

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development
to Cabinet
of 27 August 2024**

Subject: Open Space Strategy 2024 – 2029

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the finalised Open Space Strategy for 2024-2029.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet considers and approves the Open Space Strategy 2024-29 for South Ayrshire Council.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Scottish Government Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires each Authority to create and publish an Open Space Strategy which outlines our vision for the provision, maintenance and use of green infrastructure including open space and green networks within South Ayrshire.
- 3.2 The Strategy has been built on, and developed from, the 2012 Open Space Strategy and Audit. In 2012, 1100 sites of over 500m² were individually inspected and assessed, the Audit looked at the quality and distribution of public open space in South Ayrshire. For the 2024 - 29 Strategy a sampling exercise was undertaken of the current South Ayrshire Council owned sites. 133 sites were surveyed across South Ayrshire, this equates to just over 10% of the original 1100 sites of over 500m².
- 3.3 Since 2012 South Ayrshire Council has continued to work to develop and maintain meaningful public open space for residents of and visitors to South Ayrshire.
- 3.4 While research evidenced the importance of good quality public open space to peoples physical and mental health, the Covid pandemic showcased the vital role that open space plays in people's lives, on their health and the social value of providing space for people to participate in passive and active recreation.
- 3.5 Additionally open space plays a vital role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity, providing food and habitat to a wide range of species. Our woodland and public areas are also key in assisting with mitigations and adaptations relating to climate change.

3.6 In 2015 we gained our first Green Flag Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful; this is an internationally recognised award which reviews a range of elements from horticultural standards and cleanliness to community involvement. We currently have 6 Green Flags:

- Belleisle Estate, Ayr;
- Newton Park, Ayr;
- Fullarton Estate, Troon;
- Orchard Gardens, Girvan;
- Knockcushan Gardens, Girvan; and
- Ayr Cemetery.

3.7 South Ayrshire Council has in recent years invested £1.995million improving a range of elements within its open space including play areas, football pitches, bowling greens, golf facilities and walking trails. This work and investment is continuing with the assistance of Scottish Government funding for play areas and biodiversity, together with the Councils financial commitment to each ward providing funds for a range of projects which will continue to see the development and improvement of open space within South Ayrshire.

4. Proposals

4.1 This Strategy works to deliver on three strategic outcomes:

- To assist in creating attractive, safe and sustainable environments;
- To support outdoor leisure and recreation; and
- To generate a positive image for South Ayrshire's towns and villages.

4.2 The Open Space strategy 2024-29 links to several key Council documents including the Local Development Plan, Climate Change Strategy, Physical Activity & Sports Strategy. Additionally, the Strategy links directly to the delivery of the Sports Pitch Strategy, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the Food Growing Strategy and to the forthcoming Play Strategy.

4.3 It should be noted that as in the 2012 audit, 42% of Council's current open space is delivered by golf courses and the school estate, both of which have restricted access. When you remove these two elements three wards fall below the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1000 people, those being Kyle, Prestwick and North Ayr. In these three Wards it is recommended that open space sites should be protected from development and any planned residential developments must provide meaningful open space within the red line site.

4.4 Appendix 1 of the Strategy provides, on a Ward basis, a breakdown of open space in hectares and of type, together with a table of suggested initiatives that could be delivered within each Ward to continue to improve our public open space.

5. Legal and Procurement Implication

5.1 There are no legal or procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Any proposed initiatives will only progress where budget has been identified.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 There are no human resource implications related to the content of this paper.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks from adopting the recommendations.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 That the Council is not compliant with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Process. There are no significant positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is shown in Appendix 2.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 1 of the Council Plan: Spaces and Places/ Moving around and the environment (Outcome 1).

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Kilbride, Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Leadership Panel of 4 September 2012 – [Finalised South Ayrshire Open Space Strategy](#)**

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Date: 21 August 2024

South Ayrshire Open Space Strategy

2024 - 2034



Foreword

I am pleased to present to you, South Ayrshire Council's second Open Space Strategy. As the Portfolio holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment I recognise the importance of good quality public open space to residents and visitors to South Ayrshire.

The value of having access to meaningful open space was made clear to us all during the period of lockdown in 2020. Our open spaces not only providing space to socialise and exercise but also, benefiting our mental health and wellbeing. During this period, we saw people engaging and appreciating our open space and this has carried on as we see people out walking, cycling, running, -meeting up with friends and taking part in outdoor events.

As such, it is important for us as an Authority to have a Strategy to build on past achievements, to consider how people use open space in all its formats, to commit to the protection, enhancement, and positive management of all our public open space – greenspaces, estates and parks, woodlands and sports areas to name a few.

Within this Strategy, South Ayrshire Council not only sets out, a vision for continuing to improve our open spaces but also sets out strategic objectives, provides information on the quality and distribution of open space in South Ayrshire and detailed information relating to each ward. Each ward has an action plan with recommendations of how we can enhance areas and continue to provide good quality, multi- functional and accessible open space to our residents and visitors.

Open space should never be undervalued, it plays a key role in our lives both physically, mentally and encouraging healthier lifestyles. High quality environments also assist our local economy attracting tourists and businesses to South Ayrshire. Our open spaces also provide opportunities for sport and learning and are a vital component for our biodiversity, providing a range of habitats for species to thrive.

The Open Space Strategy is a key strategic document linking into and assisting to deliver many other strategies, plans and policies such as Local Development Plan, Sustainability & Climate Change, Active Travel, Outdoor Learning.

We have a rich diversity of public open space and there has been significant investment in past years. Our challenge now is to continue to develop and improve our spaces, so that they continue to be valued and cherished by all.

