth Pumpherstoun Stoneyburn / Bents Torphichen West Calder Whitburn	Armadale Blackburn Blackridge / Westrigg Dechmont East Calder East Whitburn Ecclesmachan Fauldhouse Kirknewton Longridge Mid Calder Newton / Woodend Seafield Uphall Uphall Station Westfield Winchburgh

Quality

The quality of parks was measured by surveying sites on 15 criteria such as safety, accessibility and multifunctionality. Country parks were not part of the assessment because it would be difficult to assess them on the same criteria as the other park types and achieve consistent results, since their features and purpose are quite different. Parks that are not both maintained by the council and publicly accessible were also excluded.

Play spaces must be at least maintained in a 'fit for purpose' condition. The quality assessment found that 2 of the 104 parks assessed do not meet this minimum standard. One local park (Beechwood in Linlithgow) and one neighbourhood park (Fallas Park in Fauldhouse) are currently regarded as 'not fit for purpose'. The OSP (2020-2024) predicted that the amount of capital funds approved by the council should allow all urban parks to become and remain fit for purpose within the current capital period of 2017-2027, however, the latest version of the OSP states that the available budget has since been reduced. The number of 'not fit for purpose' parks has been reduced from 11 to 2 since 2020, and overall quality has improved (Figure 11).

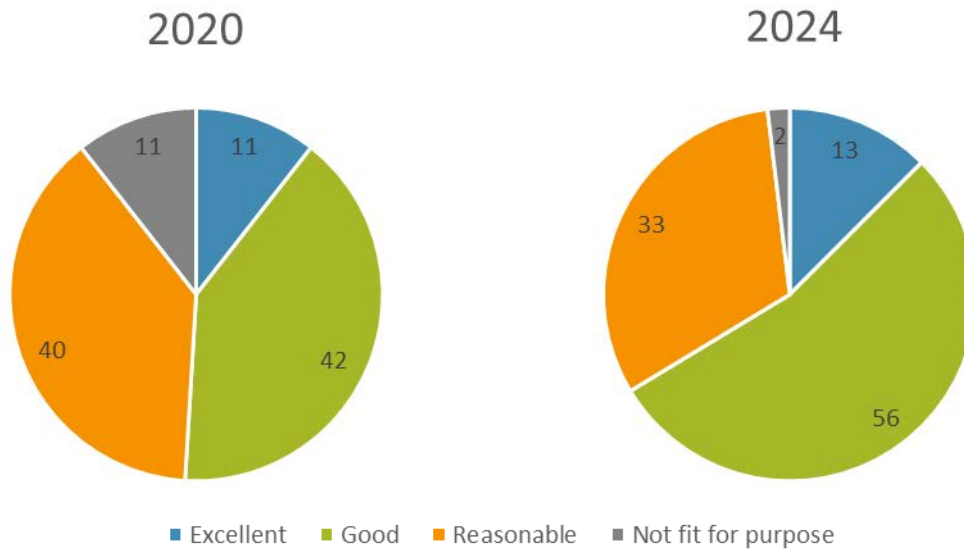


Figure 11. Quality of formal parks in West Lothian assessed in 2020 and 2024.

Figure 12 indicates that local and neighbourhood parks are of similar quality overall, with most rated as reasonable or good quality and a smaller percentage either excellent or not fit for purpose. District parks are generally rated much more highly. They are all fit for purpose, and all 8 are rated as good or excellent quality. There tends to be a mixture of ratings in each locality.

