Data Discovery

**What does the existing and already-available data already tell us about who uses parks, how many people are visiting parks and for what purpose?**

In a general sense, the parks sector is hampered by a lack of regularly updated data. There are relatively few sources (see below) of existing open source data and this data is located in discrete locations rather than a centrally accessible database.

There is a divide amongst the type and focus of this data, with some sources focusing on the views of **park managers** (Park Quality Assessments/Green Flag Audits, Land Audit Management Systems, Association for Public Service Excellence Networks - State of the Market Surveys) and those focusing on **members of the general public** (Scotland’s People and Nature Survey, Green space Use and Attitudes Survey, Scottish Household Survey) and those aimed at both (State of Public Parks Survey). As a result, the method of data collection varied between surveys (online and face-to-face) and site inspections.

The topical focus of these sources varies. For those aimed at park managers, the data covers their perceptions of park quality (based on site inspections and scoring) and a range of management issues. Of these studies, only one considers how many people are using parks (State of Public Parks Survey). However, this figure is based on the perceptions of park managers and not necessarily supported by quantitative data. Data generated through public perception surveys have tended to focus on respondents proximity to green space, their frequency of visits, and expectations of what parks should be used for against their perceptions.

The scale of focus also varies from the **UK** (The State of Public Parks Survey, Association for Public Service Excellence Networks - State of the Market Surveys) , **Scotland** (Scotland’s People and Nature Survey, Green space Use and Attitudes Survey), **Local Administration** boundaries (Scottish Household Survey), **bespoke categorisation** (Land Audit Management Systems) and **individual parks** (The City of Edinburgh Council, Park Quality Assessments/Green Flag Audits).

In Summary

* **There is a lack of data, in particular at individual park level.**
* **Data that does exist at this scale is exclusively qualitative, rather than quantitative, and is based on the perceptions of park managers rather than park users and how they experience parks.**
* **Data provides an indication of what users value in parks and why they visit them. However, due to the coarseness of the data, it does not provide any information about how park users specifically interact with individual parks.**

# Data Sources

## City of Edinburgh Council

### Capital and Maintenance Costs

**Source:** Combination of Central office and Park Officers

**Scale:** Individual parks

**Format:**

**Frequency:**

**What does it show:** Total budget spent?, amount spent on infrastructure/maintenance?

### Complaints or service requests

The Council’s Capture System is not able to drill down to scrutinise site specific information. Complaints are dealt with directly by park managers.

### People, bike and vehicle counts

**Source:** Sensors on site - 1) Bike counter in the Meadows 2) Saughton data collected by Saughton Park Community Officer.

**Scale:** Saughton (people, bikes and vehicles) The Meadows (bicycles).

**Format:** Saughton:requires physically collecting the data and uploading to computer. People counters in .ttd format (TinyTag).

The Meadows: Data collected by [Falco](https://www.falco.co.uk/products/live-cycle-counter-data/edinburgh-middle-meadow-walk/) (and Sustrans receive weekly email with numbers). Contact via sustrans

**Frequency:** Quarterly (saughton) and weekly (Meadows)

**What does it show:** Saughton -Numbers of cars in the car park , proposed counters of people and bikes at all park entrances, people counters to all entrances to walled garden (does not account for unique visits). Sustrans use numbers of cyclists to capture any changes when there has been an intervention or changes to the area that could impact on cycling numbers.

### Events

**Source:** Held and coordinated by Central council office

**Scale:** Individual parks

**Format:** CSV

**Frequency:** Circulated around park officers on a monthly basis.

**What does it show:** the number of events in parks and when, description, logistics

### Dog walkers

**Source:** Held and coordinated by Central council office.

Scale: Individual parks

**Format:** Spreadsheet

**Frequency:** Circulated to park officers on a monthly basis?

**What does it show:** the number of registered dog businesses, average number of dogs walked

### Pitch Bookings (Football, Cricket, Rugby)

**Source:** Combination of Central Office and Edinburgh Leisure

**Scale:** Individual parks

**Format:** CSV

**Frequency:** Annual

**What does it show:** Cricket - day and which pitch booked

### Park Quality Assessments/Green Flag Audits

**Source:** Edinburgh Council Website

**Scale:** Individual Parks

**Format:** Report (PDF)

**Frequency:** Annual

**What does it show:** Subjective score (0-10) given to set criteria. Criteria includes: welcoming, good and safe access, signage, equal access to all, safe equipment facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities, litter and waste management, grounds maintenance and horticulture, buildings and infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance, environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation, pesticides\*, peat use\*, waste minimisation\*, arboriculture and woodland management, conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora, conservation of landscape features\*, conservation of buildings and structures, appropriate provision for the community\*, community involvement in management and development including outreach work\*, marketing and promotion\*, provision of appropriate information, and provision of appropriate educational interpretation information

\*Subject to desktop study: this involves consultations with the park officers.

### Just Eat Cycles - Edinburgh Bicycle Scheme

**Source:** <https://edinburghcyclehire.com/open-data>

**Scale:** Edinburgh

**Format:** General bike share feed/JSON or csv

**Frequency:** Realtime data (via API) or monthly

**What does it show:** start/end time; duration; start/end station name, ID, description, longitude and latitude.

Leith Links - one station nearby

Saughton Park - no stations

Inverleith Park - four stations nearby

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links - six stations nearby

## National Sources

### Association for Public Service Excellence Networks - Land Audit Management Systems

**Source:**<http://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/performance-networks/>

**Targets:** Park Managers

**Scale:** The results are desegregated to three zone types - high amenity (bowling greens), standard amenity, and low maintenance (woodlands).

