



From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire
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Sustainability Committee

Thursday 23rd February 2023

Elizabeth Stanyer (North)

Tajana Telišman Šošić (South)

Greenspace Projects Officers

Landscape Services

Environment and Sustainability





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Overview of presentation

1. Progress since 2020 with Community and Council Partnerships
2. Types of greenspace improvements
3. Direction of Project





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Working with communities in different ways

Community partnerships

- Growing Living Greenspaces
- Perennials for Pollinators
- Wee Forests
- Queen's Green Canopy
- Private Sector
- Greenspace Project Guidance

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Growing Living Greenspaces

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'22-23 Application Open Now

Growing Living Greenspaces is a new initiative by Aberdeenshire Council's Greenspace Project.

Community groups can get native trees and shrubs, fruit trees, wildflower plugs, and bulbs to plant on Council land between September 2022 and April 2023.

All planting will be subject to wider consultation and project planning.

To download an application form and supporting information, please visit our website using link or QR code:

<https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/growing-living-greenspaces/>

Applications close Monday 8th August 2022





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Growing Living Greenspaces

Supporting 38 groups across Aberdeenshire planting bulbs, wildflower plugs, native trees, native shrubs, Scottish heritage fruit trees and bushes on Aberdeenshire Council Land





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Perennials for Pollinators

Offering 60 pollinator friendly herbaceous perennials to groups also receiving annual bedding.

86 groups applied in 2023.





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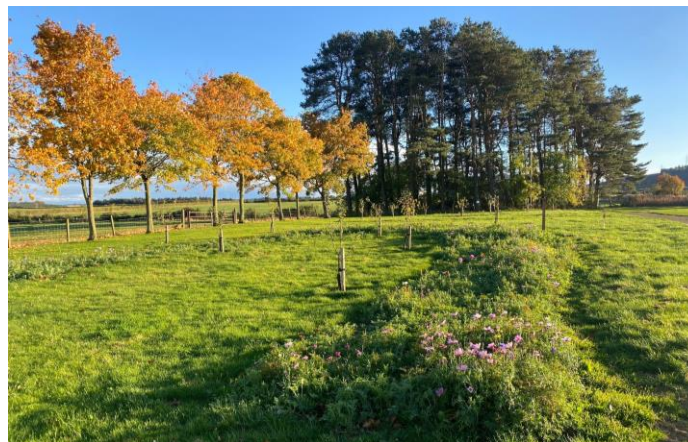
Wee Wood in Newburgh





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Queen's Green Canopy in Echt and Strichen





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Volunteers and Planting Events





