

Green Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan 2024 to 2030

This is the Delivery Plan to accompany the [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) which was adopted by Southampton City Council in January 2024

THEME 1: CREATE AND EXTEND THE GI

Ref.	Project/activity	Lead officer	Collaboration with	Funding needed Y/N	RAG	Start date	End date	Suggested partners
Objective 1: Secure resources for new and improved GI								
1.1.1	Develop a “grant ready” project list and a funding plan, identify and prioritise projects needed to enhance, extend and connect the green and blue infrastructure (GI) across the city to form a network, a green grid.	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, Transport & Planning	Y	R	2025	2030	
1.1.2	Actively seek and apply for grant funding through all available funding routes and providers e.g. Land tax credits, heritage lottery, Veolia Environmental Trust	Abigail Roberts - External Funding Manager	Rangers, Ecologist, Landscape Development Officers	N	G	2024	2030	
1.1.3	Work with Hampshire County Council (HCC) to map elements of the Green Grid within the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Planning Ecologist	Y	G	2024	2025	HCC
1.1.4	Agree nature recovery priorities for Southampton	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Ecologist	N	A	2024	2025	
1.1.5	Identify opportunities for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) delivery on council land	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Planning Ecologist	Y	A	2024	2030	
1.1.6	Maintain and improve GI along roads (ie. verge management), embed GI in transport schemes (aiming for no less than 10% increase in GI)	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Planning Ecologist, Landscape, Operations Teams, Transport & Planning, Highways/Balfour Beatty	N	A	2024	2030	

1.1.7	Investigate other sources of “green funding” such as CIL money, S106 and BNG contributions and Countryside Stewardship	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	External Funding Manager	N	A	2024	2030	
1.1.8	Identify ways of increasing well-designed GI via planning conditions	Planning Ecologist	Transport & Planning	N	A	2025	2030	

THEME 2: IMPROVE AND ENHANCE GI

Ref.	Project/activity	Lead officer	Collaboration with	Funding needed Y/N	RAG	Start date	End date	Suggested partners
Objective 1: Ensure all residents are within 5 minutes’ walk of a green space								
2.1.1	Establish criteria of what constitutes a green space (size, quality, benefits it provides) and ensure planning policy includes the requirement for development to contribute to the delivery of additional greenspace	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Public Health, Landscape Development Officers, Planning Ecologist, Community Campaigns Officer	N	A	2026	2030	
2.1.2	Map existing GI – where it is and what it is (linked to Natural Capital Assessment work)	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Consultancy, Public Health, Sustainability Team	Y	A	2025	2026	HCC (Local Nature Recovery Strategy)
2.1.3	Establish where additional GI is needed to ensure people are within a 5-minute walk of green space	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Transport & Planning, Public Health, Community Campaigns Officer	N	A	2025	2025	Physical Activity Alliance
2.1.4	Prioritise GI links to reduce inequalities in opportunities for active travel and healthy lifestyle	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Transport & Planning, Sustainable Transport, Public Health, Stronger Communities, Ecologist, Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer	N	A	2025	2030	SNPC
2.1.5	Increase our understanding of why disadvantaged communities don’t use local green spaces	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Public Health, Stronger Communities	Y	A			UoS

2.1.6	Trial a parklet and/or mobile green space	Nicky Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Transport & Planning, Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer	Y	R	2025	2025	SNPC
2.1.7	Assist with HELP agreement process. Review success of areas “taken on” by residents via HELP agreements (ie. planters)	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Operations Managers, Housing	N	G	2024	2030	SNPC
2.1.8	Work with Southampton National Park City (SNPC) to achieve National Park City status by 2025	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer, Ecologist	N	G	2024	2025	SNPC
2.1.9	Identify projects and delivery mechanisms that SNPC can help with (including people and funding) to enhance and connect GI	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer, Ecologist	N	G	2024	2030	SNPC
Objective 2: Increase LNR provision								
2.2.0	Identify and designate additional Local Nature Reserves (LNR), aiming to achieve the recommended standard of 1ha of LNR per 1,000 population	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Rangers, Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, Operations Managers, Development & Commercial Services Manager	N	G	2024	2030	SNPC, SNHS
Objective 3: Ensure our green spaces are of good quality and accessible to all								
2.2.1	Our parks and greenways will be regularly audited against Green Flag Management Criteria and will be managed appropriately to provide safe, good quality and accessible green spaces for all	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Operations Managers, Rangers, Ecologist	N	G	2024	2030	
2.2.2	Continue to regularly audit parks to record existing conditions/facilities/ infrastructure and created costed action plans to ensure continued accessibility and safety	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Rangers, Landscape Development Officer	N	G	2024	2030	
2.2.3	Carry out regular biodiversity audits of our greenways and SINCAs to record habitat composition and condition. We will monitor and record the effects of ongoing habitat management	Sam Munslow – Ecologist	Rangers	N	G	2024	2030	
2.2.4	As part of greenway auditing, we will produce an up to date inventory of all works needed, with costs, so projects are “grant ready” as funding opportunities arise	Sam Munslow – Ecologist	Landscape Development Officer, Rangers	N	A	2024	2030	