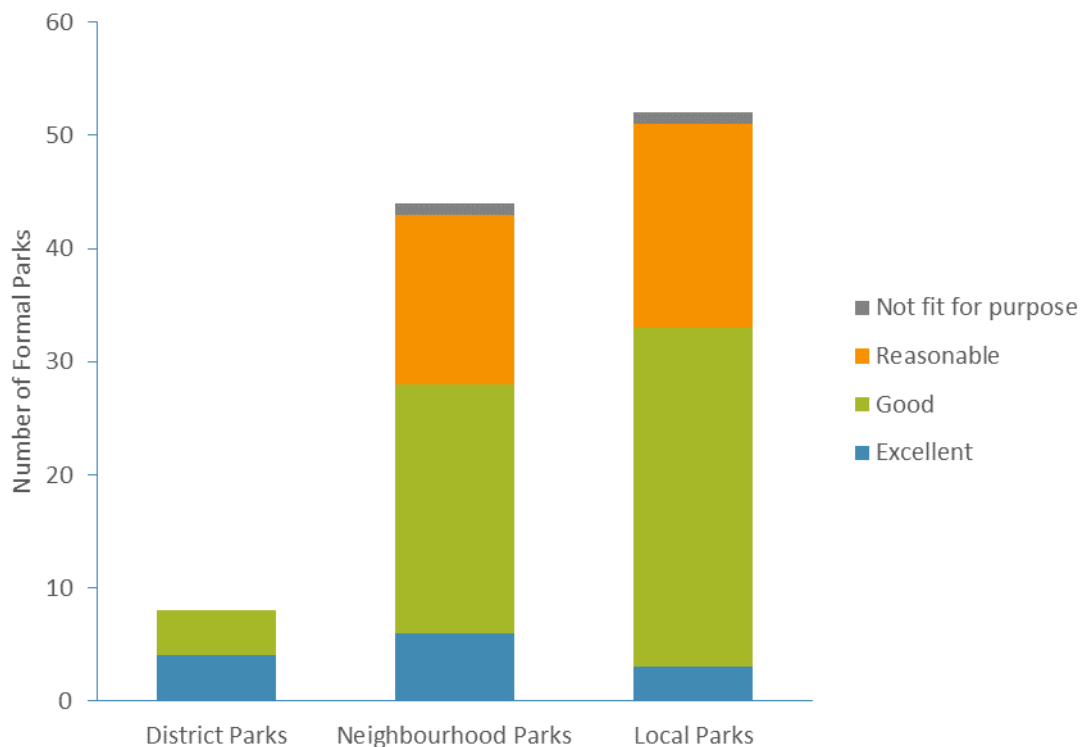


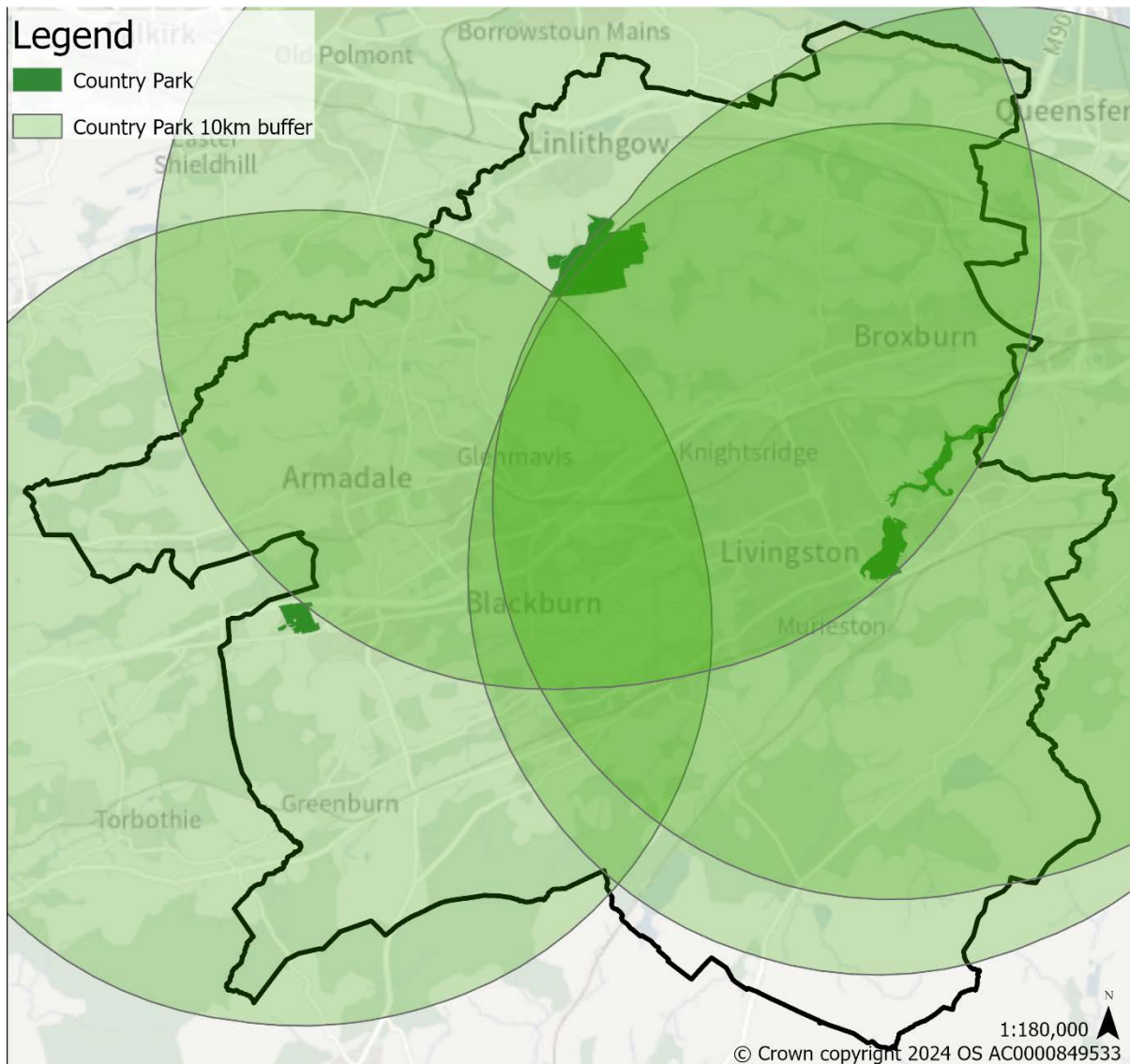
Figure 12. Quality of formal play parks in West Lothian by type.

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, driving, or using public transport.

