

## Glasgow National Park City

Glasgow National Park City (GNPC) Group is an independent group – formed in 2018 – that aims to establish Glasgow as a National Park City. We think Glasgow can be a frontrunner in the growing international National Park City (NPC) movement, and that GNPC can be a catalyst for a shared vision for Glasgow as a greener, healthier and wilder city, where people, places and nature are better connected.



We strongly believe that the National Park City idea, and the associated opportunity for international collaboration and cooperation, could have an important role in shaping a more sustainable Scotland by 2050.

The idea of a National Park City is simple – take the familiar idea of a National Park and apply it to an urban area. [London National Park City](#) became a World first when it was declared in July 2019, and the [National Park City Foundation](#) has an ambition for 25 National Park Cities worldwide by 2025. Last year the Foundation published a Universal Charter for National Park Cities (<https://npc-universal-charter.netlify.com/>). The charter sets out an overall vision – but also recognises that each NPC will develop uniquely around people and communities acting together on the specific needs and priorities of their city in order to make it a greener, healthier, fairer and more harmonious places to live.

Our work to date has focussed on engaging with a range of organisations and individuals to look at how a Glasgow National Park City could benefit citizens and the city, and to help shape the aims of GNPC, and actions of GNPC Group. To date we have held 4 events to bring interested people and groups together, signed up 23 supporting partners (see annexe 1), and launched a [website](#) to act as the hub for our work. More events looking at how the idea could be taken forward in our City are planned for 2020.

Our vision and aims for Glasgow are:

*GNPC Group will use the familiar idea of a National Park to inspire a shared vision for Glasgow, as a greener, healthier and wilder City where people, places and nature are better connected.*

*We believe in a future in which Glasgow is:*

- A place where everyone is engaged with nature and the outdoors.*
- A city where nature is thriving, and spaces and places are connected.*
- A place where every child has the chance to learn and have fun in nature every day.*
- A city with clean, healthy air.*
- A place where everyone feels empowered and inspired to make their city healthier, greener and wilder.*
- A city where people are proud of their natural and cultural heritage.*
- A place where everyone has access to green, healthy, sustainable travel.*
- A city nearing the top health and wellbeing tables instead of the bottom.*
- A place where excellent design delivers buildings and spaces that respond to the needs of people and nature.*

Our vision and aims clearly echo the Scottish Government National Outcomes (We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment/ We are healthy and active, etc) and Sustainable Development Goals (good health and wellbeing, sustainable cities and communities, etc). NPF4 presents an opportunity for effective innovation which can bring together various excellent National Policies to create “Places” which reflect the principles within the National Performance Framework. The consultation identifies addressing climate change, supporting quality of life, health and wellbeing, and improving, protecting and strengthening the special character of places as key issues for consideration.

We believe that GNPC can offer a fresh, innovative and creative link between National Policy and grass roots community and individual activity, particularly as we emerge from the Coronavirus lockdown, and as we grapple with societal changes that need to be made to address the pressing climate emergency. It can offer a unifying vision to connect a wide range of organisations, and support and amplify activity to facilitate real City-wide change that improves quality of life, health and wellbeing, helps address climate change, and that supports the special character of Glasgow.

Various stakeholders, large and small, are working across these work streams but connections across the interests are often lost or only picked up in very high-level National Policy. Projects ranging from large scale active travel infrastructure to community food growing or biodiversity initiatives can sometimes appear isolated and not seen as providing multiple benefits or working towards a wider vision which is greater than the sum of its parts. By its very essence, a National Park City offers an inclusive and cross-sectoral approach as it works towards including all audiences at a range of scales. It provides an approach that can connect grassroots activity by small groups and individuals, with whom large Authorities may struggle to engage, with City-wide priorities. It offers a way to harness and amplify the myriad actions of small groups to support and feel part of a clear, shared vision.

We believe that a GNPC will have wide appeal, and will help connect citizens and government organisations around many of the NPF4 priorities, including placemaking, health, biodiversity, clean air, local food systems and climate change. This will allow GNPC an opportunity to connect and communicate various messages to a wide and inclusive audience who do not yet have access to the overarching vision.

Cities across the globe are recognising that the- National Park City model offers new, direct and creative engagement channels in and out of communities, audiences and a wide range of interest groups, along with the opportunity to harness all of the skills, expertise, resources and evidence that comes from such a collaborative approach. GNPC is a frontrunner, with a growing profile and support network. Early discussions with both Glasgow City Council and Public Health Scotland have been positive, and our partners already include community greenspace and food growing groups, outdoor activity organisations, green education groups and health bodies (see annex).

We would welcome the opportunity to further develop any of the points above and explore the opportunities around inclusion of GNPC within NPF4, either as an umbrella National Project or as a mechanism which can complement other National Projects and initiatives which aim to deliver the same outcomes.

## **Annexe 1 – Supporting Partners**

Supporting partners include local community groups and national organisations, and work across a range of sectors, including health, business, active travel, food growing and communication. They are:

- Bike for Good
- Car-free Glasgow
- Central Scotland Green Network Trust
- The Conservation Volunteers Scotland
- Fans of Barrowlands Park
- Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves
- Friends of Knightswood Park
- Friends of the River Kelvin
- Glasgow School of Art
- Greenspace Scotland
- Intelligent Health
- Lochend Surgery
- Mucky Puddle
- The Nature Library
- New Society Glasgow
- Open Aye
- Operation Play Outdoors
- The Orchard Project
- South Seeds
- University of Glasgow Zoological Society
- Urban Roots
- Venture Scotland
- 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland