

Morningside Park Management Plan 2024 - 2029



Contents

Park Overview	3
Introduction	7
Vision and Aims	11
Survey and Governance	15
Analysis	19
Development Action Plan	29
Finance	35
Monitoring and Reviewing	36
Appendices	37

Overview map of the Morningside Park and Cemetery



Summary Information

Park Name: Morningside Park

Address: Morningside Drive / Balcarres Street, EH10 5JP

National Grid reference: NT2470 Size of Site: 1.215 ha / 3 Acres

Telephone Number: 0131 200 2000

Ownership: The City of Edinburgh Council – The Common Good Account

Area Designation: Southeast

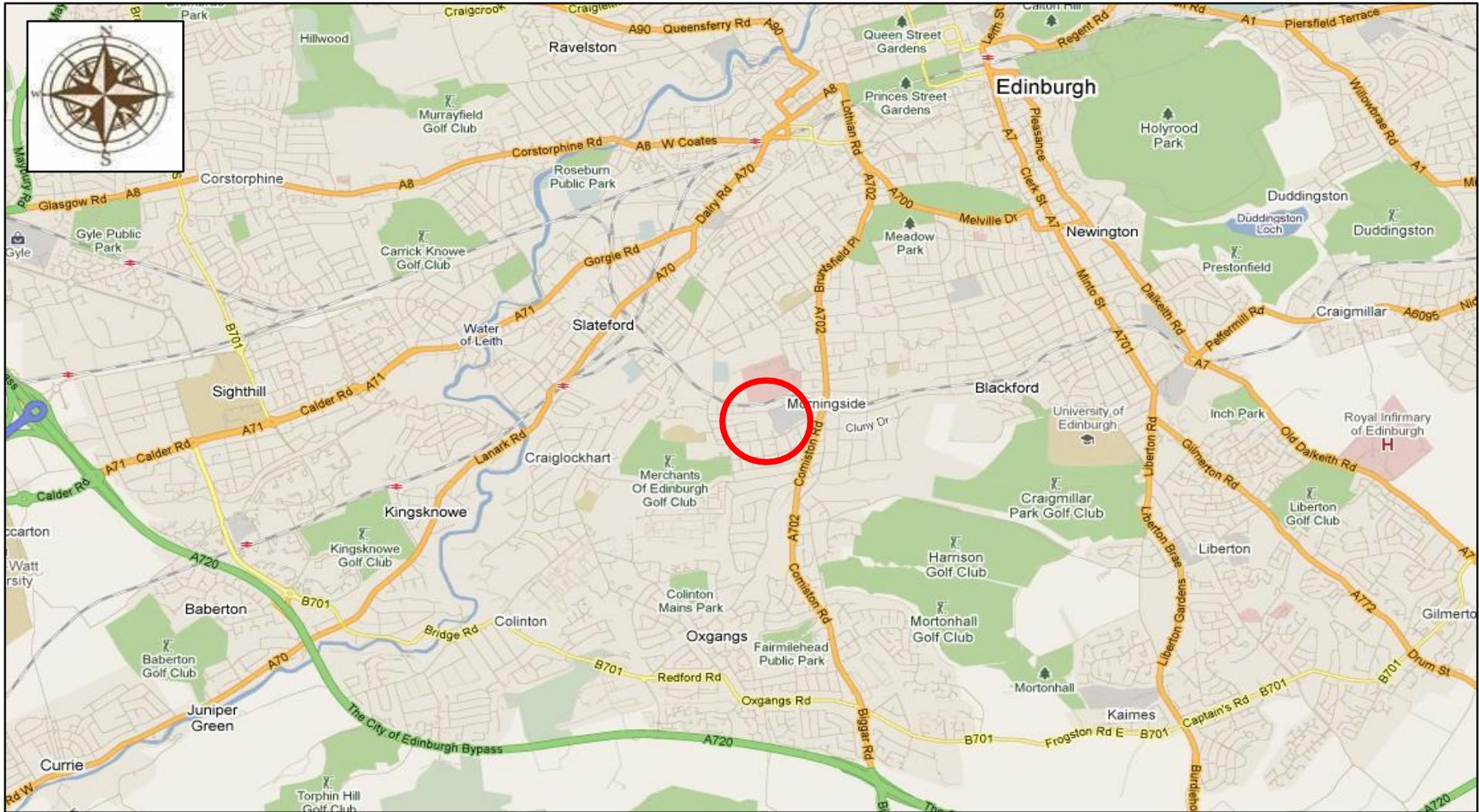
Classification: Community Park

Park Written by: City of Edinburgh Council
Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services
Place
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
parks@edinburgh.gov.uk

Partners: Local Community
Community Councils (Morningside and Merchiston)
Friends of the Morningside Park and Cemetery
Schools (South Morningside PS)
Local shops and businesses
Other third sector organisations: The Conservation Volunteers, Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust,
Edinburgh university Dirty Weekenders, Volunteer Centre Edinburgh, Employee Volunteering

Location Map

Morningside Park: location within Edinburgh.



Overview Photo of Morningside Park



1 Introduction

1.0 Location

Morningside Park, with an area of 1.21 hectares, is one of the city's longest established parks, once part of the old Plewlands Farm. The ruins of Plewlands were still on the site until the 1920's when the park came into Council control from the Scottish Provident Property Co Ltd in 1913.

Morningside Park is a small, pleasant, elongated park area with tennis court, multi-sport area, safe play facility, grass areas and bound surfaced paths that makes the park an attractive facility for children, young people, adults and the elderly who come to play, walk, contemplate or view activities from multiple seating opportunities.

The park provides an essential greenspace in the heart of Morningside with a design which lends itself to a range of play, leisure activities and ad-hoc sports. The layout of the park provides healthy and safe routes between linked road networks along tree lined and lit paths for residents of Morningside and visitors alike. The design provides large open spaces which can accommodate activities including kick-about sport, play and leisure activities. There are several stakeholders who are associated with the park as follows:

- Local community
- Community Councils (Morningside and Merchiston)
- Friends of the Morningside Park and Cemetery
- Schools (South Morningside Primary School, St Peter's Primary School)

Members of the public use the park for many activities. It is used in general for play, leisure walks, dog walking, sports, exercise and picnicking. The park is a fantastic attraction all year round for these purposes but more so when the weather is fair. This attracts a great number of people with very few grass spaces being available when the sun is shining!

The park also lends itself to a high number of informal activities, mainly enjoyed by local children and youths; it not unusual to see football, basketball and tennis matches being played in the fenced area with football sometimes played on the grass with jackets as goalposts!

One of the greatest attractions in the park is the children's play areas and in particular the play area in the south of the park where the equipment caters for children of ages ranging from 3 – 14yrs. The tennis and basketball/football area also provides a great attraction which promotes a healthy lifestyle, especially for the many young people who play here.

A limited number of organised events are held in the park for community and charity use. The cultural, aesthetic and recreational value of the park for the citizens of Edinburgh is immense. Morningside Park is especially valued by those living in the adjacent Community Council areas of Morningside and Merchiston. There are two main entrances to the park and it has four main boundaries with local roads bounding the park giving it an enclosed feel.

In general, the park is surrounded by a wall; the west side of the park is graced by some fine mature silver birch trees as well as cherry, holly, yew, rowan and laurel. The frontage of roses at the Balcarres Street entrance was replaced by three flower beds and a grove of mature lime trees enhance the site further.

At the Morningside Drive end, a number of cedars create impact and interest. The park takes a northern slope, but enough room has been created for a grassed area where older children (and sometimes their parents) can play ball games or merely enjoy the fresh air.

Morningside Park has a welcoming atmosphere and is well used by the whole neighbourhood.

The park is well serviced by public transport bus routes, no's 23, 36, 38 & 41 and has good off-site parking facilities; consideration is contained within the Development Plan for disabled parking facilities.

1.1 Management Plan Framework

This Management Plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Morningside Park and has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council and representatives from local stakeholder organisations, to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

The plan is set out in sections covering the eight key criteria as set out in the Green Flag Award Guidance Manual – Raising the Standard.

The management plan covers the period 2024 to 2029 and has a detailed plan of works for that period. This plan's target

audience is elected members, the local community and council officers and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated throughout its duration.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. The plan enables any person involved to understand how and why decisions are taken, and the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”

1.2 Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Framework

Edinburgh values its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, renowned for its setting, history and built heritage. Parks and greenspaces are integral to this. They serve as a stage for our public lives and are settings where celebrations are held, where social exchanges take place, where friends mix, where cultures run into each other, where nature thrives, and where people revive themselves from the stresses of urban living.

The Parks, Open Space Development and Visitor Services team is committed to providing quality parks for residents and visitors alike. There are five qualities that make a park great, and that drive the work of the Parks, Open Space Development and Visitor Services team: They must be full of activity and invite affection. They must also be visible and accessible as well as being comfortable and safe. They also need to be places you can count on, no matter if you visit the park every day or once a year.