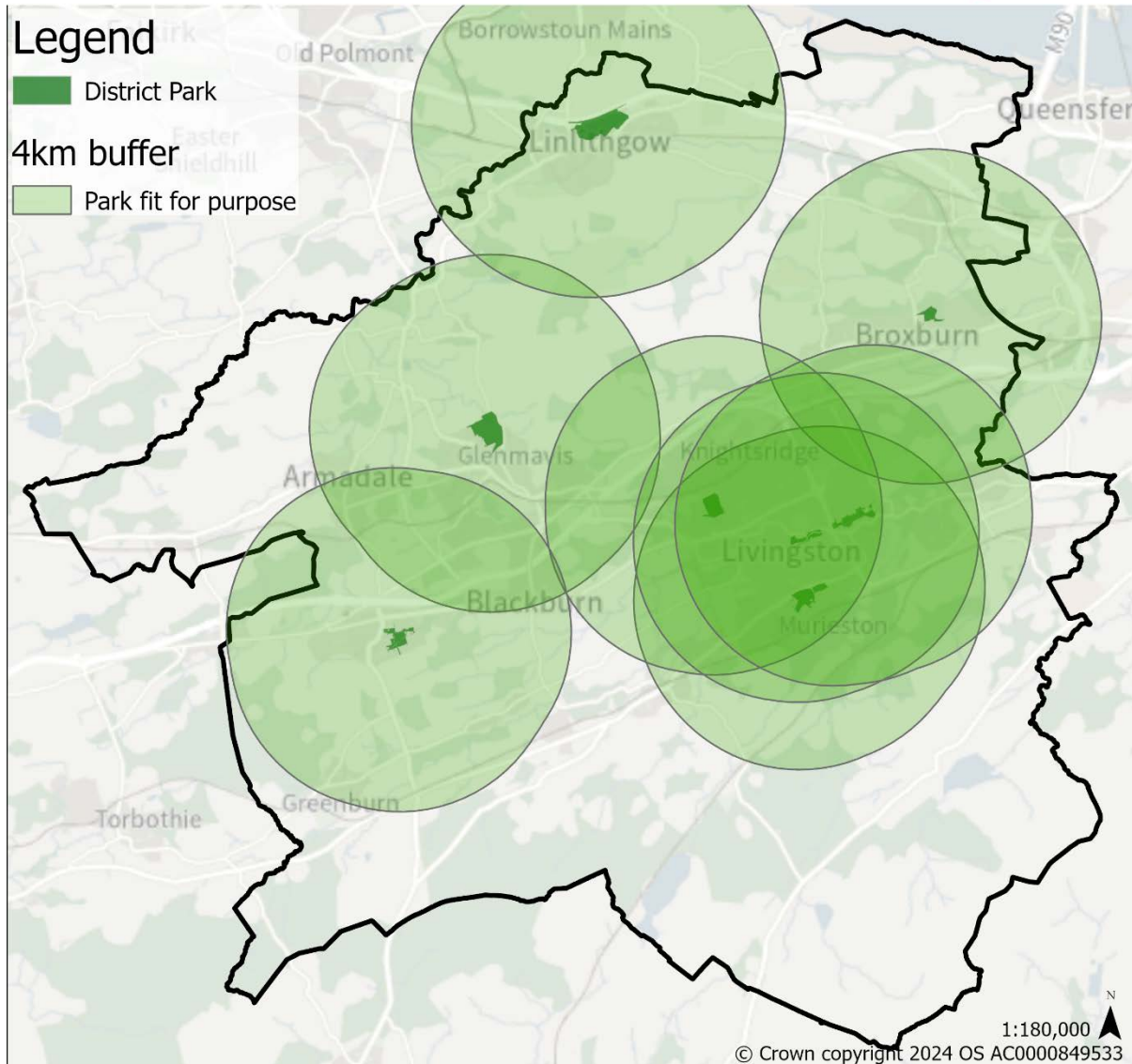
A Country Park is within accessible distance of all settlements and virtually all residences in West Lothian.

County Park



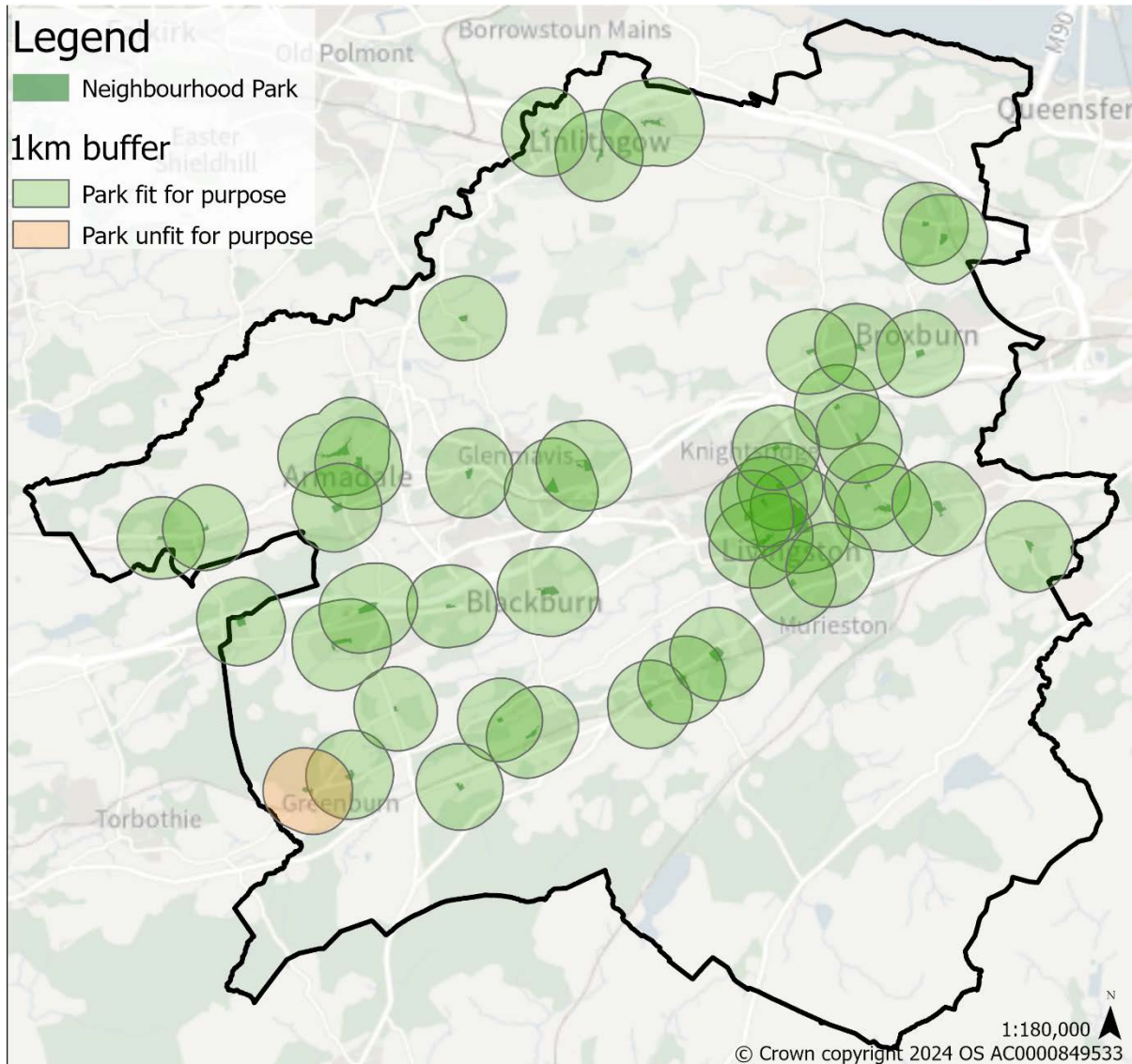
Only a handful of West Lothian's settlements are not within the recommended distance to a District Park. These are Addiewell, Blackridge/Westrigg and Woodend. Some small areas of other settlements also do not fall within the 4km recommended distance.

