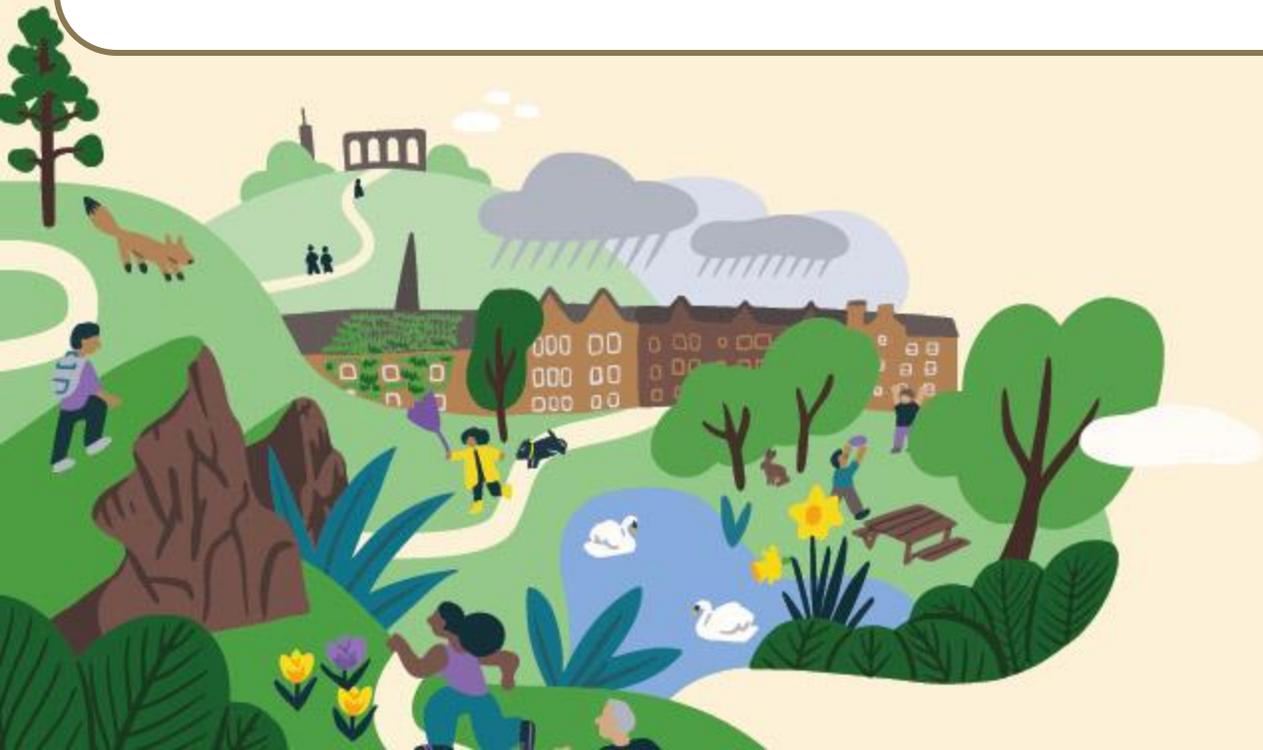




The Edinburgh Nature Network: Linking Leith's Parks



• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



Outline



Introduction to Edinburgh Nature Network



Ideas for parks from Atkins



Have your say on plans for parks in Leith

We are holding more events in June to look at six parks across Leith as part of the Edinburgh Nature Network:

- Tolbooth Wynd
- Mill Lane Park
- Taylor Gardens
- Keddie Gardens
- North Junction Street Park
- Dalmeny Street Park



Details of Events

IN-PERSON

Thursday 15th June

6pm-7.30pm

Duncan Place Community Hub

ONLINE

Tuesday 20th June

6pm-7.30pm

Joining link will be sent to registered attendees

Come and talk with us about how we can make the parks better for people and nature.

Booking is essential:

Email thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk to book your place



