



THE BURDIEHOUSE BURN VALLEY PARK STEERING GROUP

PURPOSE

The Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park Steering Group was set up by the South Edinburgh Partnership in response to community concerns about the park's shabby, rundown, and unkempt appearance. In 2003 the Partnership commissioned a seven year development plan to provide a blueprint for the regeneration and future management of the 20 hectare, two mile long park.

One of the principal recommendations of the plan was to have the park designated as a local nature reserve. This recognised the important ecological value of the park, its potential to provide an educational and recreational resource for the community, and provided protection against future urban development. In February 2007 the park was designated by the City of Edinburgh Council under the 1949 Countryside Act as a Local Nature Reserve, which makes it one of only six across the city.

Since 2003 the Steering Group has secured over £750,000 to fund an extensive development programme, which has included an extensive tree planting programme, replacement of boundaries, art work, an annual events programme, path improvement, signage, and a skate park.

CONTEXT

The Group is coordinated and supported by a member of the SEP Support Team and reported to the BASC group and addresses the national priorities of:

- engaging community engagement
- building safer, stronger, and attractive communities
- improving health

The development programme links to the CEC Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, CEC Access Strategy, and the Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan.

FUNDING

The Group has recently received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People grant programme to develop a ten year management plan, a visitor plan, and a heritage conservation plan. The grant also funds the establishment of a "Friends" of the park group, a volunteer ranger service, and the establishment of a constituted management group and working protocol.

MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Group consists of:

- Community representatives - 15
- City of Edinburgh Council – Services for Communities Department
- City of Edinburgh Council – Planning Department
- City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Service
- South Edinburgh Partnership
- Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust
- South Edinburgh Volunteer Centre
- South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative

The Steering Group meets on a quarterly basis to receive progress reports on development work, discuss management issues, and agree an annual development programme. Implementation of the development programme has been devolved to a smaller management group which meets on a monthly basis. The membership of this group consists of:

- CEC Countryside Ranger
- Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust
- South Edinburgh Partnership
- Community Representative – 4

Alan Bell
Support Team Officer