



WEST PILTON PARK

LANDSCAPE CONCEPT DESIGN + ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

03. MAY 2022

MASTERPLAN DEVELOPED BY:



WITH STAKEHOLDERS:



FUNDED BY:



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This report is structured using the outline described in the Spirit of Place methodology developed by the National Trust. The headings are taken from the work plan this process describes:

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INTRODUCTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust working in partnership with a landscape architect (LTLA), is working to develop a concept masterplan and 10-year implementation programme for West Pilton Park, in North Edinburgh.

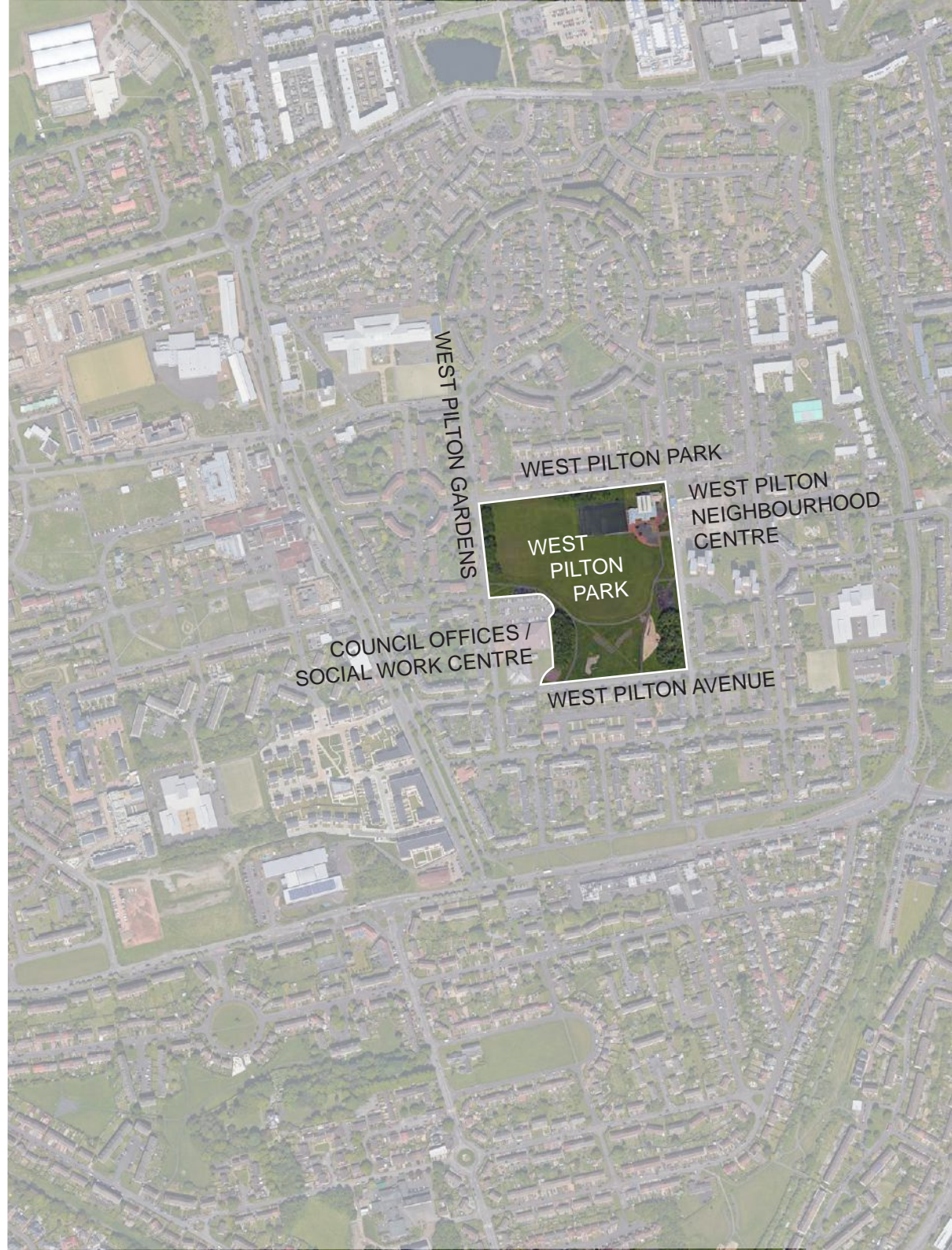
This project supports ambitions for a network of high quality, thriving public greenspaces for the City of Edinburgh, as part of the Edinburgh's Thriving Green Spaces Project.

The process for developing this landscape concept masterplan is fully documented. It integrates the objectives and aspirations of various partners, projects, initiatives and programmes for spatial design and development.

In this report the team aims to share the background and context to the masterplan development, how various initiatives have been tapped in to, and how the community and park stakeholders have been engaged and consulted.

The process included a process of site assessment, using tools established by the National Trust, specifically their Spirit of Place protocol and the Experience Design approach.

From this methodology, a series of thematic enhancements to the park were identified, which together promote a place with a sense of purpose and belonging. It is recorded in detail in order to be used as a tool for further community engagement, discussion and involvement. The ELGT and LTLA team developed a programme of cross-cutting events and conversations, aimed at inviting a genuine representation of locals - both individuals and organisations. These facilitated placemaking engagement workshops and presentations were both on-line and in-person, to ensure that COVID-19 restrictions or concerns weren't a limiting factor in participating in the design development process.





PROJECT CONTEXT

The development of a concept masterplan for West Pilton Park is one of a series of pilot projects within Edinburgh. The other parks and greenspaces in the pilot which are subject to similar participatory design processes are the Inch Park, Inverleith Park, and Leith Links.

This series of 4 pilot projects aims to test approaches and methodologies, and as such a full reporting on the project process is provided in this document including commentary on project successes and extraction of tools for future projects included as appendices. The pilot tools and approaches will in this way be evaluated, and the ease and benefits of using these protocols will be reported across the pilot studies.

This project has been prepared in the context of a Greenspace Management Plan, prepared in 2019 by the same partnership between ELGT and LTLA. This preceding document focused on management and maintenance, while this report explores the park from a design perspective, allowing for more transformational proposals to take spatial form within West Pilton Park.

At its essence, this project seeks to create a place for a local community, and a positive contribution to Edinburgh's green and blue space network.

SPIRIT OF PLACE

THE NATIONAL TRUST APPROACH TO PLACEMAKING

Spirit of Place expresses what is unique, distinctive and cherished about a particular place. At the heart of Spirit of Place is how people feel about and experience a place, and offers a structure to capture what makes a place special and ultimately why people should love that place.

Spirit of Place and a place's significance can be identified through the Experience Design (ED) process, a simple flexible framework structured by a process of work stages. At each stage the 4 perspectives of ED (outlined on p9) are used as a checklist for holistic design thinking.

At West Pilton Park, this process is the basis for the work plan and park concept masterplan development. To echo this process, the document is set out using these headings.

COMMISSION

- Brief for a spatial and experience design process drafted by the project manager, at West Pilton Park this is the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust.
- Identify the experience design lead - which on this project is Liz Thomas Landscape Architect (LTLA).
- Draft a work plan based on the brief, and the ED framework (included as appendix 1).
- Draw together existing and contextual resources.

ANALYSIS

- Build a comprehensive picture of the existing park, including evidence describing what makes it special and what its future potential is.
- Establish what the future ambitions are for the visitors to the park built around an understanding of their experience.

IDEAS GENERATION

- Exploring ideas and themes for the site design plan and park enhancement.
- Appraise projected changes or improvements against the agreed aspirations.
- Facilitate Spirit of Place workshops, which took the form of engagement activities woven through the project timeline.

IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

- Establish an approach to the implementation of ideas for park design and improvement, including phasing, financing and timescales for delivery.
- Regular review post-occupancy, and continued project engagement by ELGT to support implementation.

PROJECT PROCESS

In line with the Spirit of Place process, the project team has developed a design / engage feedback loop methodology. Participant experience will frame the conceptual design formation, and the whole process will begin with two focused pre-design engagement workshops and stakeholder aspiration building sessions.

From these session, statements will be consolidated which will inform and shape the emerging conceptual design, which in turn will be discussed openly and constructively with the park's users and stakeholders.

This project is all about:

- Making greenspaces central to everyday community life.
- Ensuring greenspaces contribute more to users' mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Giving the public a bigger role in how green spaces are managed.
- Considering how green spaces can adapt to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

- 1 ANALYSE AND SUMMARISE EXISTING INFORMATION (OCT / NOV 2021)
 - Review past survey, engagement and feedback processes,
 - Summarise the outcomes proposed in the landscape management plan (2019)
 - Prepare materials for concept masterplan process.
- 2 STAGE 1 PRE-DESIGN ENGAGEMENT (DECEMBER 2021)
 - Initiate conversations and input from local stakeholders,
 - Park walkabout / workshop with local stakeholders,
 - Design workshop / meeting with local community groups,
 - Share project with wider community through social media, local poster campaign, and an online survey,
 - Pop-up conversations at the West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre.
- 3 EMERGING DESIGN THEMES (JANUARY 2022)
 - Iterate and refine emerging topics and themes during community conversations,
 - Based on community conversations, identify Spirit of Place Statement key points.
- 4 STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT (JANUARY 2022)
 - School workshops x3
 - Play rangers workshop
 - Stepping Stones design workshop
 - Develop findings into community briefing statements.
- 5 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN DEVELOPMENT (FEBRUARY 2022)
 - Develop the Statement of Significance,
 - Develop and refine the Spirit of Place Statement,
 - Initial design development of a concept masterplan for West Pilton Park.
- 6 STAGE 3 ENGAGEMENT (FEBRUARY 2022)
 - Share with community and stakeholders the emerging concept masterplan for West Pilton Park for feedback and further development. Use activity sheets for school children, response form letter drop to all immediate neighbours, and presentation to working group / project stakeholders.
- 7 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN (MARCH - MAY 2022)
 - Finalise Statement of Significance,
 - Finalise Spirit of Place Statement,
 - Finalise concept masterplan and 10-year vision for West Pilton Park,
 - Implementation plan strategy - partnership group of local organisations and individuals to take the project forward.

DESIGN | ENGAGE

ANALYSIS

EXPERIENCE DESIGN

EXPERIENCE DESIGN

Experience Design is a process which helps places to develop a long term plan for the visitor experience whilst protecting what makes a place special.

It is the strategic, long term and holistic approach to developing the visitor experience, used by the National Trust at their properties within the context of what makes their places special.

Put simply, Experience Design is a collaborative process which:

- Defines the ambition for the visitor business and the experience we offer within the context of what is special about a place,
- Identifies where we need to invest (and where we don't) and what changes we need to make,
- Sets out how we plan to implement these changes.

The output from the process is a shared ambition and a deliverable plan. This plan complements other long term plans and brings together users and stakeholders, site managers and custodians.

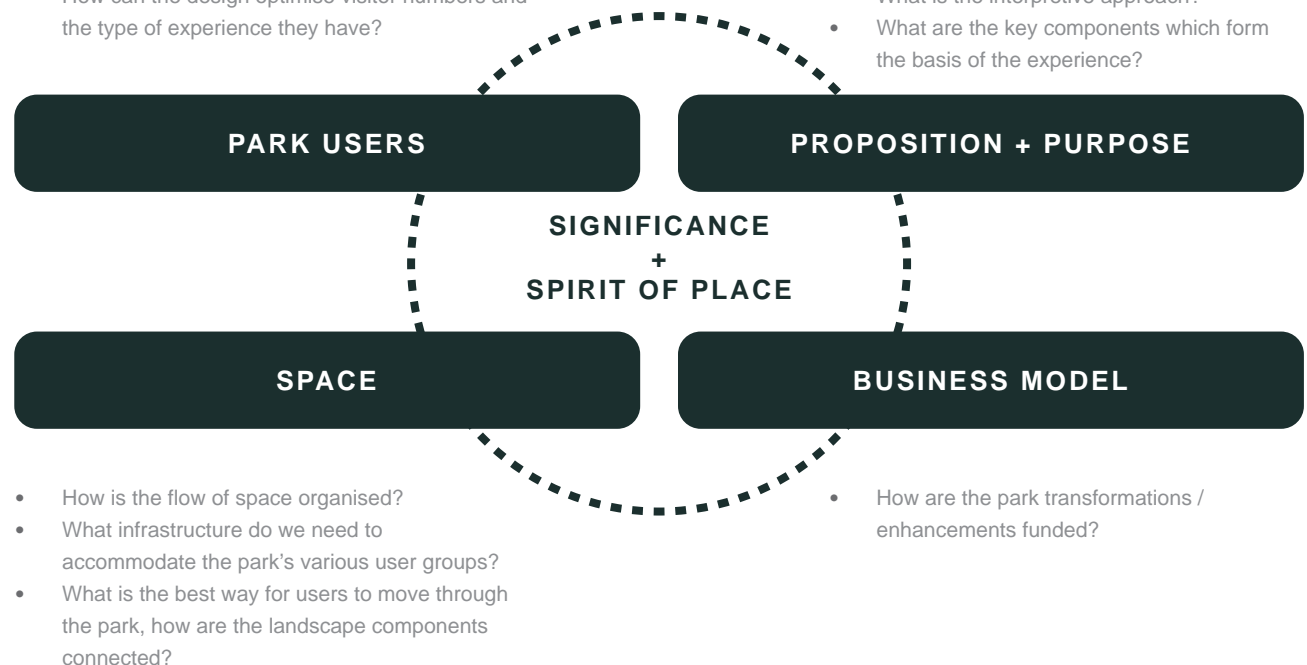
The working approach is based on 4 perspectives coming together as one plan which captures a good understanding of significance and Spirit of Place:

WHAT IT MEANS FOR WEST PILTON PARK

The approach can be adapted for the place design of any park or green / blue space, and offers a useful model for exploring the different benefits and outcomes possible. It is notably commercial in outlook, but has been tailored as below to suggest a model of criteria which could inform / guide a masterplan for a public open space.

- Who are the park's users?
- Are there other public benefits from this park?
- How can the design optimise visitor numbers and the type of experience they have?

- How do we instill a Spirit of Place and how can the identification of this inform and shape design?
- In what way does / should the park's custodians engage with visitors?
- What is the interpretive approach?
- What are the key components which form the basis of the experience?



[The original resource can be seen in appendix 3]

'WHAT'S NEXT FOR WEST PILTON PARK?'

At the Neighbourhood Centre engagement workshops, we were told about the excellent visioning document prepared for the park called 'What's Next for West Pilton Park', published April 2016. Extracted from the executive summary of this report:

"Over the summer of 2015 development workers from Pilton Community Health Project worked with residents and partner organisations to carry out a consultation about the future of West Pilton Park. 152 people were consulted at 6 events on and around the Park and through door to door consultation."

The report summarised that residents wanted:

- The Park to be a safe, welcoming space. They were concerned about the woodland areas and wanted more activities for young people.
- Rubbish accumulates on the Park and there is some fly tipping. Some dog owners do not clean up after their pets. More bins with better signage would help.
- Families with small children often use the Park. The play equipment is in poor condition and the positions of the play areas make it difficult to supervise children of different ages.
- Dog walkers use the Park a lot and would welcome regular dog events. There is concern about unruly dogs and dog mess not being cleared up.
- Older people are unlikely to use the Park. Benches, picnic tables and events targeting older people would help.

This consultation process and its findings has been reviewed in detail, and the recommendations taken forward into this 10-year park vision report.



ACTION FOR CHANGE...

The preparation of a concept masterplan for West Pilton Park is really an extension of a long term and ongoing programme of action for change. Over the last decade, there has been considerable community involvement, consultation and action in the park, and the process for this masterplan is mindful and respectful of this context.

In 2016 a thorough community led survey of the local residents concerns and aspirations for West Pilton Park were gathered and reported in a document 'What's Next for West Pilton Park', 2016. This summarised significant levels of local commitment and interest in a local greenspace, and is a valuable pushing off point for this project.

This pilot project's outputs, to include a 10-year vision, Statement of Significance, 'Spirit of Place' statement, and an Implementation Plan is all informed and shaped by this report and the ongoing programme of park enhancement works including hands-on improvement works which have recently been put into action by the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust.



Herbaceous planting at the footprint



Wee Forest - native tree planting event



New play equipment installed / bulb planting community days

'WEST PILTON PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN'

The purpose of this Park Management Plan prepared by ELGT early 2019 was to provide a guide for the development of West Pilton Park, providing an integrated landscape approach to the management of this urban greenspace.

The plan made recommendations for alterations and park enhancements, however was limited to improvements of the existing features and functions rather than exploring more transformative proposals for the park's design.

It provided a package of landscape design information to support funding applications for park enhancements, further community work days such as planting the Wee Forest and bulbs, and informing ELGT's programme of activity in the park.

The plan was developed primarily to improve the aesthetic and ecological qualities of the Park to make it an even more attractive place to visit for the local communities.

There was no funding allocated and therefore one of the purposes of the management plan was to provide leads to securing future funding sources. As such, the management plan included both 'quick wins' in landscape maintenance, and more aspirational long-term proposals which can be fundraised for separately.

OPPORTUNITIES - EXTRACTED FROM MANAGEMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

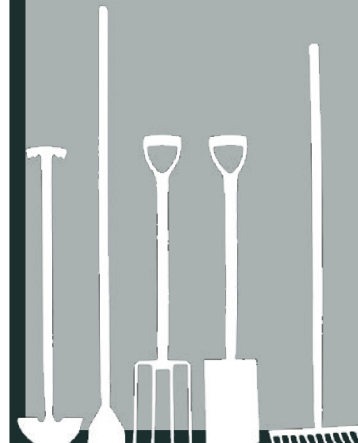
MOVEMENT

West Pilton Park's current layout suffers as a result of the segregation from the level changes and heavy use of railings blocking a natural flow of pedestrian through the space. There is an opportunity to visually soften some of these barriers to help reduce their visual impact, for example through hedge planting. More gate locations would also help with connectivity.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Through the enhanced management of the park the local community could be brought together; this park is perfectly located to offer a daily dose of greenspace. It is situated in a dense residential area, with people cutting through the space to go to school, the local shops and other neighbourhood facilities. This potential connection with the space is a social resource which could be built in to the design and management of an enhanced park environment.



ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

The existing greenspace resources of West Pilton Park would greatly benefit from enhancement and diversification of vegetation, specifically through woodland management, grassland maintenance regime change, and more diverse horticultural typologies. These alterations will provide further habitat for existing species and potentially new species, and will ensure to entice our senses further in the landscape. The park itself could become a mosaic of habitats offering settings for outdoor learning.



EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

The slopes of the park reduce the user group range able to benefit from the park facilities and greenspace setting.

PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

While the park is well lit, any changes in management must ensure passive surveillance is improved and not reduced e.g. through poorly sited tree planting.

CONFLICT BETWEEN USER GROUPS

Noise from small children, dog walkers, football players; which this park invites a wide range of user there are conflicts between their uses and how these are managed becomes key.

MAINTENANCE

There is an overall lack of maintenance, where broken glass and litter gather in the footprint feature and the dismantled play parks. Environmental cleanliness could be improved.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The railings were installed as a response to the issue of vandalism caused by motorbikes; any alterations / management should ensure the park isn't damaged by dangerous vehicular access.

3 KEY AREAS FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

Taking forward the findings of the analysis and appraisal of West Pilton Park, three key issues which should be addressed emerge:

PLANTING PROPOSALS

Management of the existing trees and woodland areas (retention / removals), enhancement of the biodiversity, diversification of the horticultural features within the park.

PLAY PROPOSALS

Extending the range of play opportunities, from the existing formal equipped play facilities to more adventure play, exploratory experience in the woodland areas, outdoor learning opportunities, and active play / recreation provision e.g. kick-about areas or installing sports equipment.

ACCESS STRATEGY

Including addressing the opportunity of the slope between the upper and lower areas, path surfacing and path alignment to correspond to desire lines, surfacing at gate locations - and the frequency and location of gate points. Proposals for signage and interpretation to improve park legibility, community engagement / communication of events, and opportunities for historic / points of interest information sharing.

These three thematic areas are explored in more detail in the second section of this report, with each key issue explored separately but as part of a holistic overview approach to an integrated management plan.

SITE DESCRIPTION

West Pilton Park is a 1.55-hectare site split over two levels; the top level has a play park for toddlers and juniors, while the lower section has an astro-turf and football pitch. The site also has several areas of woodland, amenity grassland and a stone ('footprint') feature.

The site is owned by the CEC and is located in Pilton, an area of deprivation (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016). It is in an urban area with neighbouring communities of Muirhouse, Drylaw and Crewe Toll. As such, it currently provides an important recreational resource for the local community.

ELGT has previously worked in partnership with the CEC and the Pilton Community Health Project to deliver a number of projects within the Park including volunteering, events, biodiversity improvements, woodland and bulb planting. Works recently carried out in the Park to date include:

- Improvement of the footprint feature
- Bulb planting
- New play areas
- New outdoor gym
- New fence to stop bikes.

The current park stakeholders are:

- City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust
- Pilton Community Health Project
- Forth Neighbourhood Partnership
- Community police
- Access Parkour
- West Pilton Park Neighbourhood Centre
- Pilton Youth and Children's Project
- Parklife.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING CONDITION

1. Fly tipping at the recycling area
2. Minimal signage; ineffective location
3. Abandoned bike; abstract fence line location
4. Recent shrub planting at footprint
5. Litter at the footprint
6. Litter bins overflowing
7. Maintenance vehicle overrun
8. New Beech tree snapped and burnt
9. Play equipment removed but fencing / surfacing remain
10. No path surfacing at gate points



ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK LANDSCAPE

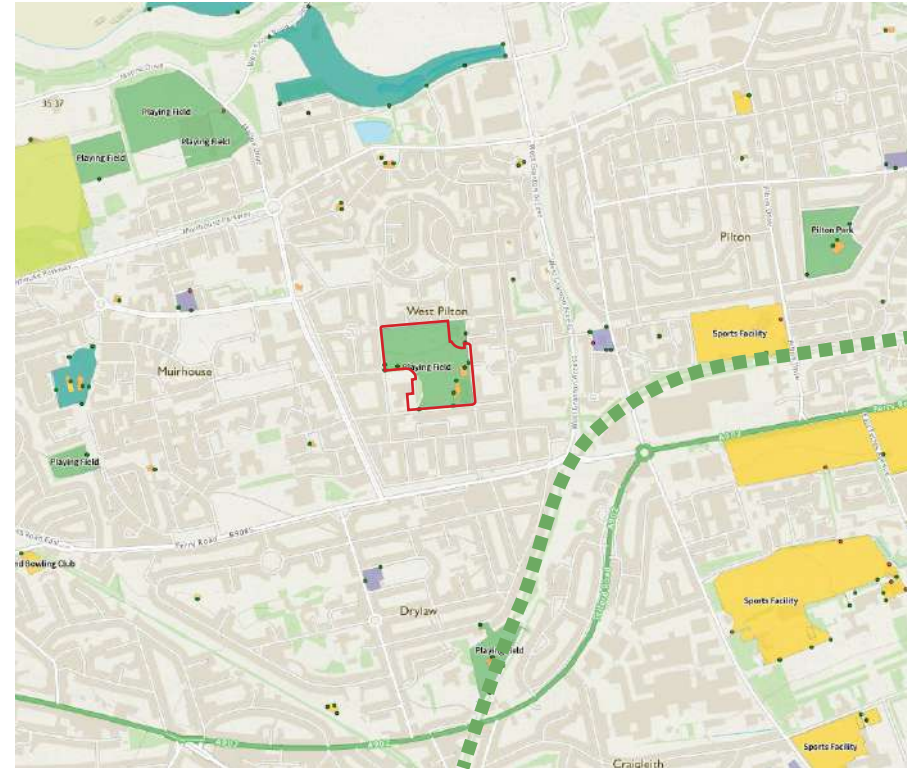
FRONTAGES / BOUNDARIES / FENCING



On all sides, West Pilton Park is surrounded by residential housing, of a variety of types: terraces, high rise, detached units. These buildings all face onto the park. There are two public administrative buildings: the Neighbourhood Centre in the north east corner and the Council Offices in the south west. The perimeter is defined by blocks of native broadleaf woodland, in sections around the edge of the park. There is street lighting in all the streets around the park as well as along the route of paths intersecting the public open space.

The park is sub-divided with fencing resulting in a lack of natural flow for the pedestrian; fences separate the upper and lower parts of the park, surround the perimeter of all equipped play area, the MUGA and the outdoor gym.

GREENSPACE NETWORK



[mapping extracted from the OS MAPS GREENSPACE MAP WWW.GREENSPACESCOTLAND.ORG.UK)

There are areas of open greenspace and publicly accessible open space, however West Pilton Park sits in isolation, unconnected to these other greenspaces by virtue of green or blue network corridor. As such, it offers a vital resource to the residents of West Pilton, who would otherwise have to travel over 350m to the next nearest open space.

There is an opportunity to consider how connections could be made with the disused railway line network of active travel / green network corridors, identified on the plan above to the south east of the park.

EXISTING TREE FRAMEWORK / STRUCTURE



The park benefits from 4 well established blocks of broadleaf woodland (Oak, Ash, Hazel, Downy Birch, limited understorey vegetation which is predominantly coarse grassland), around the perimeter of the open space. They are located on areas with landform and level changes, taking in the undulations and slopes. There are breaks in the blocks to allow access in places, on the western section there is a gate point but in the northern and southern two blocks there is no formal way through into the park.

A band of trees follows the top of the slope behind the fenceline which separates the upper and lower parts of the park. These are planted specimen trees, species including Pine, Cherry and Oak. An arc of 7x semi-mature Birch trees have been recently planted around the footprint feature. There are three specimen trees planted within the open area in the northern portion of the park, however these have all been vandalised to some extent.

TOPOGRAPHY, ASPECT AND VIEWS



The site generally falls from the south to the north, separated over two levels with a steep (1:1) slope to the north of the arc footpath which dissects the park. These north facing slopes are muddy in places where people have used the limited gate points to move between the two parts of the site, however the slope does also represent an opportunity for sitting and viewing the more actively used space in the north.

Views are focused into this space as a result of this landform feature and there seems to be a missed natural opportunity to invite seating.

The ground slopes down to the back of the pavement along the northern and western boundaries too, but to a lesser extent, and is largely absorbed within the woodland plantation over these areas.

SITE PANORAMAS

woodland blocks around the perimeter of the park
signage set back from street

fenceline cuts through interior of greenspace



ENTRANCE OFF WEST PILTON AVENUE (SOUTHERN EDGE)

recent specimen tree planting

recent herbaceous planting by community



GIANT'S FOOTPRINT FEATURE

broken glass

grass edges eroded

infrequent gate points limits access

steep level change in places, between areas



LOOKING NORTH FROM PATH, SHOWING UPPER AND LOWER LEVELS

woodland would benefit from management
trees within grass areas damaged

low point, wet ground

new outdoor gym equipment



LOOKING EAST OVER LOWER AREA OF PARK

new playground

disused playground; equipment removed

community noticeboard

neighbourhood centre



VIEW WEST, FROM THE ENTRANCE OFF WEST PILTON GROVE

New play park for younger children

Railing around perimeter of level change



LOOKING NORTH INTO PARK FROM WEST PILTON AVENUE

LOCAL AREA HISTORY

West Pilton is made up of two housing schemes – West Pilton and East Pilton. The area was farmland until the 1930s, as can be seen on the historic map opposite, with a burn running west to east just to the south of the location of West Pilton Park today.

Most of West Pilton was originally social housing built by the council between the 1930s and 1950s, as part of plans for Edinburgh city centre slum clearances. Many of the homes now in private ownership. The buildings are a mix of maisonettes, three storey blocks of flats, and three 1960s tower blocks – two with 10 stories and one with 16.

More modern housing has been added in recent years, with regeneration work currently under way to rejuvenate an area occasionally blighted by crime and social problems.

Today, West Pilton Park is one of the parks and green spaces protected by Fields in Trust, where it is recognised as an 'active space'.



West Pilton and park, early 1970's



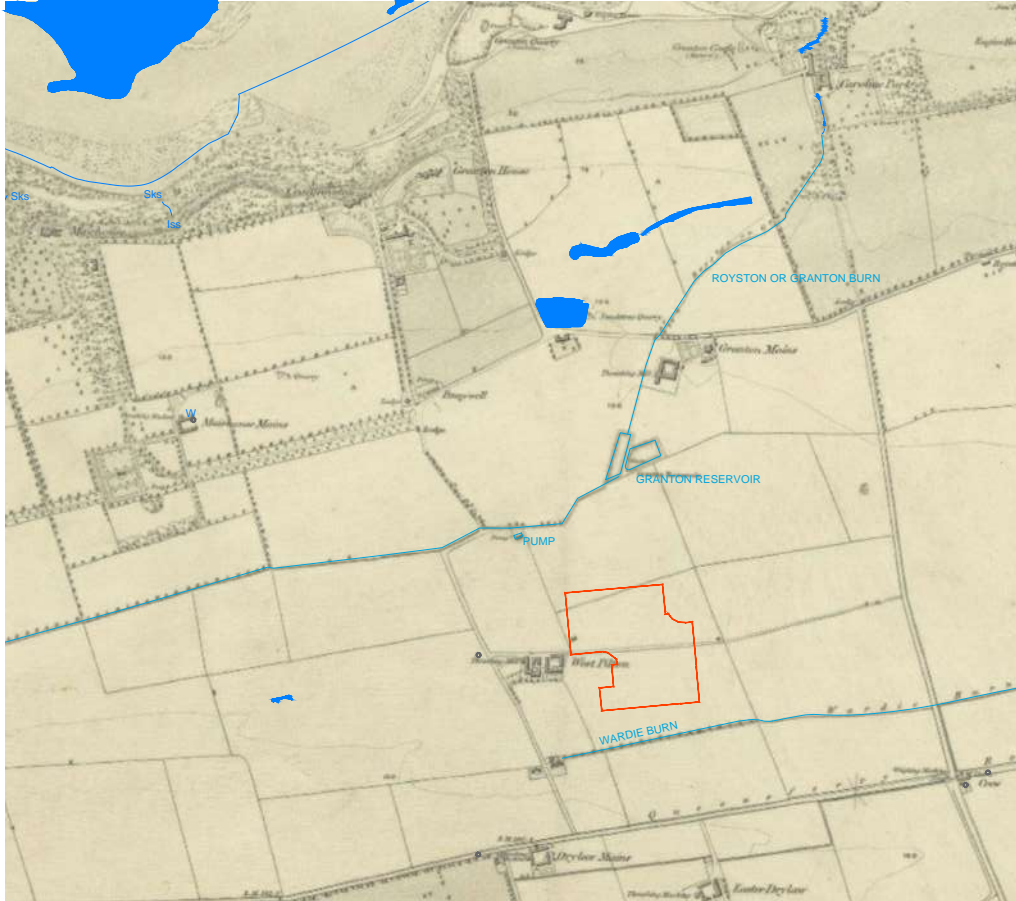
Community Centre, 1965



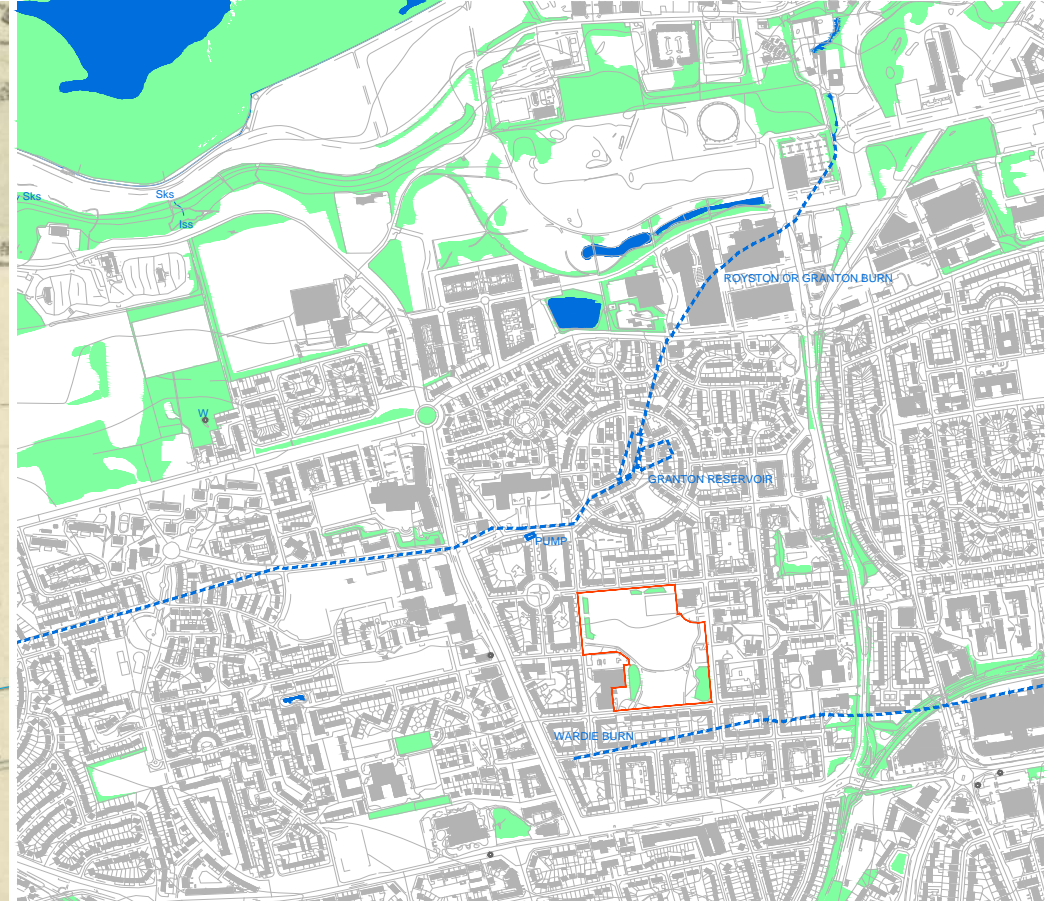
The 'Gorgeous Grannies' competition at the Pilton May Fair in 1966



In more recent history, this is the play area now removed and tower blocks to the east of the park



Map of the area which would become Pilton, with location for park outlined with red boundary, 1852



West Pilton and adjacent neighbourhoods of Granton, Muirhouse and Pennywell, with West Pilton Park evident as the only significant scale neighbourhood park in the area

PRE-DESIGN ENGAGEMENT

Working in close partnership with local stakeholders and park users is central to this project's development process. Before any design thinking was progressed, ELGT and LTLA held online and face-to-face introductory workshops, with the aim of developing briefing and direction for the vision plan and statements which will emerge from this masterplan process.

29TH NOVEMBER 2021

Representatives from West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre, Fresh Start, Oaklands School, Muirhouse Library and Stepping Stones engaged in an online introductions call. These stakeholders were identified by ELGT from past involvement in the park's use and activity, and from this focused group a good response could be gathered on opinion of the existing park, how they use it (or don't), and directions for us to explore a new masterplan.

LTLA presented the context to this pilot project, outlining the background and the opportunities we have through the masterplan development project. ELGT ran a live poll using an online survey, and provided information on further upcoming engagement events.