Learn more at www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot



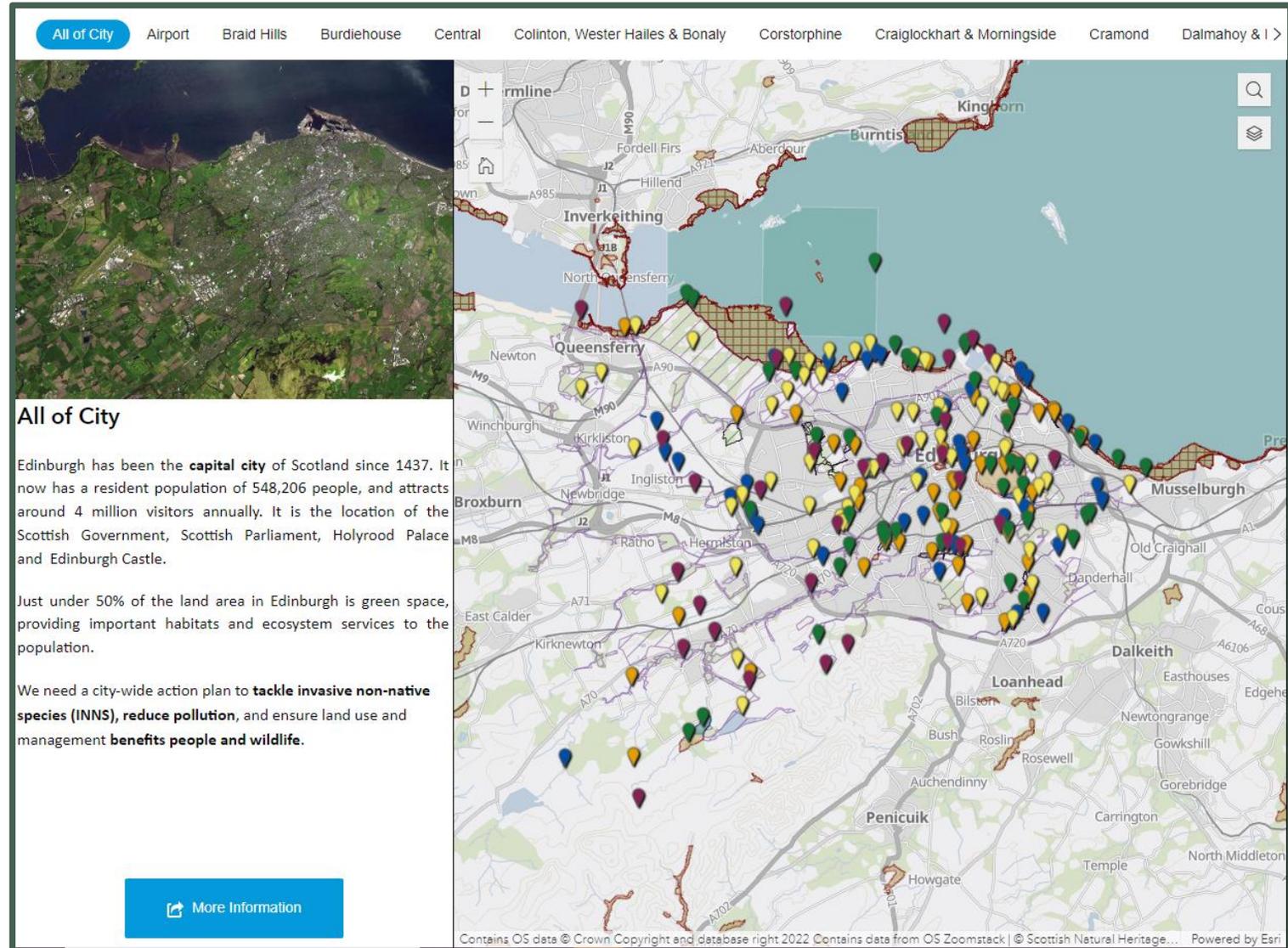
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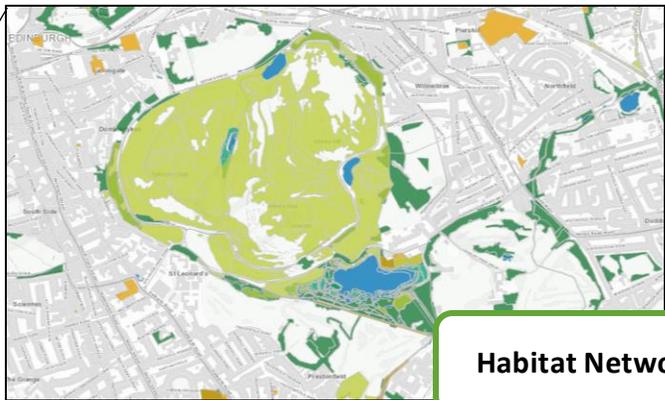
ATKINS
Partner since 2014