Councillor Martin Kilbride
Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment
August 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

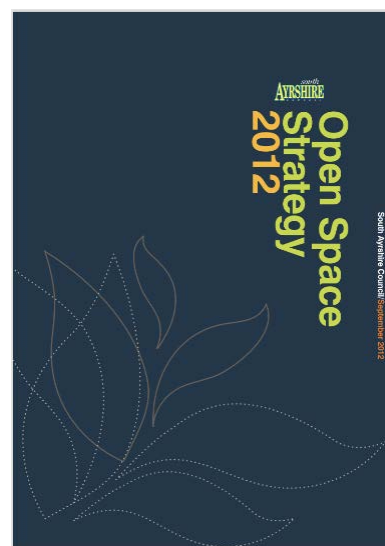
1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

The Open Space Strategy sets out a coordinated approach to meeting South Ayrshire's open space needs, whilst protecting and developing the urban networks of open spaces. An Open Space Strategy is the formally approved policy document defining a Local Authority's approach, commitment and management to protect, enhance and manage open space assets. It fulfils the Scottish Government requirement, set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy. The Strategy sets out a vision, for the provision, management and maintenance of open spaces in South Ayrshire.

The study represents an important opportunity to identify the potential opportunities for South Ayrshire's open spaces and green networks. It also demonstrates how the strategic goals of the Central Scotland Green Network can be met, whilst complementing and supporting strategic and area based regeneration and the delivery of the Local Development Plan.

South Ayrshire Council (SAC) delivered its first Open Space Strategy and Audit in 2012. The audit assessed areas of open space greater than 500m² in size. In 2020, SAC appointed Ironside Farrar to assist the Council to refresh the 2012 document. [

The Strategy aims to raise the profile of open space within the Council, wider community and external agencies. It provides a working document for the Council's Open Space Managers to better define Open Space requirements, facilitate cross-departmental working and provides a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management. It will act as a base for accessing both internal and external funding through guidance on the actions required to maximise the open space resource of the council and guide future spend decisions.



1.2 South Ayrshire's Open Space

South Ayrshire contains a wealth of parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities and beaches along its scenic coastline. There are also numerous playgrounds spread across the council area, providing children with the opportunities to learn and play in a safe environment. The benefits of open space to tourism and recreation are recognised, as the community and visitors to the area enjoy a range of events and activities based in the popular seaside esplanades, Estate Parks and Destination Play spaces.

Award Winning Parks

SAC is now seeking awards for its parks and has been awarded Green Flags for some of its parks by Keep Scotland Beautiful, through the Green Flag Award scheme. The Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised certification for environmental quality management for parks and open spaces. Parks and open spaces wishing to achieve Green Flag status must have a site management plan in place and be



able to demonstrate they comply with a range of strict criteria including horticultural standards, cleanliness, environmental management, biodiversity, community involvement and safety standards.

SAC have been awarded Green Flags for Rozelle Park, Belleisle Park, Newton Park, Fullarton Estate, Ayr Cemetery, Knockcushan Gardens and Orchard Gardens. In addition to the Green Flag award, Belleisle Park became one of the two first parks in Scotland to receive the Green Heritage award. This annual award is given in recognition of achieving the required high standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance. This award was first given in 2019 and remains to this day.



The impact of the 2020 / 2023 coronavirus pandemic has affected our relationship with the outdoors. The national lockdown has disrupted our relationship with nature, from propelling us to find new appreciation for our natural surroundings to highlighting societal inequalities that exist in access to green space. Shifts in personal behaviour and corporate attitudes could mean that the UK, post-lockdown, will value and interact with nature on a much greater scale than before the pandemic.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has gathered data on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic:

“The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has forced people to interact with familiar surroundings in new ways. While bedrooms have become offices, gardens – and the areas within walking distance of home – have become wildlife-watching spots and gyms. Nature has been a source of solace for many, as lockdown rules have heightened our appreciation for local parks and green spaces.”

The ONS research established that numbers of people using parks and public green spaces was up on previous years during summer 2020, according to the Google mobility (UK, 2020) data¹

The ONS states that in South Ayrshire, during July and August 2020, the percentage of visits to and time spent in parks increased by 39%, compared to pre-pandemic levels (baseline recorded 3rd January to 6th February 2020).

¹ https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/howhaslockdownchangedourrelationshipwithnature/2021-04-26?utm_source=Green+Infrastructure+Partnership&utm_campaign=2baa981b59-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f4eb0dc7a3-2baa981b59-204180266

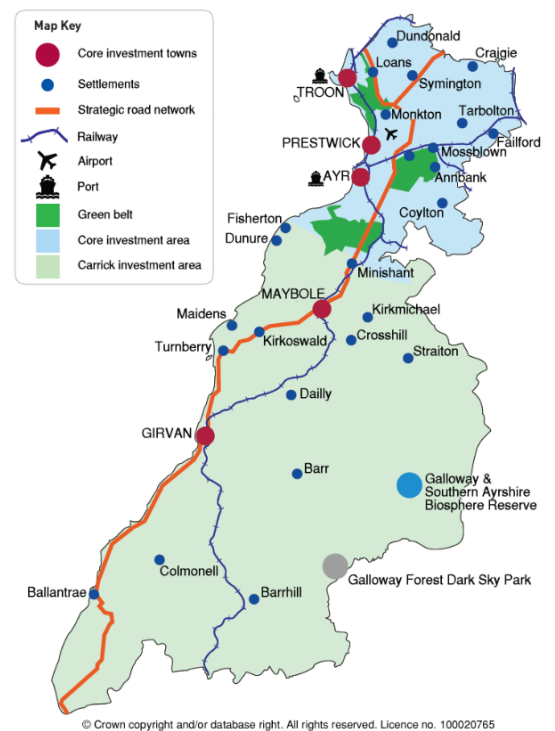
1.3 Improvements in Open Space Since 2012



Since the preparation of the 2012 Open Space Strategy, the Council has invested in the parks and open spaces, guided by its Open Space Strategy. Significant investment has been made in the parks and open space resource by the Council and its partners, focussing on:

- HLF Parks for People project to restore Belleisle Park
- New facilities in parks and open spaces, including new play equipment, beach improvements, outdoor gym equipment etc.
- We have seen a steady increase in customer satisfaction in public open space, as reported in the Local Government benchmarking

Although the quantity of open space across the Council area has remained broadly the same since 2012, the quality of open space across the Council area has significantly improved in some open spaces as improvements to facilities in a number of locations and restoration of some of South Ayrshire’s destination / estate parks.



