



Glasgow National Park City

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Let's make Glasgow
a National Park City



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The concept of a National Park City is simple – to use the familiar 'idea' of a National Park to inspire a shared vision for greener, healthier and wilder cities – where people, places and nature are better connected. The National Park City movement presents an exciting new opportunity for Glasgow to join an emerging international network of cities committed to this concept.

In July 2019 London became the world's first National Park City. We are now working to establish Glasgow as one of the next to achieve the designation alongside other cities across the globe, from Galway to Adelaide.

Why become a National Park City?

Glasgow has all the assets to make a fantastic National Park City:

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Glasgow is already a fantastic green city; parks and greenspaces are at the heart of our “Dear Green Place”. Glasgow is more green than grey with 58% of our land area being greenspace – an area of 96km²: bigger than Loch Lomond. We’re also a fantastic gateway to the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park itself, a short train ride away.

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Glasgow is a fantastic ‘blue’ city; with rivers, canals and other ‘blue spaces’ core to its history and heritage – and core to its possibilities as a sustainable and ecological city of the future.

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Glasgow is a fantastic cultural city; its culture is second to none – its arts and music scene, its museums, and its architecture, but most of all its people – give Glasgow a unique cultural heritage and contemporary vibe.

Although Glasgow is arguably ‘weel kent’ for its culture, it is less celebrated for its abundant green and blue space. Glasgow also suffers from infamous health inequalities and huge areas of vacant and derelict land. Establishing Glasgow as a National Park City is an opportunity to transform the city and the perceptions of residents and visitors alike.

Becoming a National Park City would:

- Encourage residents and visitors better to enjoy, understand and care for the city
- Help to protect and enhance our urban natural and cultural heritage
- Foster the wellbeing of our communities
- Inspire individuals, groups and organisations to work together to help Glasgow become a greener, healthier and wilder city.

Of course, lots of people and organisations are already working on ideas and projects to improve and celebrate the nature, people and places of our city – from local authority policies and strategies to community action on the ground, and on issues ranging from greenspace management to improving air quality. The aim of the National Park City is to inspire a wider audience to feel part of this work and to take their own action to achieve the ‘greener, healthier, wilder’ vision.

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Our Vision

We believe in a future in which Glasgow is:

- A place where everyone is engaged with nature and the outdoors.
- A city where nature is thriving and spaces and places are connected.
- A city that's reducing its ecological and environmental impact.
- A place where connecting people and nature helps deliver social and environmental justice and reduces inequality.
- A place where every child has the chance to learn and have fun in nature every day.
- A city with clean, healthy air.
- A city where people are proud of their natural and cultural heritage.
- A place where everyone has access to green, healthy, sustainable travel.
- A city nearing the top of health and wellbeing tables instead of the bottom.
- A place where excellent design delivers buildings and spaces that respond to the needs of people and nature.
- A place where everyone feels empowered and inspired to make our city greener, healthier and wilder.

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"Greenspaces make a big difference to our quality of life and sense of place – they are our natural health service, our children's outdoor classrooms and our city's green lungs. At greenspace scotland we believe that everyone should enjoy easy access to quality local greenspaces."

Julie Proctor, Greenspace Scotland

"Operation Play Outdoors welcomes the campaign to make Glasgow a National Park City, we firmly believe in the importance of protecting our natural environment but also using our greenspaces to enjoy nature, socialise, play and build communities."

Craig Thomson Operation Play Outdoors



"We work everyday to Connect People and Greenspaces and deliver lasting outcomes for both – so we share the vision of Glasgow National Park City where Glasgow is a leading example of how cities can be great for nature, and great for the people and communities who live there."

Debbie Adams – The Conservation Volunteers

"Free Wheel North has many of the same aims as National Park City. We aim to create a healthier, happier Glasgow, where children can play freely on the street where they live and where adults can mingle in the space between buildings. Active travel is at the heart of our work and this means access and connectivity for everyone including those with mobility and mental health issues. We believe people have a human right to a safe environment in which the air is clean and bird song can be heard, where pedestrians, cyclists and wheel chair users can move freely in their communities without being diverted around obstacle courses that only serve the movement of motor vehicles. A National Park City would enable everyone to exercise those rights and have access to local space and to the natural world."