Edinburgh Nature Network - Scotland's first Nature Network

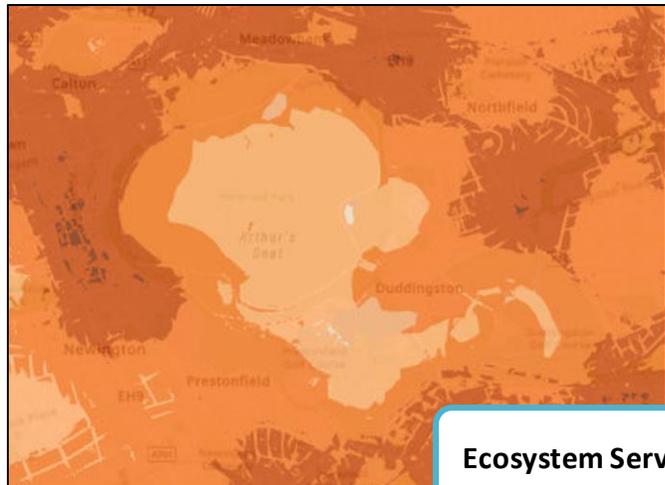
- Edinburgh Nature Network is a long-term approach to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape of Edinburgh
- It highlights opportunities to take action across the city, using natural solutions to address the threats of biodiversity loss and climate change
- Online map of 200+ actions



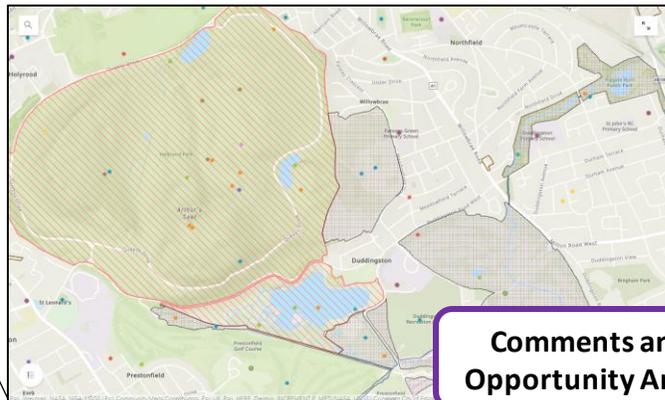
Creating the Edinburgh Nature Network



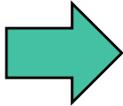
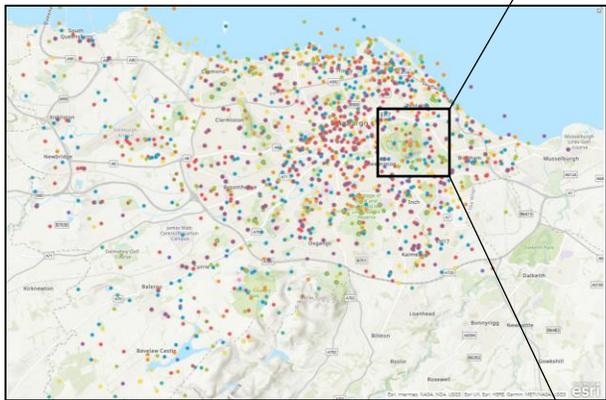
Habitat Network



