



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 7.7W (LOA.6)

Conceptual Strategy - The Loan

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The Loan

Survey/ Issues

- The Loan has a population of approximately 35 people, and almost no public open space within its urban limit. This excludes access to the surveyed public open spaces adjacent to the urban edge and to the surrounding countryside.
- 100% of households in The Loan has access (within 400m) to one or both of the two surveyed public open spaces.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 1133m² per household, is the highest in the Falkirk area, being very much higher than the average village supply of 384m² and the average town supply of 193m².
- The two surveyed open spaces (85 – The Loan Railway Corridor, and 89 – The Loan TPO) are both of only fair quality. Therefore only 20% of households have access within 400m to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space (site 227 to the east).
- As the village's two surveyed open space are settlement-level green corridors or natural/ semi-natural open space of only fair quality, they do not currently offer facilities that are good enough for village to access and use them in a manner which benefits quality of life to the full.
- There is poor access to surveyed public parks and gardens within 400m, with 20% of households (the east end of the village) having access to one.
- There is poor access to a surveyed site with a playspace within 400m, with 20% of households (the east end of the village) having access to one.
- There is no access to a surveyed sports area (within 800m).
- There is excellent access (within 1200m) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace.
- Muiravonside Country Park is the nearest surveyed national open space – it is just over 0.5km away. Polmont Woods is the nearest regional open space – it is over 4km from the village.

Strategy Overview

Both surveyed open spaces are semi-natural spaces, of fair quality but lacking in certain elements. In addition, The Loan appears underprovided for in terms of access to park, play and sports areas. Priority improvements should therefore be related both to improving diversity and quality, either through new local facilities or better connections to nearby ones.

Strategy Actions

National/Regional-Level Open Space

- The Loan benefits from the national facility of Muiravonside Country Park just over 5 minutes walk from the village. Connections should be improved where necessary.

Settlement-Level Open Space

- The Loan Railway Corridor – this settlement-level green corridor is of fair quality. Improvements to quality are a priority through upgrading access, steps and signage, and improving wider connections.
- The Loan TPO– this settlement-level semi-natural greenspace is of fair quality and is not 'fit for purpose'. Improvements to quality are a priority through improving access and maintenance, connecting to site 227, and considering broadening its diversity as a local park, play and sports facility if feasible without affecting its TPO status or biodiversity.

Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- No neighbourhood-level spaces were surveyed in The Loan and, from the quantitative audit, there do not appear to be any.

General

- Access to surveyed green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces is very well-provided for in The Loan.
- The strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus on improving provision of new and/ or access to existing park/ playspace/ sports facilities as a priority. Consultation to determine community interest should be undertaken as a priority.
- Increasing provision in The Loan should consider: diversifying the typology and facilities within site 89 and/ or strengthening access connections with the adjacent surveyed sites.
- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for the settlement spaces.
- Maximise opportunities for green corridor connections.