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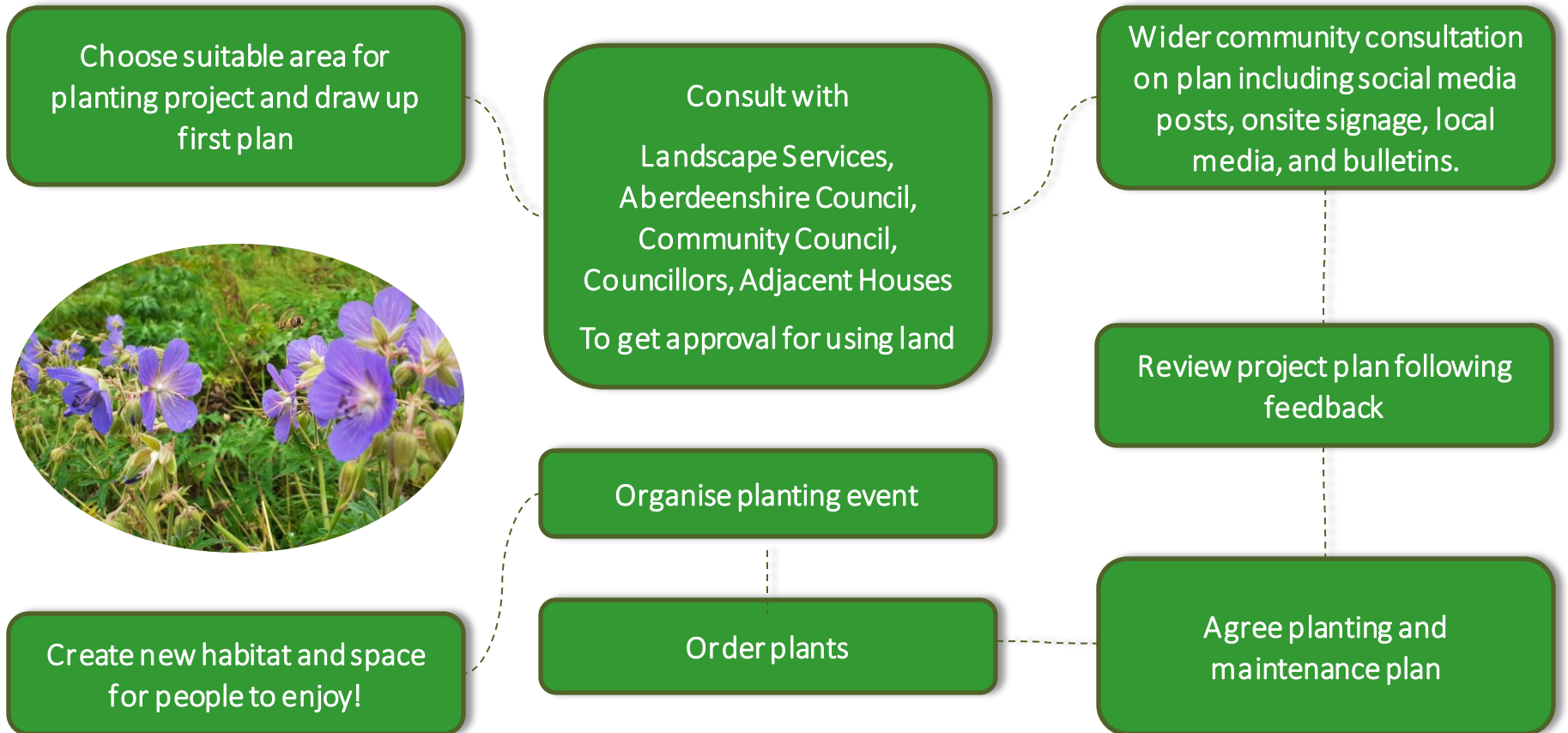
Volunteers and Planting Events





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Greenspace Project Guidance





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Communications

We Have an Orchard



By Jane Cruickshank / November 30, 2019



I'm not going to lie – today was one of the loveliest mornings I've had in a long time as a boring patch of useless grass I walk past every day was transformed into an orchard. And it's a 'pick your own' orchard in the truest sense, as the apples now growing in the Mill Lade are there for us all to harvest, use and enjoy. It is a community orchard.

I'm not one for rosy glow sentiments, but the sun was shining and it was absolutely delightful to have everyone literally mucking in, with burly men of Aberdeenshire Council's landscape services department joining forces with Horizon volunteers, members of the community council, the Men's Shed, councillors and keen members of the public who'd turned up to help with the happy task – notably the Hunter family: Walter, Nola, Reife and Rio.

And it was a job made very much more cheery, thanks to the aforementioned council employees who had already done most of the heavy work – removing a circle of turf and digging holes all ready for the 25 young trees.



The orchard is part of Aberdeenshire's green spaces and biodiversity project by Tajana Telisman Susic. The local authority supplied the trees together with compost, fertiliser, posts, etc.



Neil Clapperton of Common Weald Cider also supported the scheme – and laid out the planting arrangement. It is hoped some picnic benching will be in place for next year, so we can all go and enjoy the trees and the riverside. In the meantime, start looking up recipes for apple pie.