1.4 The Benefits of Open Space

Good quality open spaces play a major role in enhancing the quality of life for local communities in South Ayrshire. It is widely recognised that open spaces, sport and outdoor recreation are essential to encouraging healthier lifestyles and for the protection of the natural environment. Evidence suggests that networks of well designed, high quality open spaces are vital in creating healthy and liveable cities, towns and villages. A shared, strategic approach to open space maximises its potential to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Open spaces contribute to a range of national and local commitments and policies, such as sustainable development, climate change adaptation, carbon management, outdoor learning, healthy living, sustainable transport, biodiversity and social equity policies. The range of benefits associated with open space are dependent upon the way the resource is planned, designed and managed to secure spaces that are 'fit for purpose' and address the needs of communities and stakeholders.

South Ayrshire Council open spaces provide the following benefits for the community and the natural environment: also linked to the 3 overarching priorities - Spaces and Places; Live Work and Learn; Civic and Community Pride

- Places to enjoy participating in sport and recreation;
- Opportunities to meet friends to play, in both natural and formal settings;
- The benefits for both physical health and mental wellbeing, by alleviating stress, anxiety and depression and dementia;
- Providing places for learning and environmental education;
- Enhancing biodiversity and green networks, linked to active travel routes;
- Climate change, both through mitigation and adaptation;
- Strengthening social capital and community cohesion;
- Its importance to tourism and the local economy; and
- Places for food production.

1.5 Strategic Context

The Open Space Strategy fulfils the Scottish Government requirement, set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy. Councils are required to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority’s policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks.

The Open Space Strategy supports the Local Development Plan (LDP) and other associated Council strategies, as set out in the chart to the side.



2.0 OUR STRATEGY

2.1 The Future

The 2023 Open Space Strategy seeks to build on the achievements of the past 8 – 10 years and continue to improve the quality of neighbourhood and community open spaces. Vital to this, will be ensuring that the changes in patterns of sustainable active travel choices to take short local journeys and the increase in visits to open spaces during the pandemic is not lost.

The coronavirus pandemic has brought the concept of the 20 minute neighbourhood to the forefront of public policy and planning. Cities around the world are adopting variations on 20 minute neighbourhood concept. It is about living more locally by giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20 minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options. A simple concept that brings together a number of policies and investments that are already Scottish Government priorities: place; wellbeing economy; empowering communities; sustainable transport; and town centres.



2.2 The Vision for Open Space

South Ayrshire is an area of high environmental quality which makes a significant contribution to the economic, environmental and cultural life of the area, providing an attractive setting for existing communities and new investment.



It is widely recognised that open spaces, sport and outdoor recreation are essential to encouraging healthier life styles and for the protection of the natural environment in Scotland. The provision of networks of well designed, good quality multi-functional and accessible open spaces can help deliver part of the wider Central Scotland Green Network and improving connectivity of blue and green networks.

The vision for open spaces in South Ayrshire:

“Good quality open spaces play a major role in enhancing the quality of life for local communities in South Ayrshire. They improve the appearance of towns and villages, and provide for informal recreation, sport and play, so contributing to people’s physical and mental health. They provide spaces for learning, socialising and events of many types.” (SAC Open Space Strategy 2012)

In June 2019 the Council approved its first **Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy** which will drive delivery of the Council’s climate change duties . The Strategy is underpinned with a cross departmental action plan to deliver mitigation and adaptation measures across the Authority area, putting South Ayrshire Council in the forefront of Scotland’s push towards a more sustainable future.

An outcome of the Climate Change Strategy was for the Council to develop the **South Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy**, which covers food-growing as well as wider issues about food sustainability. The purpose of the Food-Growing Strategy is to: identify land that may be used as allotment sites; identify other areas of land that could be used for community food-growing; and to describe how the authority intends to increase provision, particularly in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage. A main aim of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy is to **“Build adaptation into the delivery of key open space strategy actions with regard to outdoor assets and maintenance regimes, and woodland management plans.”** All open space improvement activity and the ongoing maintenance of the Council owned and managed sites will seek to maximise environmental benefits and meet these commitments.

2.3 Strategic Outcomes

The Strategy has 3 overarching outcomes which link to South Ayrshire Council’s Single Outcome Agreement. The vision for Open Space is built upon these outcomes:

1. To assist in **creating attractive, safe and sustainable environments** through enhancing the local landscape character and distinctiveness, which in turn provides attractive settings; protecting and enhancing the local biodiversity; and assisting in the management of pollution, noise and flooding.
2. To **support outdoor leisure and recreation**, which make a significant contribution to the quality of life in South Ayrshire by contributing to the health of the community by offering opportunity for sport and play; promoting mental wellbeing and relaxation; building community links through the development and use of communal spaces; and providing opportunities for environmental education.
3. To **generate a positive image for South Ayrshire’s towns and villages** by enhancing the visual quality of the built environment, supporting employment, and generating economic activity through assisting in attracting inward investment and tourism.

