

Call for Volunteers for the Green Infrastructure Mapping Pilot Project: contribute to a vision for Edinburgh's green spaces



What is the project about?

The Green Infrastructure Mapping Pilot Project is part of Edinburgh City Council's [Thriving Green Spaces](#) programme of work. It is led by the University of Edinburgh, Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) and EDINA digital experts. The pilot will develop and test a green infrastructure mapping application on selected park sites in the city of Edinburgh. The application will be able to provide up-to-date monitoring of the location and quality of greenspaces in the city, using the Green Infrastructure (GI) factor based on the Natural Capital Standard (NCS) developed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

The final app is meant to facilitate public engagement with city parks and other green (and blue) spaces and provide a management tool for Parks staff. Tool development will only be possible through the valuable work of volunteers undertaking citizen science to populate it and test its usability.

Why we need you and what you will gain by participating

We are recruiting members of Edinburgh community groups (Friends of parks) to volunteer to collect data to populate and test the app from end of February to July 2020. As part of this project, we are also keen to capture your experiences of participating in citizen science as well as your experiences of different types of green spaces in the city. The following parks are set to be mapped as part of the pilot:

- Meadows/Bruntsfield Links
- Saughton Park
- Cramond Foreshore
- A further park to be considered for inclusion (with woodland)

You will receive training in use of the tool, become familiar with how types of green spaces are being valued for biodiversity and health and wellbeing and you will have input into and throughout the tool development process. You will also meet other volunteers from community groups, including

university students we recruit to assist you in mapping, and have the opportunity to develop new friendships and collaborations. If you volunteer for Phase 1, we will pair you with a student so you won't need to have your own smart phone, but for data collection for the rest of the park locations, you would be using your own smart phones with the downloaded app.

When we need you and time commitment

The pilot project will take place in phases and we welcome your participation throughout.

Phase 1 – Meadows/Bruntsfield Links data collection at end of February/beginning of March

We are recruiting volunteers for the first test phase of tool development to take place in the Meadows/Bruntsfield Links. University of Edinburgh third year undergraduate students on the Nature, Greenspace and Health course will work with you on data collection in the Meadows for the pilot tool. During data collection activities, the students will also ask you about your experiences of participating in the Meadows mapping and of different types of green spaces.

Deadline to register participation: 17 February 2020

Time commitment: an afternoon week of 2 March (4 March TBC)

Phase 2 – User needs workshop in end March/early April

We would like to recruit across Friends of parks groups for a community engagement user needs workshop where we will discuss the functionality of the tool and any changes that could be made, using initial volunteers' experiences. Your input will be used to further develop and refine the tool.

Deadline to register participation: 9 March 2020

Time commitment: ½ day

Phase 3 – Training and data collection for the rest of the pilot park locations in June and July

We will hold three training workshops for volunteers in June with data collection in July in the remaining three park sites. You will collect data to populate the tool in each location, and you can also participate in our study to gather your experience of contributing to a citizen science-based project and your perceptions of different types of green spaces.

Deadline to register participation: 11 May, 2020

Time commitment: ½ day for attendance at the training workshop and 1 day for data collection

Phase 4 – Project results workshop in early September

We will invite you to a final debriefing workshop, where we will discuss project results and gather any final feedback you might have.

Deadline to register participation: 3 August 2020

Time commitment: ½ day

PLEASE CONTACT: Elizabeth Vander Meer at the University of Edinburgh by email at elizabeth.vandermeer@ed.ac.uk to register your interest to participate. Many thanks and we look forward to meeting you!