District Park



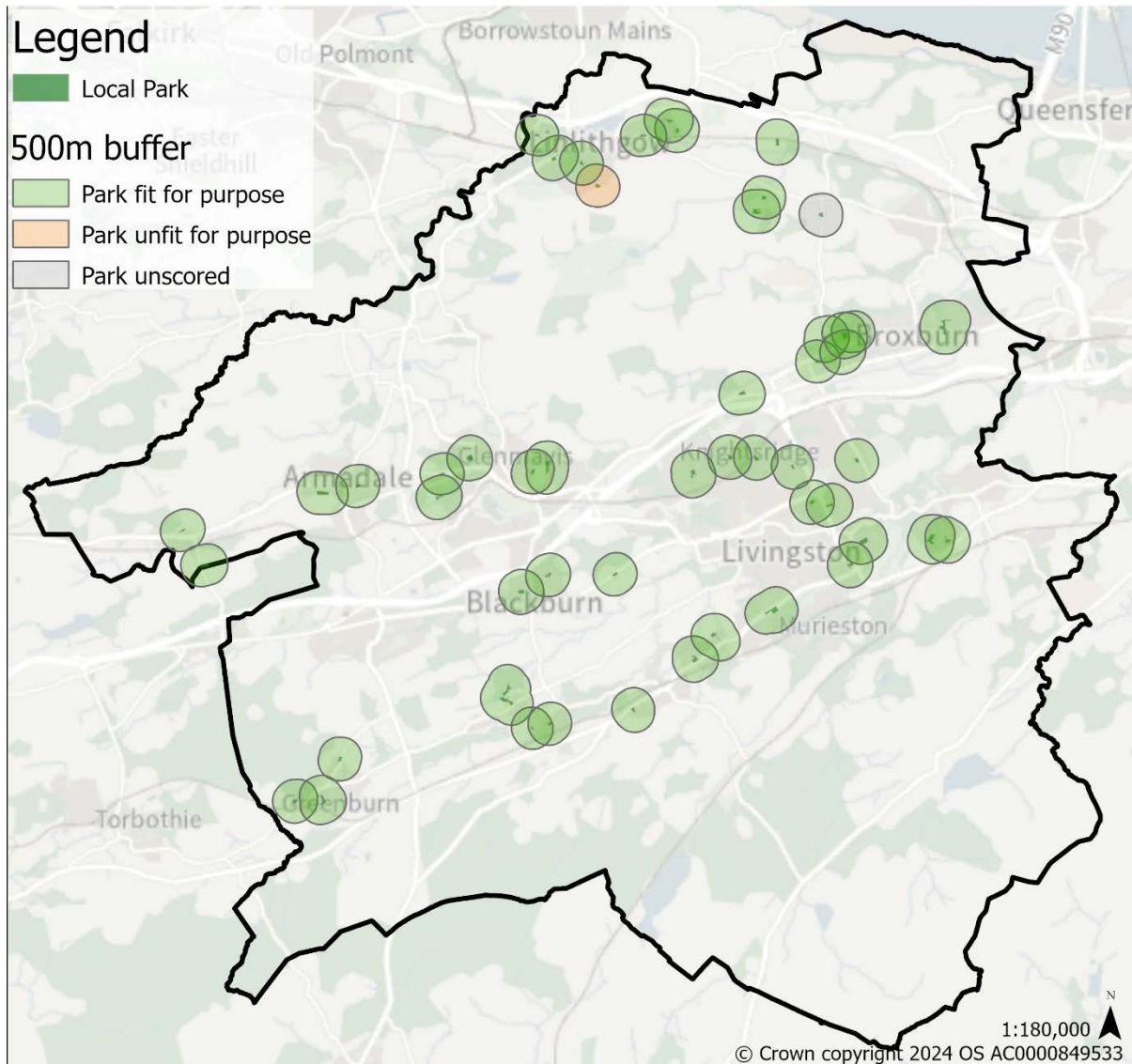
The majority of settlements are situated within the recommended distance to a Neighbourhood Park. Of those that are not, several do not meet the recommended population size threshold to necessitate a Neighbourhood Park, such as Bridgend, Dechmont, Ecclesmachan, Philpstoun and Seafield.