Notes and items to take forward to design briefing from this stakeholder discussion:

- Drainage issues at the park and within Muirhouse, could be traced back to the covered burns (Wardie Burn, culverted and running 100m south of West Pilton Park)
- Opportunity for wildlife/nature restoration flood alleviation project.
- Interest from the library to use the park for Outdoor Bookbugs - children's group
- Oaklands School don't use the park at all due to the poor accessibility, but they are keen to have this as an outdoor experiential resource if suitably designed. Consider sensory environments with texture, inclusive play and different surfaces to make it a place where people with disabilities can really benefit from coming here.
- Stepping Stones anticipate using it all the time for their programme of activity.
- The play area is well used and hold people in the park for a bit, but it was considered that West Pilton Park is a difficult place to stop and use. Consider including a place where adults congregate too, and an opportunity for social interaction.
- Access to notice boards and communication for events should be more readily available
- The stakeholders were keen on the idea of integrating a cafe, and comparisons were made with Victoria Park.
- Comments that there are no warm or sheltered places within the park.
- Emphasised a need for further engagement with directly neighbouring residents, linked perhaps with the planned Community Day (7th May 2022), a chance to keep the dialogue going, or to plan some on-the-ground action.



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

WEST PILTON PARK concept design ideas workshop

Monday 6th December 2021, 10:00 - 12:00
ELGT + LTLA

Time	Activity	Detail / briefing	Who	Materials
10:00	Mind maps of the park	Ask everyone to draw their own mind map of the park, <u>imagine</u> a walk through it. It will form the basis of perception vs. reality discussion later on. Name labels	ELGT + LTLA	Mind map worksheet Clipboards Felt-tip pens
10:10	Introduction	Introduce everyone - who we are and why we're here. Introduce the workshop outcome questions. The purpose of the workshop (an opportunity to give a voice to what is important to you, your local knowledge; opportunity to respond to emerging ideas). We are here to listen and understand [1] more about the park, [2] what else is going on in the local area.		Name labels Pens A1 prints
10:20	Group mind maps - priorities Local-led tours of the park 'Fresh eyes'	Identify emerging themes from participant's mind maps = groups to explore with a focus. In two or three groups, go into the park and use the maps on the clipboards to record what to keep and what should change. Facilitators take notes on post-it stickies.	Everyone Groups	#1 on workshop poster A4 print of map, clipboards, pens Post-it notes
11:00	Cluster map Tea and coffee, Mince pies	Back in the Neighbourhood Centre, cluster map the sticky notes collected under emergent headings - coding of findings. Refreshments to warm up, while cluster mapping and identifying emerging priorities / conclusions / ideas?		#2 on workshop poster Refreshments
11:15	Identify key issues and opportunities	Verbally summarise annotations and observations.	LTLA	Post-its, pens #2 on workshop poster
11:20	Identify a question or theme for each group to explore.	Split into groups, explore a specific theme or question / function / idea. Take all sticky notes relating to the theme the subgroup is exploring.	Table groups	
11:25	Image board	Make an image board with words and images representing the look and feel of the space they imagine.		Images, A3 paper, pens prittstick, scissors.
11:45	Present back to each other	Describe the image board content and ideas	Table groups	
11:55	Wrap up / revisit statements	What are the special qualities of WPP? What is unique about WPP? What is at the very heart of WPP? Where should we focus? What is the priority?	Whole workshop discussion	Post-its, pens #3 on workshop poster
12:00	Summarise and Thankyou's	Sum up general thoughts, thank everyone "A parting thought... " Community Briefing statements What is special // what is unique // what is valuable	LTLA / ELGT	A7 cards / paper printed with the starter statements. Tape #4 on workshop poster

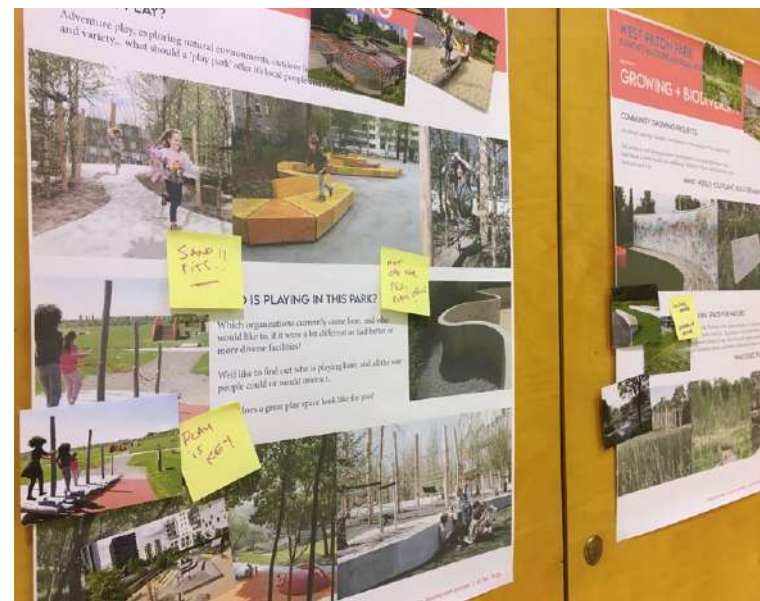
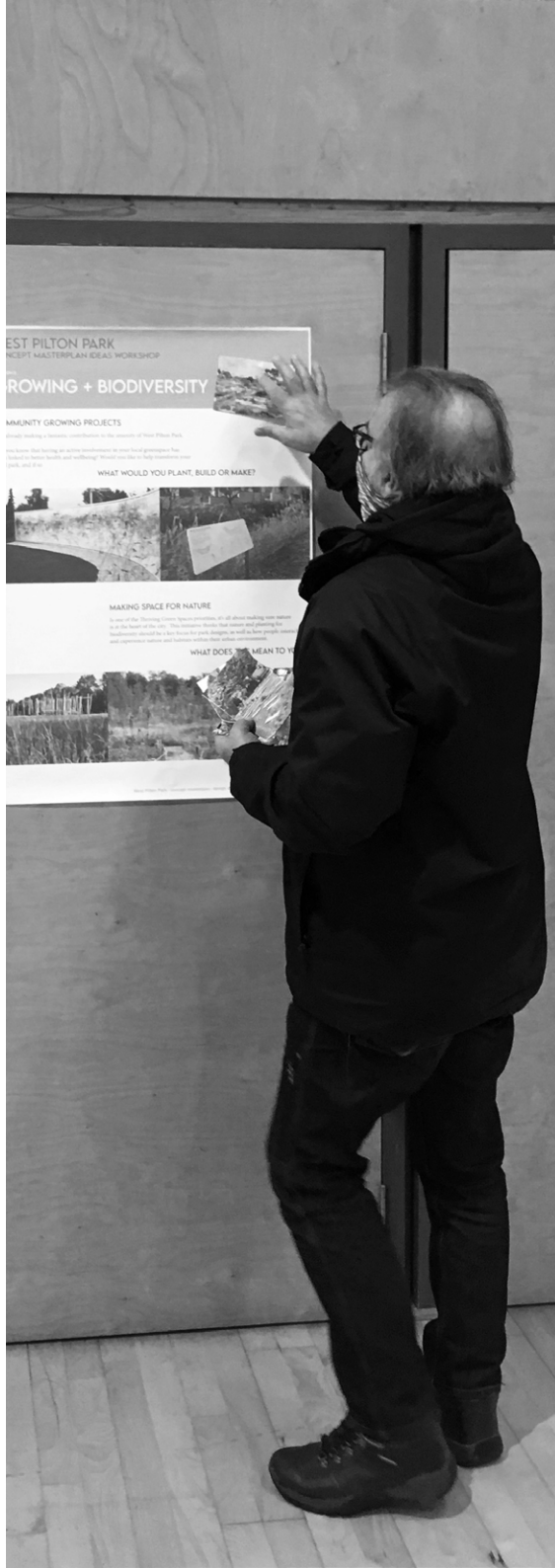
6TH DECEMBER 2021

A face-to-face workshop was held with stakeholders from the Neighbourhood Centre, North Edinburgh Arts and FreshStart. Their representatives led an open discussion on aspirations for the space informed by these groups' current and aspirations for use of the park was followed by outlining a diagram of the network of active organisations focused on greenspace and growing projects was mapped.

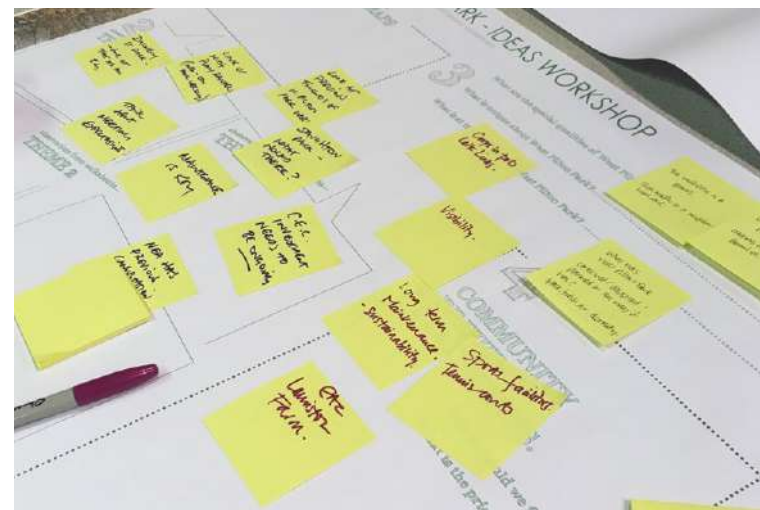
To conclude an image preference exercise invited the attendees to select precedent photographs and respond to some early emerging themes for concept design plans.

The participants observed that:

- Maintenance is key.
- We should think about meeting expectations.
- The park is overwhelming in its openness.
- North Edinburgh Arts opportunities: to link up with their play rangers, to review their previous consultation on their garden space design, and perhaps to make an Art Walk involving the 'Big Foot' sculpture via NE Art.
- There is a Tackling Place steering group, which is next meeting in February 2022 and there is an opportunity to make connections with this group.
- Consult with the Friends of West Pilton group, which undertook a visioning process finding out what is important in the area, and collaborate on this valuable prior work.
- We can engage further by bringing peoples' energy for outdoor spaces into our activities.



Adding 'image preferences' to emerging conceptual themes



Responses to the Workshop poster, recording discussions

13TH DECEMBER 2021

Walkaround & workshop with stakeholders and wider public. Promoted with posters and an email invitation as an open event for any person, group, or organisation to attend who has an interest in this project. Much like the first event, but more widely publicised around the community and hopefully starting to reach residents and the general public. Discussions can be summarised under 6 key headings:



ACCESS AND MOBILITY

ISSUES:

- Difficult place for the elderly, for special needs kids and those with mobility issues.
- Fencing is there for a purpose but has had knock on effects, it is a barrier.
- Some routes 'force' you across the grass.
- Steps are a barrier and don't lead to anywhere.
- Needs ramped access down the central bund
- Even for fully mobile people the lack of paths (with subsequent desire lines) is a barrier.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Space for all - consider inclusivity & access – elderly, children, special needs. Catering for their specific needs meets the needs of everybody.
- Reduce fencing and soften with planting.
- Steps need to go somewhere – connected to paths.
- Ramps and accessible paths throughout
- More access points needed and a comprehensive pathway network needed.
- More seating opportunities.

15TH DECEMBER 2021

ELGT attended the West Pilton Lunch Club at the Neighbourhood Centre, which is a regular event enjoyed by the elderly residents of the area. Notably, they were interested in an enclosed and sheltered area to sit and relax outside the neighbourhood centre, so the centre's activities or meetings can take place outside. The other findings from the semi structured discussion are incorporated below:



PLAYSPACE

ISSUES:

- Playgrounds are good and people gather there in the summer.
- Limited to fenced off areas only.
- Not much use in winter/bad weather.

OPPORTUNITIES

- How to keep people there? How to keep people in the park in general? Cafes / shelters / enclosures.
- Expand informal play opportunities into the wider park.
- Play with levels?
- How can we make these year round play areas that people can use?



RECREATION AND LEISURE

ISSUES

- Too boggy for consistent use throughout the winter. This stops activities and all the knock-on socialising.
- Some informal use of the park as a golf range

OPPORTUNITIES

- Formalise Golf activities?
- Opportunities for more sports, parkour.
- Amenity grass area needs enough drainage to support regular year-round activity



FLOODING

ISSUES

- Flooding, bogs – make it impossible for recreation and events all year round – knock on effects.
- Flooding a barrier to consistent usage of the park.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Create wetland feature(s).
- At the same time...Create dry/well drained space.
- Wetlands for biodiversity.



MAINTENANCE & COMMUNITY BUY-IN

ISSUES

- Community need to buy in, take charge of projects and take ownership of the park.
- Broken glass everywhere!
- The old play area a disgrace.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Community boards installed for events.
- WPNC Uplift! A place to focus immediate change?
- Regular Maintenance a real issue.
- Change the purpose of the old play area.



LOOK AND FEEL

ISSUES

- Dull, bland and uninviting.
- Blank, disused, exposed.
- No Sensory spaces for Oaklands Kids.
- Footprint is sad and a focal point for anti social behaviour.
- Wildflowers gone.
- Bank disused.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Needs a huge uplift, big interventions but also small projects too!
- More trees, hedges, greenery creating different sections and purposes around the park.
- Wildflower planting.
- Sensory garden yes, but also sensory planting through the park, pathways lined with experiences!
- The bank is a key space to focus on as the parks defining feature.
- West Pilton Park needs a purpose!

PLAY RANGERS

15TH DECEMBER 2021

Online Findings & Feedback Meeting. ELGT and the landscape architect present the findings and feedback from the preceding engagement events, take stock of what we have learnt so far and talk through the next steps for the new year.



14TH JANUARY 2022

After a preliminary meeting in the park on the 7th January, a design ideas workshop was held with the Play Rangers during one of their regular sessions in the park. Play Rangers is led by the team at North Edinburgh Arts who use the park as their venue. The following comments and ideas were recorded:

GENERAL

- Sheltered space for activities in all weathers
- Multifunctional sheltered spaces
- Formalised safe area for a fire pit with seating
- Amphitheatre-like area under shelter for sitting and group organising
- No opportunity for recycling points in park
- Need more benches and seating everywhere
- Pop up cinema space
- Lighting is poor

PLAY

- Skatepark with quality surfacing, with lots of sitting and 'hanging out' space – old play area
- MUGA – combined with skate park in old play area, with double height basketball facilities
- Wider adventure / play opportunities that draw you to different spaces across the whole park
- More natural play elements – rock climbing walls and boulders – high play equipment – logs
- Graffiti walls and designated areas for informal art
- Treehouses & aerial walkways in woods with poles and spaces to erect tarpaulins in the rain and hammocks in the summer.
- Footprint is great for climbing and parkour style play – kids would like to see a lot more to climb on and jump about, perhaps the foot could be a centre of expanding this kind of play?
- Racing / running track
- Current play equipment is babyish – more for older kids / teenagers

WILDLIFE

- Willow maze / willow area for weaving and other natural activities
- Woodlands need good maintenance
- More bushes for hiding spaces
- More / bigger woodland areas
- Thinning for access to woods
- Growing space/community gardens
- Water feature
- Woodland glade, space and opportunities to progress woodland school activities.



SCHOOLS' WORKSHOPS

WEST PILTON PARK

Workshop schedule - 18 & 20th January 2022

Duration	Time	Activity	Detail / briefing	Who	Materials
	1:15	Set off from school	Briefing for workshop leaders / set up materials		
5	1:30	Arrive in West Pilton Park	Introduce project - what we want to do today Introduce facilitators Names on a sticky labels. Split into 4x groups, each to explore a theme.	Facilitators x4	Sticky labels Pens
5		Introduction	Maps - getting our bearings. Reading the map, and what's where; The 4x themes to be investigated today - Nature and biodiversity - Water - Play - Getting around		Maps on clipboards
5	1:40	Planning: Tours / Route Maps	Plan a route to take your facilitator on a tour Each pupil gets a role: - photographer - reporter - navigator - designer	Groups	Clipboards A4 paper Blank plans Pens Cameras x4
30	1:45	Walkabout - field work investigation	On the walkabout, adult facilitator helps collect evidence, writing comments made by the pupils, prompting / asking questions / challenging them: why. Gather thoughts and information on the route chosen and described by the group, and what you think of it by taking photos and films with commentary, with a focus on the theme.	Groups	iPad x4
			Frames - (red and green) to frame photos of good and bad aspects you see in the park relating to this theme: athering evidence .		Cardboard frames (red and green)
10	2:15	Present to rest of class	Groups present back key findings / ideas / observations	Group rep.	
10	2:25	Mapping	On the clipboard maps, write up / annotate / draw / sticky notes / sticky dots and make a key to summarise information gathered from tours.	Group rep.	Sticky dots Pens Post-it notes
5	2:35	Summarise and Thankyou's	Sum up general thoughts, thank everyone	Lead	

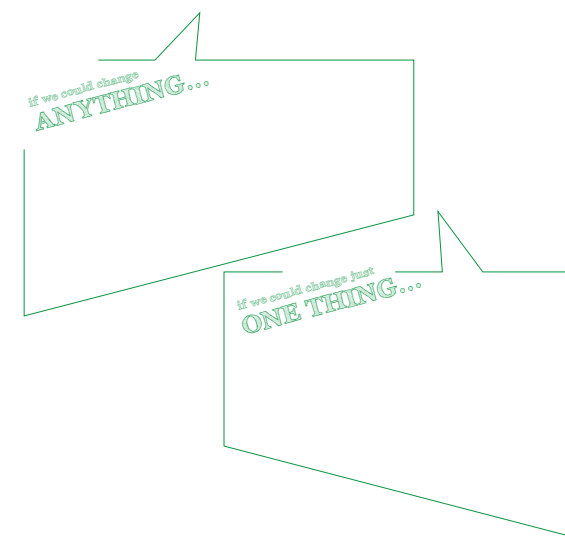
WEST PILTON PARK - IDEAS WORKSHOP

IDEAS AND DESIGN 18/10. JANUARY 2022

What is special about West Pilton Park?

What do you love about West Pilton Park

What is at the very heart of West Pilton Park?