2.4 Strategic Objectives

To ensure that South Ayrshire's parks and open spaces are fit for the future, the following objectives for the next ten years (2024 - 2034) have been agreed to deliver the Open Space Strategy Vision:

1. Creating Attractive, Safe and Sustainable Environments

- Provide high quality, attractive and accessible open spaces which are functional and meet the current and future needs of the community.
- Build adaptation into the delivery of key open space strategy actions with regard to outdoor assets and maintenance regimes, and woodland management plans
- Conserve, manage and enhance opportunities for biodiversity and wildlife.
- Create quality landscape design and botanically interesting plantings in amenity areas.
- Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through development of Active Travel Networks to improve health and well-being support by reducing the need to travel by private car.
- Ensure that the aims, objectives and actions of the Open Space Strategy contribute to the vision and goals of key Plans Programmes and Policies (PPP) including the Central Scotland Green Network and the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy.
- Ensure that all development masterplans include the creation of new open space / enhancement of existing open space, and access improvements to inform Section 75 developer contribution agreements.
- Explore the role of open spaces in achieving the aspiration of "20 minute neighbourhoods".

2. Supporting Outdoor Leisure and Recreation

- Encourage and facilitate healthy lifestyles and wellbeing for all.
- Improve the accessibility of open spaces which support walking, cycling and wheeling as a means of getting around, through the provision of networks of high quality paths and infrastructure (e.g. path surface, lighting, signage and street furniture).
- Support the sustainable development and management of new and existing allotment and community gardens.
- Promote the use of open spaces through the provision of walking and cycling maps, connections to open spaces and blue / green networks
- Provide and encourage the use of facilities and open space for educational and cultural purposes.
- Encourage and facilitate greater community engagement & participation in all aspects of open space management.
- Ensure that there is sufficient play provision in a suitable geographical distribution to meet the needs of the residents and visitors of South Ayrshire, through both fixed play facilities and natural play opportunities.

3. Generate a Positive Image for South Ayrshire's Towns and Villages

- Contribute to the economic prosperity of South Ayrshire by assisting in attracting tourism and inward investment.
- Continue to provide and facilitate a range of community events and activities in our open spaces.
- Provide a framework for Best Value and improvement in the quality and delivery of South Ayrshire's public open space.
- Inform the preparation of the proposed and future Local Development Plan(s) & assist in the determination of planning applications.
- Develop and implement design & maintenance regimes that meet both the communities' aspirations and the financial constraints affecting the Council.




3.0 CURRENT OPEN SPACE PROVISION

3.1 Open Space Strategy

The Strategy is based on the original Council Parks & Open Spaces Strategy of 2001 and findings of the Open Space Audit of 2012, and the strategy refresh undertaken in 2023. The 2012 Open Space Audit database contains 1100 sites over 500m².

South Ayrshire Council appointed Ironside Farrar to assist the Council to refresh the 2012 document. This Open Space Audit involved the site visits and review 133No. of the original open space sites priority open space sites of over 0.5 hectares in size. The audit included parks, large areas of amenity open space, community woodlands / woodlands on the edges of towns, river walks, beaches close to settlements, play areas etc. Each of the 133No. sites were visited and re-audited using the 2012 Open Space Audit criteria and methodology. Particular emphasis was placed on delivering high quality open space on council maintained and owned land.

South Ayrshire Council		Open Space Strategy	
TRO01	Burn's Road Play Area	Troon Ward 1	GIS ID: G18069, G18029
<p>Site Characteristics Linear strip of open space wrapping around a Primary school in the heart of the suburb of Mauchline to the east of Troon residential area. The site is located besides a school, golf course, several blocks of flats and a low-rise residential area. The site is open on all sides, and the school is fenced with chain-link fencing. The site comprises: mown grass, an area of hard standing and a row of garages, mature standard trees and a small children's play area at the western end of the site.</p>			
			
2012 Open Space Audit Scores (amalgamated)	Accessibility 3	Attractiveness 3	Biodiversity 3
2020 Open Space Audit Scores	Accessibility 3	Attractiveness 2.5	Biodiversity 2.5
PAN 65 Classification	Neighbourhood Park +		Priority for action
			HIGH
QUALITY ASSESSMENT			
VALUE			
Site Condition	Overall, the site is in reasonable condition, but parts of it look rundown. The paths are narrow and not well designed. The access besides the garage area is of poor design quality. The play area comprises equipment of varying ages and conditions and the boundary fence is old. The play area is dated and lacking interest and poorly located with safety surface filling.		
Benefits for the local community	The site is likely to be in use by the residents of the immediately neighbouring streets, including Buchan Road and North Drive. The site is well overlooked by the surrounding houses, but supporting few uses with the exception of dog walking and informal kick-about football. The play area is located towards the edge of the site. Located close to the neighbourhood centre and adjacent to the primary school. The play area provides equipment for a range of ages and equipment see-saw, swing, climbing equipment and bin. There is a basketball hoop in the play area.		
Benefits for the natural environment	The park is located on the edge of the residential area and adjacent to a golf course to the west of the site. Though the site comprises mainly of mown grass and an area of rough grassland and scrub along the southern boundary of the site, there are hedges and clumps of trees on the adjacent site and connections to the wider green networks. This will provide some habitat and environmental value. However, this could be extended.		
Connections / Accessibility	The site is easily accessed from the neighbouring houses, although there are no paths, benches etc. to facilitate use of the space. The main entrance to the school is across the site via a rough surfaced path, with a bin and safety barriers. There is a further side entrance besides the garage area, including steps. Access to the school is poor.		
Play value (if applicable)	The site has been designated as a Neighbourhood play area in the Play Strategy.		
POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS			
There is scope for improving diversity and expansion of the play area, as a multi-use facility, relocated within the wider open space. This would provide opportunity for the play facility to be situated closer to the active transport flows and pedestrian movement. Improved and widened access path throughout the site, to the school and neighbouring residential streets will encourage active travel to school. Amenity tree and shrub planting will provide an improved frontage to the school. Create a gathering point / entrance area with features for natural play besides the entrance to encourage parents and children to gather. Incorporate more of the outdoor spaces of the school grounds with the adjacent open space to make better uses of the open space resource.			