Neighbourhood Park



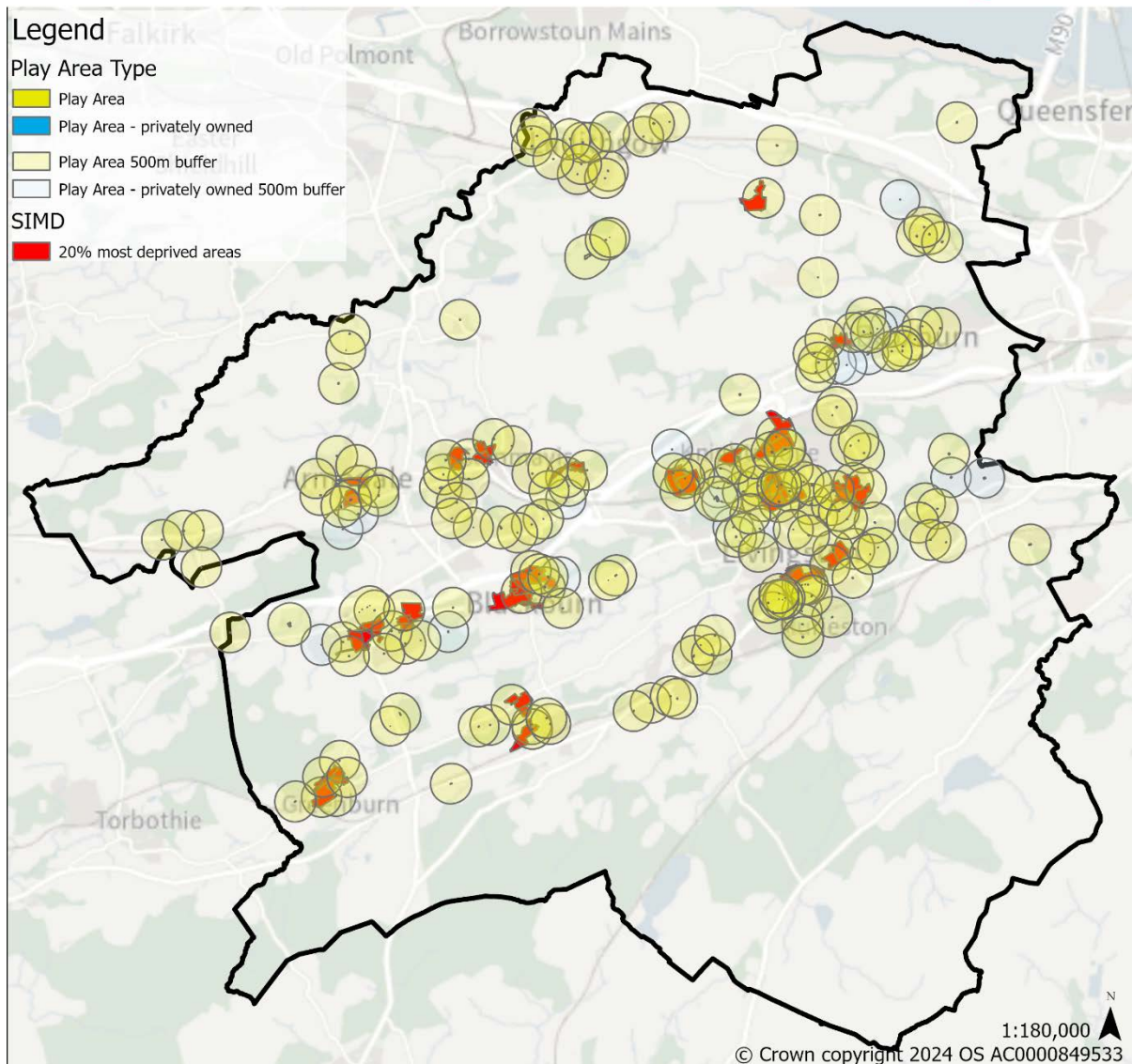
There are a number of settlements where there is not a Local Park within 500m of all their residents. In many cases, however, they do have access to another park in the park hierarchy, e.g., Uphall Station. Westfield residents do not, however, have access to a Local or Neighbourhood Park within the recommended distances of 500m and 1km respectively.

Local Park



This map shows the locations and 500m buffer zones of all play areas in West Lothian. An overlay displays areas which are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland, based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Some residencies in deprived areas are missing play area coverage - in the west of Blackburn, the south-west of Addiewell/Loganlea and in central Whitburn. There appears to be no consistent correlation between deprivation levels and play provision, since other deprived areas are fully covered. This suggests that play provision is distributed without direct bias towards or against socio-economic conditions, though localised gaps highlight areas for improvement.

Play Area



Localities

Addiewell / Loganlea

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Meadowhead Crescent	Local Park	Good
Loganlea Road Green	Local Park	Good
Loganlea Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

All 3 formal play spaces in Addiewell and Loganlea are fit for purpose. The 2 local parks are rated good and the neighbourhood park is reasonable. There are 2 identified play spaces at Loganlea Place and Addiewell Primary School. The total area of outdoor play space is 8.62 acres. This is 6.73 acres per 1,000 people, which meets the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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 Country 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.

Armadale

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Avondale Park	Local Park	Good
St Anthony's Park	Local Park	Good
Drove Road Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Watson Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Wood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

All 5 of Armadale's formal play spaces are fit for purpose. Armadale has 2 local parks and 3 neighbourhood parks which are all rated good or reasonable in quality. 6 additional play spaces are identified and there is also a football pitch in Armadale. Overall there are 56.58 acres of play space, which is 4.45 acres per 1,000 people. This falls below the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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 and east 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.

Bathgate / Boghall

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Balbardie Park of Peace	District Park	Excellent
Burghmuir Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Limefield Park	Local Park	Good
Marchwood Crescent Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Robertson Avenue Local Park	Local Park	Good
Windyknowe Park	Local Park	Good
Boghall Playing Fields	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Kirkton Park	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent
Meadow Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

All 9 formal play parks in Bathgate and Boghall are fit for purpose. There are two especially highly rated parks – Kirkton Park and Balbardie Park of Peace which is the area’s district park. The others are categorised as good or reasonable. There are 11 more play spaces, 2 football pitches and a playing field, leading to a total of 175.73 acres of outdoor play space. This is 7.45 acres per 1,000 people, which exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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 properties 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.

Blackburn

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
King George V Park	Local Park	Good
Redhouse Place Green	Local Park	Good
Murrayfield Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

All 3 of Blackburn's formal play parks are fit for purpose and have good quality scores. There are 3 other play spaces at Blackburnhall Garll Gardens, Kidz Grove, and Murrayfield, as well as a football field. This totals 28.33 acres of outdoor play space, which is 4.94 acres per 1,000 people. This falls short of the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Blackridge / Westrigg

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Hillside Drive Grass	Local Park	Reasonable
West Craigs	Local Park	Reasonable
Blackridge Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Westrigg Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

All 4 formal play parks are fit for purpose in Blackridge and Westrigg. No further outdoor play opportunities are identified here in the Open Space Plan. The total area of play space is 9.76 acres which is 4.71 acres per 1,000 people. This shortfall could potentially be addressed by the introduction of informal play spaces to the area.

Accessibility

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.

