



5.10 Rural South

Analysis

	Number of surveyed open spaces	Area of open space (hectares)	Rate of open space provision (hectares per 1000 people)	Percentage of total area of open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment	Percentage of households with access to an open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to a park or amenity space of 2000m ² or greater within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within 800m (10mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a sports area within 1200m (15mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a natural/ semi natural open space within 1200m (15mins)
Rural South	61	458.6	63.9	84.4%	24.8%	82.4%	96.5%	93.6%	74.8%
FC Area	632	2448.9	15.9	64.0%	65.7%	85.7%	96.9%	92.9%	96.6%

The rural south area contains the villages of Allandale, Avonbridge, Blackness, California, Greenhill, Limerigg, Muirhouses, Shieldhill, Slamannan, Standburn and Whitecross . Although the area has the highest rate of open space provision of any settlement area across the Council; over 4 times the Council average; the villages of Avonbridge, California and Shieldhill have a rate of open space provision lower than the proposed 5 hectare per 1000 people standard. The average quality of open space in the settlement area is slightly above the Council average, it has the 3rd highest percentage of the total number of open spaces which are fit for purpose and the highest percentage of the total area of open space which is fit for purpose.

The settlement area has a very low percentage of households which have access to fit for purpose open space within 400m. None of the households in Avonbridge, California, Greenhill or Shieldhill, only 1 household in Whitecross and less than 15% of households in Allandale have access to an open space which is fit for purpose. The area has the lowest percentage of households with access to natural/ semi natural open space. None of the households in Avonbridge and less than 10% of households in California and Whitecross have access to a surveyed natural/ semi natural open space in or close to the village. The area has an average percentage of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within 800m but less than 80% of households in Allandale have with access to such a facility within that distance. The area has a higher than average percentage of households with access to sports area within 1200m but there is none of the households in Allandale, Greenhill or the Loan have access to such a facility.

Relevant Objectives

1. Investing in the parks and open spaces that are particularly valued by the local community

3. Investing in poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision
4. Developing new play facilities in areas of identified need
5. Developing new sports areas in areas of identified need
6. Developing new park and amenity space in areas of identified need
7. Developing new semi natural open space in areas of identified need
8. Improve the green network in and around the Council area by improving open space sites corridors and connectivity
9. Rationalise our portfolio of playspaces and sports areas to improve overall quality
10. Provide new open space where the rate of open space provision is below the 5ha/1000 people standard

Priority Actions

Action (Parks Development Plan action reference in bold, open space reference number in brackets)	Objective	Agency/Mechanism	Strategic/Thematic Priority	Local Priority
MVAL.14 - Develop and implement a masterplan for Muirvonside Country Park (211)	1,8	Falkirk Council. External funding to be sought	Priority 5	
MQUAL.37-45 & 49 - Improve the quality of: Avonbridge recreation ground (418); California recreation ground (419); Whitecross recreation ground (427); Shieldhill playingfields (421); Greenhill Park (440); Thorndale Gardens, Allandale (702); Main Street, Shieldhill (422); Ledi Place, Shieldhill (662) The Rumlie, Slamannan (414) and Binniehill Playground (415)	3,8	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may become available	Allandale: Priority 1 Avonbridge: Priority 1 California: Priority 1 Greenhill: Priority 1 Shieldhill: Priority 1 Slamannan: Priority 4 Whitecross: Priority 1	Improving the recreation grounds in Avonbridge and California and improving the open space at Main Street, Shieldhill and at Binniehill playground are top local priorities
MPLAY.10 & 11 - Investigate opportunities to provide new playspaces at Eastern Shieldhill and Western Allandale.	4,10	Falkirk Council, Shieldhill residents. Opportunities may arise in association with new development	Shieldhill: Priority 4 Allandale: Priority 2 Dependent on timing of development	
MSPOR.15 & 16 - Investigate opportunities to provide a new sports area in Allandale and The Loan	5	Falkirk Council Opportunities may arise in association with new development in Allandale	Priority 4	
MPARK.17-19 - Investigate opportunities to provide new park or amenity open space of over 0.2 hectares at Allandale; Southern	6,10	Opportunities may arise in association with new development	Allandale: Priority 2 Avonbridge: Priority 2 Shieldhill: Priority 3	Creating a new park or amenity space in southern

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Avonbridge; and Eastern Shieldhill				Avonbridge is a top local priority
MSEM.02 - Investigate opportunities to provide access to semi-natural open space in Whitecross	7	Opportunities may arise in association with new development. Improving active travel links between Whitcross and Muiravonside may also assist.	Priority 1: Dependent on timing of development	
MGNT.05 - Carry out landscape and access improvements along the John Muir Way which runs along the Forth and Clyde Canal, Union Canal, River Avon Heritage Trail and the Forth Foreshore Path	8			Top local priority
MGNT.34 - Improve access network along the River Avon upstream from Avonbridge to Slamannan	8	Falkirk Council. Private Landowners		
MGNT.35 - New greenspace incorporating extensive tree planting to be created as part of the housing development site at Hillcrest near Shieldhill	8,10	In conjunction with development	Dependent on timing of development	
MGNT.36 - New greenspace specifically managed for use by Bean Geese (and not made available for public recreational use) to be created as part of the Hillend Farm housing development site in Slamannan	8	In conjunction with development	Dependent on timing of development	Top local priority
Rationalise playspace provision in Greenhill, Slamannan and Whitecross and sports area provision in Slamannan	9	Falkirk Council		
Investigate opportunities to increase the rate of open space provision in Avonbridge, California and Shieldhill	10	Falkirk Council		