2.2.5	Ensure all our signage/furniture follows the SCC standard palette, so our green spaces are easily identifiable as being council managed spaces	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officer, Rangers, Comms	Y	G	2024	2030	
2.2.6	Increase the amount and improve the quality of interpretation signage and waymarkers	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Operations Managers, Landscape Development Officers, Rangers, Comms	Y	R	2024	2030	
2.2.7	Revisit our guidance on respecting our green spaces, including the greenways and the Common, encouraging a sense of “ownership” and respect for local spaces	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Rangers, Comms, Ecologist, Operations Managers, Community Campaigns Officer	N	A	2025	2025	
2.2.8	Develop information on the accessibility of blue and green spaces, with routes to show walking/cycling/public transport – enhanced Sat Nav mapping opportunities to walk through green/blue routes. Integrate and audit SoMap to reflect walking / cycling routes on leisure layers etc.	Nick Yeats – Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Rangers, Transport & Planning, Community Campaigns Officer, Public Health, Sustainable Transport, Community Cohesion & Diversity Officer	Y	R	2025	2030	Go Jauntly, Physical Activity Alliance
2.2.9	Promote our parks and greenways on our website and ensure all relevant information (ie. access, facilities, volunteering opportunities and events) is included and kept up to date	Nick Yeats - Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Rangers, Sustainable Transport, Comms	N	G	2024	2030	
2.3.0	Develop a SCC webpage for all things relating to “greening the city”, explaining how everyone can play their part and contribute, irrespective of size of area. Review and update contents on SCC Green City and Parks web pages	Sam Munslow – Ecologist	Rangers, Community Campaigns, Comms	N	A	2024	2030	SNPC, HIWWT
2.3.1	Develop annual events and activities calendar to encourage use of greenspaces, promote “greening” ideas	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Community Campaigns Officer, Neighbourhood Wardens, Public Health, Sustainable Transport, Comms	N	A	2025	2030	SNPC, HIWWT, Physical Activity Alliance

2.3.2	Continue to work with schools across the city to encourage and help them to become Eco Schools and/or as biodiverse / sustainable as possible / involvement in Citizen Science projects	Sam Munslow – Ecologist	Rangers, Healthy & Sustainable Schools Team, School Grounds Team	N	G	2024	2030	Friends Groups
2.3.3	Develop communication about importance of GI (including health risks associated with a lack of GI and the benefits of increasing its provision). Encourage all city users to have more GI on their land (eg. residents/ businesses/places of worship)	Becky Wilkinson - Public Health	Sustainability Team, Ecologist, Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer, Comms	N	A	2025	2030	Energize Me
2.3.4	Continue to support and work with existing Friends groups (ie. grant application assistance and training) and encourage and help new groups to become established	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Operations Managers, Community Campaigns Officer	Y	G	2024	2030	SNPC, Friends Groups
2.3.5	Develop a Young Ranger group of volunteers	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Ecologist, Community Campaigns Officer	N	G	2024	2025	Barton Peveril College
2.3.6	Continue to develop a team of volunteers to help deliver actions in the GI and Biodiversity Strategies. Record and monitor the work carried out	Sara Tschersich - Community Campaigns Officer	Rangers, Ecologist, Stronger Communities	N	G	2024	2030	
Objective 4: Improve Biodiversity								
2.3.7	Implement our Biodiversity Strategy via an updated Southampton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, all relevant services within SCC, Rangers, Community Campaigns Officer	N	A	2025	2030	SNPC, HIWWT, SNHS, Regional/ Local Conservation Groups (ie. ARC, PTES, Hants Swifts)
Objective 5: Climate Change Adaptation								
2.3.8	Implement SCC Climate Change Strategy	Jess Lewis - Sustainability Team	Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, all relevant services within SCC	Y	G	2024	2030	
2.3.9	Identify buildings where GI can be retrofitted, especially those close to roads/within Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's)	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment and Sustainability	Sustainability Team, Planning Ecologist, Property Services, Air Quality Officer	N	A	2025	2030	

