Nature Networks East Lothian (Parks and Greenspaces)

About this project

We are keen to bring nature closer to our communities, by enhancing and extending our nature networks and boosting biodiversity in our parks and greenspaces. This will bring wide ranging benefits not just to nature, but also to the health and wellbeing of our local communities, and will help us tackle the climate emergency.

Following the success of nature restoration projects across East Lothian’s countryside sites, this project will identify, explore and provide advice on opportunities in parks and greenspaces in our towns and villages, supported by our communities. We will aim to deliver these over the coming years.

What are Nature Networks?

A nature network connects nature rich sites, restoration areas and other environmental projects through a series of areas of suitable habitat, habitat corridors and ‘stepping stones’ for wildlife. These include hedgerows, longer grass, meadows and trees, rain/bog gardens or wetland areas. As well as helping our wildlife, other benefits to nature networks include helping us to adapt to climate change in our urban areas.

# Why your views matter

Parks and greenspaces are at the heart of our communities, as social spaces, places for sports and exercise, group activities, spaces for play and as spaces to get outdoors and in nature. They also play an important role as vital areas of habitat for wildlife within urbanised and developed areas.

This survey will help East Lothian Council to identify opportunities where nature and biodiversity can be enhanced and what nature networks could be expanded across East Lothian’s parks and greenspaces in our towns and villages.

Your feedback will help us identify which types of nature enhancements people would support and would like to see in their local area.

Introduction

Q1. Where do you live?

Musselburgh area (including Musselburgh, Old Craighall, Wallyford, Whitecraig).

Fa’side area (including Tranent, Pencaitland, Macmerry, Ormiston, Gladsmuir, Glenkinchie, New Winton).

Preston, Seton, Gosford (including Cockenzie, Port Seton, Longniddry, Prestonpans).

North Berwick Coastal (including North Berwick, Gullane, Aberlady, Dirleton, Drem, Whitekirk).

Haddington & Lammermuirs (including Haddington, Gifford, Athelstaneford, Bolton, East Saltoun, West Saltoun, Garvald, Humbie, Morham).

Dunbar & East Linton (including Dunbar, East Linton, West Barns, Tyninghame, Innerwick, Oldhamstocks, Spott, Stenton).

I live outside of East Lothian.

Q2. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? (If yes, please indicate which one below)

YES NO

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Part A: Perceptions of Nature, Parks and Greenspaces.

We would like to hear your views on the importance of nature, biodiversity, parks and greenspaces to you.

Please note that this project refers to parks and greenspaces managed by East Lothian Council, however the information will help the council create guidance for others including private owners on what type of nature enhancements might be suitable in their areas.

Q3. I use my local parks and greenspaces in East Lothian for: (please tick all that apply)

Sports

Exercise

The play areas

A social space

A meeting place

To get outdoors

To be close to nature

Organised group events

A place to relax

For community food growing areas/ allotments

Outdoor classrooms/education events.

None of the above

Other

(If you picked other, please indicate below)

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Q4. In the last 12 months, how often on average have you visited your local park or greenspace areas in East Lothian?

*Select one item only*

Once a week or more often  3-4 times a month 1-2 times a month

Once every 2 to 3 months  Once or twice a year  Less often  Never

Q5. How far away from your home is your nearest parks/greenspace?

*Select one item only*

Less than a 5 minute walk Within a 5-10 minute walk Within an 11-20 minute walk

Within a 21-30 minute walk  More than a 30 minute walk

Don’t know

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree or disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Unsure/ Don’t know |
| In, general my local parks and greenspaces are important to me.  *Please only select one* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In general, nature is important to me.  *Please only select one* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I like to be able to get close to nature in my local park/greenspace.  *Please only select one* |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In general, I would like to see more biodiversity/nature enhancement across East Lothian's parks and greenspaces.  *Please only select one* |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Q7. I would like to see more of these nature network types and biodiversity enhancements in East Lothian's parks and greenspaces: (please select all that apply)

Hedgerows: A strip of densely planted trees, shrubs, and other plants forming a border.

Shrubs and bushes planted in parks and greenspaces.

Tree planting in parks and greenspaces.

Street trees: Individual trees planted alongside streets / in civic spaces.

Woodland habitat.

Meadows: An open habitat with a mix of longer grasses and wildflowers.

Naturalised grass: Areas of longer amenity grass that encourages biodiversity.

Wee forests/Tiny forests: Small, dense and fast growing native woodland.

Pollinator friendly planting: Areas of nectar-rich plants / flowers which support pollinating insects such as butterflies and bees.

Raingardens: Habitats or landscape designs that collect rainwater, slowly releasing it back into the soils. With the ability to adapt to wet and dry conditions, providing habitat for wildlife.