Breich

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Breich Park / School site	Neighbourhood Park	Good

Breich's one formal play park is fit for purpose and of good quality. It also has two other play spaces at Breich Green and the Community Centre, adding up to a total of 6.49 acres of outdoor play space. This is 30.32 acres per 1,000 people, which far exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

Breich meets all accessibility criteria.

Bridgend

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Bridgend Park	Local Park	Excellent
Bridgend South Park	Local Park	Reasonable

Both local parks in Bridgend are fit for purpose. Bridgend South Park is rated as reasonable, whereas Bridgend Park is of especially high quality. There is also a ball court in the settlement which can be used for active play. Overall there are 5.84 acres of play space in Bridgend, which is 7.48 acres per 1,000 people. This exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Broxburn

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Stewartfield Park	District Park	Good
Liggat Syke	Local Park	Good
Park View Square	Local Park	Reasonable
Wyndford Avenue	Local Park	Good
Holmes Park	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent
Station Road Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

All 6 formal parks in Broxburn are fit for purpose. 4 are rated as good quality, while Park View Square is reasonable and Holmes Park is especially high quality. There are 11 other play spaces, a football pitch, and outdoor facilities at Broxburn Sports Centre. There are 69.87 acres of outdoor play space, meaning that there is 6.86 acres per 1,000 people. This meets the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Dechmont

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Dechmont Park	Local Park	Good

There is one local park in Dechmont, and it is fit for purpose and of good quality. No additional play space is identified which gives Dechmont a total of 2.44 acres. This is only 3.93 acres per 1,000 people which is quite far below the minimum quantity standard.

Accessibility

The eastern residences of Badger Wood and Craiglaw are outwith 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.

East Calder

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Langton Gardens / Redcraig Open Space	Local Park	Good
Langton Park	Local Park	Good
East Calder Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

All 3 formal parks in East Calder are fit for purpose and good quality. New parks put in at the Calderwood development were not included in the Open Space Plan, possibly because they were not yet constructed at the time of writing. These would likely raise quality and quantity scores in East Calder. 2 additional play spaces are identified at Queens Gardens and Broompark Green. There is a total 28.10 acres of outdoor play space, which is 4.37 acres per 1,000 people. This falls below the quantity standard.

Accessibility

Currently, all areas of East Calder are within 500m of a play area except most of the Calderwood development which is still to be completed.

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.

East Whitburn

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Redmill Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

East Whitburn has one neighbourhood park which is fit for purpose and of good quality. There is another play space at Mains Place giving East Whitburn a total of 4.18 acres of outdoor play space. This is 3.37 acres per 1,000 people, which is quite far below the recommended minimum.

Accessibility

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

Ecclesmachan

Quality and Quantity

Ecclesmachan does not have any formal parks but has a play space of 0.15 acres. This is 0.74 per 1,000 people, which is far below the quantity standard. This shortfall could potentially be addressed by the introduction of informal play spaces to the area.

Accessibility

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 Country Park.

Fauldhouse

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Caledonian Road	Local Park	Good
Lanrigg Road Green	Local Park	Reasonable
Meadow Crescent Strip	Local Park	Good
Eastfield Road Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Fallas Park	Neighbourhood Park	Not fit for purpose

4 out of 5 formal play parks in Fauldhouse are fit for purpose. These are rated as good or reasonable in quality. Other play areas are identified at Burnside and Church Place. Fauldhouse has 23.92 acres of outdoor play space overall, which is 4.88 acres per 1,000 people. This does not meet the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Greenrigg

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Greenrigg Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

Greenrigg's one formal park is fit for purpose. This is a neighbourhood park of good quality. A secondary play space is identified at Polkemmet Road and the village also has a football pitch. This gives the area 12.91 acres of outdoor play space, which is 12.2 acres per 1,000 people. This exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Kirknewton

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Kirknewton Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

Kirknewton's one formal park is fit for purpose. This is a neighbourhood park of reasonable quality. No further play spaces are identified, meaning that the village has 7.85 acres of outdoor play space. This is 4.06 acres per 1,000 people, which does not meet the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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 HillhouseWynd).

The same areas are outwith 500m of any formal public park. There is no Local Park within the recommended distance (500m) although the western half of Kirknewton is within 500m of a Neighbourhood Park.

Most of Kirknewton is more than the recommended distance from a District Park with only the western fringe within 4km of a District Park.

All of Kirknewton is within the recommended distance of a Country Park.

Linlithgow / Linlithgow Bridge

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Linlithgow Loch and Park	District Park	Good
Baillielands Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Beechwood Playing Field	Local Park	Not fit for purpose
Douglas Avenue Park	Local Park	Good
Justinhaugh Drive Green	Local Park	Reasonable
Preston Road Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Sheriffs Park Strip	Local Park	Reasonable
Springfield Road Green	Local Park	Good
Listloaning Playing Field	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Rosemount Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Springfield Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

10 out of 11 formal play parks in Linlithgow are fit for purpose. There is 1 good district park, 3 neighbourhood parks which are good or reasonable, and 7 local parks with ratings from good to not fit for purpose. 9 additional play spaces are identified in the town, as well as several outdoor sports facilities. Overall, Linlithgow has 227.53 acres of outdoor play space. This is 17.72 acres per person, which far exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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, as well as 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.

Livingston

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Almond Park	District Park	Excellent
Almondvale Park	District Park	Excellent
Bankton Mains Park	District Park	Excellent
Eliburn Park	District Park	Good
Bellsquarry Recreation Ground	Local Park	Good
Central Recreation Area / Deans Park	Local Park	Good
Clement Rise / Glebe Farm Park	Local Park	Good
Craigspark	Local Park	Excellent
Edmonton Green	Local Park	Reasonable
Fells Rigg Green	Local Park	Good
Stonebank Local Park	Local Park	Good
Sutherland Way Park	Local Park	Good
Falcon Brae Grass	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Heatherbank Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Howden Park (North)	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Lanthorn (South)	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent
Letham Park (Craigshill)	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Livingston Village Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable
Mosswood Playing Fields	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Peel Park	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent
Quarry Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

21 out of 21 formal parks in Livingston are fit for purpose. In terms of type, Livingston’s district parks are of best quality, with all 4 rated good or excellent (Figure 10). Local parks are of higher quality than neighbourhood parks overall. An additional 61 play spaces are identified in Livingston, as well as several outdoor sports areas. This gives Livingston 390.6 acres of outdoor play space, which is 6.87 acres per 1,000 people. This meets the quantity standard.