2.4.0	Safeguard climate change adaptation land from sale	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Planning Ecologist, Property Team, Transport & Planning, Sustainability Team, Economic Development Team	N	A	2024	2030	
2.4.1	Identify land with capacity to provide additional climate change adaptation measures (ie. rain gardens, SuDS, underground rainwater holding tanks)	Jess Lewis - Sustainability Team, Strategic Planning	Flood Risk Officer, Transport & Planning, Highways/Balfour Beatty	N	A	2025	2030	
2.4.2	All future development applications and transport schemes will use Green Space Factor tool to achieve greening targets and will also deliver no less than 10% BNG	Amber Trueman - Strategic Planning	Sustainability Officer, Planning Ecologist, Transport & Planning, Highways/Balfour Beatty	N	G	2024	2030	
2.4.3	All development will include well designed GI to deliver climate change adaptation	Darren Shorter – Urban Design Manager	Sustainability Team, Transport & Planning, Development, Highways/Balfour Beatty	N	A	2024	2030	
2.4.4	Increase tree planting (focusing on areas where most needed for shading/water interception/AQ/public health), using appropriate species	Will Taylor – Arboricultural Manager	Ecologist, Transport & Planning, Sustainability Team, Landscape Team	Y	R	2024	2030	
2.4.5	Introduce community street tree projects	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Development & Commercial Services Manager, Trees Team	Y	R	2026	2030	SNPC
2.4.6	Review current land management practices adjacent to water courses and identify opportunities for increasing water interception capacity	Sam Foulds - Flood Risk Officer	Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	N	A	2024	2030	
2.4.7	Ensure SuDS are incorporated into new development, including highways and transport schemes	Sam Foulds - Flood Risk Officer	Highways/Balfour Beatty, Transport & Planning	N	A	2024	2030	

THEME 3: PROTECTING OUR ASSETS

Ref	Action	Lead officer	Collaboration with	Funding needed Y/N	RAG	Start date	End date	Suggested partners
Objective 1: Protect GI from inappropriate development								
3.1.1	Continue to work formally with existing partners to ensure SCC are working in collaboration with/are aware of all relevant projects/plans across the city who/which could help with delivery of this plan	TBA	All relevant officers across SCC	N	A	2024	2030	To be developed – ie. EA, SW, Southampton Airport, Ports Authority, relevant land owners
3.1.2	Planning policies, designed to protect GI, will be included in the new Local Plan (Southampton City Vision). The Green Grid (GG) strategic map will also be included and relevant elements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability)	Planning Ecologist, Transport & Planning, Urban Design	N	A	2025	2026	
3.1.3	Prepare a GI Technical Note, setting out requirements for the protection and enhancement of the GG, to act as supplementary technical guidance to the GI protection policies in the new Local Plan (citing best practice guidance such as NE GI Frameworks Principles and Building with Nature)	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Planning Ecologist, Transport & Planning, Urban Design	N	A	2025	2026	
3.1.4	Review our planning policy in relation to dropped kerbs with a view to reducing loss of verges and front gardens	Amber Trueman - Strategic Planning	Transport & Planning, Highways/Balfour Beatty	N	A	2025	2026	
3.1.5	Develop and implement a Pesticide Policy, reducing our use of pesticides and herbicides wherever possible, including designing out the need for pesticides. The policy must be adopted into highways schemes and new development and landscape designs	Dave Tyrie – Head of City Services	Sustainability team, Highways Service Partnership, Procurement & Landscape Operations	Y	R	2025	2025	
3.1.6	Develop and implement planning policy in relation to trees, ensuring right tree right place and “2 for 1” tree replacement, this policy will be	Will Taylor – Arboricultural Manager	Sustainability Team, Transport & Planning	N	A	2025	2025	

	included in the new Local Plan and will be supported by a Trees Technical Note to provide guidance for developers							
3.1.7	Review and update the council's Design and Planting Principles documents (for internal adoption) to ensure green spaces are well designed and contain appropriate species of trees and plants	Nick Yeats - Development & Commercial Services Manager	Landscape Development Officers, Arboricultural Manager	N	A	2025	2026	
Objective 2: Protect GI through appropriate management								
3.1.8	Work towards ensuring all SCC owned components of the GG receive appropriate habitat management to bring them up to favourable conservation status	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Rangers, all relevant services within SCC (including: Housing, Schools, Trees, Cemeteries/ Maintenance, Highways teams/Balfour Beatty)	N	G	2024	2030	
3.1.9	Continue to roll out internal biodiversity/wildlife related staff training to ensure all relevant teams are trained in GI management and have appropriate level of awareness of protected species/habitat legislation. Include wildlife legislation training in all staff inductions	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	All relevant services within SCC (including: Housing, Schools, Trees, Cemeteries/ Maintenance, Highways/Balfour Beatty, Learning Development, Recruitment Team, HR Data Officer, HR Business Partner)	N	G	2024	2025	
3.2.0	Continue to deliver tool-box talks and provide on-site supervision for council work. Continue to encourage collaborative cross-council working and to ensure good practice in GI management/legal species protection is adhered to within the council's day-to-day activities	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Rangers, all relevant services within SCC (including: Housing, Schools, Trees, Cemeteries/ Maintenance, Highways/Balfour Beatty) Recruitment Team HR Data Officer HR Business Partner	N	G	2024	2025	