3.2 Open Space Types

Open spaces can serve a range of functions and it is helpful to classify them to understand the different functions they perform and distinguish between spaces of strategic, local and neighbourhood importance.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 defines open space as “the space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green infrastructure or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function.”

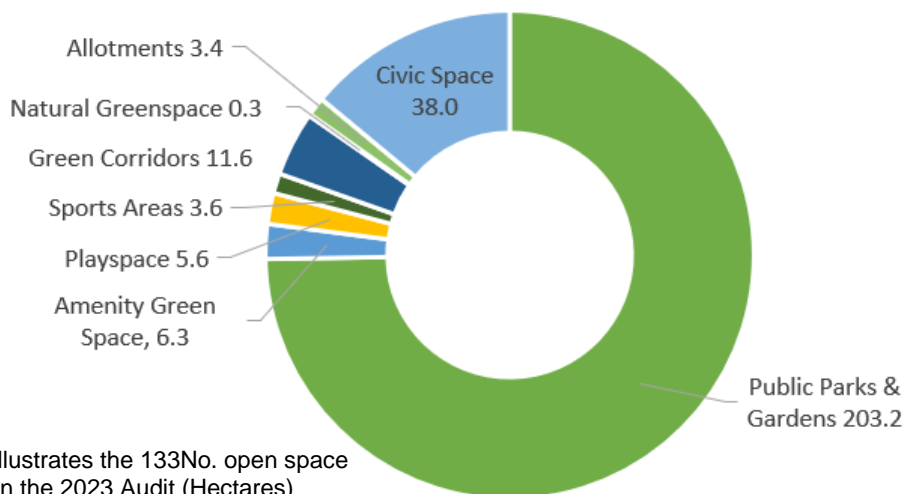


Chart 1: Illustrates the 133No. open space included in the 2023 Audit (Hectares)

The classification or typology of open space, based on Planning Policy: Open Space and Physical Activity (PAN65), is set out below to represent South Ayrshire’s wide range of open spaces.

Estate Park / Destination Parks



Parks which are often of significant size, of distinctive character, offering a combination of facilities and heritage features at the sub-regional level. South Ayrshire has a legacy of estates (gifted to the Council historically), which provide extensive areas of parkland landscape, woodlands and other visitor attractions. The estates and destination parks attract visitors from surrounding areas, are accessible by public transport, well connected to path networks and contain a number of high quality facilities (e.g. destination play facility, formal walled gardens, café, glass houses and historic buildings). They are popular family attractions, hosting a variety of events and offering an exceptional day out experience.

Civic Gardens



Extensive areas of high amenity civic spaces, associated with civic buildings (e.g. town hall) or a seafront promenade. They provide informal recreation space and access to the seafront. On occasions throughout the year, they provide a venue for the region’s civic / community events (e.g. Armed Forces Day, Ayr Flower Show, circus shows), which attract many visitors to the town.

Community or Rural Park Hub



Large to medium sized urban parks, usually in a central location close to a number of community facilities and designed and managed as a public park. They can provide some or all of the following: opportunities for active and passive recreation / social / community uses, such as sports activities, walking, cycling, children’s play, jogging, outdoor exercise equipment and limited events.

Neighbourhood Park



These parks are often small areas of open space, providing opportunities for children’s play, seating or informal sport. They are often well used parks with a distinct local catchment, within walking distance of the immediate residential population. Ideally, they will be located close to community facilities and well connected to the local path network.

Amenity Green Space



Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.

Playspace for Children & Teenagers



Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children’s play, usually linked to housing areas.

Sports Areas



Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable.

Green Corridors



Green networks including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed green network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.

Natural / Semi Natural Greenspace



Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife. Sites might include woodland strips (naturally regenerated / commercially planted), wetland and coastline main beaches. They may provide informal public access / active travel opportunities and valuable habitat / green network connections.

Allotments & Community Growing Spaces



Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.

3.3 Open Space Standards

SAC established open space standards in 2012, which have been tested through the 2023 audit process. Setting standards allows a better understanding of the current status of open space assets across a local authority area. Open space standards will inform the Local Development Plan process.

Best practice guidance suggests that standards should contain three elements:

- **Quantity** – an amount of space per house unit or head of population
- **Quality** – a benchmark against which quality can be measured
- **Accessibility** – an amount of particular types of open space within a specified distance, i.e. a distance threshold

The mapping and open space standards stages of the project included the consideration of the wider open space network, to ensure that an accurate picture of the open space resource is established.