Ecosystem Services



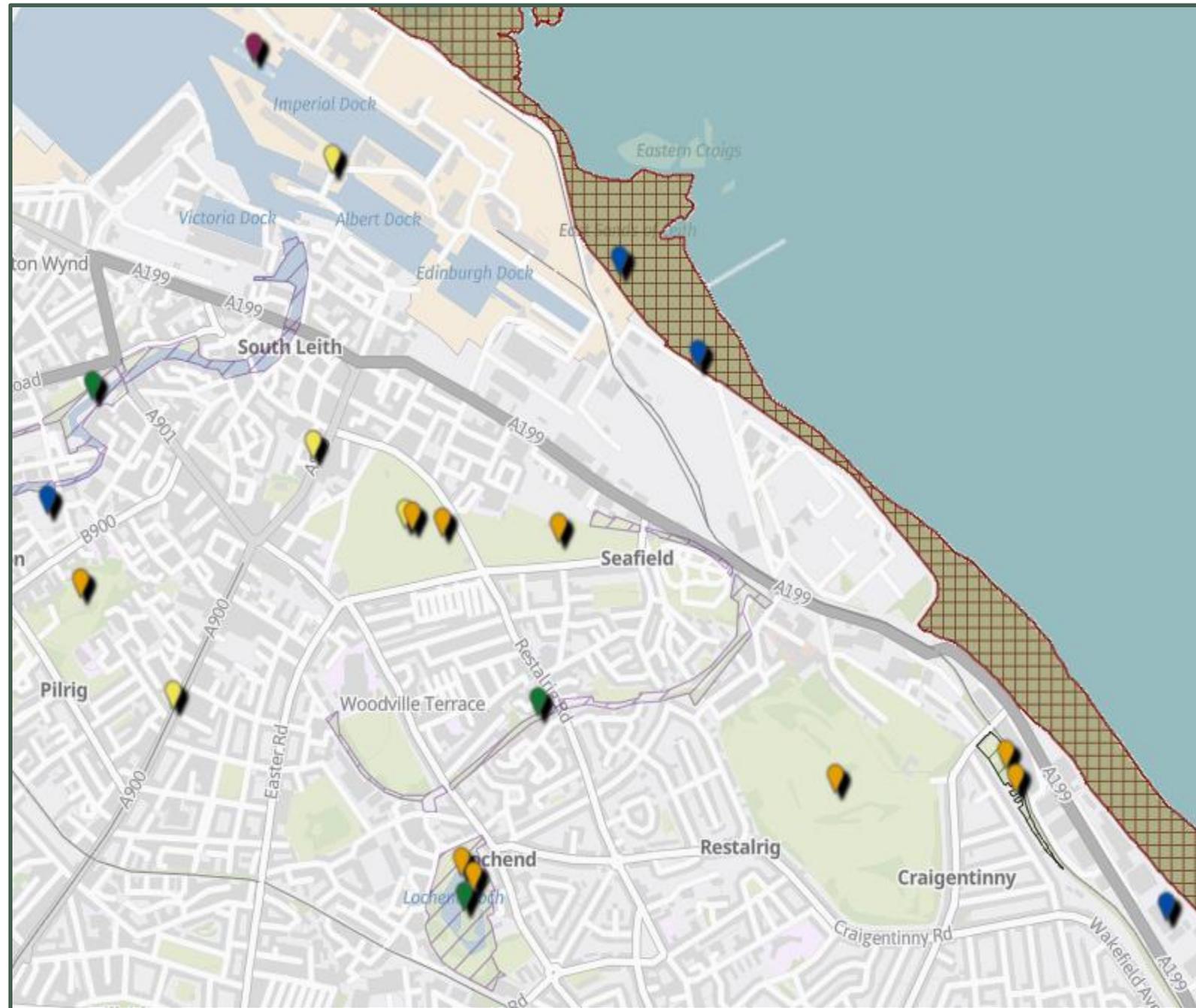
Comments and Opportunity Areas



This created a range of city-wide, site specific actions with **multiple benefits** for both people and wildlife

Leith Nature Network

- The highest population density in Edinburgh
- The highest demand for all ecosystem services in the city
- Priority habitats are limited and greenspaces are fragmented by the densely built-up urban landscape
- Connecting up the greenspaces in Leith
 - Council-owned sites
 - Other organisations
 - Local community



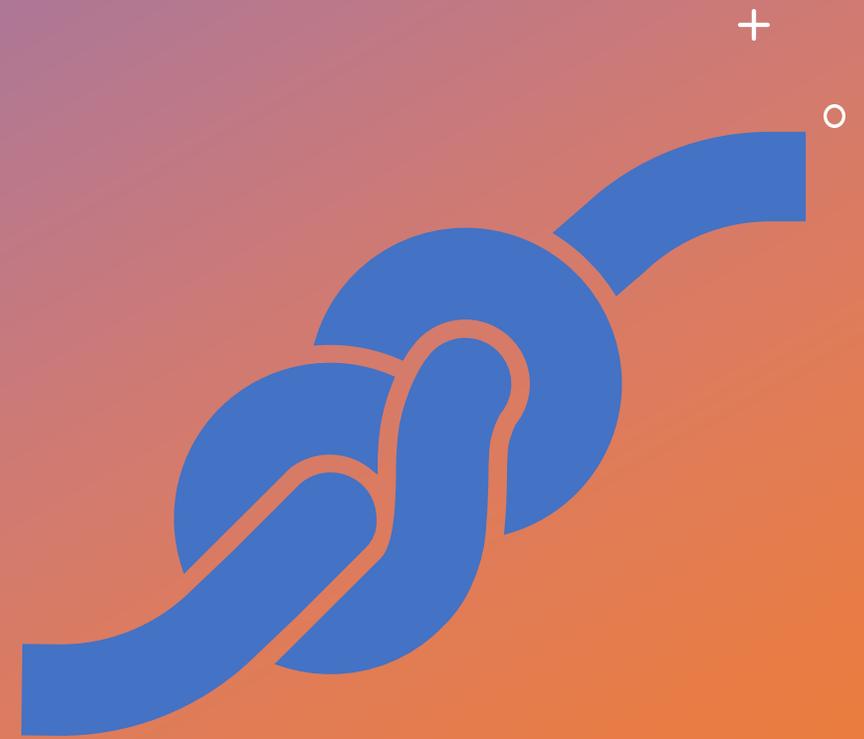
Linking Leith's Parks

- Greenspace Scotland – grant for plans for a 'neighbourhood of parks'
- Leith Links quick win - Wilding Wee Spaces
- Timelines and next steps
 - Follow-up in- person workshop June 15th
 - Follow-up online workshop June 20th
 - Project completed by July 2023
 - Seek funding to deliver plans



Linking Leith

Initial Thoughts



ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



Project Aims



“Linking Leith’s Parks will design a spatial plan to connect the neighbourhood of parks in Leith and detailed plans to develop them as nature-rich parks to benefit people and wildlife.”