Using the Green Flag judging criteria all of Edinburgh’s parks are assessed on an annual basis and a Parks Quality Score is produced for each site. These scores are compared to the Edinburgh Minimum Standard which has been developed to benchmark our parks and record how they are improving.

In Edinburgh the involvement of local residents through a network of Friends groups is well established. Depending on their capacity, sites host both major and local events and activities, offering a wide range of attractions to families and individuals from a diverse community.

The Parks, Open Space Development and Visitor Services team ensures that Edinburgh’s parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful and diverse; they will be the setting for activities and celebrations; be well-known for their features, history and “happenings”; and be locally valued and used.

1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme



The Green Flag Award Scheme is both a national and international standard for quality in greenspace management. The scheme is currently managed by Keep Britain Tidy and delivered in Scotland through Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Edinburgh has been involved in the pilot scheme using the Green Flag criteria as a measure and methodology for benchmarking the quality of parks and green spaces in Scotland and has been involved in this project since 2007. Since then, Edinburgh has continued to support the use of the Green Flag Award criteria in its parks and greenspace assessments and has successfully applied for Green Flag Awards across its parks and openspaces.

The Green Flag Award criteria is used in carrying out our annual Parks Quality Assessments and gives officers and friends' groups up to date information and a measure of the standard of the park at that time.

Our use of the scheme's assessment criteria to assess the quality of all our parks on an annual basis not only provides each park with a quality score and feedback that can be used to improve our parks but also indicates which parks are likely be successful in applying for the Green Flag Award. Following such successes in other parks in Edinburgh, it was decided that Morningside Park would apply for Green Flag status in 2011 following production and implementation of an improvement strategy for the park.

2 Vision and Aims

2.0 Introduction

This section sets out a new vision for the park and a series of new objectives that are developed into actions later in the plan.

2.1 Vision

The Council adopted its Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy in March 2006. The strategy sets out a vision for its parks that states:

“A quality parks system worthy of international comparison, accessible, diverse and environmentally rich, which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people”. (Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006, p49)

The Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services team ensures that Edinburgh’s parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful and diverse; they will be the setting for activities and celebrations; be well-known for their features, history and “happenings”; and be locally valued and used.

In developing this management plan for Morningside Park, our vision is:

“To look after Morningside Park for the benefit of citizens and visitors alike, both now and for the future. This will ensure that Morningside Park continues to be a distinctive and attractive place of grass, floral displays, trees and paths, safe for all who frequent the area, for relaxation and recreation”

2.2 Aims

Beneath the vision lies a series of aims that have been linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria.

a) Conservation

To increase the biodiversity value of the site

b) Landscape

To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value

c) Recreation

To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment

To enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

d) Community Involvement

To engage with the local community and user groups

To encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities

To use the park as a recreational resource

e) Cultural

To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

f) Sustainability

To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

g) Legal
To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

h) Maintenance

To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

i) Safety

To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

j) Marketing

To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

The aims are set out in the table below. Each of these aims is further developed into targets, measures and timescales.

The following list of aims has been developed in line with the Green Flag criteria, which form the basis of the assessment and analysis of Morningside Park.

Criteria	Aim
A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Healthy, Safe and Secure	<p>c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity</p> <p>g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations</p> <p>i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site</p>
Clean and Well	<p>h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations</p>

Maintained	
Sustainability	<p>f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles</p>
Conservation and Heritage	<p>a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site</p> <p>e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value</p>
Community Involvement	<p>d) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource</p>
Marketing	<p>j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users</p>

Management	<p>f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles</p> <p>h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations</p> <p>d) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource</p>
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3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance

3.0 Introduction

This section looks at the historic features of the park and also examines the legal situation with respect to ownership and designations that apply to the park, as well as confirming the strategic significance in the Local Plan. It pulls together recent surveys that have been undertaken to update the baseline data about the park and finally considers the involvement of the community through the Friends group and events.

3.1 Historic Features of the Park

Relatively speaking this park has been developed in modern times, with the exception of the Old Cemetery gates at the North end; the park does not lend itself to retaining many historic features. However, through the development of the park there are many new additions that will in time become the features of this park. E.g. the Susie Wong Memorial Sensory Garden.

3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park

A number of Edinburgh's corporate strategies and policies apply to the parks and greenspaces in the city, aiming to deliver safety and equality of provision, safeguard and enhance local environments and neighbourhoods, and ultimately improve the quality of life for Edinburgh's communities, enabling residents to participate fully in the city's park life.

These policies set the overall context within which parks are managed and developed, and although it is the green space policies,

which have primary impact, the other more general policies also have a direct or indirect effect in varying degrees.

A list of these policies are given below. A brief précis of each is provided in **(Appendix 1)**. Copies of these are available on request. Many can also be accessed via the Council website (www.edinburgh.gov.uk).

Policy and Legislative Context

- The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2023-2027
- Southeast Locality Improvement Plan (second edition 2020)
- Edinburgh Accessibility Commission
- 2030 Climate Strategy
- City Plan 2030
- Thriving Greenspaces 2050 Vision
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2021
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027
- Play Area Action Plan 2011-2016
- Trees in the City (2023)
- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (2014)
- The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE)
- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended in Scotland)
- The Equality Act 2010
- Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003
- Dangerous Dogs Act (1991)
- Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960
- Civic Government Scotland Act (1982)

Local Drivers

- South East Locality Improvement Plan (second edition 2020)
- Morningside Community Council
- South East Locality Community Planning Partnership
- Friends of Morningside Park and Cemetery

3.3 Management Rules

The Park Management Rules were revised and approved in 2014. These rules are to be reviewed in 2024 ([Appendix 2](#))

3.4 Park Classification

Morningside Park is classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a “Community Park”.

Community Parks are defined in the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006 as, “Parks serving chiefly the people of a defined local area. These are generally smaller in area and the facilities provided are likely to be relatively simple. Functions should be determined as far as possible by consultation with users and potential users. Access to these parks will be mainly on foot or by cycle.”

3.5 Community Involvement

The Friends of the Morningside Park and Cemetery was established in 2009 with the encouragement of Morningside Community Council and the Locally Elected Councillor.

Its main purpose is to co-operate with the Council who hold the land in trust for the people, and with the Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services Team in particular, and to promote good stewardship of Morningside Park.

Current paid-up membership is low, but many others show a great interest in the greenspace and look upon this as their front garden. The Council Parks, Openspace and Visitor Services team are currently working closely with them in an attempt to increase their numbers.

The main activities of the Friends group are open meetings throughout the year, generally on current issues relating to Morningside Park.

The Friends notify the Council about anything relating to the park. They organise clean-up events and encourage responsible behaviour in the park for those who use it.

They have undertaken grant applications to obtain funding for additional seating, wildflower area establishment and habitat box

supply and installation. The Friends group provides an excellent link with other interest groups and the Council.

Several other stakeholder groups have assisted in maintaining and developing the site such as the Conservation Volunteers, the Green Team, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (Treetime project) and Community Payback Teams with park projects including path edging, tree base mulching and construction of several bug hotels.

3.6 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

Asset Management GIS Survey

The Council has introduced a new asset management system (Confirm) which has been undertaken following a full survey of each park in the city. This is now linked to GIS so that site location, condition and photographic information can be studied from the office base. This information will be used to assess replacements or repairs of infrastructure within the park.

Currently the system is only applicable to play areas and gym kit but longer term will be a useful tool to enable us to enhance the management of the overall fabric and infrastructure needs for the park.

Tree Planting Plan

The Council's Arboricultural section produced a Tree Planting Plan with a comprehensive tree species list indicating the current scope for additional or replacement tree stock. This plan was devised on the recommendations from previous surveys. It will be used to shape the future development of the landscape features of the park and will be reflected in future in this management plan **(Appendix 4)**.

Biodiversity Survey

In February 2011, officers of the Council carried out a survey of the park and have made recommendations for consideration in an attempt to increase the biodiversity within the park. We have included a copy of the report in the appendices for consideration in this application.

We have also included in this appendix the Biodiversity Options for Parks and Greenspaces – A Guide for Managers which is used universally to develop biodiversity within all parks within the city. It was with use of this document that some biodiversity features were implemented in the park **(Appendix 5)**.

4 Analysis

4.0 Introduction

This Section follows the criteria headings within the 'Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual' (2004) and highlights how the park ties into the Green Flag Award Standard.

4.1 A Welcoming Place

b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value

c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Morningside Park is a welcoming place and is a very well-used site; social access is excellent with local people from within the southern aspect of the city who take part in a variety of formal and informal activities.

There are two principal access points to the north and south of the park. Information boards are located at both of the park entrances, which highlight points of local interest. In addition, there is an interpretation panel representing the sensory garden.