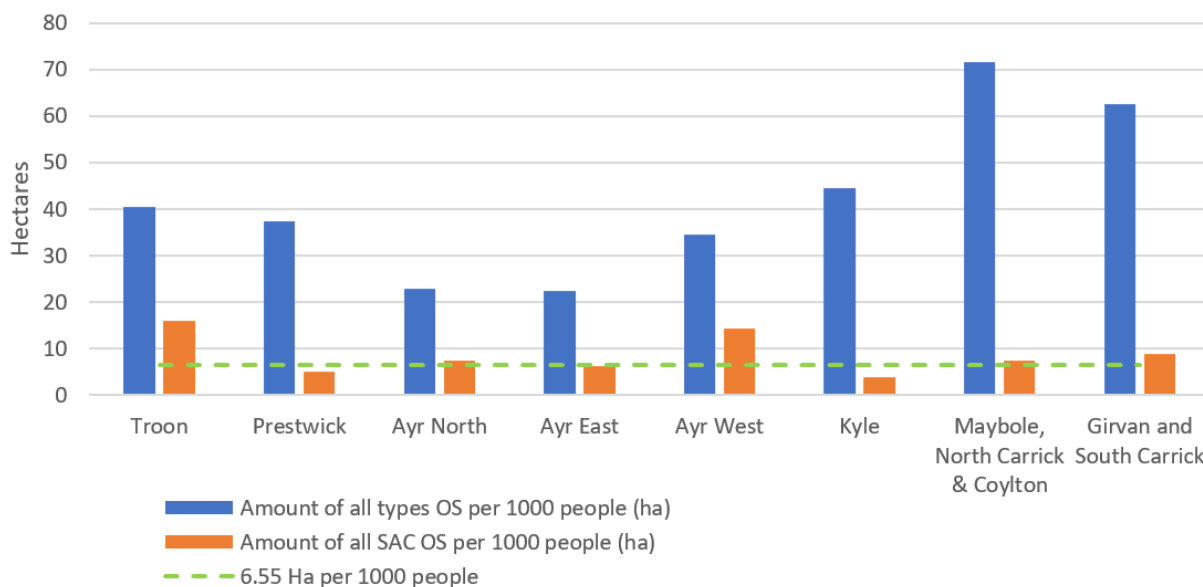
3.4 Quantity and Distribution of Open Space

The 2012 Open Space Audit identified that South Ayrshire has 4,563 ha. of open space (private and public). Approximately 1,000 ha of this land belongs to the Council. There has not been any significant change in the open space database since the 2012 audit, which includes all areas of open space in the South Ayrshire settlements. The 2012 database was used to apply the Fields in Trust (FiT) recommended benchmark guidelines and provide a comprehensive overview of open space provision across the South Ayrshire settlements.

Quantity Standard: Fields in Trust recommends that each community should have access to open space at a rate equivalent to **6.55 ha per 1,000 people**.

The chart below demonstrates that when compared with the FiT standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, the total open space in all wards meet and exceed the standard. When the open space owned and managed by SAC is considered, most wards meet the standard, apart from Prestwick and Kyle.

Chart 2: Total Open Space Provision Measured against FiT Standards



However, **42% of Council ‘open spaces’ are golf courses or school estates**, which are not always easily usable by the public. While there would appear to be large expanses of open space many large sites have restricted access e.g. golf courses, educational grounds and industrial areas. The following chart provides an assessment of the open space resource as compared to the FiT standard, with the omission of the following SAC owned golf courses:

- Dalmilling Golf Course
- Belleisle and Seafield Golf Course
- Maybole Golf Course
- Girvan Golf Course
- Troon, Lochgreen and Darley



When the open space owned and managed by SAC is considered (minus the golf courses), most wards meet the standard, apart from Prestwick, Ayr North and Kyle. (Ayr East and Girvan & South Carrick fall just below the standard, but not significantly.) **In the wards that don't meet the quantity standard, all open space sites should be protected from development and any planned residential developments should provide open space on-site.** The wider open space resource has been considered in the overall assessment, for example access to the coastline and beaches. However, beaches have **NOT** formed part of the quantity assessment. Appendix 1 sets out the open space assessment for each ward in more detail.

Chart 3: Total Open Space Provision Measured against FiT Standards (minus golf courses)



3.5 Quality of Open Space

It is not only important to know how much and where open space is in South Ayrshire, but to also know the quality of that open space. Quality is a key component of open space. Open spaces need to be “fit for purpose” and serve local communities by providing a level of service and functional provision to meet informal leisure and recreational needs.



A quality assessment based on criteria outlined in “Greenspace Quality – a guide to assessment, planning and strategic development” (Greenspace Scotland and the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership) using the following 5 criteria: Accessibility and Connectivity; Attractiveness and Appeal; Biodiversity – supporting ecological networks; Active, supporting health and well-being; and Community supported.

Of the resurveyed 133No. open spaces included in the open space audit, the 2012 quality scores have been reassessed and a new score given for each site. The chart below illustrates that the majority of the assessed sites are in “good condition”, with only 12 in a “fair condition” and 5 in a “poor condition”.