“...improving biodiversity alongside climate resilience and adaptation but also... improving access to greenspace in Edinburgh where it is most needed.”

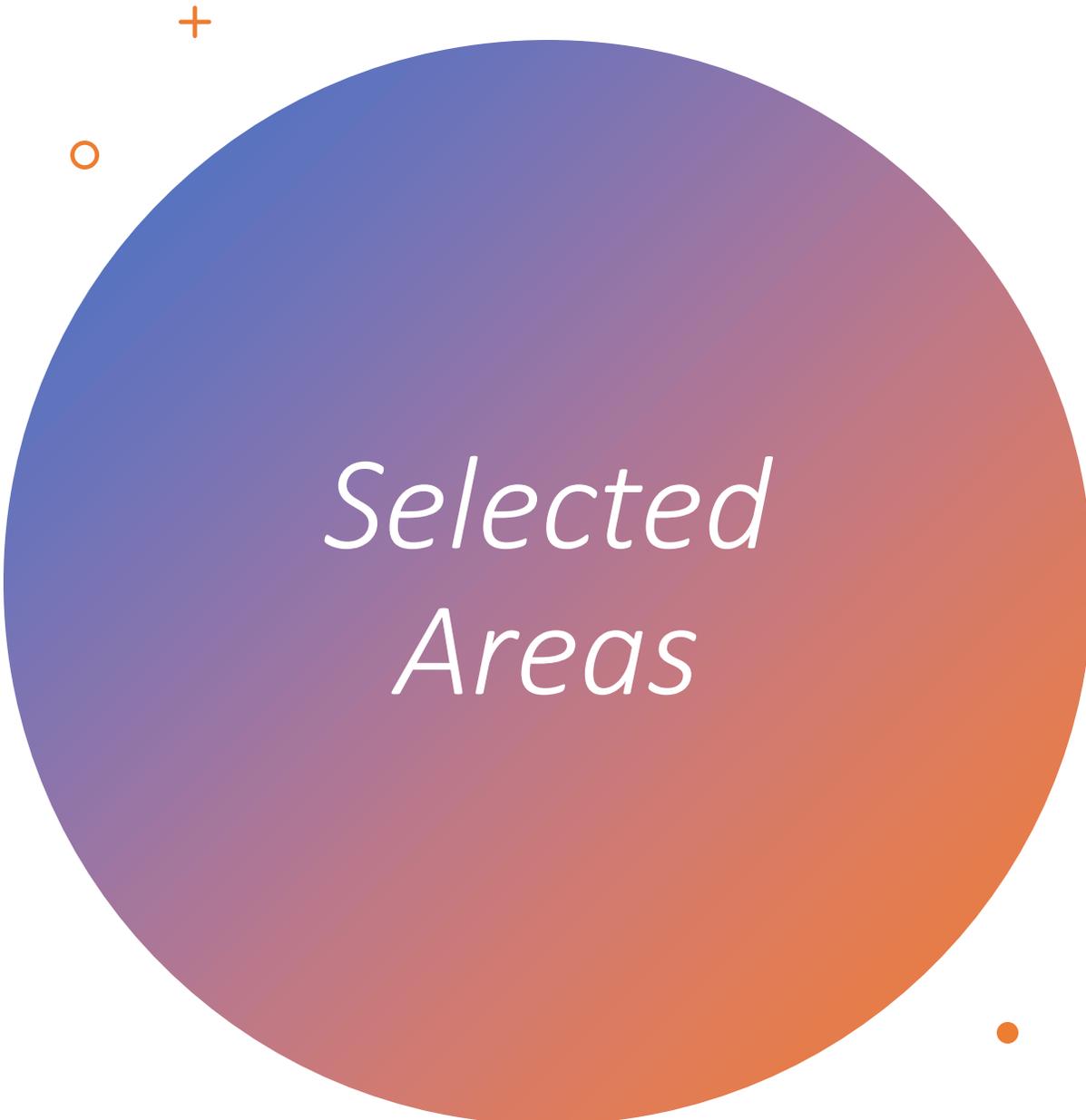




New masterplans in place which include nature restoration measures;
1 Leith Links (Site for 'quick-win')
2 Coalie Park

Biodiversity measures already in place - minor nature restoration required;
3 Pilrig Park
4 Lochend Park
5 Meadows Yard

Poor quality biodiversity - nature restoration plans required;
6 Tolbooth Wynd
7 Mill Lane Park
8 Taylor Gardens
9 Keddie Gardens
10 North Junction Street Park
11 Dalmeny Street Park