There are good public bus routes close-by which allows access to the park, the main pathway allows for disabled access and cycling to be undertaken within the park. The park is bound by a mixture of stone walls, metal railings and local resident fences.

The majority of park users come from the southern part of the City of Edinburgh; however, there is great local use by residents who tend to use the park for a number of uses, including play activity, walking, cycling and general relaxation. There are good on-street parking facilities at both the north and south ends of the park.

4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

- c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity
- g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations
- i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Morningside Park is well used throughout the year for formal and informal sport and other physically active pursuits.

The park contains one well equipped and popular play area which was upgraded in 2022 and has a tennis/basketball/football fenced area which is well used by the many visitors to the park. The park is well equipped with seating and litter bins. There are four designated picnic tables/areas located throughout the park and prove very popular with users.

The amount of users of the park supports good levels of personal security and this is supported by excellent lighting (nine main lamp standards) along the main path which enhances safe access through the park in the evening.

There is a local public convenience within the local shopping area in Morningside, however, there are a number of local businesses which allow public access for toilet provision.

Park Ranger's visit the park weekly as part of their park and garden inspection route. They will log incidents and report these to the Parks and Greenspace Officer for resolution.

Community Police Officers walk through the park and liaise with the department on incidents and issues for resolution. Environmental Wardens are also available for enforcement of dog fouling, disposal of litter legislation and graffiti and fly-posting issues however, there are few incidences requiring their input.

The City of Edinburgh Council uses branding on vehicles and machinery and ensures that all staff wear clothing showing the council logo on, to ensure they are readily identifiable to the public. Wherever possible and safe to do so, the public are encouraged to engage with the grounds maintenance staff to discuss issues with the park, its maintenance or management. Their friendly demeanor allows for a helpful first point of contact for park users.

Park Rangers and the area Parks and Greenspace Officer are keen to involve children in activities in the park, such as bulb planting and biodiversity improvements. Adults are encouraged to accompany their children to the park and throughout their children's activity to promote child safety.

All City of Edinburgh Council Play Areas are designed in house to meet BS EN 1176 Parts 1 – 11. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696. All play areas are held on a database called Playsafe produced by Public Sector Software Ltd. This system holds information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including type of equipment, installation date, and type of surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are undertaken by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their daily duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer, Parks and Greenspace Officer and Waste and Cleansing staff). They report obvious hazards to the Council's workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA trained staff inspect the equipment on a monthly basis. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair at a later date. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Workshops at Inverleith Park. Annual inspections and risk assessments, conforming with RPII, are carried out on all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.

The play equipment provision in Morningside Park was upgraded and replaced in 2022.

Accidents are reported to the Health and Safety Officer and recorded centrally.

4.3 Clean & Well Maintained

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

The park has a maintenance programme, which establishes standards of cleanliness, infrastructure and ground maintenance.

Information gathered from the public and Parks quality surveys indicate that the standard of maintenance is considered to be of a good to high standard, the schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan (**Appendix 3**).

There is good provision of litter receptacles and these are maintained on a regular basis. There are localised staff members whose responsibility is to ensure that the park is kept litter free. Dog fouling in the park is generally not a problem and this is due to responsible dog owners and supported by 'caring for parks' notices. Although this is proving successful we will still continue to have our local Environmental Wardens visit the site to ensure good practice is in place. In line with City wide practice the litter receptacles within the park are for joint use of disposal both for litter and dog fouling bags.

The grounds maintenance within the park is undertaken by a mobile team. The Parks and Greenspace Officer oversees the grounds maintenance regime to ensure that standards are maintained. The main flower beds within the park are planted and maintained by the local mobile team and supported by the friends for general maintenance purposes.

The infrastructure is regularly checked and maintained by the City's ROSPA trained engineering team, to ensure that the play area equipment is safe and secure. The surfaces of the play areas are checked regularly by both the Park Rangers and the local task force teams to ensure that there are no dangerous objects within the area.

Although not a regular problem, graffiti is removed by the city-wide specialist services team and aided by local volunteers from Friends of Morningside Park and Cemetery who are equipped with a community graffiti removal kit.

A reactive maintenance programme is in place for the maintenance of the infrastructure on site in respect of painting and security. This infrastructure is regularly inspected by the Parks and Greenspace Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house service teams.

4.4 Sustainability

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

The only use of peat by the Parks, Openspace Maintenance and Visitor Services team is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and continues to aim towards meeting the national targets of 90%. A number of alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery's own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite and sand. Trials have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

No herbicide is currently used in Morningside Park; glyphosate-based herbicide is only used for treatment of Invasive Non-Native Species. The Council as a whole is looking at safer and more natural alternatives.

In order to reduce land filled waste, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to develop and extend initiatives to prevent, minimise, reuse and recycle not only the city's but also its own waste. The park is fortunate to have a large on-street recycling centre less than 30 metres from its northern access point where users can dispose of their recyclable material. We encourage the use of this facility. The Council is actively collaborating with other local councils in progressing the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan. Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed waste disposal area.

The Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services team are currently investigating more sustainable methods of dealing with green waste e.g. satellite composting sites. The park, in conjunction with the friend's group has recently installed a compost bin area within the park to allow for green waste material.

Green waste (e.g. grass clippings, weeds, seasonal bedding) is taken to Forth Resource Management where it is composted. Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold or left for habitat value if appropriate.

There is occasional use of water within the park, for irrigation of newly planted flower beds and trees during early establishment and drought conditions. Bark mulch has been extensively used throughout the park in order to preserve moisture and provide a cool root run for plants. Ground cover shrubs have been widely planted to suppress weeds and prevent loss of moisture from the soil through evaporation.

The Council's Inch Nursery has introduced a rainwater recycling system for plant irrigation. The rainwater system is used until the tank is empty and then the system switches back to mains water. Once there is sufficient rainwater in the tank the system switches back. The Council negotiates their energy supplier and considers use of alternative technologies in providing energy. Lights used in the park are supplied with low energy bulbs.

4.5 Conservation & Heritage

- a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site
- e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

The design and layout of Morningside Park provides a protected local heritage, though it may be considered that the area provides limited opportunities to promote biodiversity. However, it is hoped that a number of the recommendations of a biodiversity assessment can be taken forward in the future. We are actively looking at introducing relaxed grass cutting regimes to compliment this.

The park is enhanced by a number of large mature trees and it is intended to conserve as many of these as possible, mature beech, firs, pine and poplar are in number within park. New plantings have been undertaken to infill gaps and replace trees that have had to be removed for varying reasons.

Hedgehogs have been observed in the park during the autumn months and it is certain that they hibernate in the park. Pipistrelle bats are known to hunt over the park in the late summer.

Butterflies, including orange tip, whites, peacock and tortoiseshell can be observed amongst the parks varied plants and shrubs. With speckled wood territories expanding, these have also been witnessed of late.

Resident bird species include robin, wren and dunnock, great tit, blue tit, blackbird, wood pigeon and sometimes song thrush. Finches are plentiful with greenfinch and chaffinch being the most common, bullfinch and goldfinch also visit. Occasional visitors include grey wagtail and pied wagtail. Also house sparrow and magpie are resident. During the autumn and winter months mistle thrush, jackdaw, redwing, carrion crow and the energetic parties of long-tailed tits. Starlings visit the lawn area.

4.6 Community Involvement

- d) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

As part of our community engagement processes, we undertook a number of meetings with local groups in an effort to establish a friends of Morningside Park and Cemetery Group. This group finally came together and was constituted in 2009. One of the main items undertaken in attempts to gather the group was an open consultative day within the park whereby local people could offer their comments and aspirations for the park.

From this a major capital programme was put in place to meet the local aspirations and a great number of these have now been completed. This project has taken over £30k to complete and we continue to attempt to resource further changes within the park through this method.

More recently the local friend's group have undertaken community clean-up days which includes litter picking, weeding, small graffiti removal, painting and general tidying of the park, this work enhances the maintenance programmes already in place within the park and provides good communication and contact between the group and the Council.

With £5460 of funding collected from various sources a Sensory Garden was established and opened on 27 August 2010 in memoriam for one of the community's local volunteers who gave great periods of her time and life to establishing local priorities which included the Park in which she overlooked from her home. The Sensory garden has been a great addition to what is an established park and enhances the type of user group for which it was intended; it continues to be looked after and maintained to a high standard.



More recently school groups from South Morningside Primary School were involved in the creation of a wildflower area and various bulb planting activities to encourage increases in biodiversity. Head Start Nursery based at the south entrance to the park were regular users of the park and the young pupils also assisted with bulb planting and planting of planters within the play area. Sadly, the nursery relocated in 2022.

4.7 Marketing

j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

Information relating to Morningside Park is available via Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via Smartphone app Edinburgh Outdoors. A direct link QR (**Appendix 7**) code links you directly to Edinburgh Outdoors Page for Morningside Park, the site specific code is located in each of the notice boards. The Council website also offers a good source of information about the park and its available infrastructure.