61 52 comments 2 shares

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

Morag Fraser Finnie (Top fan)
Why are some folk being so negative Scatter seeds .. flowers grow .. If my memory serves me correctly . Wasn't there wild flowers growing along the Gadle Braes .. and is the play park still in use? Maybe not fruit trees .. native ones might be more ... [See more](#)

Jane Lawrie (Top fan)
If they maintain them and don't leave them full of rubbish like Kirk St and Clerkhill Road. Once a year they come up and cut back the ones at my gate but it's me who picks all the rubbish that the kids throw down and the same kids demolish the bushes ... [See more](#)

Hayley Olivia
I think this is a good idea and when things like this to improve the town are happening, I think it's a great idea to get all ranges to help out, especially the kids, to try educate and teach them not to destroy what they have, also stop them being bor... [See more](#)

Morag Fraser Finnie (Top fan)
Personally I take my hat off to everyone who is trying to improve the Gadle Braes and surrounding area.... The play park has been a success Wild flowers look pretty and attract wildlife. trees may prove a bit of a problem with the weather , wind a... [See more](#)





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Working with communities in different ways

Landscape Services partnerships

- Rangers and Environmental Planners
- Education and Children's Services
- Housing
- Social Services
- Properties and Facilities
- Transport
- Area Teams
- Sustainability Champions

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Rangers and Environmental Planners





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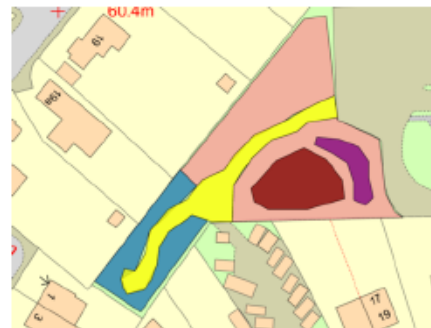
Education and Children's Services





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Housing and Social Services



<u>Key</u>	
Native Trees	
<i>Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Whitebeam, Rowan, Oak, Silver birch, Wild Cherry, Goat Willow</i>	
Shrubs	
<i>Hazel, Guelder Rose, Buddleia, Eared Willow, Spindle</i>	
Fruit trees and bushes	
<i>Gooseberry, Redcurrant, Blackcurrant, Apple, Plum</i>	
Yellow Rattle/Wildflowers	
Mown Path	



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Properties and Facilities and Transport



PLANTING SCHEDULE

All planting to be carried out in the first planting season, following completion of development.

All trees to be planted in established pits or fenced pits, backfilled with a good loam and slow release fertilizer.

Care should be taken to ensure that all trees are planted a minimum of 2m away from all footpaths and service strips.

Ground preparation for wildflower areas - subsoil or minimal topsoil depending on conditions for wildflower mix areas.

Shrub beds are to be spaced with the fertilizer and mulched before planting.

Front gardens are to be turfled with approved, good quality turves (unless otherwise specified). Rear gardens are to be seeded during March - September or turfed if the landscaping is scheduled outside of this time. The soil shall be of loam texture and free from stones over 15mm in any one direction. Open spaces are to be either turfled or seeded, with an approved proprietary mix appropriate to the location.

MAINTENANCE REGIME

Grass
General amenity grass cut 15 times per year.
All cuttings to be valued and removed from the site.

Bulbs
Delay the grass mowing until bulb's leaves have died back.

