



Site ID	Site Name
119	The Thrums, Public Park, Laurieston
120	Westquarter Glen
175	Westquarter Burn
181	Mary Street
195	California Park, Maddiston
196	Valley Park, Maddiston
197	Forgie Crescent
198	Laurie Park
199	Wallacestone Park
200	King George V Playing Field, Redding
201	School Road Open Space, Redding
203	Polmont Burn, Waterside Gardens, Brightons
204	St Margaret's Playing Fields
205	Grey Buchanan Park, Polmont (Core Park)
206	Erskine Hill Open Space
207	Skye Drive Open Space
208	Montrose Road Open Space
209	Polmont Park
210	Greenpark Drive
218	Union Canal Wildlife Site
219	Redding Grasslands
225	Polmont Woods
226	Grahamsdyke Street

Legend

- Urban Limit
- Surveyed Open Spaces
- Open Space*
- Priority Regeneration Areas
- SIRR Areas

Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities

- Environment
- Recreational & Community Facilities
- Transport
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Path proposals

Access Routes

- Sustrans Cycle Route
- Green Travel Path
- Green Travel Proposed Route
- Right of Way

Strategy Key

- Potential lack of access to semi-natural open space
- Potential lack of access to public parks
- Potential lack of access to sports area
- Potential lack of access to play spaces
- Improve connections between open space
- Improve access to open space

- Conserve + enhance regional semi-natural spaces for biodiversity
- Enhance local biodiversity through local biodiversity toolkit
- Conserve + enhance awareness of cultural heritage
- Opportunity for new allotments/ community gardens
- Promote + enhance canal as a national green space
- Priority quality improvements required

* Areas of open space may include open water.

Falkirk Open Space Strategy

Figure 7.7G (POL.6)

Conceptual Strategy - Polmont

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Polmont

Survey/ Issues

- Overall there is a varied supply of public open space in Polmont in quantitative terms. The overall statistic of 11.48ha of public open space per 1000 people appears to be satisfactory; however there is some underprovision in parts of the town e.g. Rumford, Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone, which have restricted accessibility.
- This is supported by the statistic that 66.9% of households have access (within 400m) to a surveyed public open space, yet there are several areas of the town with no access to a surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 258m² per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m² but the highest of any town in Falkirk and much higher than the average town supply of 193m².
- The percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is variable, with 61.7% of households having access to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space. This indicates that the majority of existing open spaces are fit for purpose, but there is an overall restricted quality of open space in the settlement.
- Several of the town's settlement-level public open spaces (sites 196, 209, 210 and 219) are considered to be 'fair' quality in their current state and require upgrading. This is often due to a combination of poor maintenance and a lack of facilities for the local population.
- Generally the accessibility (within 400m) to surveyed public parks and gardens is low in Polmont, with only 33.1% of households having access to a surveyed public park & garden. There is underprovision in many parts of the town e.g. Rumford, Reddingmuirhead, Polmontside, Polmont (east) and Westquarter.
- Generally there is better accessibility (within 800m) to surveyed sports areas in Falkirk, with 65.3% of households having access to a surveyed site containing a sports area. Despite this, there are variations in provision, with some neighbourhoods having restricted access (Reddingmuirhead, Wallacestone, Westquarter) and a few others having multiple access e.g. Brighton, Maddiston, Polmont (west).
- There is variable access (within 400m) to surveyed playspaces, with only 45.1% of households having access to a surveyed playspace. Many areas within Falkirk have access to a playspace, often associated with access to a sports area e.g. Brighton, Maddiston, Polmont, Laurieston. However, for many areas, playspaces are under-provided e.g. Rumford, Reddingmuirhead, Polmontside. There are several areas with access (within 400m) to more than one site containing a playspace.
- The majority of Polmont (94.9% of households) has access to a surveyed green corridor or a site containing semi-natural greenspace (within 1200m). The only that appears to be under-provided in terms of access to this type of open space are parts of Wallacestone.

Strategy Overview

Develop the potential of the settlement's strategic open spaces, whilst improving quality and accessibility at the local level through the upgrading of parks that are currently considered not fit for purpose, such as Valley Park, Polmont Park and Redding Grasslands, augmented by creation of new open spaces in new development within areas of quantitative deficiency. Build upon the strong greenspace linkages through the town, provided by the Union Canal and the northern network of sites (175, 120, 205, 207, 208) focusing on the potential of the Canal as the spine to link other spaces. Ensure that new open spaces being created in areas of deficiency link to the wider greenspace network. Maximise opportunities for new open space and connections through Helix implementation.

Strategy Actions

National/ Regional-level Open Space

- At the national level, the Union Canal provides an excellent greenspace corridor through the settlement, which is valuable both as an enjoyable space in its own right, and as the spinal link in the overall network of open space within the town.
- Promote and enhance Union Canal as a regional green corridor and linear access route to provide backbone for improved linkages of green network through settlement. Improve connections to adjacent open spaces and consider introduction of facilities, interpretation etc at intervals along the canal.
- The settlement's regional open space resource (Grey Buchanan Park and Polmont Woods) has scope for improvement to provide strategic open spaces of importance for Polmont and the wider Falkirk area.
- Grey Buchanan Park – improve access to the park from the south, and access round internally through improved path network, while conserving existing mature woodland and parkland trees. Restore historic character of the park.
- Polmont Woods – improve access to the site which is somewhat cut off from Polmont by the M9. Manage site for nature conservation and access with new facilities to support use for recreation. Habitat Management of understorey and woodland planting to support long-term future of woodland.

Settlement/ Neighbourhood-level Open Space

- At the settlement level, the town benefits from numerous public open spaces of 'good' quality which are considered to be fit for purpose e.g. Erskine Hill, Skye Drive, Montrose Road open spaces, Polmont Burn, Westquarter Glen, Laurie Park etc. These sites perform a key role in the provision of quality open space in the town. The quality of these open spaces should be maintained and improved with new

facilities to support their function and their connectivity with the spine of the Union Canal corridor should be improved.

- Improve the quality of facilities and design of neighbourhood and settlement level open spaces rated of 'fair' quality (Valley Park, Polmont Park, Greenpark Drive, Redding Grasslands) so that all neighbourhoods have access to a good local park. Consider developing these in different ways to achieve diversity in provision.
- Maintain the 'good' quality standard of existing public open spaces within the settlement while targeting new provision at key areas with deficiencies in provision. Overall provision of open space in this settlement could be increased to provide accessible public open space for all. In particular, new provision should focus on the areas of new housing allocations in Reddingmuirhead, Wallacestone and Rumford.

General

- Improve those sites identified as being of less than 'good' fitness for purpose through improvements in facilities and maintenance to support their function.
- Opportunities to enhance the health and well-being of the local population through improved provision to public parks, sports areas and play spaces in areas identified as being under-provided.
- Opportunities to enhance provision of links into strategic green corridors that pass through urban Polmont and form the basis of strong green access network through the town.
- Biodiversity – numerous sites with high biodiversity value with mature woodlands, glens/burn corridors. Across-the-board improvements can be made to biodiversity in all settlement/ neighbourhood-level open spaces. Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for settlement-level spaces.
- Opportunities to enhance awareness of the cultural history and importance of the settlement through interpretation of open spaces and public art – Antonine Wall, Union Canal etc.
- Opportunities for new allotments/ community gardens as part of land allocated for new housing.