Edinburgh Outdoors: [Morningside Park - Explore parks – Edinburgh Outdoors](#)

Crowd funding website, 'My Park Scotland': [Support Edinburgh Parks | MyParkScotland](#)

Public information is regularly posted in the two noticeboards at both entrances to the park along with local information from the Community Councils and the Friends group.

Within the noticeboards local events are advertised and this works well to promote various activities, such as Friends meetings, clean-ups and local events. Promotion of such events is vital in attracting and inviting members of the public to participate and ensures the success of the event.

The noticeboards will continue to be used to provide regular information on maintenance, events and works within the park. There is a booklet by Ian Nimmo, called Edinburgh's Green Heritage, where information is available on Morningside Park.

4.8 Management

- f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
- h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
- d) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Morningside Park is managed by Neighbourhood Environmental Services within the Place Directorate; direct site management is undertaken by the Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services Team.

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the Parks and Greenspace Officer ably assisted by Park Rangers in conjunction with the local community through the Friends Group and the adjoining Community Council's with the strategic issues dealt with via the central Parks and Greenspace Team.

The recently formed Friends of Morningside Park and Cemetery Group work closely with the local management teams to ensure that the park progresses in line with the Management Plan.

Operational management of the park is undertaken by Openspace Maintenance teams and Waste and Cleansing operatives. The area team consists of grounds maintenance and street cleaning teams, who are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of grass areas, flower beds and shrub areas, the servicing of the bins and litter collection throughout the park.

Maintenance schedules indicating frequency and type of work carried out within the park can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix 3**).

Other teams from centralised Council services are also deployed to ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. This includes the removal of large areas of graffiti, forestry and tree maintenance, playground maintenance, lighting maintenance and sports area maintenance.

The community groups assist the Council with members undertaking removal of small instances of graffiti, mainly from bins, seats and lamp standards, litter picking of small areas and generally highlighting defects for repair. Through the Friends Group it is intended to attempt to increase the public participation in voluntary work within the park, this might include the painting of railings, litter picking, improvements to biodiversity etc.

Given the current financial climate faced by local authorities it is important that the Council continue to encourage this type of voluntary activity by ensuring that the community have the necessary equipment to carry out the work.

Park Rangers also inspect the park to ensure that safety is maintained, they regularly make safe various small faults within the park e.g. a broken seat, faulty play equipment which allows for them to be speedily repaired by the local maintenance teams where appropriate. Park Rangers also provide a presence in the park to ensure that members of the public use the park responsibly in line with the management rules.

The Council annually assess each park within Edinburgh through the Parks Quality Assessment (PQA) scheme. These assessments offer valuable information that is used to improve and develop the park; extractions of the report can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix 6**). These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis annual improvements needed alongside management plan prescriptions. Morningside Park has benefited from this since its introduction with many improvements implemented.

5 Development Action Plan

The objectives described in this section are developed from the results of the assessment and analysis section and are directly linked to the criteria aims described in the previous section.

Note: Any costs are approximate.

PGO	Parks and Greenspace Officer	PR	Park Rangers
PGM	Parks & Greenspace Management	FOR	Forestry Service
FOMP&C	Friends of Morningside Park and Cemetery	RS	Roads Services
SLM	Street Lighting Manager	CS	Community Safety
W&C	Waste and Cleansing Service	GM	Grounds Maintenance
CM	Cemetery Manager		

Aim 1: A Welcoming place				
b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value				
c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment				
i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site				
Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
1.1 Provide and improve disabled parking near or within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with Roads Officers with regard to feasibility – access at south entrance to be reviewed as part of adjacent development (£400) 	2024	PGO RS	No update (March 2026)
1.2 Procure and install site threshold signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide rollout underway, ensure Morningside Park is included (£200) 	2024/25	PGO	Bulk order being formed (March 2026)
1.3 Maintain annual bed at northern entrance to ensure spring and summer colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North entrance banking 	2024-29	PGO PGM	Ongoing

1.4 Keep entrances clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular litter pick and leaf blowing 	2024-29	PR	Ongoing
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Aim 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure

c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment

g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
2.1 Continue the successful responsible dog owner campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with environmental wardens and other appropriate CEC staff to continue the successful campaign 	2024-29	PGO CS	Ongoing
2.2 To improve and maintain lighting on main paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out regular assessments of existing lighting on main paths which will include the quality of lighting and existing system for repairs and faults Encourage local community to report faults encountered Secure support of relevant CEC departments and funding to carry out replacement programme 	2024-29	SLM PR FOMP &C	Ongoing: 1 lamp replaced 2024
2.3 Assess condition of ball court surfaces and repair as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake any H&S repairs immediately; seek funding for re-lining 	2024-29	PGO PR	Costs sought for full repairs (£100k), make good (£30k), currently unbudgeted

Aim 3: Clean and Well Maintained

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
3.1 To review the capacity, design, and style of litter receptacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options and agree programme 	2025	PGM W&C	Bins repainted 2024; replacements scheduled mid-2026
3.2 Undertake regular clean-ups of paths and play areas	PR's to inspect site regularly, undertake maintenance as required	2024-29	PR	Ongoing
3.3 To provide additional cycle racks within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate appropriate site; liaise with Active Travel colleagues 	2025	PGO	Unbudgeted (March 2026)
3.4 Continue to encourage local community to repair and maintain park furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide graffiti kits and aerosol paints to interested volunteer groups Encourage regular litter picking 	2024-29	PGO FOMP&C Local Groups	

Aim 4: Sustainability

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
4.1 Minimize green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All green waste produced on site to be composted on site or used to produce habitat 	2024-29	CPO PR	Ongoing
4.2 Reduce use of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use natural woodchip mulch, using this on flower beds and round trees Reduce weed growth round infrastructure by mechanical means No glyphosate based herbicides used 	2024-29	PR	Ongoing

4.3 To design and implement a tree replacement programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement trees planted through Edinburgh Million Tree City project 	2024	PGO FM	Completed
4.4 Use Autumn leaf fall from park and surrounding parks to mulch the Shrub beds within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use maintenance teams to shred leaves and mulch beds 	Ongoing	PGO GM	Seasonally

Aim 5: Conservation and Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
5.1 Refresh the current wildflower garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of improved wildflower area and biodiversity area within the park 	2024-29	PGO PR	Schedule/type of provision reviewed 2026
5.2 Provide Bird Boxes to encourage greater bird numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install additional bird boxes 	2026	PGO PR	Await new financial year for spend
5.3 Provide additional plants to herbaceous border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant mixed herbaceous plants in existing bed 	2026	PGO PR	Await new financial year for spend
5.4 Planting of perennial wildflower plugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within natural bulb planting area Invite school children and Friends Group 	2025,27,29	PGO PR	Order raised with Celtica Wildflower, delivery due May 2026
5.5 Create compost area/bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install new compost bins at North end of the park within the sloped grass area 	2024	PGO FOMP&C	Completed
5.3 Install bee boxes to encourage solitary bee population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify suitable areas 	2027	PGO PR	
5.4 Create Bug Hotels/habitat piles within shrubby/wooded areas of park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several within woodland area 	2024-29	PGO PR	Ongoing

Aim 6: Community Involvement

d) To engage with the local community and users groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
6.1 To encourage Community led clear-ups and greater involvement in the management and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be organised in conjunction with the FOMP&C 	2024-29	PGO FOMP&C PR	Ongoing
6.2 Continue to seek opportunities for grant funding by Friends Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For projects and improvements 	2024-29	CPO PR	Ongoing
6.3 To involve local school children in various park projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with local schools 	2024-29	PR	Ongoing

Aim 7: Marketing

j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
7.1 To provide regular information on maintenance, events and works within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities 	2024-29	PGM PGO FOMP&C	Noticeboards updated periodically

7.2 Create and introduce a QR code specific to the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of ICT department Linked to the Edinburgh Outdoors 	2024	PR	Completed
7.3 Update content specific to the Park within Edinburgh Outdoors website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add new information and photographs specific to site 	2024-29	PGO PR	Ongoing
7.4 Update content for MyParkScot website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to Edinburgh Outdoors site Friends Group have a registered page 	2024-29	PR	Ongoing

Aim 8: Management

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

d) To engage with the local community and users groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Progress
8.1 To develop a volunteer programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work closely with volunteer/friends group to establish an activity programme 	2024-29	PGO PR	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote activities to corporate volunteers Establish links with local youth groups, Guides, Scouts etc. linking to badge programme Work with Community Payback teams to establish regular activity schedule 	2024-29	PGO PR	Ongoing

6 Finance

Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the park consists of work undertaken at present by the local Openspace Team. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the old Grounds Maintenance Contract that now serves as a guide to what should be undertaken, although many tasks outside of this guide are undertaken to ensure the quality of the park is maintained. The table provided below indicates approximate annual costs of the general maintenance of the park.