*Selected
Areas*

- 1 Tolbooth Wynd
- 2 Mill Lane Park
- 3 Taylor Gardens
- 4 Keddie Gardens
- 5 North Junction Street Park
- 6 Dalmeny Street Park





1

Tolbooth Wynd

- Undulating levels
- Overlooked by residents
- Play equipment in good condition
- Big shady trees causing grass to die back
- Potential changes to adjacent road to consider

Initial Thoughts

Embrace the shady trees by creating a woodland garden

- Timber boardwalks
- Native understory planting
- Hibernacula/bug hotels
- Bird boxes









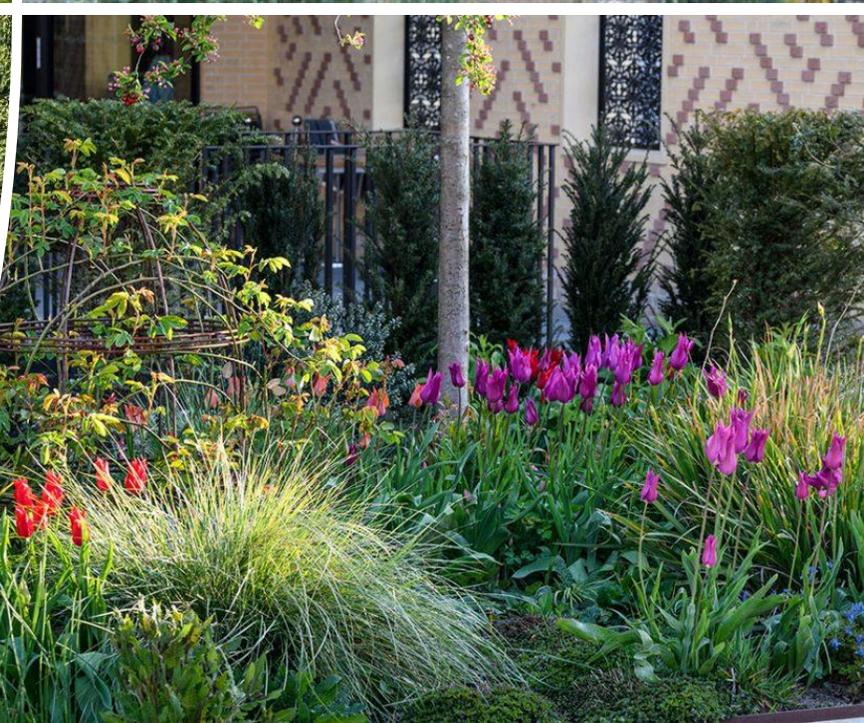
2

Mill Lane Park

- Sloping site
- Good lines of sight
- Large wall used for improvised games
- Some damage to existing trees

Initial Thoughts

Engagement with
Edinburgh Gurdwara
to create a
'Gurdwara Garden'.







3

Taylor Gardens

- Well used play area
- Good lines of sight
- Busy road nearby - Great Junction Street
- Seasonal toilet block and café
- Former children's hospital building next door

Initial Thoughts

Extend play experience to include 'natural play', incorporating features for added biodiversity such as:

- Wildflower planting around margins
- Play mounds & swales/basins
- Fruiting trees
- Bug hotels and bird boxes
- Trim trail
- Café extension with seating







4

Keddie Gardens

- Poor lines of sight and uninviting space
- Main entrance from Largo Place dominated by parked cars and communal bins blocking lines of sight into park
- Known anti-social behaviour issues and playground clearly prone to vandalism
- Close proximity to Water of Leith cycleway
- Dense tree growth along river blocks views out

Initial Thoughts

Reimagine space as a robust Natural Play and exercise park with biodiverse planting/features:

- New entrance and mural
- Play mounds & basins (SuDS)
- Big stones and logs (trim trail)
- Wildflower planting around margins
- Additional biodiverse planting and hibernacula features within woodland on bank of Water of Leith