Bog Gardens: A piece of land laid out and irrigated to grow plants which prefer a damp habitat.

Wetlands: Areas that are permanently or seasonally inundated with water, such as ponds, scrapes, or wet grasslands.

None of the above

Other

If you ticked other for Q7, please suggest what you would like to see below:

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# Part B: Nature Networks in your local park and greenspace.

Tell us your views about nature networks and nature enhancement in your local parks and greenspace.

Please note that this project refers to parks and greenspaces managed by East Lothian Council, however the information will help the council create guidance for others including private owners on what type of nature enhancements might be suitable in their areas.

Q8. What EXISTING nature networks or nature do you like in the below parks.

(For each park, please select any / all that apply)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hedgerows, shrubs & bushes | Tree planting | Street trees | Woodland habitat | Meadows | Naturalised grassland | Pollinator friendly planting | Raingardens & bog gardens | Wetlands |
| Lewisvale park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| St Ninians park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Haugh park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wallyford park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whitecraig park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Polson park, Tranent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macmerry park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pencaitland park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tranent greenspace behind George Johnstone  centre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ormiston park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Question 8 continued, EXISTING nature networks in below parks, please tick all that apply.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hedgerows, shrubs & bushes | Tree planting | Street trees | Woodland habitat | Meadows | Naturalised grassland | Pollinator friendly planting | Raingardens & bog gardens | Wetlands |
| Cuthill park, Prestonpans |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Polwarth Park (Cemetery park), Prestonpans |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goolwa Park, Port Seton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| King George V Park, Port Seton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Longniddry play & recreation ground |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Athelstaneford Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Neilson Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whittinghame Drive greenspace, Haddington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gifford Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Garvald Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Lodge Grounds, North Berwick |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Memorial Park (Recreation Park), Gullane |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East Linton Memorial Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pine Street park, Dunbar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lochend Rd park (Ashfield), Dunbar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Winterfield Park, Dunabr |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seafield greenspace, West Barns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Any other comments:

Q9. Which nature networks or nature would you like to see MORE of in below parks?

(For each park, please select any / all that apply)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hedgerows, shrubs & bushes | Tree planting | Street trees | Woodland habitat | Meadows | Naturalised grassland | Pollinator friendly planting | Raingardens & bog gardens | Wetlands |
| Lewisvale park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| St Ninians park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Haugh park, Musselburgh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wallyford park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whitecraig park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Polson park, Tranent |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macmerry park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pencaitland park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tranent greenspace behind George Johnstone  centre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ormiston park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cuthill park, Prestonpans |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Question 9 continued, MORE nature networks in below parks. Please tick all that apply.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hedgerows, shrubs & bushes | Tree planting | Street trees | Woodland habitat | Meadows | Naturalised grassland | Pollinator friendly planting | Raingardens & bog gardens | Wetlands |
| Polwarth Park (Cemetery park), Prestonpans |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goolwa Park, Port Seton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| King George V Park, Port Seton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Longniddry play & recreation ground |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Athelstaneford Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Neilson Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whittinghame Drive greenspace, Haddington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gifford Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Garvald Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Lodge Grounds, North Berwick |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Memorial Park (Recreation Park), Gullane |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East Linton Memorial Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pine Street park, Dunbar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lochend Rd park (Ashfield), Dunbar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Winterfield Park, Dunabr |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seafield greenspace, West Barns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

If there are other nature network options not mentioned. Please name park/ area and suggest what you would like to see below:

Q10. Other than the areas proposed in the survey, are there any Council owned/managed locations where you would like to see more biodiversity enhancement or nature networks?

Please name the area or describe its location and suggest what you would like to see below:

Q11. Please let us know if there is any feedback about the Nature Networks project that you would like to give:

If possible, please name the park and greenspace you are referring to, or describe its location.

About you

The purpose of these questions is to gather information about you that will help in analysing the survey.

**Your response is totally anonymous.**

Q12. What is your age group?

0-5 (Pre-School) \*Can be selected by parent/carer on behalf of the child\*

5-11 (Primary School) \*Can be selected by parent/carer on behalf of the child\*

12-18 (Secondary School)

19- 25

26-49

50-60

61-70

71-80

81-90

91+

Q13. What is your sex?

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

Q14. Do you consider yourself to be trans?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If yes, describe your trans status if you wish. For example, non-binary, trans man, trans woman.

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Q15. Do you consider yourself to have a disability i.e do you have physical or mental impairment which has a substantial long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If yes, describe your disability if you wish.

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Q16. What is your ethnic group?

White Scottish

White other British

White Irish

White Polish

White Gypsy/Traveller

White Roma

Other white group

Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian

Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British Indian,

Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British

Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British

African, Scottish African or British African

Caribbean or Black

Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab

Mixed or multiple ethnic group

Other

Prefer not to say