Item	Annual Cost (£)
Grass Maintenance	5000
Flowers, shrubs and hedges	2000
Litter removal	1000
Play Area Maintenance	2000
Maintenance of sports facilities	1500
Tree Maintenance	2000
Total	13500

Capital Funding

Capital budget is administered by Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services managers through the Parks Capital Programme. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources so that they can be included in future bids. Such funding is usually administered on a priority basis related to health and safety issues.

Grants

Friends groups can apply to the Council for funds up to £5k from the Community Grants Fund. The Thriving Greenspace Team within Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services also encourages development of parks and are promoting their Nature Networks project amongst others at present.

Local stakeholder groups are also encouraged to apply for funding that becomes available through organisations such as Nature Scot, Paths for All, Action Earth etc.

7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality Assessment framework is used to provide annual assessments of parks and provides a report for Morningside Park that can be used to support the monitoring process. These assessments are undertaken by staff and volunteers and are generally carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park.

In conjunction, Parks User Survey results and comments assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the Council and the Friends group when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken.

A review of this management plan shall take place at the midpoint enabling us to understand what objectives have been achieved, which ones might require additional resource and which ones require to be carried forward. This will be carried out by Council Officers, the Friends group and individual members of local Community Council's where we will undertake to consider all recommendations in regard to the Green Flag Assessment and also our internal Parks Quality Assessment.

8 Appendices

Appendix One

Policy and Legislative Context

The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2023-2027

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/33125/council-business-plan-2023-2027>

The Council must keep its essential public services running at the standard people expect, deliver support for those who need it most, and protect the environment that sustains us all. Throughout all of this, the Council recognise that the dual crises of the climate and nature emergencies and widening equality must underpin all such efforts. Our guiding principles, therefore, are climate justice and social justice; principles which must be reflected in all of the decisions elected members make over the next five years. With this lens in mind, the current Council Business Plan sets out three strategic priorities:

- We will concentrate our efforts on creating good places to live and work across Edinburgh,
- We will take the local actions needed to end poverty in the city
- We will work to deliver a net zero city by 2030

South East Locality Improvement Plan (second edition 2020)

<https://www.edinburghpartnership.scot/plans/south-east-locality-improvement-plan/1>

This revised plan builds on the current successes of the first edition of the Locality Improvement Plan launched in 2017. This plan will continue to help those people who are in greatest need and focuses on what action can be taken to improve the quality of life of those who live in the Southeast. It sets out:

- the priorities for improving the area until 2022
- actions that will be carried out
- our commitment to target our shared resources in the most effective way to tackle inequality.

In developing the first edition of the plan, we asked local people across the locality, as well as within smaller targeted areas, what would make the area better and what would we need to do to achieve this? This allowed us to identify the outcomes and priorities that will make a real difference to the lives of the people in the locality.

Edinburgh Accessibility Commission

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13892/edinburgh-accessibility-commission-to-help-make-streets-inclusive-for-everyone>

Edinburgh's Accessibility Commission provides independent advice to the Council on the challenges, opportunities and actions required to ensure the city's public streets and spaces are as accessible as possible to disabled people. It was established in March 2024 and will operate for an initial two-year period.

The Commission has a strategic role which seeks to complement and support the remit of [Edinburgh Access Panel](#). It's focus is on looking at Council practices and processes, to deliver outcomes against 3 key themes:

1. Design - The Commission will set fundamental principles as to how the Council, working with partners and stakeholders, will ensure that policymaking and project delivery embeds accessibility into the design and development of our public streets and spaces.

It will also establish a process to support resolution, where possible, if principles are not being met.

2. Communication - The Commission will define principles as to how the Council, working with partners and stakeholders, will ensure its communications are as accessible as possible. This will help to maximise awareness and input from disabled people in Council activities, with a focus on delivering accessible public streets and spaces.

3. Engagement - The Commission will set principles for the delivery of best practice engagement which enables meaningful contributions from disabled people on Council policymaking and project development and delivery.

2030 Climate Strategy

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/29617/edinburgh-2030-climate-strategy>

The 2030 Climate Strategy sets out a city-wide approach to reducing greenhouse gases in Edinburgh.

The plan outlines how to deliver a net zero, climate ready city by 2030 as well as a healthier, thriving and inclusive capital for people to live and work in.

The strategy highlights six of the most impactful actions contributing to the net zero target. These include:

1. Unlocking and accelerating energy efficiency in homes and buildings
2. Enabling the development of a citywide programme of heat and energy generation and distribution infrastructure

3. Accelerating the decarbonisation of public transport
4. Renewing the focus on climate resilience and accelerating adaptation of the city
5. Supporting citizen empowerment, behaviour change and community activism and
6. Supporting business transition and the green economy.

It is supported by an implementation plan which outlines the deliverables, timescales, milestones and resources needed to achieve the city's ambitious climate goals, along with an approach to measuring outcomes and impact.

City Plan 2030

[City Plan 2030](#)

The future growth of our city must meet our ambitions to be a climate ready city where new homes are built to the highest emissions quality standards in resilient, connected neighbourhoods, in the right locations, with the right infrastructure. We need to support our businesses and promote an inclusive wellbeing economy. To help do this, City Plan 2030 sets out how we develop our city sustainably over the next ten years.

Thriving Greenspaces 2050 Vision

[Thriving Greenspaces 2050 Vision and Strategy](#)

The vision is that greenspaces are the heart of our communities, and help make Edinburgh an outstanding city for wellbeing, quality of life and heritage. Greenspaces that are connected, thriving, valued and resourced. The strategy identifies four main strategic ambitions which are summarised below:

- Connected - Edinburgh's greenspaces thread their way through the city, creating a well-connected, healthy, and resilient ecological network, which supports people and wildlife;
- Thriving - Edinburgh's greenspaces are thriving, encourage the health and wellbeing of citizens, and reflect the diversity, values and interests of local communities;
- Valued - Edinburgh's greenspaces are valued and celebrated for their natural and cultural heritage;
- Resourced - Edinburgh's greenspaces are sustainably resourced, with a committed and resilient workforce working in partnership with residents, organisations and businesses to deliver high quality greenspaces.

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2021

[open-space-2021](#)

Edinburgh's Open Space Strategy establishes principles guiding the continued protection, management, and expansion of our green network over the next five years. Key challenges ahead include the delivery of new parks and active travel connections as the city

expands, creating inspiring places for new communities to socialise, grow food, play, keep active and experience nature, and which are resource-efficient and climate-change ready. In addition to sustaining the quality of existing green spaces, there are opportunities for people to come together to create community gardens and allotments, to re-naturalise our “living landscape” and to enhance the city’s historic cemeteries and burial grounds.

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027

[edinburgh-biodiversity-action-plan-2022-2027](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22571/edinburgh-biodiversity-action-plan-2022-2027)

Edinburgh’s Biodiversity Action Plan outlines a partnership approach to biodiversity conservation across the city. In 2000, Edinburgh was among the first places in the UK to produce an action plan for biodiversity. This fourth edition continues the trend toward an action plan that is streamlined, focused and deliverable. Partnership working and community involvement are still key elements. More than 30 members of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership contribute to delivery, including Council departments, government agencies, national and local environmental charities, volunteer conservation bodies and community groups.

Play Area Action Plan 2011-16

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22571/play-area-action-plan-2011-2016>

The purpose of this Play Area Action Plan is to guide the improvement of existing play area facilities and to identify new opportunities for future facilities across the city. The Council prepared the plan, which was revised after public consultation. This document sits under The City of Edinburgh Council Play Strategy, which was approved by Council in 2009. The Play Strategy sets out a vision and aims for the development of play for children and young people and sets the context for this document.

Trees in the City

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22574/trees-in-the-city-action-plan>

To set out clearly policies that will inform how the Council manages trees and woodlands in its own ownership; Provide guidance to inform the public on tree-related matters and on their rights and responsibilities; To set out the Council’s action plan in response to the Forestry Commission Scotland’s Edinburgh & Lothians Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2012-17 (ELFWS), which was approved by Planning Committee on 4 October 2012; Present recent research evidence of the financial benefits that trees provide (the i-Tree study).

Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (2014)

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22557/edinburgh-parks-events-manifesto-2014>

An approach to the planning and managing of events within Edinburgh’s parks and greenspaces. This revised edition provides a framework through which a balanced and sustainable events programme can be achieved, whilst ensuring that the quality of the land is maintained to the highest standard possible.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/contents>

The Act amends a number of other pieces of legislation and aims to modernise game laws, introduces new wildlife offences (vicarious liability), adds further regulation to snaring, updates to the ways Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are dealt with, updates to the licensing system, amendments to deer stalking and deer management, strengthens protection of badgers, makes changes to Muirburn practices and operational changes to the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/contents>

Ensures land covered in the boundary map is accessible for a wider range of responsible and legally permitted recreational pursuits and uses.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2005).