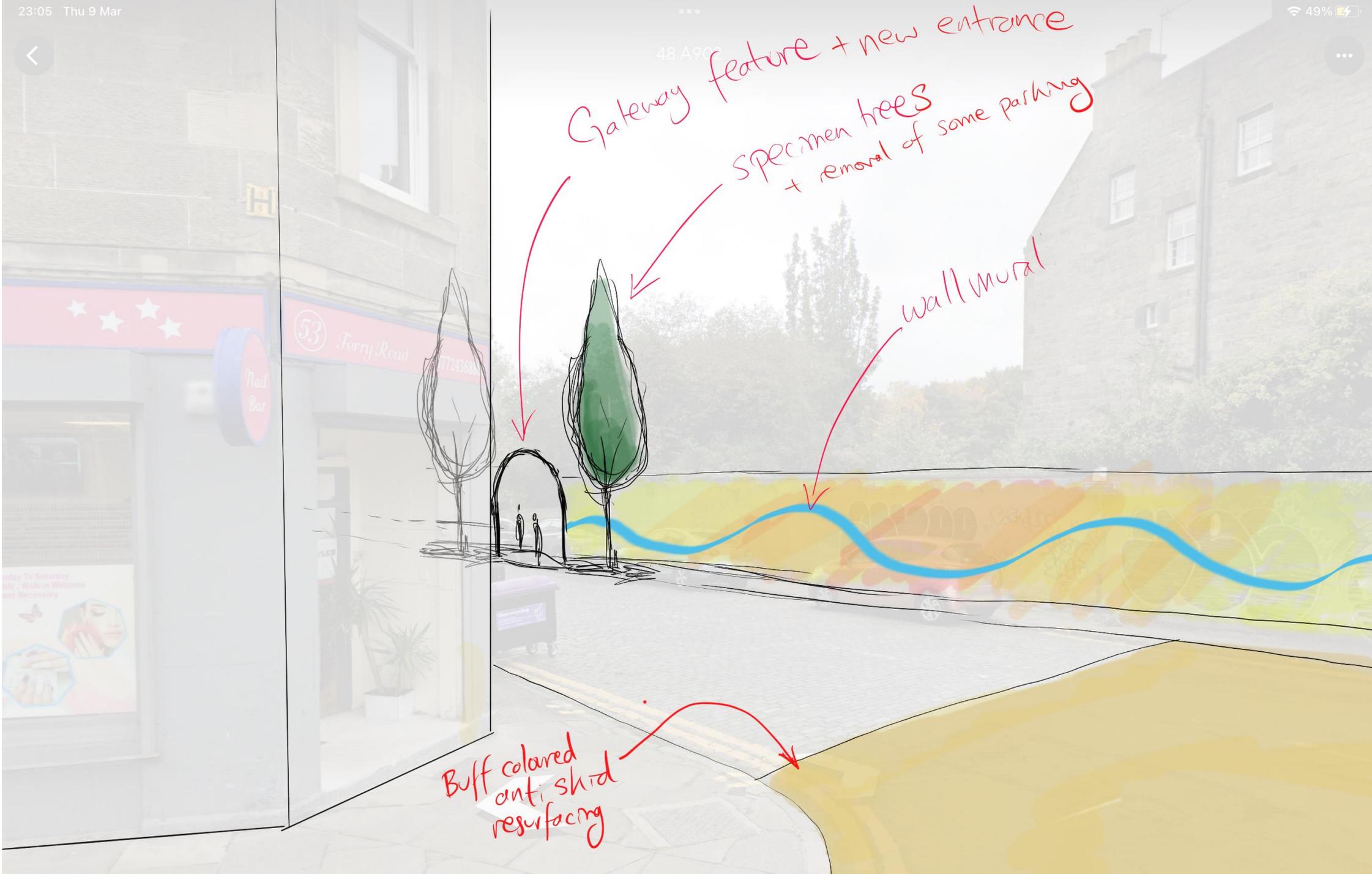


Gateway feature + new entrance

specimen trees + removal of some parking

wall mural

Buff colored anti skid resurfacing



53 Ferry Road 77243680





5

North Junction Street Park

- Low tree crown heights and high tree density makes for shady covered spaces – uninviting
- Grass balding around base of trees
- Proximity to Leith School of Art & Theatre is a key opportunity – e.g. outdoor art lessons, sculpture, outdoor events/performances etc.
- Leith Festival also key opportunity
- Care home that adjoins park also key stakeholder
- Formal gateway is strong feature and could be enhanced

Initial Thoughts

Reimagine space as an 'art park':

- Spaces for outdoor performance/pop up events
- Restoration of existing memorial
- Sculptural installations
- Mosaic feature at gateway
- Management of existing trees to improve sight lines
- Artistic bird boxes/hibernacula
- Biodiverse woodland planting
- Wildflower planting around sunny margins









6

Dalmeny Street Park

- Very good provision for play and sport
- Good lines of sight and well used
- Rest of park is regularly used as enclosed dog exercise area, but the park would benefit from some segregation
- Some planters in the middle are maintained by a local group, with a 'free gardening box' available to those who want to tend to the park

