



# Greenspace Quality Guide

## INTRODUCTION

All local authorities now have to undertake a greenspace audit. While it's relatively easy to assess how much greenspace you have, where it's located and what kind of space it is, it's much harder to define its quality. The Greenspace 'Quality' publication is designed to assist with setting up the framework to undertake a qualitative audit and with carrying out the site assessments.

## GREENSPACE AUDIT AND STRATEGIES

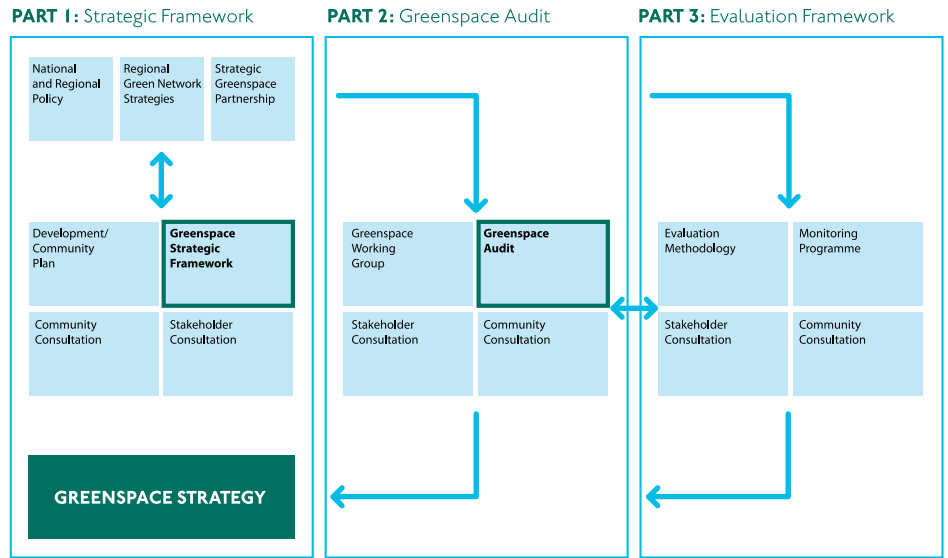
Scottish Planning Policy 11, 'Open Space and Physical Activity' requires Local Authorities to prepare a comprehensive Greenspace Audit on a five-yearly basis and prepare a Strategy which will inform the Local Development Plan.

## WHO IS THIS GUIDANCE FOR?

The guidance is for everyone involved in greenspace planning. It will inform decision makers in local authorities, community planning partnerships, other stakeholder agencies, private developers and community interests. It is particularly relevant to local authority staff with responsibilities for preparing the Greenspace Strategy and Audit.



Diagram 1: Three principle elements in developing the Greenspace Strategy



## CONTENT

The 'Greenspace Quality Guide' contains three sections which provide guidance on each stage of the process. These are:

**Part 1.** Strategic Framework

**Part 2.** Greenspace Audit

**Part 3.** Evaluation Framework

The publication focuses on how quality of greenspace is assessed in the Greenspace Audit and how quality issues and standards can be best addressed in greenspace planning. *See diagram 1.*



## PART 1. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Addresses the establishment of the Strategic Framework that forms the essential management, partnership and policy framework around which the local authority and its partners and stakeholders will develop the Greenspace Strategy and implement and monitor its greenspace resource.

## PART 2. GREENSPACE AUDIT

Addresses the preparation of the Greenspace Audit and provides detailed guidance on some of the processes involved, such as scoring the Audit, field surveys, data management, consultations with community groups and local stakeholders.

## PART 3. EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Addresses the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework and provides guidance on surveys and potential indicators for monitoring the on-going evaluation of the strategy and delivery process.

## WHAT IS QUALITY GREENSPACE?

Through a series of stakeholder workshops, greenspace was identified to have five quality criteria. Quality greenspaces should:

1. Be accessible and connected to the wider Green Network
2. Be attractive and appealing
3. Be biodiverse and support ecological networks
4. Promote activity, health and well being
5. Have community benefits.

These criteria are used throughout the 'Greenspace Quality Guide' to provide a simple proforma capable of providing measurable qualitative information across a variety of greenspace types.

\*The 'Greenspace Quality Guide' was developed in partnership with greenspace scotland.



**gcv green network**  
connecting our quality spaces

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