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>

Lays out the guidelines for recreational use of green space. It establishes the responsibilities of land managers and users that are associated with rights of access, including care of the natural and cultural heritage, keeping dogs under control, non-disturbance of wildlife, and special considerations applying to cultural heritage sites. The management plan includes maintenance of paths with provision of maps and other information to ensure that visitors have access to the site, while at the same time conserving habitats and minimising disturbance.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2004/6/contents>

This Act provides the legal framework that governs conservation of natural landscapes and habitat and protection of wildlife in Scotland. Part 1, Biodiversity, states that “It is the duty of every public body and officeholder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1994) (as amended in Scotland).

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents>

This lists common and soprano pipistrelle bats (under schedule 2) as protected animals. It is an offence to capture, injure, kill or harass a wild bat, disturb it in a way that is likely to significantly affect local distribution or abundance or impair its ability to survive or breed, or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.

The Equality Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

In 2010, the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 (and the extension made in the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) was replaced with the Equality Act in England, Scotland and Wales. The Equality Act covers all the provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act as well as some additional protection from indirect discrimination, discrimination arising from disability and discrimination on the basis of association or perception. The management plan takes account of this Act in making provision for upkeep of main paths.

Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/12/contents>

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision in relation to the offence of dog fouling, including fixed penalty notices for such an offence; and for connected purposes.

Dangerous Dogs Act (1991).

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/65/contents>

An Act to prohibit persons from having in their possession or custody dogs belonging to types bred for fighting; to impose restrictions in respect of such dogs pending the coming into force of the prohibition; to enable restrictions to be imposed in relation to other types of dog which present a serious danger to the public; to make further provision for securing that dogs are kept under proper control; and for connected purposes.

Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/8-9/30/contents>

The City of Edinburgh Council's liability to users of parks and other green spaces owned by the City of Edinburgh Council derives from this Act. The Act makes provision regarding any hazards or dangers on the land. Scottish law does not allow the transfer of liability where the landowner is negligent. The management plan takes account of the Act with respect to maintenance of trees in wooded areas and provision of information to the public.

Civic Government Scotland Act (1982)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1982/45/contents>

An Act to make provision as regards Scotland for the licensing and regulation of certain activities; for the preservation of public order and safety and the prevention crime; ...as to the rights and duties of the owners and users of certain land, buildings and other structures; as to the making by local authorities of byelaws; and to enable them to make management rules applying to land or premises under their control; as to certain other functions of local authorities and their officers; as to the time when the Burgh Police (Scotland) Acts 1892 to 1911 and certain local statutory provisions cease to have effect; and for connected purposes.

Appendix Two – Management Rules

‘Caring for Parks Guidelines’

Undesirable behaviour in parks is managed through education, persuasion and regulation.

Education, at the proactive, preventative end of the spectrum is provided for parks by a number of agencies. Education Officers in Local Community Planning provide a comprehensive environmental information and education service to the Edinburgh community. The team works with schools, colleges and universities, voluntary organisations, special needs groups and the business community to provide programmes, including litter and waste.

The Countryside ranger service runs environmental education programmes for schools and a range of park issues such as litter, dog fouling, camping, fires and cycling, are often discussed. Countryside Rangers are also charged with the promotion of ‘responsible behaviour’ as defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Talks to community groups, games and activities at events and special events such as ‘Super Dog’ and ‘Dr Bike’ are geared to communicating responsible behaviour in parks and greenspace.

The Park Ranger’s role in providing an education service is developing through their work with local schools and providing walks for community groups. Park rangers can be effective in dealing with undesirable behaviours by targeting education on local issues at local people. This involves raising awareness of an issue through the neighbourhood media, contact with the community, signage and providing events and activities designed to draw in the target groups, persuade them to stop and prevent the undesirable behaviours.

Persuasion

Parks Rangers, Countryside Ranger and Volunteer Rangers are the principal people dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks. They have no powers to apprehend, fine or prosecute offenders and are often working on their own. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for rangers on how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going. It is intended that this training will be extended to gardeners.

Signs, such as the ‘caring for Edinburgh’s Parks’, are designed to persuade people by explaining the effect of certain behaviours. These signs are permanent in all parks. Temporary signage can deal with local issues and again they are prepared in an informative and persuasive style as is shown on the next page.

Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace

The City of Edinburgh Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 hereby make the following Management Rules for the Council's Parks, Gardens and open spaces:

Interpretation

In these management Rules the following words have the meanings given to them:

"Council" means The City of Edinburgh Council;

"Park" means any land provided, owned, leased, occupied or managed by the Council within the City of Edinburgh and used as a recreation ground, public playground, public open space, public walk, walkway, woodland, ornamental or pleasure ground or gardens and all buildings and works connected therewith;

"Council Official" means an employee of the Council or of Edinburgh Leisure, or any person authorised by the Council to enforce these rules;

"Code" means the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Summary

Any person who appears to be breaking, has broken or is about to break any of the following rules may be asked by a Council Official to leave the Park. Any person refusing to leave will be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level one on the standard scale.

1. No person shall in any park wilfully obstruct, interrupt, verbally insult or annoy employees or agents of the Council in carrying out their duties.

2. Any written permission required by these rules must be shown on request to a Council Official.
3. The Council may decide to waive any particular Rule at any time.

General

The following acts are prohibited:

- 4.1 Behaviour which causes (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to cause) annoyance, offence, alarm or distress to any other park user.
- 4.2 Any wilful or careless act which damages or removes any artefact, plant, tree, shrub, building, structure, equipment, furniture or fitting.
- 4.3 Depositing litter except in litter bins provided for the purpose.
- 4.4 Pursuing any activity which endangers (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to endanger) any person or property.
- 4.5 Ball games in Princes Street Gardens and Saughton Walled Gardens.
- 4.6 Fishing in any water course without permit.
- 4.7 Depositing or leaving any substance or article which is likely (in the opinion of a Council Official) to cause injury or damage to any person or property.

- 4.8 Metal detecting in any park without the written permission of the Scottish Detector Club, subject to an agreement between the Council and the Scottish Detector Club being valid.

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 4.9 Entering into or wilfully remaining in a Park when it is closed to the public.
- 4.10 Selling, hiring or offering for sale or hire any items or goods or services.
- 4.11 Displaying or handing out advertisements, conducting surveys or giving any displays or performances.
- 4.12 Begging or busking.
- 4.13 Engaging in any commercial activity whatsoever (including, without limitation, dog walking services, photography, filming and fitness training services).

Dogs and Horses

The following acts are prohibited:

- 5.1 Allowing a dog to enter in or on a children's play area or area of the Park that is designated as a 'dog free area.'
- 5.2 Allowing dogs to foul in a public Park unless the person in charge of the dog immediately removes the fouling (within the provisions of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003).
- 5.3 Failing to keep a dog under close control in any Park.



- 5.4 Failing to keep a dog under close control, at heel or on a short lead when near young farm animals and at nesting time (April – July) in woodlands, grasslands, moorland and at the seashore.

- 5.5 Allowing a dog to run onto sports pitches when these are in use.

- 5.6 Leading, riding, training or exercising a horse in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.

BBQs, Fire and Camping

The following acts are prohibited:

- 6.1 Lighting barbecues outwith designated barbecue sites, where these are provided, or in areas or in a manner likely to burn or scorch the ground or cause danger or nuisance to other Park users or neighbouring residents.
- 6.2 Failing to remove litter associated with BBQs and picnics.

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 6.3 Lighting an open fire in any Park.
- 6.4 Camping within one mile of a public road.

Cycling

The following acts are prohibited:

- 7.1 Cycling in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.
- 7.2 Cycling off the paths in woodland and other areas sensitive to environmental damage.

Motor Vehicles

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 8.1 Driving or using or leaving any car, motorbike, quad bike, mini moto, or other vehicle, or parking a caravan, except on roads and in car parks provided by the Council for cars and vehicles, unless the Council's permission has been obtained first. This rule does not apply to prams and wheelchairs used for carrying children or people with a disability.

The following acts are prohibited:

- 8.2 Operating any motorised or mechanically propelled toy or model vehicle, aircraft or boat so as to disturb wildlife, endanger or give annoyance to other people or if asked by a Council Official not to do so.

Events and Other Activities

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 9.1 Holding an event, performance, ceremony in any Park, or a demonstration or public meeting in any Park except East Meadows, Caltan Hill or Leith Links.
- 9.2 Carrying, or discharging any firearm or firearm.
- 9.3 Playing any organised game or sport on pitches provided by the Council.

Short Hole Golf Courses

The following acts are prohibited for those not engaged in the game of golf:

- 10 Going onto playing surfaces when these are in use and onto greens at all times.