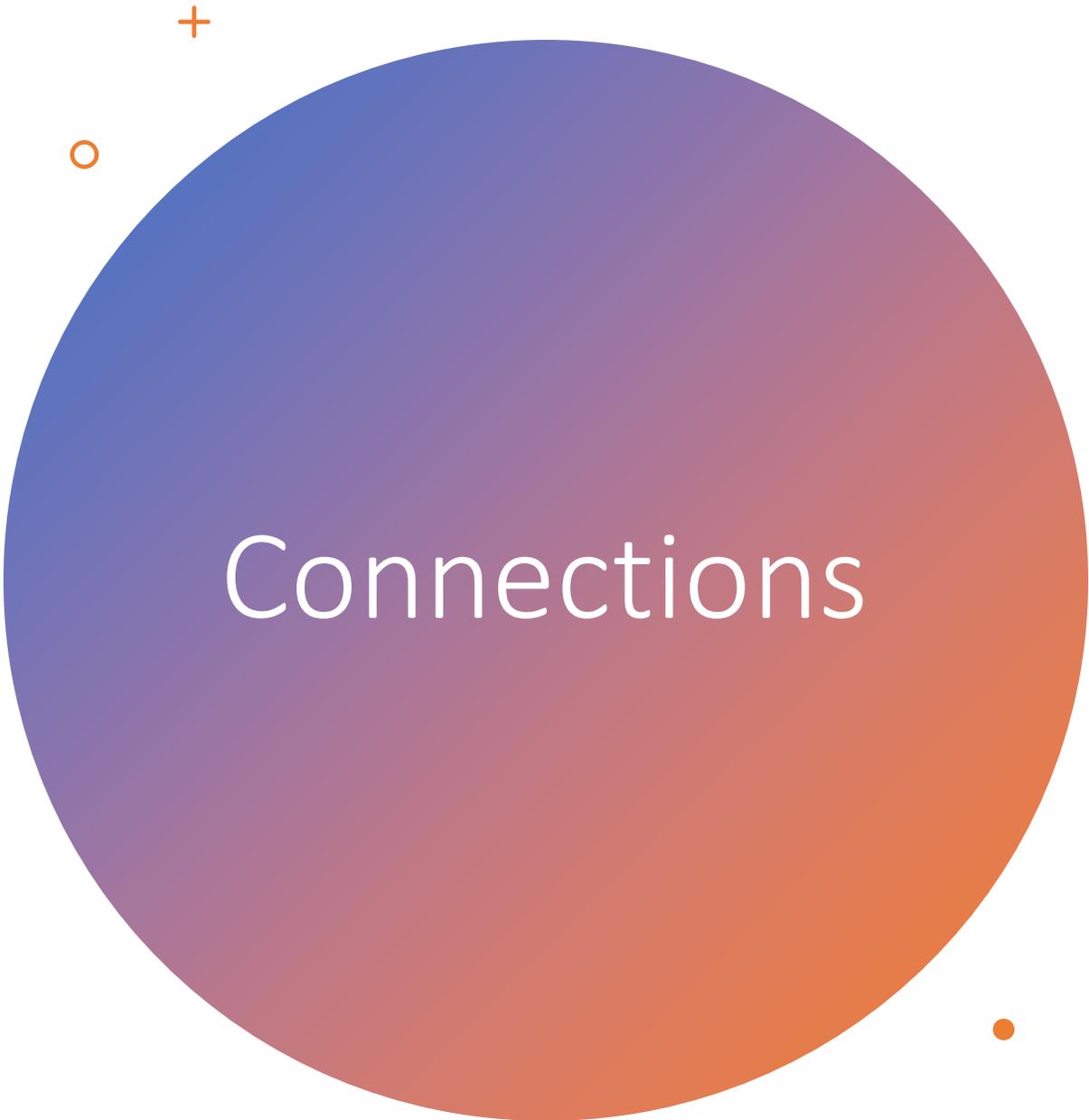
Initial Thoughts

Inclusion of community garden:

- Formal style
- Outdoor performances/exhibitions
- Raised planters
- Fruiting trees
- Pollen rich flora
- Bird boxes and hibernacula
- Replace grass in shady tree areas with woodland understory planting
- Segregated area for dog exercise







Connections

*Potential biodiversity corridors
and connections to create a
strong biodiversity and
pollinator network in Leith*



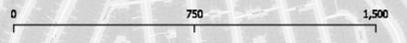


Selected Areas

- 1. Tollbooth Wynd
- 2. Mill Lane Park
- 3. Taylor Gardens
- 4. Keddie Gardens
- 5. North Junction Street Park
- 6. Dalmeny Street Park

Other neighbourhood parks:

- 7. Coalie Park
- 8. Pilrig Park
- 9. Leith Links
- 10. Meadows Yard
- 11. Lochend Park



Initial Thoughts

- On street Rain Gardens (SuDS)
- Increase in street trees
- Small community gardens
- Window boxes
- On street planters
- Green roofs
- Green roof bus shelters

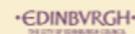




Thank you

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