



Scottish Natural Heritage grant programme Information sheet

Attractive places to live

Grants for green space

We want to see well-managed green space in and around towns and cities so that people can enjoy and take pride in a clean, safe, healthy and attractive environment. (Green space is any vegetated land, open water or geological feature within, or near, towns and cities.) This scheme will:

- encourage a partnership approach to improving the quality, quantity and accessibility of green space;
- get more communities involved in creating and improving green space;
- get more people using and enjoying their local green space;
- help improve landscapes that have been damaged by previous land use; and
- improve the planning, design and management of green spaces.

Background

Green spaces provide opportunities for outdoor play and recreation. They make places more pleasant to live in, provide a space for wildlife, and promote health and wellbeing. Involvement in green-space projects supports community learning and development, helping people to understand and improve their local environment. In Scotland, 80% of people live in towns and cities. The open and green spaces close to where they live are a high priority for investment and improvement.

Good-quality, accessible green space also improves poor landscapes, and can help revitalise communities and encourage inward investment.

Who should apply

- Community groups
- Voluntary-sector organisations
- Local authorities
- People who are able to contribute to the aims of the scheme

What we will pay for

The main types of activities we will pay for are listed below. We will also pay for other green-space proposals. Please contact us if you need more information.

- Using green space for community learning and development.
- Setting up and developing partnerships to get communities involved in creating and improving green space.
- Audits and strategies for green space.
- Community consultations to support better planning, design and management of green space.
- Transforming underused and undervalued land (including vacant and derelict land) to help people and wildlife.
- Developing community green spaces which promote communities taking part in nature conservation.

<p>Our priorities</p>	<p>We particularly welcome projects which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● are in or around cities and towns of more than 3000 people; ● target disadvantaged communities and groups and areas where the quality of the environment is poor; ● support the development of the Greenspace for Communities Initiative; and ● promote the preparation and carrying out of Open Space or Greenspace Strategies.
<p>How much we will pay</p>	<p>We will pay up to half of the total eligible cost of the project, although some community groups may qualify for more support. Eligible cost includes any ‘in-kind’ contributions, such as land, labour or materials donated to the project.</p>
<p>What we will not pay for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green spaces which are not accessible to the public. ● Green space with little or no benefit to the natural heritage. ● Business ventures. ● Conference fees and travel and accommodation costs associated with training courses.
<p>What other information your application should include</p>	<p>To support your application, you should send us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● an extract or reference to any relevant strategic plan (this might include a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Open Space or Greenspace Strategy, local plan or community plan); and ● details of how the project will be maintained once it has been completed, and how this will be funded.
<p>Where to get more help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The SNH Greenspace for Communities Initiative Plan – see www.snh.org.uk/ww0/sharinggoodpractice/greenspace_for_communities.asp. ● SNH Natural Heritage Futures Settlements Prospectus. This sets out our vision for towns and cities over the next 25 years. (www.snh.org.uk/futures/Data/pdfdocs/Settlements.pdf). ● Local Greenspace Partnerships can provide support and advice. For details of local partnerships, examples of projects and other advice including other funding sources, see www.greenspacescotland.org.uk. ● Forward Scotland, and their Community Webnet in particular, may provide advice and support. See www.forward-scotland.org.uk/. ● Planning Advice Note 65 – Planning and Open Space – see www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan65-00.asp. <p>You can get more information about these from our local area offices.</p>
<p>Other possible sources of funding</p>	<p>You will find detailed information in the leaflet ‘Other sources of funding’ in the application pack. Projects within this scheme may also be eligible for support from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Greenspace Partnerships – see above; ● government agencies such as Communities Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland; ● local authorities and national park authorities; and ● companies and charitable trusts.