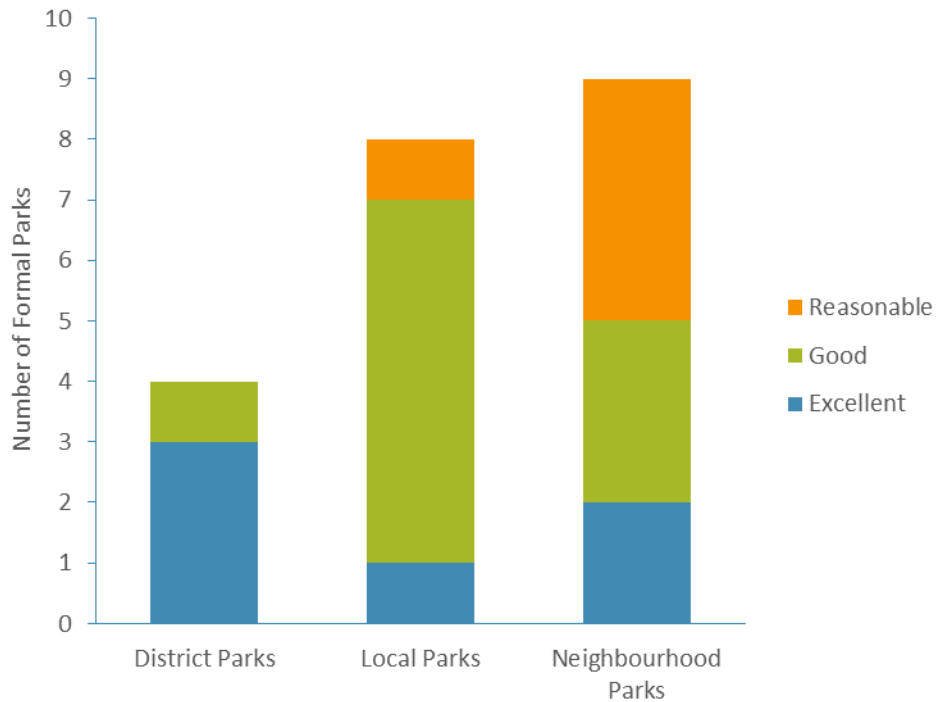


Figure 10. Quality of formal parks in Livingston by type.

Accessibility

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.

Longridge

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Longridge Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

Longridge has one formal park, which is fit for purpose and rated as reasonable in quality. A second play space is identified at Northfield Meadow, giving the village 2.11 acres of outdoor play space. This is 2.32 acres per 1,000 people, which is far below the minimum quantity standard, however the play area within Longridge Primary School is not included in this total.

Accessibility

Longridge meets all accessibility standards.

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

Mid Calder

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Sommers Park	Local Park	Excellent
Cunnigar Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

2 out of 2 formal parks in Mid Calder are fit for purpose. The local park, Sommers Park, is especially high quality, while the neighbourhood Cunnigar Park is rated as reasonable. An additional 4 play spaces are identified in Mid Calder. Mid Calder has 17.72 acres of outdoor play space, which is 5.37 acres per 1,000 people. This does not meet the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Newton / Woodend

Quality and Quantity

There are no formal parks in Newton / Woodend but a 0.18 acre play space is identified at Duddingston Crescent. The village has 1.30 acres of outdoor play space per 1,000 people, which does not meet the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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

Newton (including 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

Philpstoun

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Philpstoun Park	Local Park	Good

Philpstoun's one formal park is fit for purpose. This is a local park within a playing field, which is rated as good in quality. The village has a total 3.19 acres of outdoor play space, which is 7.45 acres per 1,000 people. This is a sufficient quantity according to the minimum standard.

Accessibility

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 Philipstoun and Wyndford Brae are not. All properties are within 10km of a Country Park.

Polbeth

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Ennis Park	Local Park	Good
Langside Gardens Green	Local Park	Reasonable
Limefield Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

All 3 formal parks in Polbeth are fit for purpose. The 2 local parks are of good and reasonable quality, and the neighbourhood Limefield Park is good. 3 additional play spaces are identified at Burnside Terrace, Fells Road and Polbeth Community Centre. Polbeth has a total 26.85 acres of outdoor play space, which is 11.35 acres per 1,000 people. This exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

Polbeth meets all accessibility standards.

Pumpherstion

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Letham Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Fraser Park	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent

Both of the formal parks in Pumpherstion are fit for purpose. Fraser Park is a neighbourhood park of especially high quality. Harrysmuir Playspace and Heaney Avenue are identified as additional play spaces in the village. Pumpherstion Sports Ground also has capacity for outdoor play. Overall, there is a total 12.63 acres of play space, which is 10.45 acres per 1,000 people. This is a sufficient quantity according to the minimum standard.

Accessibility

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

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

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

Rural

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Redhouse Recreation Ground	Local Park	Good

The one formal park in rural areas is fit for purpose. This is Redhouse Recreation Ground in Threemiletown, which is rated as good quality. A further play space is identified at Bridgecastle. A total 2.04 acres of outdoor play space has been described. The quantity standard is not applicable for these areas.

Accessibility

Accessibility standard is not applicable.

