



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Limit</li> <li>Surveyed Open Spaces</li> <li>Open Space*</li> <li>Priority Regeneration Areas</li> <li>SIRR Areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment</li> <li>Recreational &amp; Community Facilities</li> <li>Transport</li> <li>Economic Development</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Path proposals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Access Routes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustrans Cycle Route</li> <li>Green Travel Path</li> <li>Green Travel Proposed Route</li> <li>Right of Way</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy Key</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential lack of access to semi-natural open space</li> <li>Potential lack of access to public parks</li> <li>Potential lack of access to sports area</li> <li>Potential lack of access to play spaces</li> <li>Improve connections between open space</li> <li>Improve access to open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve + enhance regional semi-natural spaces for biodiversity</li> <li>Enhance local biodiversity through local biodiversity toolkit</li> <li>Conserve + enhance awareness of cultural heritage</li> <li>Opportunity for new allotments/ community gardens</li> <li>Promote + enhance canal as a national green space</li> <li>96 Priority quality improvements required</li> </ul> <p>* Areas of open space may include open water.</p>	<p><b>Falkirk Open Space Strategy</b>                  Figure 7.7Q (MUI.6)                  Conceptual Strategy - Muirhouses</p>
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## Muirhouses

### Survey /Issues

- Muirhouses has a population of approximately 226 people, and 0.33ha of public open space within its urban limit. This excludes access to surveyed public open space adjacent to the urban edge and to the surrounding countryside.
- Almost all households (99%) have access (within 400m) to the one surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 450m<sup>2</sup> per household, is much higher than both the average village supply of 384m<sup>2</sup> and the average town supply of 192m<sup>2</sup>.
- The one surveyed open space (94 – The Muirhouses) is of good quality and therefore the percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is 99%.
- As the village's one surveyed open space is a settlement-level sports area of good quality, it offers facilities for the local population to access and use this space in a manner which benefits their quality of life.
- There is very poor access (less than 2%) to a surveyed public park and garden (within 400m).
- There is excellent access to the one surveyed site with a sports area in Muirhouses, with 100% of households having access to it (within 800m).
- There is also excellent access (within 400m) to the surveyed site with a playspace.
- There is only fair access (34% of households) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace within 1200m.
- Muiravonside Country Park is the nearest national open space – it is almost 10km from the centre of Muirhouses. Bo'ness Foreshore is the nearest regional open space – it is just under 3km from the village.

### Strategy Overview

**The one surveyed open space is centrally located, good quality and fit for purpose. However, Muirhouses has no public park and the priority should be to either redesign this site to provide park facilities or provide a new park elsewhere in the village. Potential underprovision to semi-natural open space should be examined.**

### Strategy Actions

#### *National/Regional-Level Open Space*

- Public transport connections to Muiravonside Country Park should be examined, as it offers a diversity of facilities.

#### Settlement-Level Open Space

- The Muirhouses – this settlement-level sports area and playspace is of good quality and meets 'fitness for purpose' requirements. Improvements to its quality are not a priority; however, diversifying it to make it more of a public park is a high priority, and providing better access to it would be beneficial. Community consultation on the provision of park facilities – whether in this site or elsewhere – should be undertaken.

#### Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- No neighbourhood-level spaces were surveyed in Muirhouses. However, from the quantitative audit there appear to be several other areas of public open space in the village.

#### *General*

- Access to surveyed green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces appears underprovided for in Muirhouses. However, the audit shows some areas of unsurveyed natural/ semi-natural greenspace to the north, south, and in the centre of the village, and large extents to the east at Carriden. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision of this typology. Surveying these sites and opening up access to them should be a priority.
- The strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus on improving provision of public parks as a priority.
- Increasing provision in Muirhouses should consider: improving access to The Muirhouses; and determining through consultation the appropriate location and facilities of a settlement-level public park.
- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for the settlement and other unsurveyed neighbourhood-level spaces.