WORKSHOP 1 - FORTHVIEW PS SESSION 1 18TH JANUARY 2022

ELGT and LTLA met up with a P6 class from Forthview Primary School for an outdoor 'field work' session, exploring what's valuable about the park based on what the local children like, and what worries them. 24 children worked in 4 groups, with each individual taking on a role to focus on while exploring and describing what they were most proud of and how they would change West Pilton Park. Key notes from the workshop:

- The mud makes the park slushy and soggy and difficult to move around.
- There's tonnes of rubbish.
- Make wood chip paths where there are short cuts and through the trees to make them cleaner and safer.
- A lot of the lights in the park don't work.
- The footprint is beautiful, and perfect for a lake.
- We don't like the damp, dark sand in the new kids play park, and it attracts cats and foxes to poo in it.
- The trees in the woodland blocks are not inviting, and we never go in there, it is dangerous and dirty.
- The MUGA should have benches, goal posts and nets.
- The trees in the park look dead and we need more.
- Plant more trees and wildflowers, would like to see all the colours of the rainbow on the sloping part.
- More bins.
- The park is really fun, more fun than we thought it would be!
- Some of the old rides in the playpark were more fun than the new ones, it's been made too safe and now the play park is boring for us.
- More playing poles that you can spin on.

WORKSHOP 2 - FORTHVIEW PS SESSION 2 20TH JANUARY 2022

The second P6 class was invited to the same workshop format, this time 20 children in 3 groups explored the themes 'play space', 'getting around the park' and 'nature, biodiversity and water'. Again the children engaged fully and it was encouraging that they asked when they would next meet us, and were very keen to be part of follow up events or activities in the park. We noted the following comments and ideas:

- Cut the grass, it's too long. Long grass hides the dog poo.
- There's a lot of broken glass around the park which is bad for dogs and tiny children.
- Have a separate part which is fenced off where people walk their dogs off the lead, and keep dogs on leads everywhere else.
- More gates that lead into the grass parts.
- Make a path that people in wheelchairs can access into the park - we were surprised that there was no ramp for wheelchairs and buggies.
- Flowers at the road edges.
- Like the herb garden at the footprint, and it would also be perfect for a skate park if it had a different surface on it.
- Bird feeders.
- More rubbish bins / more benches.
- Clear the thorny branches in the wooded paths.
- The stairs are dangerous, and need to be made of a more safe surface.
- All the metal railings could be painted in different colours, make it colourful.
- Trampolines and climbing frames in the old (dismantled) play area.
- Skate park in the old play area.
- The flying fox is old and unused.

WORKSHOP 3 - ST DAVID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 2ND FEBRUARY 2022

A third school group took a team of facilitators on a tour of the park, this time Primary 5s from St David's Primary School who have also been previously engaged in park enhancement projects such as bulb planting and the Wee Forest. Their opinions and insights echoed those voiced by the previous groups, and served to reinforce and emphasise the needs of this park user group:

Active play

- Skate park at the footprint
- Skate park in the old play park
- Swimming pool or pond
- Parkour or paths through the woodland
- Rappelling tower

Furniture

- More bins
- Goal posts
- Benches built into the slopes
- The footprint is a good spot for sitting
- Slides on the slopes
- We need more seats and umbrellas over them
- Add a cafe near the Neighbourhood Centre

Keeping the park safe and tidy

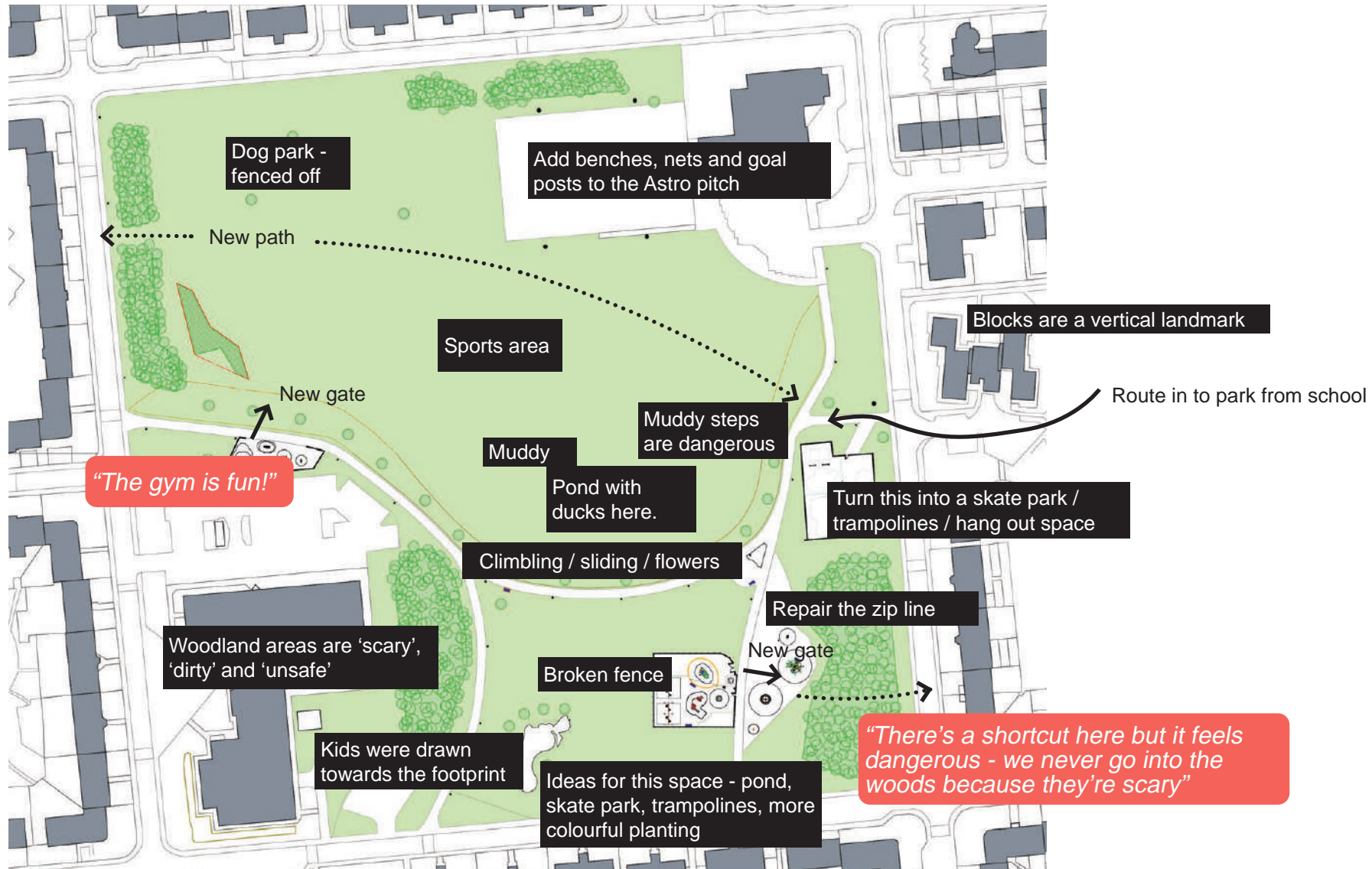
- Litter all over the place
- Separate dog park
- We need to stop cutting down trees
- Protect the woods from litter
- More trees and flowers
- It is too muddy now, so new footpaths
- Dog poo everywhere

Accessibility

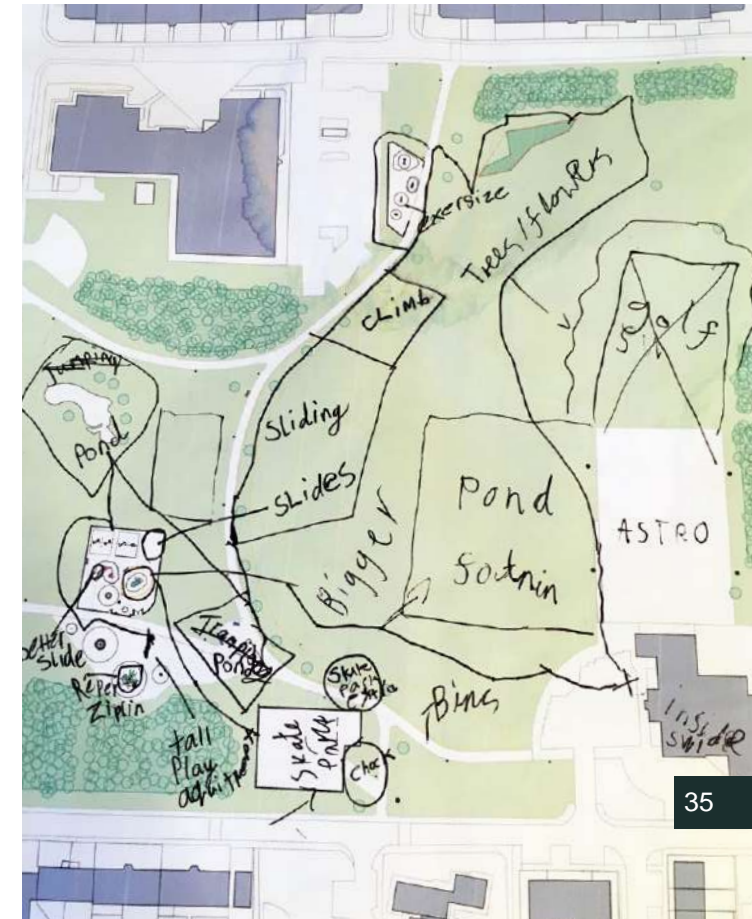
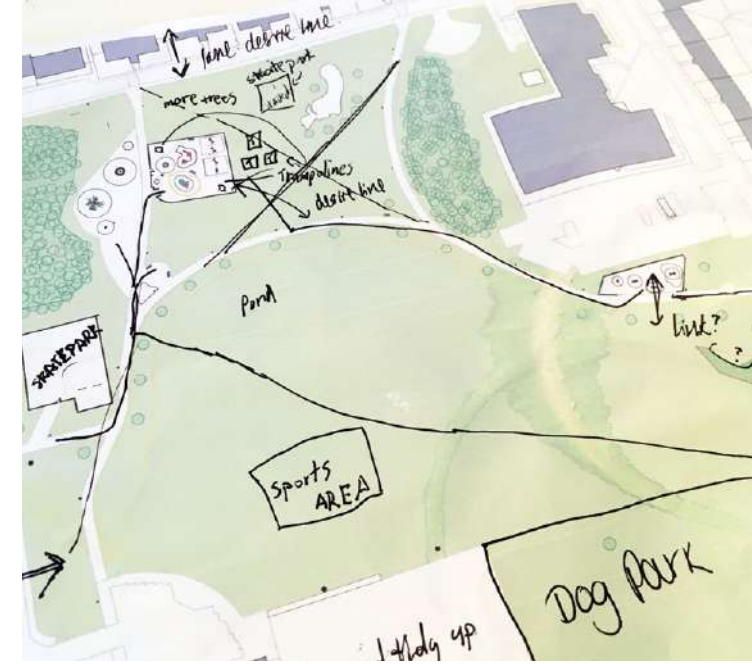
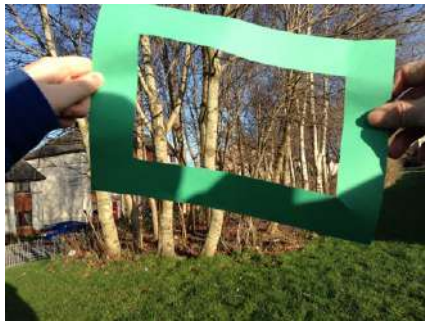
- More paths in the grassy area
- Make a maze or footpath through woods



CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF IDEAS FROM SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS



'FRAMED VIEWS' FROM SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

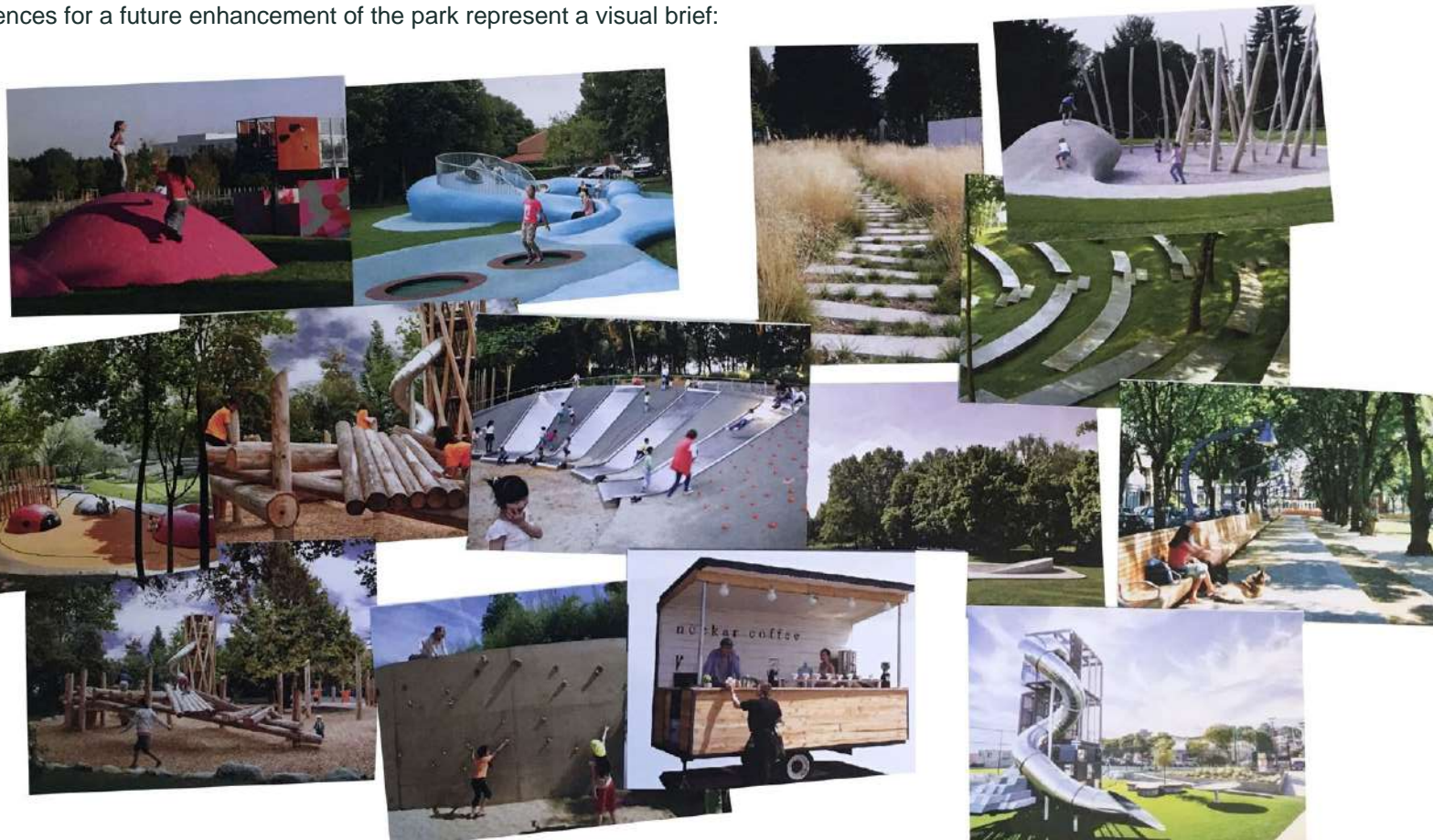


STEPPING STONES - PARENT AND TODDLER WORKSHOP

WALKABOUT / DESIGN WORKSHOP
26TH JANUARY 2022

ELGT and LTLA met with parents and facilitators from Stepping Stones at the Neighbourhood Centre. At earlier stakeholder workshops they expressed an interest in becoming actively involved as a project partner, so a focus session which looks more closely at their needs and interests was valuable. Parents attended with their babies to take us on a walkabout of the park, describe their needs and experiences.

The look and feel of the park they aspire to is visually expressed through images selected from a bundle of over 300 images. These image preferences for a future enhancement of the park represent a visual brief:



CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF IDEAS FROM STEPPING STONES WORKSHOP



EMERGING SPIRIT OF PLACE STATEMENTS

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF WEST PILTON PARK?

- The park's visibility within the neighbourhood - and its role as a neighbourhood park.
- Play park is used well as a meeting place during school days.
- Open-ness.
- Trees and other planting, making West Pilton Park a green lung in the neighbourhood

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT WEST PILTON PARK?

- The footprint sculptural feature, and its history.
- People don't want to lose historic connections.
- The landmark of the tower blocks, and views from above.
- The range of active community and interest group in the area.
- Generations of families with memories and connections to place.
- Multi-cultural population and diversity of heritage.

WHAT IS AT THE HEART OF WEST PILTON PARK?

- The reason Pilton / Muirhouse and the peripheral estates were built - why were they planned and laid out this way - and the park's function to provide space for fresh air, space and leisure activity.
- Local neighbourhood women activists, making change for family and community.



EMERGING DESIGN THEMES

1. STORMWATER

- Pond feature a recurring aspiration.
- Response to muddiness and waterlogged grass areas.
- Planting for colour, texture, variety, biodiversity.
- Creating better connections - for people and nature.
- Creating networks.
- Habitat restoration and making planting / nature a positive feature not something which is feared.
- Wetland - blue/green.



2. PLAY-SCAPE + COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

- Play for all ages.
- Active play - skate, trampolines, using the levels.
- Hang out space for other age groups.
- Adventure play in natural environments, overcoming fears and safety concerns.
- Climbing structures or features.
- Who is playing here - school / nursery groups / Play Rangers / Stepping Stones.
- Integrating play throughout.
- Management of access to dogs.
- Play opportunities address level changes.



3. NETWORKS

- Accessibility - networks for people and nature
- Movement across the park, a lot more path connections
- Diverse user groups - ages, heritage, interests.
- Path design / patterns of use and DDA recommendations re: seating / stopping.
- Getting here.
- Inclusive design.
- Active travel - giving people options.
- Signposting this place, sharing information on activities and events.
- Interpretation and historic connections to place.



1. STORMWATER

A large area in the northern half of West Pilton Park is waterlogged for much of the time in Winter. It becomes muddy, inaccessible, unattractive and off-putting to locals using this as a greenspace they're proud of.