Wildflowers
Native species on the meadow mixes suitable only well on land that has low fertility, no fertilizer should not be added.
Mechanical control always require maintenance by annual cutting or grazing, without which they eventually turn into rank grass then scrub or woodland.
All cuttings to be valued and removed from the site.
Leaving cuttings will add fertility and can also mulch out your meadow smothering your meadow mix. NCCRB were set up on your meadow.
Early meadow cut in the first year - an early cut can be useful after sowing if overseeded annual weeds from an existing seed bed sown and grow rapidly. Cutting down these annual weeds maintains composition for water, light and nutrients. This cut is not always needed. As a guide this cut is helpful if annual weed growth exceeds 30 cm after about 3 weeks at which point the area can be cut to no lower than 10 cm. The meadow grass seedlings can often be seen at this stage and the aim of cutting is to remove most of the weed growth without cutting the meadow grasses and wildflower seedlings. Cut material should be removed so that it does not lie on top of the seedlings and smother them. This cut may not be necessary if there is little growth, few weed plants, or the appearance is acceptable. Your meadow species will often sprout even with a heavy infestation of annual weeds which will die out as the meadow develops.
Ongoing management for meadow mix: Meadows should be cut, and the cuttings removed once a year at the end of the growing season (normally September). Often this is the only management required. Cutting for hay earlier in the season is also possible as long as the Yellow Rattle has finished flowering and shed its seed. Grazing with animals may be used for managing the meadow by grazing at the end and/or beginning of the growing season, leaving the meadow grazed during the middle of the season to allow plants to flower. Heavier grazing over a very short period of time is preferable to light grazing for a long period as there will be less selection of particular plants by the animals.
Weeding: Pull or spot spray any perennial weeds such as Dock, Nettles and Ragwort. If the site is free of the seed of these weeds, then they are not usually a problem once the meadow is established.

Shrubs
The objective is to provide a full even cover and prevent overcrowding. To that end the site should be inspected once per year by a suitably qualified horticulturalist and the following regime followed.
The shrub beds shall be kept clear of weeds, either mechanically or by using an approved herbicide.
Shrubs shall be pruned up to beds per year, in Spring and Autumn depending on the species, to maintain their natural shape and habit. Any damaged, diseased or broken branches should be removed.
In the first five years all dead and dying shrubs should be replaced by those of similar size and species to those originally planted.
From the second year beds should be inspected and thinned out where appropriate. Where necessary these shrubs can be used to fill gaps in the planting area. Otherwise gaps should be filled with appropriate new plants similar size and species to those originally planted. After 10 years a systematic programme of replacement should be established.

Trees
Trees have been chosen for their appropriateness to their individual location.
Pruning, other than for health and safety reasons, should not be necessary.
An arborist should be inspected by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist annually.
An arborist should be inspected at the base of the trees should be kept clear of weeds and grass either mechanically or by using an approved herbicide.
Tree canopies and trees should be inspected 3 times per year (Autumn, Winter and Spring).
Tree canopies and trees should be inspected 3 times per year (Autumn, Winter and Spring).
All dead and diseased tree material should be removed as soon as it is noticed. Any dead or damaged material should be clearly removed and the area cleaned up.
All trees which have been planted should be inspected by the arborist annually. Any dead or damaged material should be replaced by trees of similar size and species to those originally planted. These should be replaced as soon as seasonal weather conditions allow.

Most plants have been chosen taking into account the recommendation of the Field Plant Selector
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/selector-form>
Scotland's Native Trees and Shrubs
<https://www2.gov.scot/Publications/2022/06/14891/5565>
Trees and shrubs native to Scotland
<https://www.nature.scot/trees-and-shrubs-native-scotland>
Trees and shrubs native to north-west Scotland
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/19315/2012-01-09-native-tree-species.pdf>

Where possible, plants which are particularly attractive to bees and wildlife have been used.

- KEY**
- TREES**
- Ag - *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder) - 5
 - Ba - *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch) - 21
 - Ba1 - *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch) - multi stem - 10
 - Pa - *Prunus avium* (Sweet Wild cherry) - 15
 - Pr - *Prunus padalis* (Bird cherry) - 5
 - Pr - *Prunella domestica* (Elder) - 5
 - Q - *Quercus robur* (Oak) - 3
 - Sa - *Sorbus domestica* (Rowan) - 27
- ORCHARD TREES**
- Pdv - *Prunus domestica* 'Victoria' (Victoria plum) - 6
 - Md1 - *Malus domestica* 'Discovery' (semi dwarf apple tree) - 10

All the above trees to be heavily staked size 10 (4mm green) double stick staked and oak barked. Where trees are planted into turf, an area 1m dia. at the base of the tree, should be mulched and kept clear of weeds and grass and other Abertons materials.