Expulsion and Exclusion from Parks

- 11.1 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has contravened, is contravening or is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may expel that person from the Park.
- 11.2 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may exclude that person from the Park.
- 11.3 Where a person has persistently contravened or attempted to contravene these Management Rules and in the Council's opinion is likely to contravene them again, the Council may decide to make that person subject to an exclusion order for a specified period of up to one year.
- 11.4 An exclusion order made under Rule 11.3 shall take effect on such date as the Council may decide, being not less than 14 days after the decision to make that person subject to an exclusion order. A person who has been made subject to an exclusion order:
 - i) shall be entitled to written notice of the decision to make the exclusion order, containing a statement of the reasons for that decision, and
 - ii) shall be entitled to make written or oral representations to the Council at any time up to the time that the order would have taken effect but for the representation being made.



These rules, due to come into force in February 2013, are now presented for public inspection. Any objections to the rules should be made in writing before 3 December 2012 to: Duncan Monteith, Parks and Greenspace, The City of Edinburgh Council, C3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk Please include your contact details so we can acknowledge and process your objection.



Regulation

When gentle persuasion fails, Council officers and rangers can resort to regulation, using Management Rules, Environmental Wardens and the Police. Management Rules, made under section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1989, allow Council officers and rangers to expel and exclude people from parks for minor offences. If the offending person does not leave they are committing a criminal offence. The threat of the offence is often enough to persuade people to stop. If they persist then it is a matter for the police.

The current Management Rules for Public Parks expire in 2013. A review of the rules is therefore under way and this will bring the rules in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The new Rules will also address current issues in parks and attempt to provide a clearer interpretation to the public of the behaviours which are not allowed.

For people who will not be persuaded and for more serious behaviours in parks then Park officers and ranger and the public are encouraged to call the police. The police will respond in a time that resources and priorities allow. When campaigns are being run in parks to address certain issues then Environmental Wardens are often asked to assist. Wardens can help stop and persuade people and for issues of dog fouling and litter can issue fixed penalties. The key tools for dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks are education, the promotion of responsible behaviour, persuasion and as a last resort, regulation.

Appendix Three – Maintenance Plan

Morningside Park Maintenance Plan																		
						Occasions												
Description	Action/Works	Who	M	M ²	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Grass Maintenance																		
Bulb Planted Areas	Cutting			400								2	2	2	2	2		Fortnightly (Sum)
General Areas	Cutting			6639				2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2			Fortnightly (Sum)
Edge Trees & Post	Cutting		488		116		1							1				Bi-Annual
Edge Hard Surface	Cutting		1430				1											Annual
Channel Maintenance				2349			1							1				Bi-Annual
Flower Bed Maintenance																		
Spring & Summer Bedding	Planting			60	7					1					1			Bi-Annual
	Watering				7					1	1	1	1	1	1			Monthly (Sum)
	Weeding				7					1	1	1	1	1	1			Monthly (Sum)
Shrub bed maintenance	Pruning			1681		1												Annually
	Litter Collection																	
Hedge & Tree Maintenance																		
Hedge	Cutting			1398						1			1		1			Quarterly
Tree	Pruning				50	1												
Roads & Pathway Maintenance																		
Roads/paths & Cycleway	Engineer Inspection			1000	1			1										Annual
	Ranger Inspection			1000	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly

Description	Action/Works	Who	M	M ²	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Play Area Maintenance																		
Engineer Maintenance	Engineer Inspection				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Monthly
Equipment Maintenance	Manager Inspection				1			1						1				Bi-Annual
	Ranger Inspection				1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly
Surfaces – Rubber	Sweeping			60	1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Surfaces – Hard Standing	Sweeping			950	1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Ball Area Maintenance	Ranger Inspection				1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Weekly
Ball Area Surfaces	Sweeping			1610														
Leaf Collection																		
	Collection			16318		4									4	4	4	Weekly (Wint)
Street Cleansing Maintenance																		
Bin	Emptying				9	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily
Litter	Collection			16318		31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily
Mechanical Sweeping	Collection			2000		4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Graffiti removal	Offensive																	Within 24 hrs
	Non-Offensive																	Within 72hrs

Appendix Four – Tree Planting Plan 2023/24

Meadows/Morningside

Morningside Park

Tree Id	Species	Tree Location	Site features	Recommendations	Comments
321	Quercus petraea	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Quercus petraea.
322	Fagus sylvatica pendula	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Fagus sylvatica Pendula
323	Fagus sylvatica pendula	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Fagus sylvatica Pendula
324	Quercus x turneri	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Quercus x turneri.
325	Quercus x turneri	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Quercus x turneri.
326	Pinus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Pinus sylvestris
327	Crataegus x lavalleyi	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Crataegus x lavalleyi
328	Crataegus x lavalleyi	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Crataegus x lavalleyi
329	Prunus shirofugen	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Prunus shirofugen

Morningside Park ...(contd)..

Tree Id	Species	Tree Location	Site features	Recommendations	Comments
330	Prunus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Prunus Sunset Boulevard
331	Acer rubrum	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Acer rubrum October Glory
332	Prunus shirofugen	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Proposed species: Prunus shirofugen
333	Prunus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Prunus Sunset Boulevard
334	Ulmus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Ulmus vada 'Wanoux'
335	Ulmus "Dodoens"	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Ulmus Dodoens
336	Pinus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Pinus sylvestris
337	Pinus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Pinus sylvestris
338	Malus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus Evereste

Morningside Park ...(contd)..

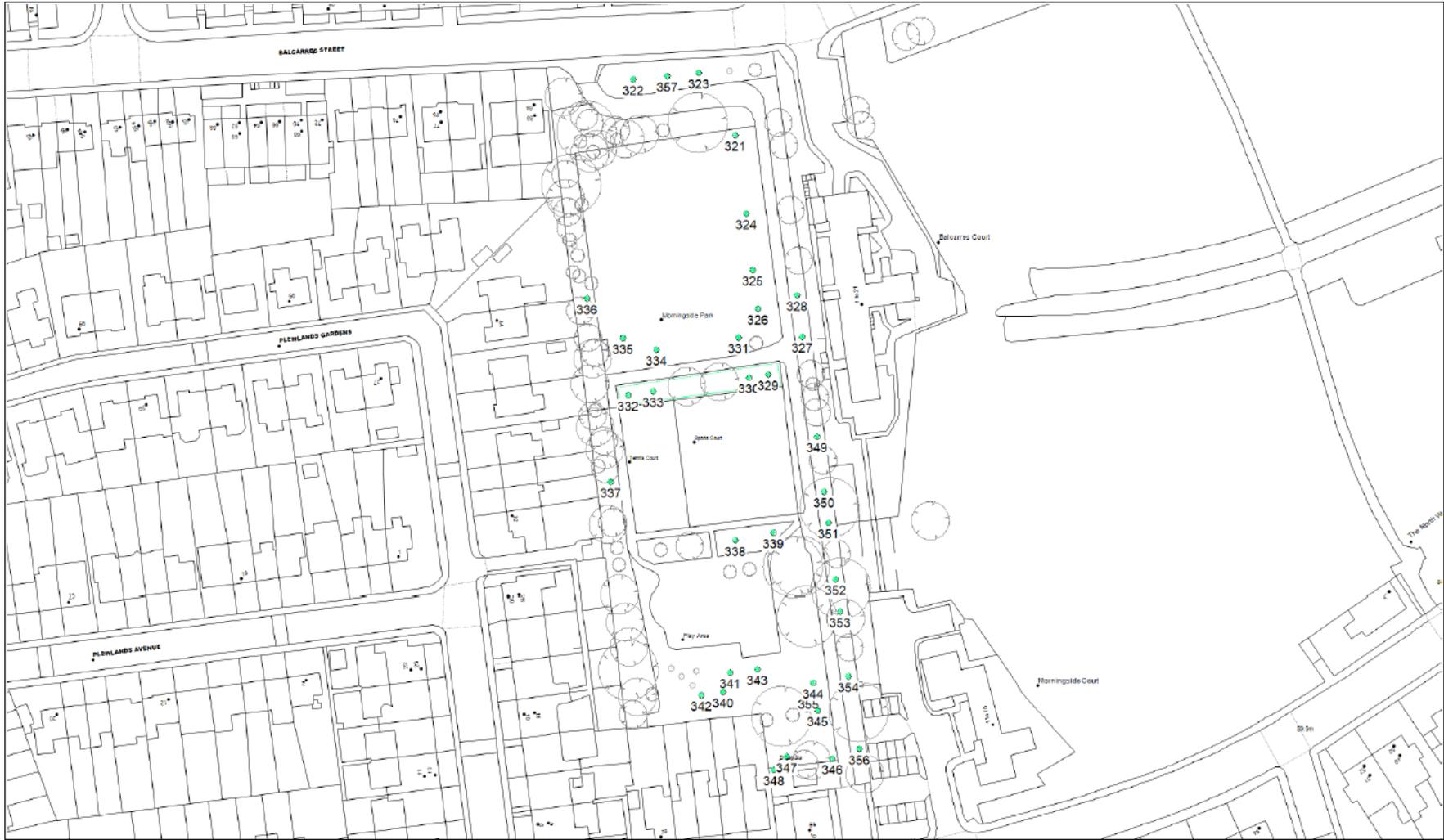
Tree Id	Species	Tree Location	Site features	Recommendations	Comments
339	Corylus columna	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Corylus columna
340	Magnolia spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site Selected species: Magnolia kobus
341	Magnolia spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Magnolia x brooklynensis Elizabeth
342	Magnolia spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Magnolia x brooklynensis Elizabeth
343	Magnolia spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site Selected species: Magnolia kobus
344	Castanea sativa	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Proposed species: Castanea sativa.
345	Crataegus oxycantha 'Paul Scarlet'	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Crataegus laevigata Paul's Scarlet
346	Crataegus oxycantha 'Paul Scarlet'	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Crataegus laevigata Paul's Scarlet.
347	Quercus robur	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Proposed species: Quercus robur.