Norman Armstrong Free Wheel North

"The Glasgow National Park City initiative would help connect thousands of people with the nature on their doorstep. This would represent a hugely positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to Glasgow."

Dr William Bird, Intelligent Health

"We think that Glasgow becoming a National Park City would be good for wildlife and the people who live here. It would highlight the numerous parks, gardens and nature reserves in the city and help to improve connectivity between greenspaces across Glasgow."

Emma Iller – Urban Roots

"As a charity that regularly uses Glasgow's green spaces, Venture Scotland encourage the disadvantaged young people we work with to connect with nature and ultimately reap the health and wellbeing benefits that spending time in green spaces provides. Creating Glasgow National Park City will provide a happy healthier city for its residents, its visitors and its nature that lives amongst us all."

Venture Scotland

"Glasgow has one of the lowest levels of car ownership in Britain, yet we currently give more than 25 percent of our city space over to roads (compared to just 12 percent in Edinburgh). This needs to change. We must transform Glasgow so that our people are prioritised – with pedestrian-friendly spaces linking together all our beautiful parks. Carfree Glasgow was founded in 2016 to help us imagine a healthier and more sustainable future for our city, by closing our roads to traffic to celebrate World Carfree Day on 22 September every year. We hope to be part of the effort to make Glasgow into the National Park City we can all enjoy."

Ellie Harrison, Carfree Glasgow

"Lochend Surgery supports the Glasgow National Park City because we believe that everyone in the City should be able to enjoy the benefits of access to good quality greenspace, clean air and healthy, local food."

Dr Emma Sheppard – Lochend Surgery





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What Next

How do we become a National Park City?

To become a designated and Internationally recognised National Park City we will put together an application to the National Park City Foundation:

Stage 1 – Publish our vision

This document lays out the key elements of our vision. It seeks to engage and excite supporters, partners and others to see all the reason why we believe Glasgow would make a fantastic National Park City.

It also seeks to state shared aims that as a National Park City Partnership we will work together to achieve. We are now beginning consultations to gather further ideas and proposals.

We will continue to work with partners, supporters and other organisations to agree a clear framework of what we'd like to deliver through the National Park City. This will be a mixture of recognising and promoting some of the excellent projects and programmes already happening in the City, and mapping out proposals to achieve our aspirations for the City in future. It will combine short term projects and longer term goals.

Get involved! We need your help: feed in your thoughts, attend events, and share our vision with others – we want your ideas on why Glasgow would make a great National Park City, and the projects and aspirations which you'd like to see included and believe a National Park City partnership can help deliver.

Stage 2 – Demonstrate Support

Having created that ambitious vision for Glasgow as an international leader amongst Greener, Wilder, Healthier Cities, we will need to share it widely and demonstrate the support of a wide cross section of people and organisations in Glasgow. It will only be achievable in partnership with the organisations and people of Glasgow – so to become a National Park City we will need to demonstrate understanding of, and agreement with, the vision, by key organisations and individuals from community groups to councillors, from charities to politicians.

Get involved! Sign up as a supporter organisation – be an advocate and ambassador – share our vision with your organisation, your councillors, your local MP, your community group, your neighbours...

Stage 3 – Make a successful application to the NPC Foundation!

Stage 4 – Work together with partners, supporters and others to deliver the vision of the National Park City

Once declared a National Park City, a group comprising representatives of supporters and partners will continue to provide inspiration for new ideas and oversight of the vision and projects within our agreed framework. The group will:

- Facilitate regular networking and promote connections between a wide partnership of supporters and interested members of the public;
- Establish a strong online presence to share the vision of the National Park City, to link those who wish to work together to deliver its aims, and to amplify their work;
- Monitor the National Park City framework to ensure the progress of agreed short term projects and our longer-term aspirations;
- Work with partners to develop and encourage new National Park City projects;
- Coordinate an annual State of the National Park City report – reviewing progress and agreeing plans for the coming year.



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