Seafield

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Seafield Green	Local Park	Good

The one formal park in Seafield is a local park which is fit for purpose and good in quality. A further play space is identified at the Seafield Institute and there is also a football pitch, giving Seafield a total 5.78 acres of space for outdoor play. This is 4.28 acres per 1,000 people, which is insufficient according to the minimum quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Stoneyburn / Bents

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Foulshiels	Local Park	Reasonable
Glenview Crescent Playing Fields	Neighbourhood Park	Good

2 out of 2 formal parks in Stoneyburn / Bents are fit for purpose. These include a Foulshiels local park which is reasonable in quality, and Glenview Crescent neighbourhood park which is rated as good. Burnlea Drive Play Area is identified as an additional play space, and the area also has a football pitch. There is an overall total of 19.17 acres of outdoor play space, which is 9.68 acres per 1,000 people. This exceeds the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Torphichen

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Torphichen Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

Torphichen has one formal park. This is a 5.97-acre neighbourhood park which is fit for purpose and good quality. No further play spaces are identified. There is 8.4 acres of play space per 1,000 people, which is a sufficient quantity according to the minimum standard.

Accessibility

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.

Uphall

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Glebe Park	Local Park	Good
Millbank Place East	Local Park	Reasonable
Burn Edge Park	Local Park	Good
King George V Playing Fields	Neighbourhood Park	Good

4 out of 4 formal parks in Uphall are fit for purpose. There are 3 local parks and a neighbourhood park, all of which are rated as reasonable or good in quality. 5 additional play spaces are identified, including a skate park. Uphall has a total 13.52 acres of outdoor play space, which is 2.79 acres per 1,000 people. This is not sufficient as it falls below the minimum quantity standard.

Accessibility

All areas are within 500m of a play area.

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

Uphall Station

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Marrfield Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good

Uphall Station has one formal park, a neighbourhood park which is fit for purpose and good quality. Nettlehill Drive Play Area is identified as an additional play space. The village has 4.42 acres of outdoor play space overall, which is 4.6 acres per 1,000 people. This is insufficient according to the minimum quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

West Calder

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Burngrange West Park	Local Park	Reasonable
Burngrange East Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Parkhead Recreational Ground	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

3 out of 3 formal parks in West Calder are fit for purpose. These are comprised of one reasonable quality local park and 2 neighbourhood parks which are rated good and reasonable. Parkhead Cottages Green and The Glebe Green are identified as additional play spaces, and there is a football pitch at Hermand Park. A total 22.99 acres of outdoor play space exists in West Calder, which is 7.07 acres per 1,000 people. This is a sufficient quantity according to the minimum standard.

Accessibility

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.

Westfield

Quality and Quantity

Westfield does not have any formal parks but there is a 0.29-acre play space identified as Westfield Play Area. This give Westfield 0.52 acres of outdoor play space per 1,000 people, which does not meet the quantity standard.

Accessibility

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.

Whitburn

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Blaeberryhill Park	District Park	Good
Hunter Grove Park	Neighbourhood Park	Excellent
King George V Playing Field	Neighbourhood Park	Good

3 out of 3 formal parks are fit for purpose. Overall the parks in Whitburn are very highly rated, with 2 good and one excellent quality. 4 additional play spaces are identified as Croftmalloch, Dixon Road Play Area, Glenisla Court and Whitburn Academy, and there is a football pitch at Central Park. Whitburn also meets the quantity standard with 87.67 acres of outdoor play space, which is 7.63 acres per 1,000 people.

Accessibility

The majority of properties in Whitburn are within 500m of a play area.

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.

Winchburgh

Quality and Quantity

Formal Play Park	Park Type	Quality
Millgate Park	Neighbourhood Park	Good
Niddry Park	Neighbourhood Park	Reasonable

2 out of 2 formal parks in Winchburgh are fit for purpose. These are both neighbourhood parks, rated as good and reasonable in quality. Additional play spaces are identified as Glendevon and Millgate Green. Auldcaithie Park has not yet been assessed, and further parks are under construction or proposed by Winchburgh Developments which will raise quantity of provision in the future. In the latest Open Space Plan, Winchburgh has 15.85 acres of outdoor play space, which is 4.12 acres per 1,000 people. This is below the minimum quantity standard.

Accessibility

Most of Winchburgh is currently within 500m of a play area, except Station Road, Station View and Beatlie 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 Beatlie Road in the north-east. However, these areas will be covered with the completion of Auldcaithie District Park (partially open) in the west of Winchburgh and Daisy Park in the north-east (under construction) as well as proposed provision in the east by Winchburgh Developments.

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

Conclusion

The PSA highlights both progress and ongoing challenges in ensuring adequate and equitable play provision across West Lothian. From the OSP, it is clear that while less than half of localities meet the minimum standard acreage for outdoor play space, the overall quality of formal parks has significantly improved since 2020. The number of parks deemed unfit for purpose has reduced from 11 to just 2. All settlements are within accessible distance of a country park, and the majority are close enough to district and neighbourhood parks. A number of settlements do not have a local park within 500m of all their residents. However, in many cases, they do have access to another park in the park hierarchy.

Engagement with locals provides further insight into community needs and priorities. Children tend to express greater satisfaction with play spaces than adults. Surveys also indicated that proximity of play spaces to homes is an important factor influencing use. Key areas for improvement identified through engagement include:

- Expanding equipment to cater to all ages, especially older children
- Enhancing accessibility for disabled individuals and those with additional needs
- Ensuring regular maintenance
- Provision of toilet facilities and seating
- Prioritising the integration of high-quality play spaces into new housing developments
- Addressing geographic disparities
- Facilitating public access to free outdoor sports pitches

The lived experience described in community feedback does not always align with qualitative and quantitative data from the OSP. This is why it is important to find a balance when assessing play sufficiency.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Play Area Hierarchy and Typical Features

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

Appendix 2

Park 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)
	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)
	Provision of paths / access
	Receives regular maintenance

Appendix 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	-

Appendix 4 - 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	Does the space afford flexibility to be managed or used differently over time according to changing needs and uses? Could amenity grassland or pitches become food growing? Could building be erected? Could habitats be changed economically?	
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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>

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>	

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>	

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>	
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