All trees to be planted with underground girdling system and to be fitted in standard spiral guard tree shelters, size to suit individual tree, with mulch applied in a 1m dia from the centre of the tree.

- SHRUBS**
- Ca - *Cornus*
 - CaE - *Cornus*
 - CaF - *Cornus*
 - CaS - *Cornus*
 - Hb - *Hebe*
 - W - *Wiburnum*
 - Ba - *Berberis*
 - Sg - *Saxifraga*
 - Pr - *Prunus*
 - Sa - *Sorbus*
 - Pr - *Prunus*
 - Pr - *Prunus*

- BULB MIX**
- DB - Bulbs per area
 - Ab - Allium
 - C - Crocus
 - Cr - Crocus sativus
 - Gal - Galanthus
 - Hy - Hyacinth
 - Ip - Ipheion
 - Pr - Primula
 - Sc - Scilla
 - Sp - Spigelia
 - T - Tulip
 - W - Wintercreeper

- WILDFLOWERS**
- U - Urban Praeger

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Area Team

Queen's Green Canopy
Buchan Health and Wellbeing Hub
Climate Ready Strathdon

Sustainability Champions

Monthly catch-ups
Collaboration across services





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Outputs and Inputs

Meadow making

Food growing

Woodland creation

A1 Maps

Strategy and Plans

- Pollinator Action Plan
- Food Growing Strategy
- Road Verges Policy (planting in the road verge)

Monitoring before and after

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Outputs and Inputs





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Outputs and Inputs

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Outputs and Inputs

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Direction

Continuation of partnership building

- New developments and open spaces
- Carbon offset measurement
- No-Mow May / Let it Bloom June

Operational review

- Timing and type of grass, shrub and hedge cutting for habitat and biodiversity
- Weed control alternatives
- Mapping improvements
- Finance – developing projects for grant funding
- Monitoring – expanding engagement with Rangers, Nesbrec, Nesbip, citizen science campaigns, etc.





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Thank you

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Tajana Telišman Šošić
Greenspace Projects Officers

 @greenspaceaberdeenshire

 @AberdeenshireGreenspace





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Further information can be found on the Greenspace page of the Council website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/>

We have produced, in partnership with North-East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, a leaflet on managing our green spaces:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25397/managingourgreenspacesforpeopleandwildlifeleaflet-june2020.pdf>



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What will these areas look like?

Some areas will not be cut, which means that grasses and wildflowers will be able to grow and flower to their full potential.



If larger areas are left uncut, you may find paths and areas to sit cut through them, allowing members of the public to continue to enjoy these wildflower areas fully.

Where cutting is reduced to certain times of year, the height of the plants will still often be quite short. Here you may notice finer grasses and lower-growing wildflower species.



What pollinators will I see?

Wild pollinators include bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, beetles, butterflies and moths.

For more information see: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24878/pollinatoridentificationleaflet.pdf>



Where do the wildflowers come from?

While some areas may be actively sown with seed by the Council, native north-east Scotland wildflower seeds are often already present in the ground. It is regular grass-cutting which stops them from being able to grow naturally. Not cutting an area or cutting later in the year (after wildflowers have grown and produced seeds) means more new flowers will appear.

Will all council-owned areas of grass be managed like this?

No, some greenspaces such as sports pitches and lawns of care homes will still be mown regularly for use and access.

Can I encourage wildflowers and pollinators on my lawn at home?

Yes, by reducing mowing frequency and removing cuttings or leaving a patch uncut completely or until autumn. For more advice on how to help pollinators in your garden see: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24879/5stepsforpollinators.pdf>

NESBIP also has a North East Scotland Biodiversity – wildlife gardening group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthEastScotlandWildlifeGardening>

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Managing our greenspaces for people and wildlife



Produced in conjunction with the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBIP) and Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.