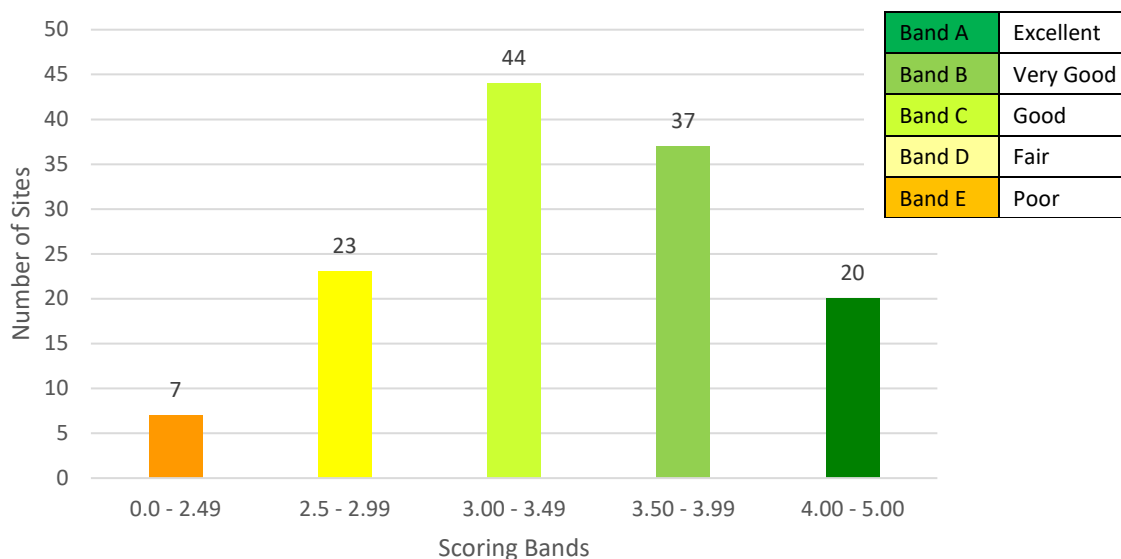


Chart 4: Quality Scores in the Bands

Ayr, Dundonald, Symington and Maybole contain some of the worst scoring open space sites. Girvan, Ayr and Troon contain some of the highest scoring sites. The bottom 32 lowest quality sites (below 3.0 quality score) were identified and considered for upgrading in the recommendations. This represents ONLY the 133No. sites included in the Open Space Audit. However, there are still a number of sites requiring work to upgrade them to a good quality standard.

Improvements have been made through the recommendations of the Open Space Strategy in many of our open spaces. Funding streams have included vat recovery monies, ward spend and promenade funding. Improvements include -

- o Tree, wildflower and bulb planting
- o new play park, sports facilities and a multiuse games arena
- o creation of green space and green corridors have been established.
- o installation of park furniture including seating and recycling bins.
- o Partnership working with Nectar Network and community groups has enhanced biodiversity within our open spaces

Table 1: Summary of the open space quality assessment

Ward	2012 Average Quality Score	2023 Average Quality Score	Increase or decrease in quality of the 133No. sites
Ward 1 Troon	3.35	3.40	↑
Ward 2 Prestwick	3.16	3.21	↑
Ward 3 Ayr North	3.25	*3.10	↓
Ward 4 Ayr East	3.12	3.14	↑
Ward 5 Ayr West	3.46	3.54	↑

Ward 6 Kyle	3.24	*3.17	↓
Ward 7 Maybole, N.Carrick & Coylton	3.34	*3.26	↓
Ward 8 Girvan & S. Carrick	3.74	3.78	↑

Of the 133No. sites included in this audit, there has been an overall increase of quality across the open spaces in the Council area. The quality of 5 out of 8 wards has increased since 2012. Only 17 sites were considered “not fit for purpose”. **The council aims to increase the quality of public open space to create meaningful multi-functional public open space.**

3.6 Accessibility of Open Space

South Ayrshire is fortunate to have within its boundaries various types of estates & parks, which encourage and facilitate healthy lifestyles by promoting opportunities for outdoor leisure, social interaction and recreation. These open spaces are not only important for the provision of a rich and varied landscape to our urban settlements such as, woodlands & parkland, watercourses & ponds and formal plantings, but also for the history and identity that they bring to an area – such as Belleisle Estate in Ayr or Knockcushan Gardens in Girvan.

The provision of easily accessible open spaces close to where we live is vital to encouraging healthier lifestyles and mental wellbeing. Open spaces offer a wide range of opportunities for sport and recreation (walking, running, cycling, active play etc.). The benefits of open spaces are also recognised to bring benefits in terms of mental health, wellbeing and happiness.

The 133No. open spaces included in the Audit were mapped and the following accessibility standards applied. More detailed information is held in the accompanying Open Space Audit Technical Report.

Open Space Type	Accessibility Standard
Estate / Destination Park	1.6km walking catchment (approx. 20min walk)
Civic Gardens	1.2km walking catchment (approx. 15min walk)
Community Hub Park / Rural Hub Park	1000m walking catchment (approx. 12min walk)
Neighbourhood Park	600m walking catchment (approx. 7.5min walk)