What if the water wasn't seen as a problem though, but an opportunity? What if we collected more of the adjacent storm water run off, and rather than push against drainage issues, worked with landforms to create features and purpose?

A lot of stakeholders and park users were keen to explore how a pond could be integrated in the park. This could go further to be a key focus for the park's purpose, another thing people told us was lacking.

With the historic route of the Wardie Burn running underground just to the south of West Pilton Park, this is a natural place for water to accumulate at surface level, if given the chance.

With design features which benefit both people and nature, we can help alleviate flooding by introducing new storm water features or rain garden elements in West Pilton Park.

WORKING WITH NATURE

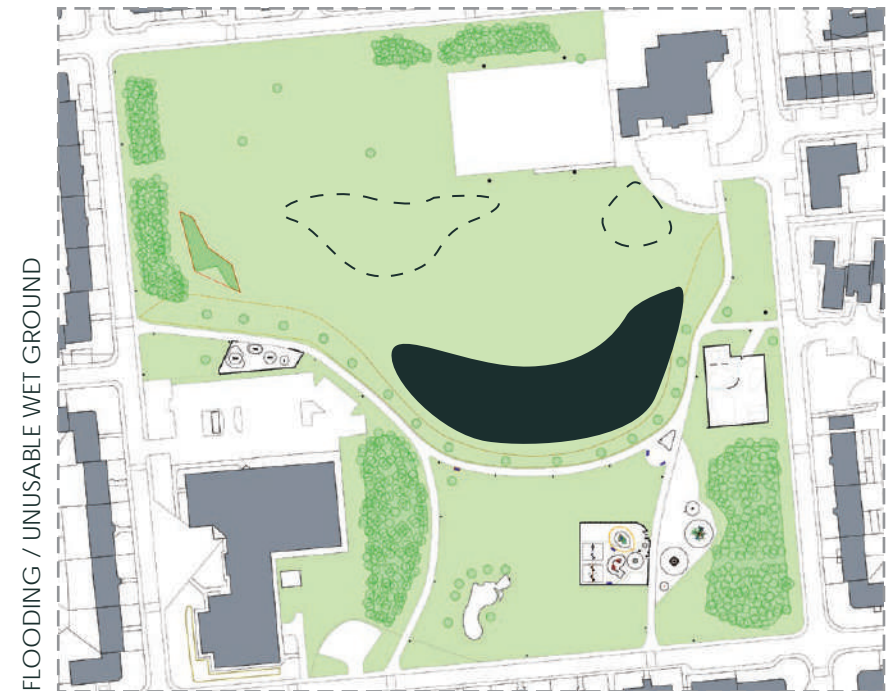
SENSE OF PURPOSE

VISUAL INTEREST

SPACE FOR NATURE

FEEDING THE DUCKS

AN INTERESTING WALK



IMAGES FROM ENGAGEMENT PREFERENCES PROCESS
(SELECTIONS FORM A VISUAL BRIEF)



2. PLAY-SCAPE

The project engagement and end-user participation process highlighted a significant demand for play experiences in West Pilton Park, which should be varied and offer something for all ages.

From the youngest children finding safe and sensory environments to explore to young adults having space to gather safely, this park should be programmed to offer a far greater variety of play facility and resources.

Many users were keen for more active pursuits, ranging from rappelling to skating, trampolining to climbing, walking, running and more equipment in the outdoor gym.

Based on images selected from a large pile of reference place designs, users gravitated towards features which were constructed with natural materials, and environments which integrated play with natural environment such as tree planting and water features.

Colour and texture is lacking, and although the park was being experienced in winter during the engagement walkabouts the local residents were keen to see more colourful planting, variety, and opportunities to get involved in gardening as an activity. There is already a good level of involvement in this local greenspace, and this is something which the future management and planning of the park should support and protect.

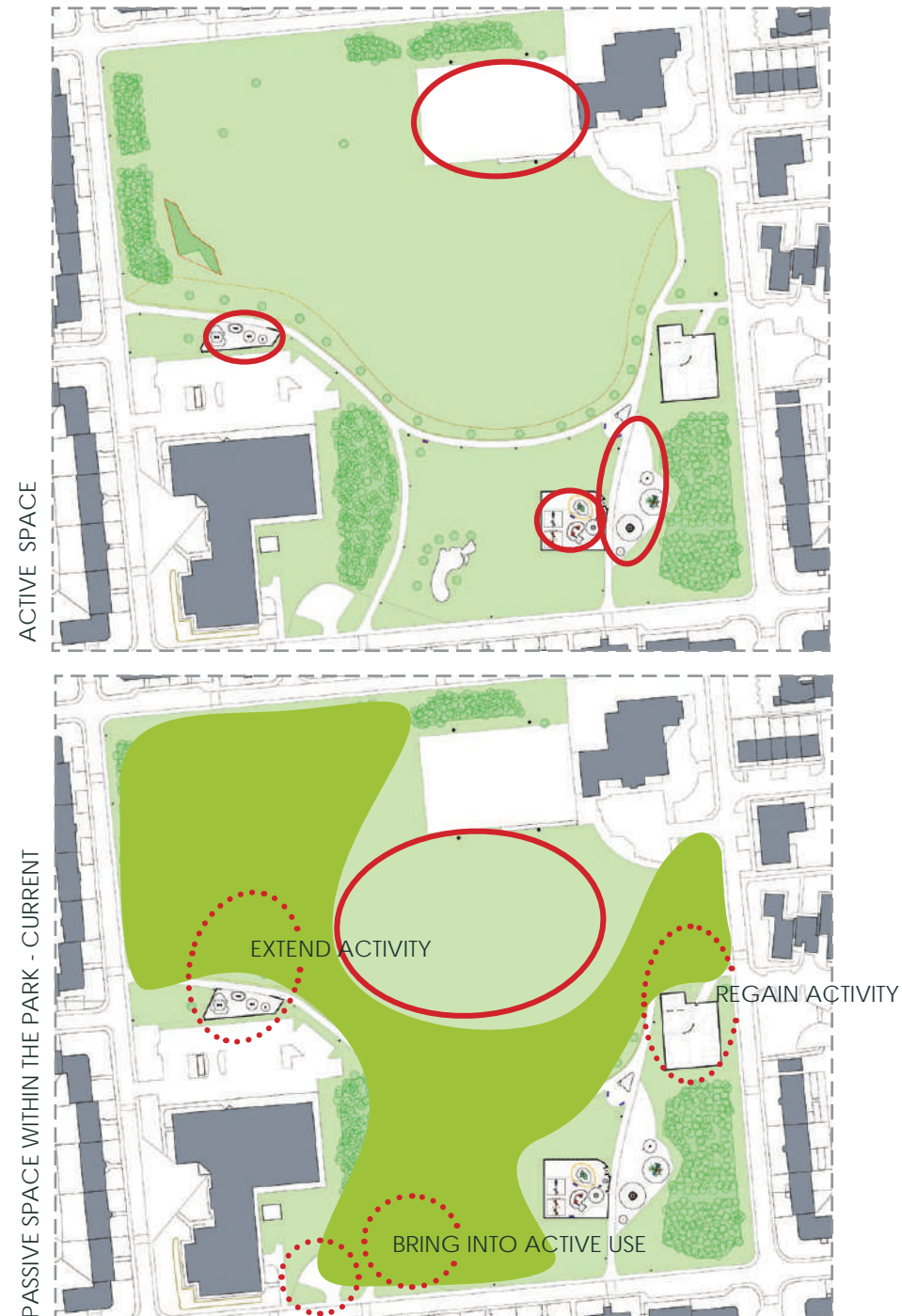
Saughton Park was described on several occasions as a place which the users were attracted to, thought highly of, and would like to see some of the approaches to integrated play incorporated here.

MAXIMISE PROGRAMME...

MORE THAN JUST A GRASSY FIELD

ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

REINVIGORATING EXISTING PLAY FACILITIES



IMAGES FROM ENGAGEMENT PREFERENCES PROCESS (SELECTIONS FORM A VISUAL BRIEF)



3. NETWORKS

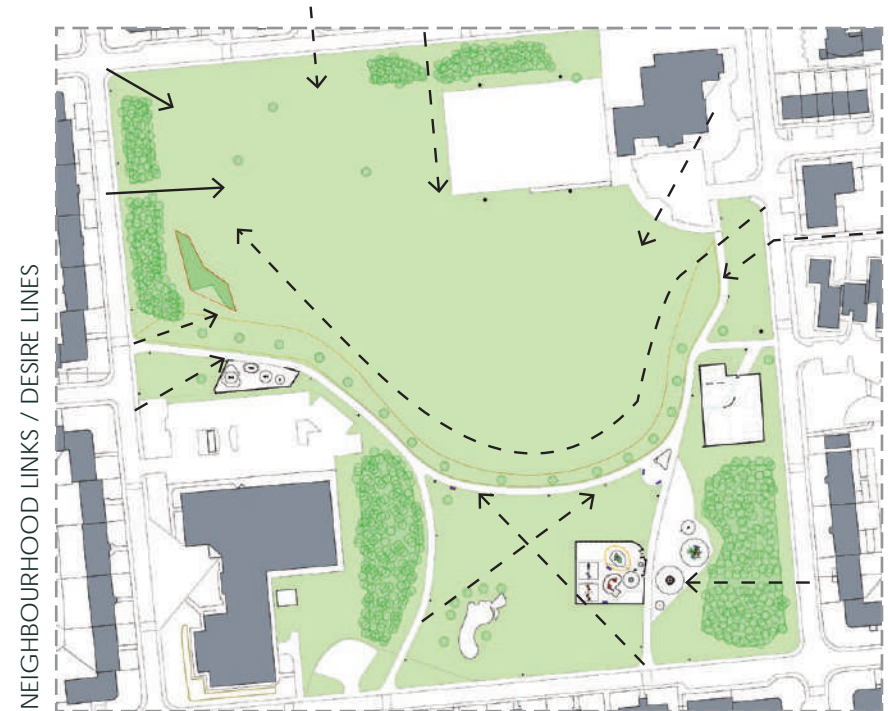
Movement through the park, and within the local neighbourhood is another aspect of the park's functionality that users highlighted for improvement. The level change at the sloping landform separates the north and south parts of the space, and limits the ability to enjoy circular walks within the park. Compounding this barrier is the railing which local residents felt didn't have enough gate points.

By adding more gates and surfaced footpaths in the northern section, this field is brought into more varied and active use. This may result in a more positive relationship with what is currently an uninspiring grassy field, and in turn will encourage a greater range of users.

In the southern portion of the park, clear desire lines cross the field and park users were keen for these to be recognised and surfaced to make them more inclusive - for parents pushing prams, cyclists and children cutting across this park to move within the neighbourhood - at present it is muddy and there's a lot of trouble with dog mess. Improving these routes helps connect the park and make cutting through it to go to shops or other local facilities more inviting, again increasing the footfall and thereby increasing safety for all users.

The railing at the Neighbourhood Centre could be opened up to integrate a Cafe trailer and other methods for discouraging motor access such as boulders and tree planting. Removing the railings at this location helps to make visual and physical links between the community building and the park, helping to make the Centre feel like it is sitting in a park rather than in a car park. This in turn increases use as Centre visitors use the outdoor environment to meet, relax, or take a break.

- MORE CONNECTION RESULTS IN MORE USE
- MORE USE IMPROVES PERCEPTION OF SAFETY
- ACTIVE TRAVEL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD LINKS
- BRINGING THE BUILDINGS INTO THE PARK



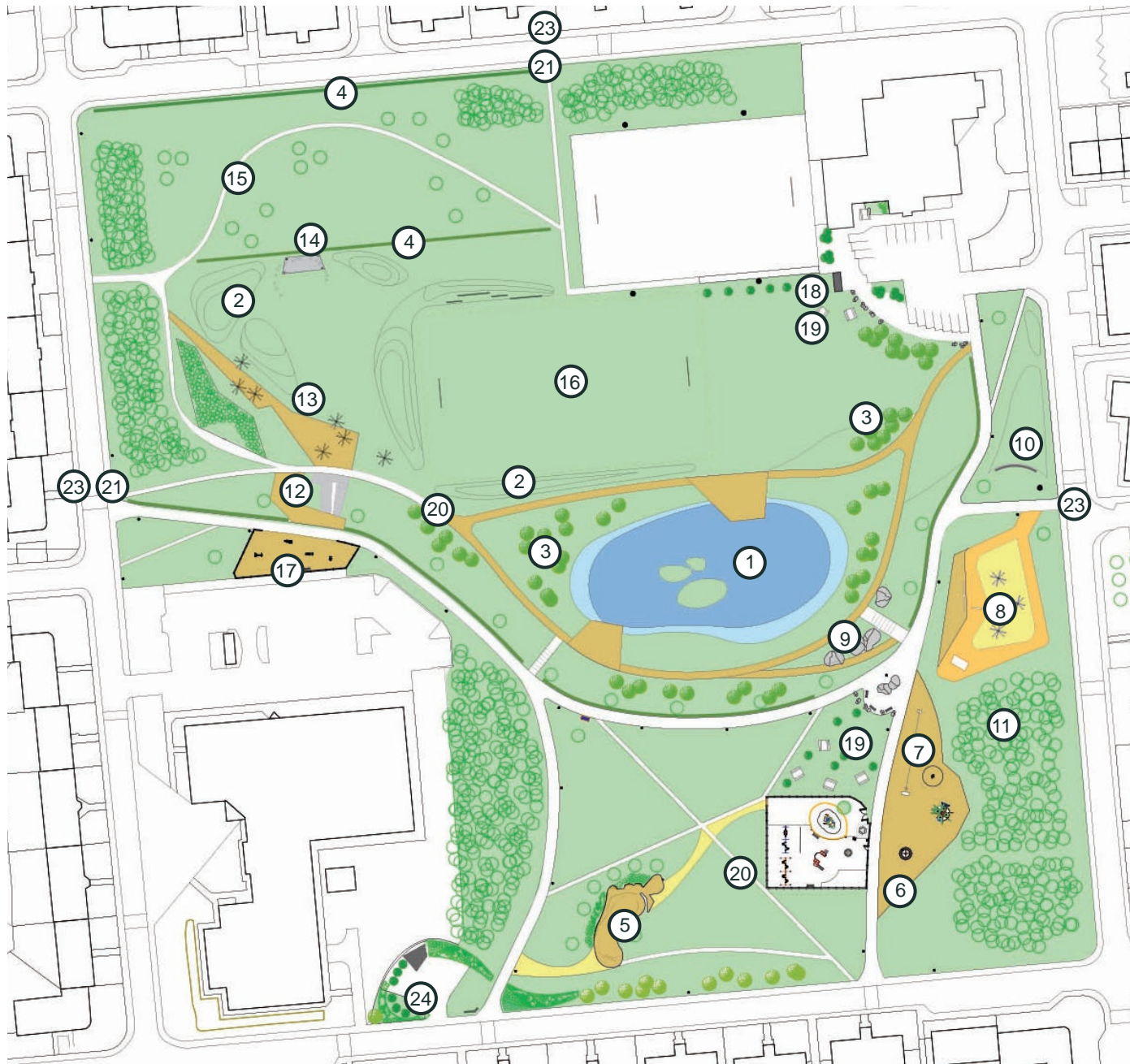
IMAGES FROM ENGAGEMENT PREFERENCES PROCESS

(SELECTIONS FORM A VISUAL BRIEF)



These photos are taken in Saughton Park, a greenspace which was referenced often during engagement discussions

INITIAL CONCEPT MASTERPLAN



STORMWATER PARK

1. New pond feature with boardwalks
2. Mounding to create wetter / drier areas
3. SuDS trees - alder, black birch, willow
4. SuDS hedgerow / trench planting

PLAY SCAPE

5. Re-surface footprint and integrate levels
6. Rappel tower
7. Reinstated flying fox
8. New skate park and trampolines
9. Climbing boulders
10. Amphitheatre seating
11. Woodland play
12. Slides on slopes
13. Poles / upright logs play feature
14. Covered outdoor workshop / seating
15. Dog walking trail
16. Goal posts and land-forming
17. Resurface / additional equipment

NETWORKS

18. Cafe trailer
19. Picnicking area / seating x2
20. New paths
21. New gate
22. New lighting
23. Improved level access - dropped kerbs
24. Community rain garden

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

West Pilton Park is significant as a local neighbourhood park, surrounded by residential community - people who walk through this park daily on the way to shops, schools, visiting neighbours, stopping to play after school. In this, it provides an essential, valued, and irreplaceable asset. Its design, functionality and amenity can be enhanced to go much further in meeting local residents and park users' expectations of what a park should do and offer.

Essentially, it should be a place for the local community, and it should live up to its purpose as a local, accessible, safe and attractive greenspace.

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

This sense of purpose should underpin the concept masterplan. In a post-covid context, and with biodiversity collapse and the climate emergency as a catalyst for change, West Pilton Park should be designed in a way where people and nature really start to occupy this green space. Many users pointed out how underused it is, and asked for the park to re-identify its purpose.

The masterplan should aim to reclaim it by fully programming a functional park, offering facilities for enjoyment of this local greenspace.

WORKING WITH NATURE

Embracing the seasonal changes and biodiversity opportunities presented by the water present - and the high water table - gives West Pilton Park an opportunity for distinctive features by working with nature and not against it.

Designing with planting and water, and planning layout around a new network of paths offers opportunities for a more sensory park environment, which is lacking in its current condition.



MANY PEOPLE WE SPOKE TO FEEL INSPIRED BY THE DESIGN AND RECENT REGENERATION OF SAUGHTON PARK.

THEY WANT TO SEE SIMILAR VARIETY OF PLANTING, A WIDE RANGE OF PLAY AND RECREATION FACILITIES, PROVISION OF BASIC AMENITIES SUCH AS BINS AND BENCHES, AND CONNECTION WIDER GREEN AND BLUE- SPACES.

