



Central Scotland Green Network

CSGN CASE STUDY:

SHOTTS NATURE PARK

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project aimed to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Shotts Nature Park becoming a community greenspace, which took place in 2020. An important focus of this project was enhancing and creating wetland habitats to boost biodiversity in the park.

Consultations took place in 2019, and then Green Action Trust's landscape design team created a project plan and identified interventions, incorporating feedback from the local community.

Work was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but completed in 2023, enhancing a valued local greenspace, improving access and supporting biodiversity.

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1990, Shotts Nature Park is a valued local greenspace for both people and wildlife. At the time of this project, it was owned by Green Action Trust.

Shotts Nature Park is regularly used by the local community for exercise, recreation, active travel and outdoor learning. It was already a good place for wildlife, with a mix of habitats. However, the facilities needed some upgrades, and Green Action Trust also wanted to enhance the park's biodiversity.

Consultations with the local community took place to find out more about how they used the park, what they valued about the site, and the changes they would like to see. This empowered them to shape developments at their community greenspace.

Required improvements identified included upgrading the path network, which was often inaccessible or closed; improving signage and seating around the site; and making it a better place for wildlife.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

Access improvements: increasing accessibility and movement around the site was key. The park's path network was improved, upgrading paths that had become inaccessible, and new seating and signage was installed.

Biodiversity improvements: these included the restoration and enhancement of existing habitats to boost biodiversity in the park. A series of scrapes were dug out to create new wetland habitats, a new pond was developed, and the existing pond was further dug out to create a longer lasting wetland area. These new features will serve as drinking water, food sources, and actual habitat for a variety of wildlife.

In addition, pollinator-friendly planting, such as wildflower seed and plug plants, was carried out across the site, and oak trees were planted to enhance woodland edges.



Pond and path: before



Pond and path: after

CSGN & NPF OUTCOMES

In delivering CSGN outcomes, the project also contributes to several outcomes within Scotland's National Performance Framework.

- **Environment:** the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats boosted the site's biodiversity, whilst pollinator-friendly planting supports important ecosystems.
- **Communities:** a more attractive and accessible space has been created for use by the local community, with an upgraded path network and new seating and signage to support navigation of the park.
- **Health:** path upgrades resulted in improved access to an enriching environment enabling people to spend time outdoors, taking exercise and enjoying nature. This delivers multiple mental and physical wellbeing benefits.

PARTNERS & FUNDING

The project began with a consultation in 2019 and work was delivered in 2023.

This project was completed thanks to North Lanarkshire's Environmental Key Fund, to increase and enhance the Shotts Nature Park's wetland habitat, boosting biodiversity and improving people's connection to nature.



Paths were upgraded to improve access around the park