3.2.1	Develop and roll out biodiversity training for SCC sub-contractors. Ecological input into Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) at design stage for SCC projects	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Landscape & Play, Operations Managers, Property Division, Consultants, Council sub-contractors	N	G	2024	2025	
3.2.2	Involve Ecology and Sustainability Teams at tender stage to ensure supply chain and sub-contractors have correct credentials to work on SCC projects. Develop a standard set of quality questions to be used in all appropriate market exercises. Develop a new milestone sign off for project delivery plans, and sub £25k spends	Procurement	Ecologist, Sustainability Team, Fleet Management Team	N	A	2025	2025	
3.2.3	Form network of Biodiversity Champions across relevant services to raise awareness of importance of GI and encourage collaborative working within the council, helping to deliver our Biodiversity Duty and ensure we adhere to wildlife legislation	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	All relevant Services within SCC (Housing, Highways, Grounds Operatives, Estates & Assets, Sustainability team)	Y	G	2024	2025	
3.2.4	Undertake research to establish the Ecosystem Services benefits of ornamental species /cultivars. Use information to feed into planting plans and policy	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Landscape Officers	N	A	2025	2027	UoS
3.2.5	Explore appropriate machinery to undertake correct management of more biodiverse green spaces (ie. cut and collect machinery, reciprocating cutting head)	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Ecologist, Operations Managers, Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, Procurement, Fleet Management, Finance (capital expenditure forecast)	Y	A	2024	2026	
3.2.6	Ensure all relevant teams are trained in GI management to benefit wildlife/people and in the use of new GI management equipment	Dawn Bannatyne – Lead Ranger	Ecologist, Operations Managers	N	A	2024	2030	
3.2.7	Ensure management prescriptions are correct for all our semi-natural greenspaces, management plans are in place and information accurately recorded on SoMap (ie. grassland mowing regimes, hedgerow/woodland management, greenways, SINCS, SSSI's)	Sam Munslow - Ecologist	Rangers, Service Manager Environment & Sustainability, Operations Managers, Ground Maintenance Teams (various teams)	N	G	2024	2025	
3.2.8	Ensure all parks and greenways have Green Flag management plans and appropriate access/infrastructure/facilities	Nick Yeats - Development & Commercial Services Manager	Ecologist, Landscape Development Officers, Operations Managers, Rangers	Y	G	2024	2030	SNPC

3.2.9	Protect, preserve and promote the River Itchen	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Transport & Planning, Highways & Infrastructure	Y	G	2024	2030	EA, SW, River Itchen Forum
Objective 3: Develop an understanding of the financial value of GI								
3.3.0	Develop a Natural Capital Register and Ecosystem Services List. Undertake a Natural Capital Assessment	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Consultancy, Public Health, Sustainability Team	Y	A	2025	2026	
3.3.1	Create a Natural Capital Plan based on protecting current Ecosystem Services provision and creation of enhanced level of protection	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Consultancy, Sustainability Team, Public Health	Y	A	2026	2027	
3.3.2	Use results of Natural Capital Assessment to create business case to attract investment in GI (ie. cost of management/cost of extending and improving GI)	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Consultancy, Sustainability Team	Y	A	2026	2027	
3.3.3	Undertake research into how Ecosystem Services delivery will be impacted by climate changes and population increases	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Sustainability Team, Economic Development	N	A	2026	2030	UoS
3.3.4	Identify opportunities to employ Ecosystem Services to deliver benefits such as carbon offsetting	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Sustainability Team	N	A	2026	2030	UoS
3.3.5	Monitor the benefits to biodiversity of existing and new GI	Lindsay McCulloch - Service Manager Environment & Sustainability	Community Campaigns Officer, Ecologist	N	A	2026	2030	UoS
3.3.6	Undertake local market research to establish if businesses find it more desirable to be located near to green spaces/green routes	Sam Munslow – Ecologist	Sustainable Travel Lead, Comms & Insights Team, Economic Development	N	A	2025	2025	UoS
3.3.7	Establish whether local businesses will sponsor/help fund existing/additional GI (including parklets)	Nawaz Khan - Economic Development & Regeneration	Business Improvement District (Go! Southampton)	Y	R	2025	2026	

RAG

Red – Funding needed

Amber – not in progress, funding may/may not be required

Green – in progress

Abbreviations

GI – green and blue infrastructure, SNPC – Southampton National Park City, SNHS – Southampton Natural History Society, HIWWT – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, HCC – Hampshire County Council, ARC – Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, PTES – People’s Trust for Endangered Species, Uos – University of Southampton, BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain, CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy, SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, SuDS – sustainable urban drainage system, Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), RAMS – Risk Assessment Method Statement, AQMA – Air Quality Management Area, EA – Environment Agency, SW – Southern Water