STAKEHOLDER / PUBLIC RESPONSE TO INITIAL MASTERPLAN

SCHOOL RE-ENGAGEMENT / FEEDBACK

The schools we met in the park pre-design were sent a flier activity sheet with the initial concept plan ideas, seeking feedback from the children and teacher around three specific questions:

- What do you like?
- What don't you like?
- What is still missing from this plan?

FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

Feedback on the initial concept masterplan was also sought by presenting the idea on a flier which was distributed as listed below: the plan diagram with the list of 24 proposed actions was presented as a single A4, and asked for feedback through the following engagement:

- Questionnaire day in the park - semi-structured interviews with ELGT officer. Around 20 conversations between 10am-12am 2pm-4pm
- Display at West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre,
- Social media post on Neighbourhood Centre page, linking to the initial concept masterplan graphic,
- Letter drop to the 100 closest residential properties.

ONLINE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

(Wed 23rd February 2022, 18:00) – presentation and open discussion on the plan ideas. A summary of the engagement to date was provided, and the emerging design themes was pre-circulated, to coincide with other engagement events. LTLA presented the design concept plan and gave an overview of the suggested design interventions, and the team chaired a forum for stakeholder feedback and response.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN FOR WEST PILTON PARK



This plan gathers together lots of ideas and opinions we've heard during community discussions and school workshops held December - January. It's an initial design for the park, but now we'd like to know what you like ✓, what you don't like ✗, and what's still missing from this plan.

STORMWATER PARK	PLAY SCAPE	NETWORKS
1. New pond feature with boardwalks <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Re-surface footprint and add paths <input type="checkbox"/>	18. Cafe trailer <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mounding to create wetter / drier areas <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Rappell tower <input type="checkbox"/>	19. Picnicking / seating areas <input type="checkbox"/>
3. SuDS trees - alder, black birch, willow <input type="checkbox"/>	7. Reinstate flying fox <input type="checkbox"/>	20. New paths <input type="checkbox"/>
4. SuDS hedgerow / trench planting <input type="checkbox"/>	8. New skate park and trampolines <input type="checkbox"/>	21. New gate <input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Climbing boulders <input type="checkbox"/>	22. New lighting <input type="checkbox"/>
	10. Ampitheatre seating <input type="checkbox"/>	23. Accessibility / dropped kerbs <input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Woodland play <input type="checkbox"/>	24. Community rain garden <input type="checkbox"/>
	12. Slides on slopes <input type="checkbox"/>	
	13. Poles / upright logs play feature <input type="checkbox"/>	
	14. Covered outdoor workshop space <input type="checkbox"/>	
	15. Dog walking trail <input type="checkbox"/>	
	16. Goal posts and landforming <input type="checkbox"/>	
	17. Resurface / additional equipment <input type="checkbox"/>	

WHAT'S MISSING?

THANK YOU! 

KEY POINTS TO TAKE FORWARD TO FINAL CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

MAINTENANCE

- Both dog walkers and other users liked the idea of a dog walking area where that activity can be focused and bins can be provided for waste.
- Maintenance = use, use = maintenance.
- Woodland management: refer to management plan, and increase perceptions of safety through positive community woodland management.
- Coordinate aspirations on naturalised grassland and meadows with council maintenance team.
- Management of litter and system for reporting issues.
- More bins needed.
- More benches needed.
- Paint the railings colourfully.
- Mounding to make access for joyriding / motorbikes and cars impossible.

SIGNIFICANCE / SPECIAL FEATURES

- Respondents highlighted the value of local greenspace specifically in a post-covid context, and how important it is to be able to access neighbourhood scale green and blue spaces.
- Flexible open greenspace is a community asset, and the design should make sure there's still enough open, flat, well-drained mown grass area for larger events and gatherings.
- The bulbs around the edges and the embankment are part of the park's identity.

NETWORKS / CONNECTIONS

- People strongly welcomed the idea of more paths and access around the whole site.
- Highlight the accessible routes on a map, and an 'accessible trail'.
- Outdoor workshop space, and a possible storage shed or similar for groups to keep outdoor equipment for use in the park.
- Reference Sustrans as an opportunity for future partnership working, implementation and delivery, and explore in more detail how wider connections to green / blue spaces can be reinforced.
- The Neighbourhood Centre is currently applying to have a bike maintenance project, and some of the new citywide cycle scheme bikes located at the Centre.
- Partnership opportunity with NEArts, who are keen to trial a trailer / cafe serving hot food. This should be taken forward in detail with NEArts.
- Explore potential for local football clubs to use the gym. Extend the idea for outdoor gym to a fitness trail, a route through the park.

WATER / DRAINAGE

- Water management and the formation of proper drained spaces will mean the space is less boggy and will be better used.
- Site Investigations will be required as part of the detailed design and development of rain garden proposals.

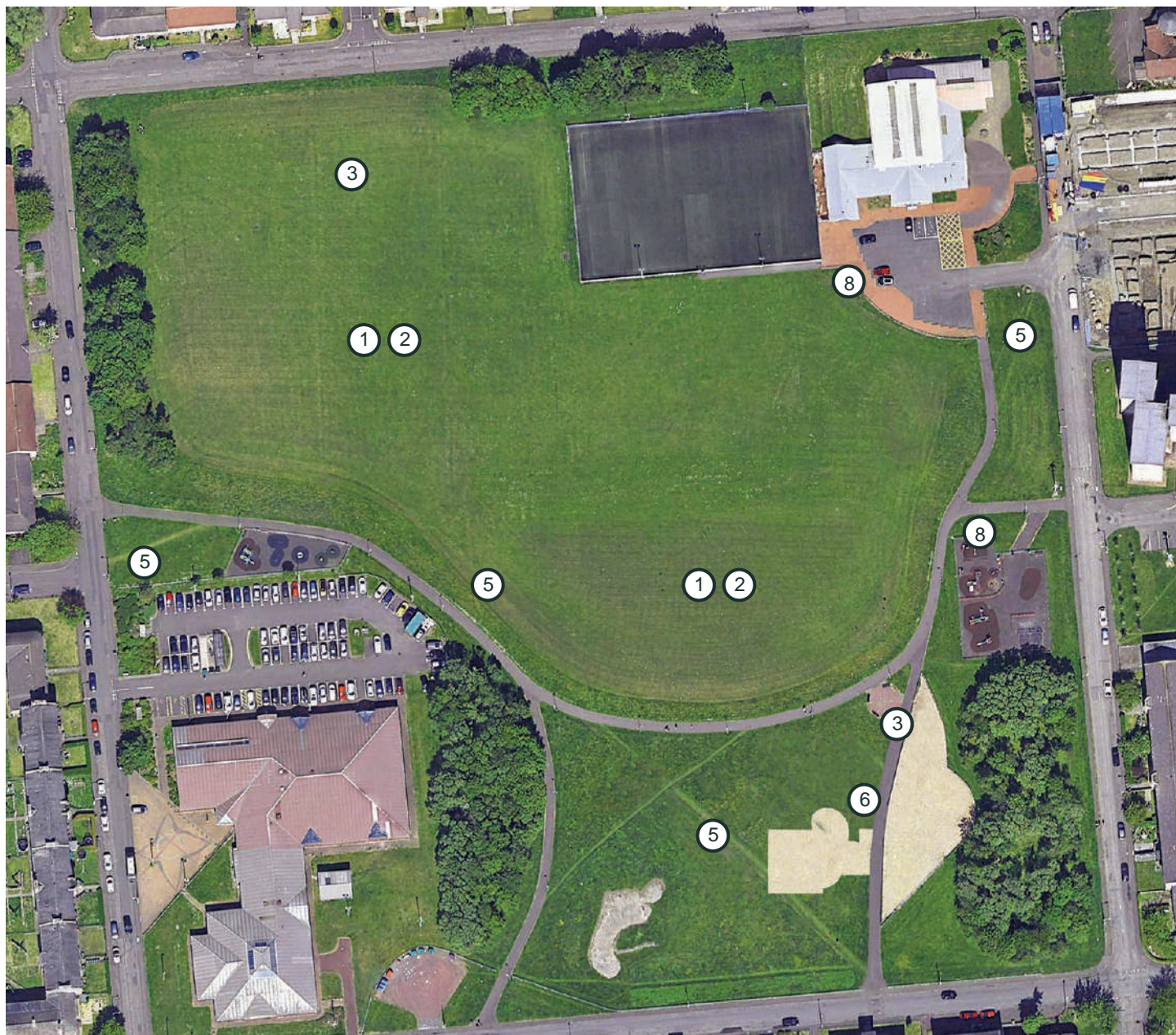
PLANTING

- Add colour, texture and movement in planting design. Consider tree species which offer visual interest and movement.
- Add sensory planting - highlight opportunities in the planting shown for diversity, movement and
- Potential for further bulb planting - ELGT partnership working with local school children or interest and support groups.
- Include edible planting, such as orchard trees, edible hedgerow, and an opportunity for community gardening integrated into planting designs.
- Wildflower areas reinstated or enhanced.

PLAY

- Incorporate more features for sounds, chimes, drums type equipment
- Include more accessible play equipment in the play area e.g. wheelchair roundabout etc..
- Enhance the wetland and pond by including some element of moving water.
- Include a woodland trail which is wheelchair accessible.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN



PROPOSALS

1. Drain to create both a drier, more usable field area and a wetland pond feature.
2. Organise space into zones, retaining the flexibility of the space while making space for different users.
3. More benches, picnic tables, covered space to extend usability of the play area throughout the seasons, and a separate route which is inviting to dog walkers helps keep the park safer and cleaner.
4. SuDS planting and rain garden features, for both nature and lower maintenance, more sustainable park design.
5. Desire lines recognised and formalised as a network of footpaths, designed with a hierarchy and enhanced with signage and interpretive features.
6. Play for all ages - reconciling the equipped play areas currently separated by fencing, into one contained zone with seating. More play for older children, e.g. rappel tower, trampolines, climbing boulders, amphitheatre seating.
7. Realise a more sensory environment, through texture and colour in planting, inclusive and sensory features in the play area, woodland walks and informal forest school play settings, movement and reflection in the water feature.
8. Extend the function of Neighbourhood Centre, and bring its activity into the park: a cafe trailer offering refreshments located near the play hub.



STORMWATER PARK

- 1. New pond / wetland feature
- 2. Rain gardens - community growing
- 3. Footprint community growing
- 4. Wet meadow / wildflower meadow
- 5. SuDS swale / detention area

PLANTING

- 6. Extended woodland areas - network
- 7. Manage existing woodlands
- 8. New specimen trees
- 9. New fruiting trees
- 10. Native / fruiting hedgerow
- 11. Community growing opportunity

PLAY SCAPE

- 12. Cafe trailer
- 13. Re-surface footprint & play areas
- 14. Rappel tower
- 15. Reinststate flying fox
- 16. Enhanced outdoor gym area
- 17. New skate park and trampolines
- 18. Climbing boulders
- 19. Goal posts and pitch drainage
- 20. Amphitheatre seating
- 21. Slides on slopes
- 22. Wooden poles and seating logs

NETWORKS

- 23. New loop walk - inclusive access
- 24. Desire line footpaths - unsealed
- 25. Timber access decks / boardwalks
- 26. Woodland trails
- 27. Sensory trails
- 28. Dog walking trail
- 29. Bins
- 30. Benches
- 31. Remove fencing sections
- 32. New gate
- 33. Shelter / canopy / outdoor workshop

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN EXISTING TREES & WOODLAND

The existing woodland blocks are loved by some members of the local community, and feared by others. Notably, the school children who took the project development team on tours of their park pointed out the woodlands as 'dangerous', 'dirty', 'scary' and said they would not go in there or cut through the woodland blocks if they weren't part of these workshop groups.

Through further discussion with project stakeholders it is recommended that the woodland areas are more actively managed. The understorey vegetation should be cut back, and sightlines opened through the woodlands. While there will be a reduction in biodiversity value by limiting the diversity of canopy layers in the woodland, management for increased perceptions of safety and ease of maintenance (litter picking, fly tipping removal) is an overall balance in community needs.

1 | Existing woodland areas should be cut back where new paths form part of the main path routes, and to allow for the new main footpaht which 'bypasses' the play area.

2 | Improve the woodlands as an accessible resource within the park through positive management to thin, open, and reduce the understorey vegetation.

3 | Biodiversity can be added through low growing native perennial wildflower species and spring flowering bulbs.





Reduction in understorey vegetation to improve sightlines and ease of maintenance. Example shown: Bingham Park, SE Edinburgh



A simplified understorey - but with the benefit of newly planted native perennial wildflower grassland



Trails through the managed woodlands add to the sensory play and exploration opportunities in a safe and inclusive way

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN PLANTING ENHANCEMENTS - TREE PLANTING

Colour, texture, seasonal interest, connection with nature and the health and wellbeing benefits which come from immersion in nature and greenspaces can all be enhanced and encouraged through inspirational planting design.

Horticultural interest is a quick-win opportunity in West Pilton Park, building on existing bulb and tree planting initiatives already actioned by ELGT and local partners.

- 1 | Native woodland extension / enhancement
- 2 | SuDS trees
- 3 | New parkland trees
- 4 | New fruit trees
- 5 | Avenue trees
- 6 | Trees in Neighbourhood Centre car park
- 7 | Hedgerow planting - native / fruiting hedgerow mix



1 | EXISTING WOODLAND ENHANCEMENT

Managed (as outlined in the woodland management recommendations on p56), and extended in key locations to enhance potential for habitat linkages. Notably along the northern extents of West Pilton Park, the existing woodland areas can be stretched to create a more continuous linear corridor increasing their biodiversity value. The species used should complement the existing native mix, based on a pioneer mix of Elder, Ash and Birch, and with Scots Pine and Oak interspersed throughout.



Alnus glutinosa - native trees

2 | NEW SuDS TREES

New trees planted in association with the wetland habitat and this new parkland setting, using multi-stemmed Alder and black Birch could form dappled copses with texture and movement. Seasonal colour and texture layered in with *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* and *Ginkgo biloba* in the drier areas.

3 | NEW PARKLAND TREES

Associated with other structuring features such as the mixed native hedgerow which forms separation between the flexible open grassy space and the area encouraged for dog walking loops. Locate these trees in the longer grass margin which is part of the hedgerow habitat, to discourage dogs and vandalism. Species to offer seasonal interest and colour, for example Bird Cherry, Pyrus spp., Sweet and Horse Chestnut.



Interpretation for new tree planting

4 | NEW FRUIT TREES

Enhance the play area seating space with some fruiting trees providing seasonal interest and education opportunities while adding to sensory environment enhancement.



Fruiting trees for sensory experiences

5 | TREES ALONG WEST PILTON AVENUE

Strengthen the structure of the parkland to the south along West Pilton Avenue by planting new trees along this boundary. These should be standard parkland trees, with min. 1.5m clear stems to maintain clear sight-lines into the park and onto the streetscape.

6 | TREES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE CAR PARK

Planting trees in the car park is a way to make a physical and a visual connection between the Neighbourhood Centre building and West Pilton Park. The building should feel like it belongs to the fabric of the park; the greenspace provides a resource to the users of the Centre, and the activity of the building helps increase perceptions of safety. By making the park feel more integrated into the surrounding streets and buildings, we hope to see more incidental use of the park. Planting in the car park extends the greenspace setting, and extends the park's health and wellbeing benefits.



Bringing the park to the Neighbourhood Centre

7 | FRUITING / NATIVE HEDGEROW

The existing railings are visually prominent and a divisive feature through the park. Users were keen to find a way to use planting to soften this barrier. Associating hedge planting will maintain the function of the fence, and add biodiversity value, greenspace setting, and visual interest to this linear feature. Similarly, where the field is divided to create a separate dog-walking route, native hedgerows offer structure and add to the habitats in the park. This should be planted alongside a post-and-wire fence to aid establishment.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN PLANTING ENHANCEMENTS - BIODIVERSITY

HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

The park concept masterplan is part of the Thriving Greenspaces initiative, and it was telling how many people who engaged with the project said they value local biodiversity and responded positively to early suggestions for biodiversity enhancement.

The concept masterplan seeks to improve habitat diversity and the connection between isolated areas of habitat. The proposed plan looks to increase the types of habitat in the park, and to network these with better linkage between existing pockets.

1 | The introduction of open water and wetland areas is a highly valuable biodiversity enhancement, contributing significantly to the park's value for nature. It is well documented that the inclusion of open water is the single most potent element to increasing biodiversity in a park or garden.

2 | To enhance the biodiversity value of the open water there should be some emergent islands / shallow areas which encourage ground nesting birds. The adjacent wet areas of ground should be protected by installing boardwalk paths, to ensure year-round use and accessibility of the loop walking routes.

3 | Features to complement these areas of habitat diversification could include a planted SuDS swale at the west entrance off West Pilton Gardens and the potential to collect rainwater off the Council building. This could be stored in an underground tank and used in a recirculating system providing a sensory moving water feature feeding the pond and helping maintain water quality (4)





OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GROWING

5 | A community rain garden is suggested for the hardstanding area in the south west corner of West Pilton Park. This space is intended to create a cornerstone to the newly transformed park, signposting the greenspace and creating a welcoming atmosphere.

To increase its potential for outdoor learning, community group activity and as a community workshop space, a shelter structure could be located here and the function of the raingarden interpreted with signage and information panels. An actively managed garden space can increase the range and type of species grown in the park to include herbaceous perennials and native wildflower species.

6 | A secondary community growing opportunity is the establishment of a native wildflower grassland, which could be taken on as a community growing project, an outdoor learning initiative, or a Forest School intervention. All biodiversity and habitat enhancement has opportunity for community planting and involvement.

7 | The existing areas of bulb planting make significant and locally prized seasonal display, and this could be added to with species which flower later in the season, or with autumn flowering bulb species.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN WATER & DRAINAGE

Many respondents to the design engagement process highlighted and commented on the waterlogged, muddy condition of the park. The masterplan which is led by landscape design opportunities takes the issue of the wet, unusable field and proposes a positive design feature in its place - a pond and associated marginal planting which offers something of local interest to park users and creates a new type of habitat to support local biodiversity.