Morningside Park ...(contd)..

Tree Id	Species	Tree Location	Site features	Recommendations	Comments
348	Amelanchier spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Amelanchier arborea Robin Hill
349	Malus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. New tree site. Selected species: Malus Rudolph
351	Malus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus sylvestris
350	Prunus avium	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Prunus avium.
352	Malus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus sylvestris
353	Prunus avium	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Prunus avium.
354	Malus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus Rudolph
355	Malus spp.	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus Rudolph
356	Malus sylvestris	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Malus sylvestris

Morningside Park ...(contd)..

Tree Id	Species	Tree Location	Site features	Recommendations	Comments
357	Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Morningside Park	Grass	Tree Planting / Maintenance	Morningside Park tree planting. 2023-24. Replacement tree. Selected species: Metasequoia glyptostroboides
				Sub-total:	37 inspections
				Total:	37 inspections
Notes:-					
				Overall total:	37 inspections



	Morningside Park planting plan 2023-24 (updated 21/12/2023)	Scale Unknown	
	Tree planting report - Morningside Park planting plan 2023-24 (24/05/2023 to 20/12/2023)	Date 21/12/2023	
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Appendix Five – Biodiversity Assessment

Site Visit Date: February 2016

A lot of changes have already been implemented within Morningside Park which will improve it for biodiversity, for example:

- Putting up bird boxes on many of the mature trees
- Planting two new wildflower areas by the North entrance – and adding deadwood once the wildflowers have established
- Composting and mulching with materials from the park
- Diversifying the shrub borders – removing laurel and replacing with a range of shrubs and small trees (holly, dogwood, skimmia etc) – also underplanting these borders with bulbs

Listed below are a few more suggestions from the biodiversity options document that may be considered when planning more improvements for biodiversity, however it is noted biodiversity work is already ongoing with a number of good projects underway

Amenity Grass

A round flower bed with formal planting has been installed – consideration should be given to adding a matching one that's planted up with pictorial meadow / wildflowers. There are bulbs around some of the edges of the grass although not visible on the visit which is encouraging and consideration should be given to installing a really colourful bulb area by adding some native spring- flowering bulbs.

Shrub beds

Underplant with a range of woodland wildflowers to add colour and diversity early in the season. Leave woody cuttings in safe places in the shrub beds to create deadwood habitat.

Single trees

Morningside Park has some fantastic big mature trees, many of them have bare soil underneath this might be hard to remedy but consideration should be given to introducing shade-loving grasses or wildflowers.

Play areas

The sports area is surrounded by a high fence; consider planting some flowering climbers at points around the fence. Maybe planting at the corners so you can still see right through the park.

Appendix Six – Park Quality Assessment



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL PARKS, GREENSPACE & CEMETERIES



Park Quality Assessment Result 2023

Assessment Date:

15 May 2023

Assessors:

Gary Law, Daniel Rayner

Morningside Park

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 73%	Grade B	Edinburgh Minimum Std Met: Yes
2022 73%	Grade B	Yes

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional

A Welcoming Place	2022	2023	Comments
Welcoming	7	6	Strengths: Attractive colourful park on approach from Balcarres St. Lots of interest and facilities for a small park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Weeds, encroachment and grass was needing cut. Planters need attention. A little litter at entrances and some bins were full.
Good Safe Access	8	8	Strengths: On bus route and limited on street parking. Path linking the two entrances and the play area. Play area confined within the park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Signage	7	8	Strengths: Good announcement at both entrances with metal and stone threshold signage and notice boards. Directional and other signage within the park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Some of the signage could do with a clean.
Equal Access	8	8	Strengths: Good path network allowing access to the facilities. Access from Balcarres Street may be a little steep for some users. Sensory garden and inclusive swing. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Healthy, Safe & Secure			
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	9	9	Strengths: A good range of facilities for a small park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Safe Equipment & Facilities	8	8	Strengths: Nothing in the park appeared unsafe. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Personal Security in Park	7	7	Strengths: Overlooked in part, good sightlines and quite busy. Lit path. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Graffiti might indicate some ASB.
Dog Fouling	9	9	Strengths: Signage on site, ample bins. No fouling seen. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Review bin servicing frequency.
Clean & Well Maintained			
Litter & Waste Management	8	6	Strengths: A good number of bins on site. Weaknesses / Recommendations: A bit of litter (mostly in play area) and some bins were full. Some of the bins were in need of some maintenance.
Grounds Maintenance	6	5	Strengths: Lots of colour and interest. Weaknesses / Recommendations: The grass was outside of the tolerances, weeds throughout and encroachment around obstacles. Some planters and beds need attention.
Tree Maintenance	7	7	Strengths: A good mix of age and species with no issues seen. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Building & Infrastructure Maint.	7	7	Strengths: The paths, fences etc were all in reasonable condition. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Equipment Maintenance	6	6	Strengths: Play equipment looked in good condition. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Graffiti on some seats and bins. Some bins and seats looked quite grubby.
Sustainability			
Managing Impact on Environment	6	6	Strengths: All current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Waste Minimisation	7	7	Strengths: Council's litter recycling policy is adhered to. Planting to minimise green waste. Where green waste is generated, most/all is re-used on site but some may be removed for recycling elsewhere. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL PARKS, GREENSPACE & CEMETERIES



Park Quality Assessment Result 2023

Assessment Date:

15 May 2023

Assessors:

Gary Law, Daniel Rayner

Morningside Park

Classification: Community Park

PQS:	73%	Grade B	Edinburgh Minimum Std Met: Yes
2022	73%	Grade B	Yes

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional

Chemical Use	7	7	Strengths: with more bed mulching this year Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Peat Use	7	10	Strengths: Annual bedding conversion to perennials Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Climate Change Adaptation	6	6	Strengths: Citywide score of 6 applied due to the park's contribution towards the 'Edinburgh Adapts' action plan (examples include, tree planting and layout, tolerant planting, planning, ecological networks, flood plains, water harvesting, biodiversity and habitat p Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Conservation & Heritage			
Natural features, flora & fauna	8	8	Strengths: Some good provided habitats in the park. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Conservation Landscape	0	0	Not applicable
Conservation Buildings	0	0	Not applicable
Community Involvement			
Community Involvement	8	5	Strengths: None recorded. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Community Provision	8	8	Strengths: This park has a play area , tennis courts , football area , Basket ball area , picnic site , plenty seats sensory garden, wildflower plot with interpretation, flower beds Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Marketing & Promotion			
Marketing & Promotion	9	9	Strengths: QR codes in notice board which gives park direct link to Edinburgh outdoors web site, with photos and information also allowing the public to comment or report any concerns regarding the park direct with their smart phone. Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.
Information Provision	7	7	Strengths: Some specific and general notices in the cabinets along with contact details. Photos showing some of the features. QR code. Weaknesses / Recommendations: A few non parks relevant notices. OOD certificate at Balcarres St. Some of the photos could probably be updated. Nothing about community groups or seeking involvement.
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	8	8	Strengths: Very good historic information along with other relevant interpretation at different points. Weaknesses / Recommendations: Some generic info could be made more site specific.
Management			
Management Plan Implementation	0	0	Not currently assessed

Overall Comments: A bright cheerful facility laden park let down by the maintenance aspects.

- Recommendations:**
- 1 Improve grounds maintenance
 - 2 Review bin servicing frequencies
 - 3 Remove graffiti

Appendix Seven – QR Code

Scan this code using your smartphone to find out about your local park or report a concern www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk



City of Edinburgh Council

Parks and Greenspace

Level 2, Waverley Court

4 East Market Street

Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

Email: parcs@edinburgh.gov.uk