**Format:** CSV/new app (including GIS location and photo evidence)

**Frequency:** Monthly

**What does it show:** Provides extensive coverage of the quality of grounds maintenance. Based on visual inspection of “what the public would see. Each criteria is given a points score and results displayed as a percentage. ”Indicators includes: grounds maintenance standard, surface weeds, litter, detritus, dog fouling, bins overflowing, bin structure, bin cleanliness, vandalism/damage, staining/gum, grounds conditions, water courses. It is not possible for CEC to collect data on all of these indicators due to budget issues and resource-intensity of data collection.

### Association for Public Service Excellence Networks - State of the Market Surveys

**Source:** APSE [website](http://apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/members-area/briefings/2018/18-11-state-of-the-market-2018-local-authority-parks-and-green-spaces-services/)

**Targets:** Park Managers

**Scale:** UK

**Format:** Online survey

**Frequency:** Annual

**What does it show:** Views of local authorities park managers relating to funding and investment in parks, the key environmental priorities (litter, dog fouling, biodiversity water management, climate change) social issues (supporting healthy living, community cohesion, reducing anti-social behaviour), areas generating income (sports pitch lettings, festivals/concerts, cafes, fairgrounds, allotments, mobile caterers, bowling greens etc), funding sources (section 75, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Friends of the Parks groups, sponsorship etc).

**Interesting findings:**

expected visitor numbers (stay the same),

service provision (reductions in bedding/flower displays, frequency of grass cuts, shrub bed and pitch maintenance, and increases in events, tree inspections and enforcement and education)

How quality of parks was assessed (green flag, using resident perceptions, using a locally developed survey, using the green flag methodology, APSE customer satisfaction

biodiversity enhancement activities

community involvement (friends groups and groups involved in specific development projects).

Future focus (friends groups and public engagement)

### Scotland’s People and Nature Survey

**Source:****[Scottish Natural Heritage](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202014%20-%20SNH%20Commissioned%20Report%20679%20-Scotland%27s%20People%20and%20Nature%20Survey%202013-14.pdf)**

**Targets:** Public/Park Users

**Scale:** Scotland

**Format:** Part of the Scottish Opinion Survey

**Frequency:** 2013/14 only

**What does it show:** Proximity to green space, frequency of visits to green space, expectations of what parks should be used for vs their perceptions for different demographic groups (places to relax, places for children to play, places for physical activity, attractive places).

### Green Space Use and Attitudes Survey

**Source:****[Greenspace Scotland](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/media/1209/greenspace-survey-2017-final-report_021017.pdf)**

**Target**: Public

**Scale**: Scotland

**Format:** Online survey, representative sample,

**Frequency:** 2004, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2017

**What does it show:** frequency of green space use, accessibility, attitude towards existing local green spaces and extent to which they satisfy local needs (differences in attitudes by different subsets of the population), perception of quality,

The latter captures whether parks should be places to relax, safe places for physical activity

attractive places, places for children to play, places for exploring nature, meeting others from the local community makes the area a great place to live.

### Greenspace Scotland Map

**Source:** [Greenspace Scotland](https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/greenspace-map)

**Target**: Scotland

**Scale**: Local

**Format:** Online map and dataset

**Frequency:** Updated every six months

**What does it show:** Total area of green space (and by land type), green space as % of urban area, area of green space per 1000 people, accessible green space as % of urban area, area of publically available green space per 1000 people

### Scottish Household Survey

**Source: Reports available on** [**Scottish Government Website**](https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002)**, data available on request**

**Scale:** National survey but results are disaggregated to local authority scale.

**Format:** PDF reports,

**Frequency:** Annual

**What does it show:** Data and results of random sample survey. Frequency of visits to the outdoors (woodlands, parks, beaches, farmland etc) / by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, how frequent these visits are / by age and gender and perception of health; walking distance to the nearest useable green space, frequency of use of green space (by walking distance to nearest green space and by self-perception of health), satisfaction with nearest green space (by rating of neighbourhood as a place to live); use of nearest green space by satisfaction with nearest green space; walking distance to nearest green space by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, satisfaction of nearest green space by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, frequency of use by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

### State of Public Parks Survey

**Source:** Heritage Lottery Fund website

**Targets:** Park Managers, Friends Groups, Public

**Scale:** UK

**Format:** Report (PDF)

**Frequency:** Every two years

**What does it show:** Consolidates existing information with own survey results. Estimate of total number and area of parks, visitor frequency (less than half base this on data) total number of park visits, park budgets, priorities for generating income, changes to staffing and skills, trends in park quality and condition, selling and acquisition of green spaces by local authorities, numbers of friends groups and members, the activities carried out by friends groups (encouraging the use of the site, help with maintenance, organising events, improvements tasks, fundraising preservation, consult with management, surveys, interpretation and education, capital projects, lobbying, site security, operation of facilities).

### Urban Atlas

**Source:** [European Environment Agency](http://www.eea.europa.eu/)

**Targets:**

**Scale:** Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh

**Format:** GIS

**Frequency:** Data from 2006 and 2012

**What does it show:** land cover or land use data.

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### Open Street Map

**Source:** [Open Street Map OSM](https://www.openstreetmap.org/export#map=5/51.495/7.581)

**Format:** Vector data available at different scales and standardized into a few land cover categories.

**Scale:** Anywhere in the world (with varying degrees of accuracy)

**Format:** Dataset and map

**Frequency:** Updated regularly

**What does it show:**  The data comprises land cover and uses, and linear and point features. Land cover and use includes classes for green and open spaces. Data can be downloaded for any area of the world for use in Geographic Information Systems.