Although further study will be required to determine the water table level, soil type and conditions and the location's suitability for an open body of water, it is noted that the Niddrie Burn used to run just to the south of West Pilton Park and therefore the landform and this water course would suggest a high water table in this location.

Additionally, and if required, rainwater could be collected off the Council Offices car park surface in open biodiverse Swales, or collected off the building's roof and stored in underground rainwater storage tank which could be used to provide a pumped water supply for a moving water feature such as water moving over rocks, or to top up the water level of the pond.

There is also an opportunity to create a community garden space at the south east corner of the park. The bins located here, and frequent fly tipping issues, make this park entrance unattractive and uninviting. Creating a rain garden on the existing area of hardstanding would bring together community groups in the area and create a gathering and workshop space at the park's entrance. It could become a meeting point, and could make the park feel safer by being used by a wider range of user groups.



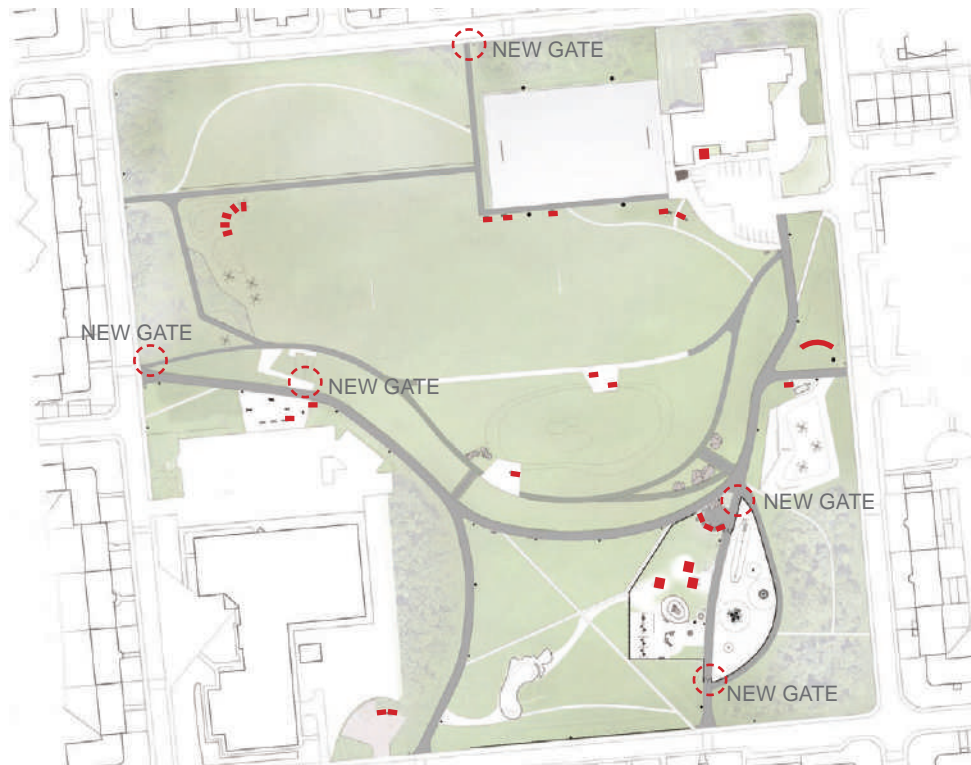


Boardwalk trail around the pond and wetland areas, ensuring inclusive access and protecting the ground. This feature gives the park something new, exciting, inspiring, interactive, sensory, and which deals with the existing drainage issues in positive and enriching way.



Community and edible growing as part of the drainage proposals - a new community rain garden sited on the existing hardstanding area could be planted with edible and native herbaceous perennials. There were several groups of potential users who would welcome opportunities for hands-on involvement in the park's planting, and some raised beds in the south east corner would create a welcoming park gateway and a community groups' asset.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN PATH NETWORK & ACCESSIBILITY

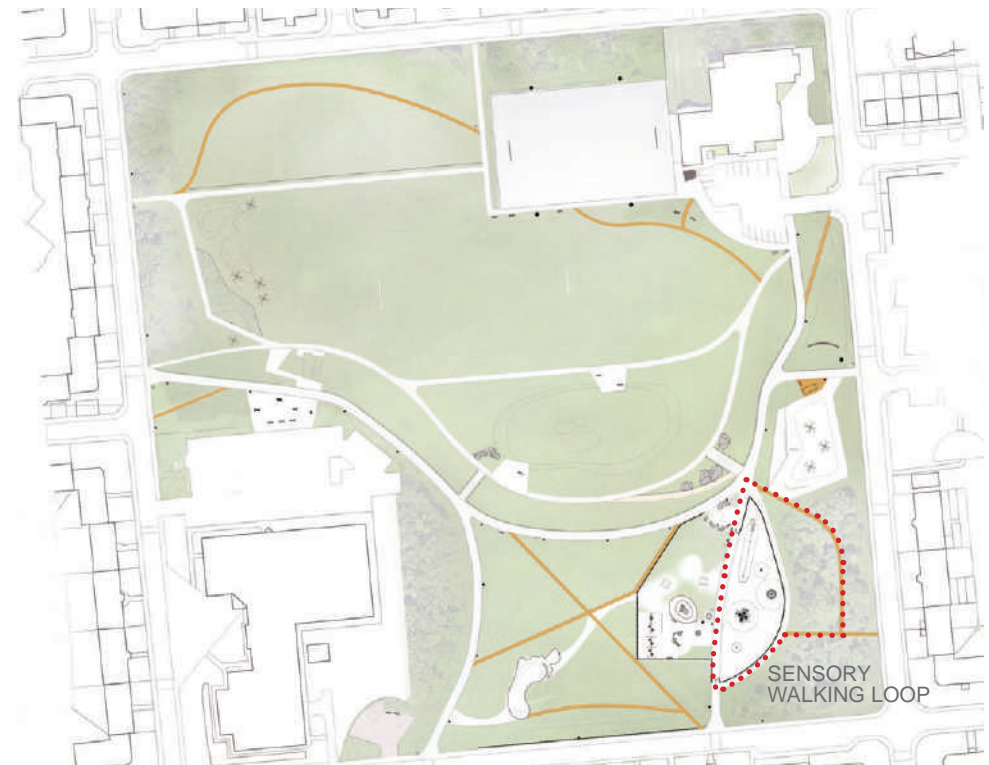


PRIMARY ROUTES - SEALED FOOTPATHS

Park users who engaged with the consultation and provided feedback on emerging design ideas were keen to see a more integrated network of path routes in West Pilton Park which formed complete and accessible walking loops.

New sealed surface paths, promoting accessibility for all and designed with gentle slopes and ramps, connect between the north and south portions of the park. New connections are provided to the north, and around the lower field.

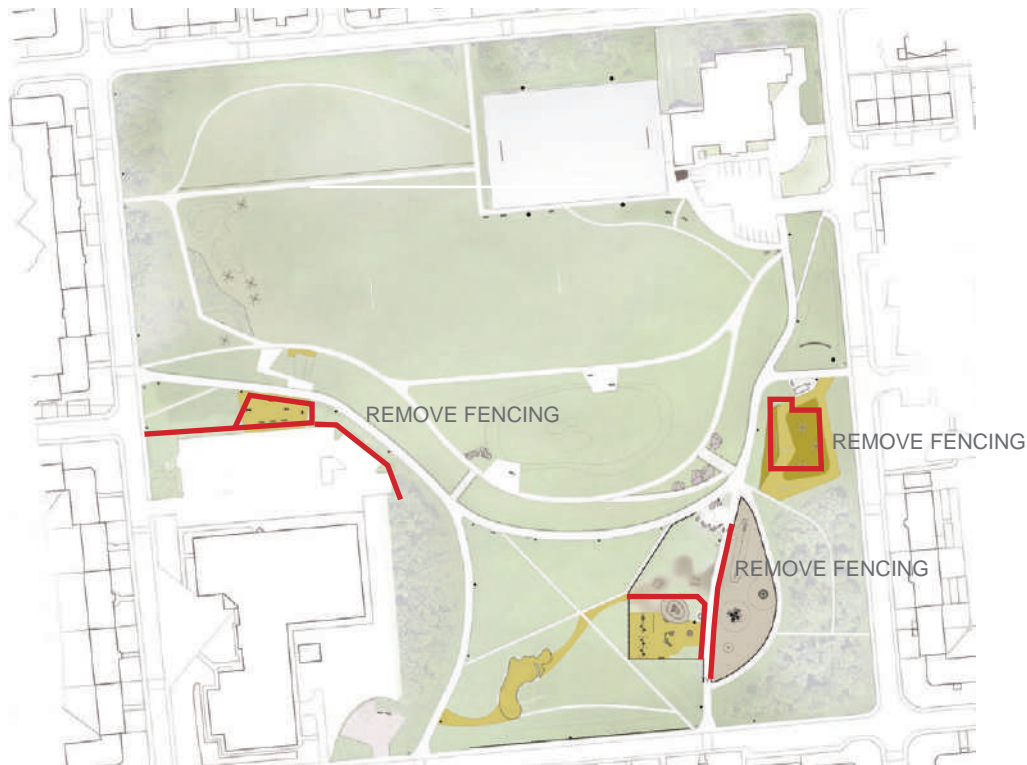
A new path which skirts around the play area helps to make the play area work for a wide range of age groups while providing safe, well connecting walking routes through the park. A new gate in the western side of the park links the lower area.



SECONDARY ROUTES - UNBOUND FOOTPATHS

Weaving through the main footpath routes is a network of secondary paths, which would be unbound yet which formalise the desire line routes. These footpaths make more of the neighbourhood scale greenspace by increasing incidental visits and stays in the park. Trails are also proposed to run through the community woodland, in the area where it is associated with the activity of the play park. Together these paths form a sensory loop, which runs through the play area where interactive play features are located along the route of the accessible path and into the sensory environment of the woodland (enhanced through management, thinning, ground cover planting, and a trail of interpretive features).





NEW PLAY SURFACES

The damaged surface of the footprint could be topped with a smooth resin bound aggregate, turning it into an interesting play feature which makes the most of the levels. This surfacing enables the footprint to be used by scooters, bikes and skateboards, where the levels and slopes offer an interactive play feature.

The old play park off West Pilton Grove is reimagined through colourful bound surfacing, again designed with levels and rails to offer a space for wheeled recreation. Trampolines could be set into the ground within this area, providing a play space for older children and young adults.

The damaged and now redundant surfacing at the western entrance to the park should be removed, and replaced with a smaller section where some seating can be positioned making more of the connection between the Council building and the park.

TIMBER BOARDWALKS / PLATFORMS

Around the wet area by the new pond feature, and as part of the primary footpath walking loop, the path should become a timber boardwalk protecting the waterlogged ground from compaction and encouraging the growth of marginal planting. The boardwalk loop is also part of the sensory walking experience, where visitors can come in close contact with the water's edge, or walk on decks out over the water. New timber steps could also be formed into the embankment where they would offer playful access to the new slides feature.



CONCEPT MASTERPLAN WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

1 | Sections of fencing to be removed, to enhance pedestrian / active travel experiences moving through West Pilton Park. A primary benefit of this park alteration is the consolidation of the play area into one space which has the play equipment for a variety of ages, made to feel contained with a perimeter fence as seen at Saughton Park.

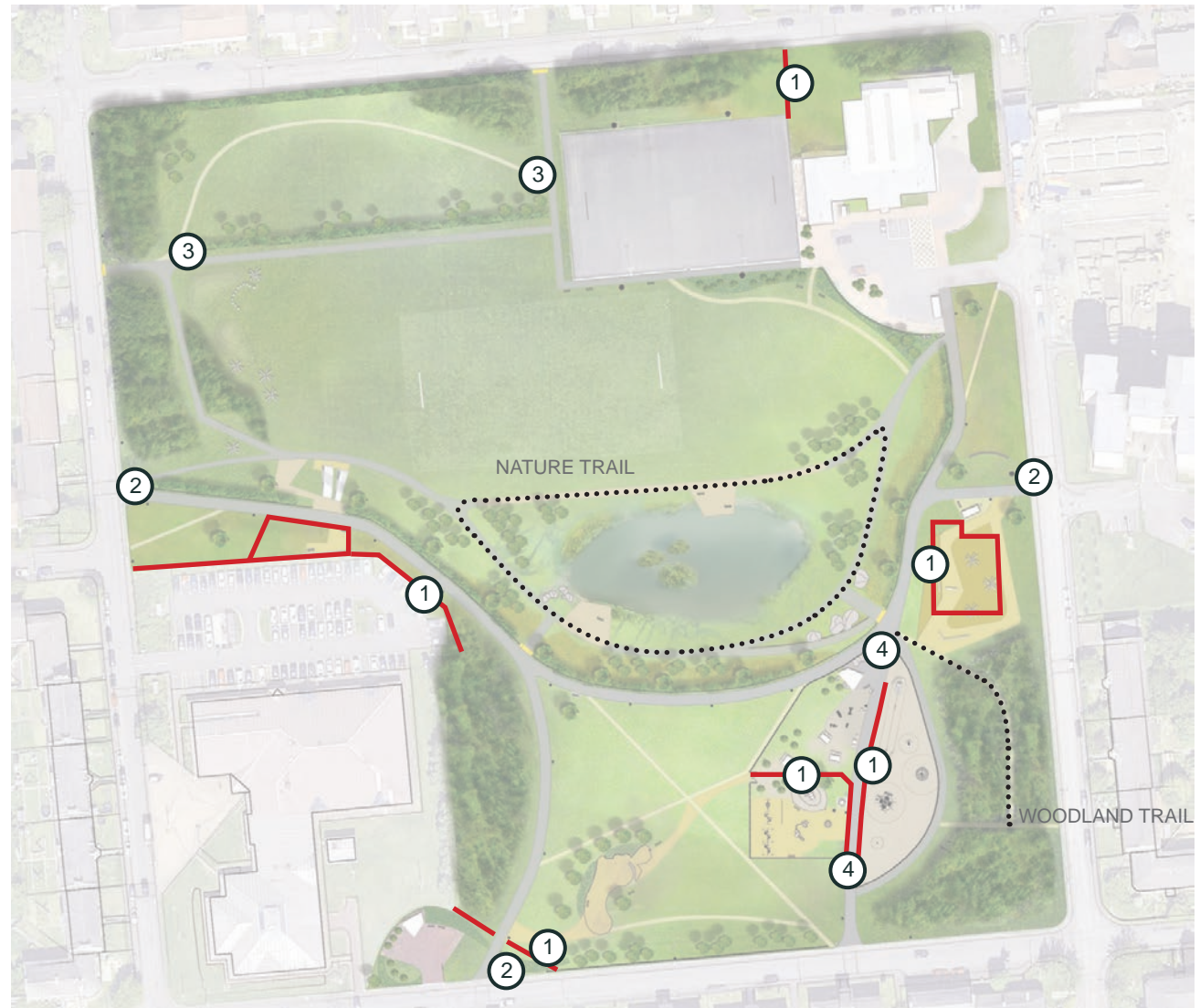
2 | New signposting such as Sustrans signage to wider green/blue space facilities and features should be installed at key locations on the main thoroughfares into and through the park.

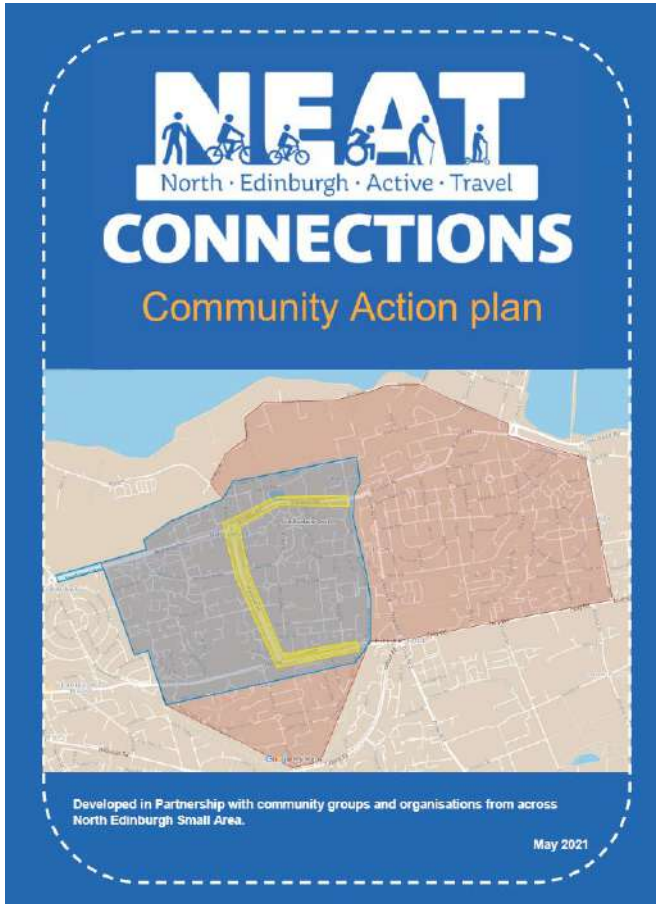
Two forms of new signage and interpretation are recommended to strengthen and support the integration of this park with its wider community, and to encourage active travel use through the park:

- Local information about West Pilton Park and keeping in touch with the activities and groups who use the space, as well as providing a way to communicate feedback or issues in the park. Opportunities include signage about wildlife through the woodland trail, the history of the footprint sculpture, and a nature spotters' trail or similar around the pond feature;
- Information about the wider area, for example how to get to other green - blue spaces by bike or on foot. This community connections information could be developed in detail in partnership with Sustrans, and should consider the enhancement of safe and inclusive routes between other greenspaces such as Forth Quarter Park, the Silverknowes Esplanade, the active travel routes on the North West Edinburgh dismantled railway network.

3 | Signage relating to the control of dogs in the park; from discussions with park users, it is recommended that a dog walking trail is promoted in the northern field beyond the new hedgerow, a flexible open space which is easy to use for dog walkers.

4 | The new park railings should have 'no dogs in children's play area' signage.





NEAT Connections

The wayfinding and signage strategy developed in further detail for West Pilton Park should tie in with the findings and recommendations of the North Edinburgh Active Travel Connections project. This focused on improving active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling), green spaces and areas for socialising, and sets a wider context for the Park as part of this important network linking the wider community.

NEAT Community Steering Group has now finalised the Community Action Plan, which aims to encourage active travel in and around North Edinburgh, and the next steps are being managed through the City of Edinburgh Council's website and officers:
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling-walking-projects-1/neat-connections/2>



Brass rubbings post - part of a sensory trail through woodland areas or around boardwalk



Park signage / interpretation

INTERPRETATION

Two interpretive elements have been incorporated in the park's design to date - a tree walk where the name of the tree species spells out West Pilton Park, and the footprint feature.

Neither benefits from interpretation or explanation, and as such these features are overlooked. The Greenspace Management Plan (2020) records these features in detail, and the concept masterplan promotes installing interpretive signage or artistic installation such as in-ground markers or mural painting to enhance these feature's interpretive value and their contribution to a special, and specific, sense of place.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN PLAY - FORMAL / ADVENTURE / SENSORY

One of the limitations of the current play provision is the segregation of the park into areas designed for different age groups. It is difficult for groups of different ages to gather and use the park in a social way.

1 | It is proposed to combine the play equipment and facilities such as picnic tables, benches and bins into one zone, through the removal of sections of fencing along the path and completing a perimeter fence to the combined play areas.

2 | A new surfaced path replaces the main route, and skirts the eastern edge of the play area. Two new gates control movement through the new play area, and provide the sense of containment many parents and carers wanted from an equipped play area.

3 | The play area has its own sensory trail, with features which make sound, reflection, colour and which are tactile along the path route through the different zones.

4 | The outdoor gym is made more appealing through resurfacing, removal of the railings, and integration of seating to offer this as a more accessible resource to the council office workers as well as local community.

5 | Install new vandal proof goals in the field.

6 | New slides feature on the embankment.

7 | Poles and log seating create an interactive, outdoor classroom space, and a starting point for forest school use of the wider park green- and blue space natural environment as a setting for learning.

8 | New skate / trampolines / rappel tower for older children gathering and active recreation.

9 | Cafe trailer, operated by a local community partner organisation or initiative, offers a social focal point.

10 | Resurface the existing footprint feature as an informal skate / bmx / scooter play opportunity.

11 | Shelter structures: open sided canopy shelters.

12 | Storage container for maintenance / play / workshop equipment.





Formal play: concentration of the play equipment, and a few new formal facilities such as goal posts, trampolines (example shown: Saughton Park) and new surfacing of the footprint feature to make the park appealing for wheeled recreation e.g. scooters, bmx, skate. A cafe trailer could provide a focal point for gathering and organising meet-ups in the park.



Informal and adventure play is also encouraged, through the proposed woodland management, new path across and throughout the park, the water features and the sensory trails.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN MAINTENANCE, SAFETY & COMMUNICATION

The park's use, and usability, is directly linked to its management and maintenance. Going forward it will be essential to find ways to communicate and to share information in a two-way dialogue.

It is important the local community has a channel to inform and report, and for the council and other park stakeholders to be able to communicate information back to the local community. There is a sense that there are facilities, groups and activities going on, but people don't know where to get information about these.

Users were also quick to point out the need for speedy response to reported issues of vandalism, fly-tipping and broken or damaged play equipment.

1 | Noticeboards at the proposed cafe trailer, which forms a new hub in the park, and at the community rain garden in the south east entrance to the park mark key locations where people could put informative notices and contact details.

2 | All respondents to the design engagement process wanted to see more seats and bins, as basic necessary facilities supporting use and enjoyment of the park. New locations are proposed, with almost all bins positioned at the park entrances.

3 | One additional bin is proposed at the new picnic area in the play park, which could be a compacting bin reducing the need for frequent emptying. This would address locals' and stakeholders' concerns about littering and the park becoming unsafe and unclean.

4 | A tool storage facility such as a reclaimed shipping container could be sited in the underused Neighbourhood centre car park. This could also store maintenance machinery / tools to enable community factoring of the park, an approach being explored in the community garden strategy prepared by Edible Estates.





Benches and picnic tables as installed recently at Saughton Park extend the use and safety of the park providing formalised places to sit and meet. Good, quality, robust bins should be provided and well maintained as part of this commitment to safety and usability of the park.

New seating is located on the primary routes to make the park more usable for all, with benches located in the area of the existing gym which now offers a seating area for Council workers and passers-by, the community rain garden, on the timber decks over the wetland / pond, cut into the embankment by the proposed cafe trailer location, and picnic tables in the newly reconciled play area.



Bins installed should be Broxap's Derby Double Wheelie Bin Housing, 140L capacity. They should be installed off the existing pavements to maintain accessible pavement widths.



The Solar Bigbelly HC5 (high capacity) is a solar-powered smart waste Compactor. It holds 5x the volume of traditional bins, and can provide automated real-time collection notifications.



Tool storage / group equipment storage in the park, facilitating its use for ad-hoc workshops and play opportunities.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION IN PLANNING

1 | Woodland maintenance and pathway creation. This can be carried out by volunteer groups. Thinning the woodland understorey, litter picking and creating pathways. Currently being carried out by ELGT with ongoing sessions throughout the year.

2 | Café Trailer. Being investigated with North Edinburgh Arts

3 | New tree, hedge and shrub planting. There is currently a £12,300 funding pot for new hedging, trees and planting enhancements across West Pilton Park in 2022/23. This will hopefully see the creation of some of these elements of the masterplan over the next year. On top of this there are other avenues of funding as well, including the sustainable food growing budget for fruiting trees and hedges.

SHORT TO MID-TERM IMPLEMENTATION

4 | Extend woodland areas. This could be done quite quickly through various tree planting projects such as Edinburgh Million Tree City or Treetime, then, implemented by community groups or corporate groups on tree planting days.

5 | Wet Meadow/wildflower meadow creation. Creation of more biodiverse nature friendly areas. Potential funding from wildlife and biodiversity sources.

MID TO LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION

6 | Pitch drainage and wetland pond creation – A dual project where the drainage from the football pitch feeds into the wetland/pond area. Funding options could be from sports, wildlife and social funds.

7 | Flexible community space for a rain garden/ community growing/community garden. Potential space for the community to take ownership of. There are several other community gardens in the area operated by fresh start, PEP etc. but if there is further interest in using the park for this then these areas are seen as good for such projects.

8 | SuDS Swale creation. Potential funding from wildlife, water and sustainability sources.

9 | Play enhancements. The park has had some recent play enhancements, but after looking at the whole park in a holistic play sense, there is so much more opportunity, slides on the slopes, skate park, climbing boulders etc. Funding will have to be sourced in the long term for this.

10 | Park Infrastructure: New paths, connections, and access. There are several new paths and entrances proposed to make West Pilton more accessible and usable. Funding will have to be sourced in the long term for this, but could come from various sources such as CEC or Sustrans. Bins, benches, shelters, and seating will also form part of this park infrastructure project.

11 | Fencing removal and changes. A lot of unnecessary fencing has been identified around West Pilton Park which either excludes access, boxes people in, or is just not needed. The funding for this would most likely be included with infrastructure and play works.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1
PROJECT WORK PLAN
(SPIRIT OF PLACE PROCESS, STAGE 1)

SCOPE - DESIGN

- Review the 2020 West Pilton Park management plan in the context of the Green Flag Award's GreenSpace Audit toolkit criteria, assessing its existing and proposed features under these parameters.
- Review the Spirit of Place process and plan for integration of the design process with its ethos, approach and process in order to pilot its use as part of the West Pilton Park conceptual masterplan development.
- Prepare a draft concept masterplan with supporting visualisations and graphics, and accompanying implementation plan/recommendations in digital format with one set of paper copies for use at initial engagement workshops.
- Provide project management services for the pilot project working group helping to ensure project is delivered successfully within timescales and budget.
- Work with the Pilot Project Working Group to evaluate the process and develop a 'case study' for the pilot. Graphically record observations, discussions and process.
- As an advance project, undertake a site visit and design of a Wee Forest to be situated within the Park.

SCOPE - ENGAGE

- Prepare visual materials such as plans and graphics for use at stakeholder engagement roadshows and digital discussions / workshops
- Support and visually record and document a participative approach, working collaboratively with ELGT, CEC Parks & Greenspace team, and other stakeholders as identified by ELGT.
- Develop and deliver 2x presentations to 3x groups of partners, including staff, Project Bid Partners, Project Board and Elected Members of progress and/or recommendations. Typically ELGT will deliver these presentations; allowance includes for attendance at 6x online meetings.
- Attend monthly Pilot Project Working Groups, providing support and advice to the group and working in collaboration with them to deliver the pilots (October - January, x4 meetings)

WORK ITEM

PREPARATION

- Review of Sprit of Place and GreenSpace Audit criteria and processes, marrying together the Greenspace Management Plan with their criteria.
- Inception meeting with ELGT and project partners.
- Graphic report describing the pilot project context

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN 1

- First draft conceptual design/s including options appraisal of discrete components of the overall park, explanatory and inspiration graphics including illustrative sections, eyelevel montages and reference images.
- Concept / options materials presented as a series of 3x A1 posters, and assembled into a PowerPoint / PDF presentation for online workshops.
- Interim review meeting with client / client's stakeholder team.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN 2

- Development of concept masterplan to incorporate findings and feedback from engagement workshops. Package information from design and engagment into A4 format graphic report + A1 posters for workshops
- Client review meeting.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - FINAL

- Final production concept landscape masterplan for West Pilton Park, including commentary on process of design and Spirit of Place.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

- Preparae an implementation programme, including volunteer strategy.

APPENDIX 2
EXPERIENCE DESIGN CHECKLIST AND TIMESCALES - ORIGINAL NTS RESOURCE

TASK	WHAT/WHO CAN HELP?	QUESTIONS TO ASK	WHAT'S NEEDED?	IN PLACE?	WHO'S LEADING?	DEADLINE
Understand significance and spirit of place	Property specific documentation e.g. Conservation Statements, Management Plans, Design Landscape Surveys, Spirit of Place guidance and case studies Curator; Spirit of Place Champion; Wide range of technical specialists and operational staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did we acquire this place? How has it evolved over time? What is of greatest significance? What is beautiful or inspiring about this place? What makes it unique, distinctive and cherished by people today? 	Update/revisit statement of significance	No		
			Understand/map designations for the historic and natural environment			
			Understand/map historic buildings and structures			
			Understand/map historic circulation routes by type and phase			
			Understand/map historic designed views			
			Develop or refine Spirit of Place			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Analyse audience: size, profile and potential	Supporter intelligence; Regional Growth Analysis packs; MI dashboard + VE survey; Gift Aid data; data collected by property and local tourism reports Insight Consultants; Marketing Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where do we compete for visits? In terms of experience, what makes the property stand out from competing places/ attractions? What is its USP? What can we learn from others who deliver a comparable offer well? 	Visitor numbers and trends			
			When visitors visit			
			Age, segment and member/payer mix			
			Visit frequency (who repeats?)			
			Distance travelled and means of travel to the property			
			Reliance on residential and/or tourist markets			
			Other properties visited by our visitors			
			Drive time membership penetration			
			Number and profile of non-visiting members			
			A profile of the residential and tourist markets			
			The scope to grow			
Workshop/meeting to discuss questions						
Review current audience experience and motivation	VE survey; insight gathered by property; Audience Insight pack; focus groups if necessary. VE Consultant; VE team at property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent are we providing an experience which reflects what our visitors want? How does this vary across the different segments? Are we offering experiences which enable our visitors to forge a greater emotional connection with the place? What aspects of the experience need to improve? 	Understand current audience motivation – what do visitors want from a visit?			
			Establish how visitors are currently engaging with the experience			
			Analyse visitor enjoyment – what do visitors think about the current offer, infrastructure and service?			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			

Consider how spirit of place underpins the property.	Case studies from past projects. VE Consultant; Curator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does/could this place genuinely and positively impact on people's lives? • In what way does/should the Trust engage with visitors? (e.g. do we facilitate their visit, do we provide a venue, do we co-create experiences or is the Trust in expert mode?) • What are the different ways in which the SOP could be used to shape visitor activity, interpretative approach and public programmes? 	Using SOP, identify the ways in which a place delivers public benefit and the implications for how the Trust engages with visitors (i.e. the role we play in their visit)			
			Explore how the SOP could/does drive visitor activity and the overarching interpretative approach			
			Seek to distil this thinking into one or a number of core proposition ideas. A core proposition should articulate on what basis people engage with the place – it should go beyond significance and story, and extend to how people derive benefit through their experience and our ways of working to achieve this			
			Potentially soft market test this thinking with audiences			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Review current components of the experience	Component and infrastructure input worksheet and Vision XS benchmarking categories. VE Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there particular components which appeal to specific segments? • Is the location of these components creating zones? • Is there scope to increase the dwell time or visitor numbers through the development of new or low capacity components? • Where are we investing in components, are these within or beyond any pay barrier? What are the implications of this? 	Determine the number of components and review alongside audience size and dwell time			
			Determine which components are high capacity, low capacity and repeatable			
			Consider segment appeal and position relative to the pay barrier			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Analyse competitors and comparators	There are no bespoke resources. This information is best gathered through desk based research and visits. Marketing and/or Insight Consultants with input from VE Consultant and/or VE team at property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do we compete for visits? • In terms of experience, what makes the property stand out from competing places/ attractions? What is its USP? • What can we learn from others who deliver a comparable offer well? 	Focusing on both those who compete for visits locally/regionally and those who have a comparable offer from which we learn/ benchmark, seek to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition • Target audience • Visitor numbers • Planned developments • Programming • Pricing 			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			

Understand spatial context and parameters	There will be a multitude of place specific documents (including Estate Management Plan). Discussion with the appropriate internal specialists is the most effective way in which to decipher and map the information required. Conservation for Access. Land Use Planning Manager; Building Surveyor; Conservator; Wildlife and Countryside Consultant; Estate Manager; Conservation Data Manager. You may wish to involve a landscape architect at this stage who could distil this information into a Spatial Analysis Plan.	This analysis seeks to build a multi-layered understanding of the place which should be used as a basis for discussions in Stage 2. In so doing, it is important to consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the constraints within which any current or future visitor offer will need to operate? • Where is there the greatest scope for change and the ability to accommodate possible future growth? • Build a picture of planning context (designations, policies, and relationship with the planning authorities) 	Build a picture of location and capacity of site services (power, IT, water, sewerage/waste etc)			
			Build a picture of conservation carrying capacity (buildings and gardens) and impact			
			Build a picture of NT ownership, tenancies and current land management			
			Build a picture of topography			
			Build a picture of rights of way			
			Build a picture of ground conditions			
			Build a picture of locations of buildings			
			Build a picture of relationship to nodes of public transport			
			Build a picture of access of public highways			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Model infrastructure capacity requirements	Component and infrastructure input worksheet; infrastructure calculator; Catering Operational Design Toolkit Experience Design Leads will be trained on the application of the infrastructure calculator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the visitor infrastructure sufficient in terms of size and quality of provision for the current number of visitors? • Can current infrastructure absorb growth and at what scale? • If not, in what do we need to invest? 	For car parking, toilets and catering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model the capacity required based on the current visitor numbers and projected future scenarios • Compare needs with current provision (volume/quality) • Operational sense check • Identify areas likely to require investment 			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Review current zoning and flow	There are a number of ways in which we better understand visitor movement: observation, counters and many regions have GPS trackers VE Consultant and VE team at property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there distinct zones, pinch points and routes? • Are the key elements of the experience (pay barrier, visitor infrastructure, commercial offer, moveable components) in the optimal location? • In what ways is the current visitor route impacting on understanding and enjoyment? 	Understand how visitors currently use the site (all modes of transport and on foot)			
			Consider (and possibly map) how access points, the pay barrier, infrastructure, components, commercial offer and back stage areas relate to each other			
			Consider whether spaces closed to the public impact on understanding and enjoyment			
			Identify and map experience high points (moments provoking an emotional response)			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			

Review and benchmark commercial performance	<p>MI dashboard; category performance reports; central catering and retail report; Store Environment Project Toolkit; Catering Operational Design Toolkit; Holidays Review and Investment Guidance</p> <p>Commercial Support Consultant and Senior Commercial property staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are our commercial functions performing? • What factors underpin this performance? • Is there scope for improvement and growth? 	RETAIL: Analyse sales, contributions, SPH, conversion, ATV, category performance relative to audience, sales space versus income generated, layout and operational constraints			
			CATERING: Analyse sales, contribution, SPH, conversion, ATV, catering offer type relative to audience, layout and operational constraints			
			ACCOMMODATION: Draw out relevant findings from regional reviews and investment guidance			
Review operating model, financial performance and position	<p>The long term financial plan (Agresso)</p> <p>Financial Business Partner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the overall business performing? • How financially reliant is the property and portfolio on the visitor business and what are the implications of this? • Is the current operating model optimising member value? • How much does the portfolio currently have to invest? 	Understand the current available reserves at a property and ongoing maintenance need			
			Review pay barrier and pricing alongside admissions and membership			
			Review composition of income/expenditure, reliance on the visitor business and the key financial risks			
			Understand financial trends and monthly profile			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			
Staff, volunteers and stakeholders	<p>Community involvement resources.</p> <p>Volunteer and Participation Consultant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there stakeholders we should involve in the Experience Design process and at what stage? • Are there people constraints which should shape pace and approach to implementation of change? 	Understand staff and volunteer structure, capability and capacity. This is important context to the work in Stage 2 as future changes may impact on staff and volunteers.			
			Potentially undertake stakeholder mapping to understand who may need to be involved in Experience Design and in what way.			
			Workshop/meeting to discuss questions			