Table 2: Open Space Accessibility Standards

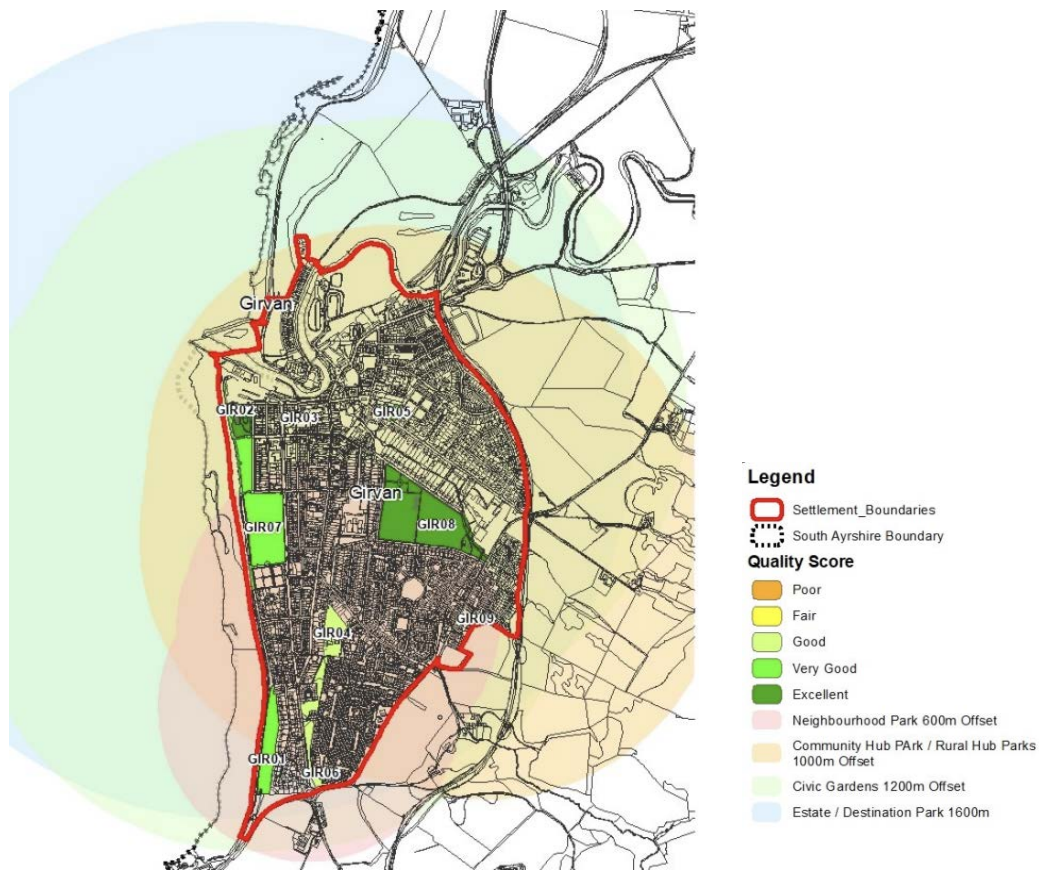


Figure 1: Open Space Accessibility Mapping

The Estate / Destination Parks, Civic Gardens, Community Hub Parks / Rural Hub Parks and Neighbourhood Parks were mapped and the accessibility standards applied, with the catchments drawn to illustrate the accessibility of the communities to the various types of open space. The assessment concluded the following:

Ward	Accessibility Assessment	Meets the Standard
Ward 1 Troon	Troon and Barassie have a number of Neighbourhood parks and a Community Park Hub, which provides access to the majority of the residential areas. There is an area to the south east of Troon that is more than 600m from a Neighbourhood Park. However, the Ward benefits from access to a large expanse of beach and Fullerton Estate is on the outskirts.	Yes
Ward 2 Prestwick	Prestwick is well provided for with regards to access to a range of parks (Neighbourhood parks and Community Park Hubs) and benefits from access to the beach and associated recreation / play facilities to the west. Oval Park is the centrally located, largest park facility in the town. While the town meets the accessibility standard overall, the residential area to the east contains only few small neighbourhood open spaces located on the outer extents of the town.	Yes
Ward 3 Ayr North	Heathfield is well provided for, with regards to access to Newton Park Community Park Hub, which is of excellent quality. However, the residential areas of Newton, Whitletts, Dalmilling and Craigie have access to a number of Neighbourhood Parks, some of which are of low quality with few recreational opportunities. Craigie Park and the River Ayr walkway are close by, but the residential area lacks a centrally located Community Park Hub and high quality Neighbourhood Parks. Work is ongoing within these areas with improvements made to, for example, stream gardens and Craigie Park.	No Apart from Heathfield
Ward 4 Ayr East	Ayr East is well provided for with regards to access to a range of parks (Neighbourhood Parks and Community Park Hubs), with Glencairn Park which is excellent quality. The area benefits from access to extensive areas of open space at Castlehill Estate and Kincaidston Recreation Area.	Yes
Ward 5 Ayr West	Ayr West is well provided for with regards to park provision, with Bellisle and Rozelle Estates providing an extensive area of parkland with a wide range of facilities for local people and visitors. The area also benefits from access to the beach and associated recreation / play facilities. There is also a good distribution of Neighbourhood Parks and Community Park Hubs. However, the new residential areas at Doonfoot do not have good access to local facilities e.g. Neighbourhood Parks.	Yes Apart from Doonfoot
Ward 6 Kyle	The smaller settlements of Dundonald, Loans, Monkton, Mossblown, Symington and Tarbolton have good access to Rural Park Hubs.	Yes
Ward 7 Maybole, N. Carrick & Coylton	Annbank, Coylton, Crosshill, Straiton, Kirkmichael and Dunure have good access to Rural Park Hubs. Maybole has a Community Park Hub and a few Neighbourhood Parks, so has good access to parks. However, the overall quality of these parks is poor. Minishant is a small village and contains a play space.	Yes
Ward 8 Girvan & S. Carrick	Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell and Dailly have good access to Rural Park Hubs. Kirkoswald is a small village and contains a play space. Girvan contains a wide range of parks, including Victory Park, Stair Park, Knockcushan Community Garden and good access to the beach and Shorefront Play Area.	Yes

Table 3: Accessibility Assessment

4.0 OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Area Based Strategies

The tables in Appendix 1 contain recommendations that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping and Assessment and from the consultation with stakeholders / online consultation. Area based Action Plans have been prepared for each of the major settlements, identifying key priorities and projects.

4.2 Delivery of the Action Plan

The Open Space Audit has been used to inform the Action Plan recommendations and will inform area-based working, prioritisation and planning.

The Action Plan will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle, identifying the tasks required for implementation of the Strategy, in conjunction with Service Plans and the Community Plan.

4.3 Working with Communities

The Strategy will aim to achieve effective community involvement through engagement, encouraging a sense of public 'ownership' and stewardship, through involvement in the design and management of major open space developments, ongoing improvements and specific open space issues. The Council will encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" groups to support the enhancement of open spaces.

The Council will continue to support the use of open spaces by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities. Evidence suggests that well designed, high quality open spaces are vital in creating healthy and liveable cities, towns and villages. The provision of easily accessible open spaces close to where we live is vital to encouraging healthier lifestyles and mental wellbeing. SAC will continue to promote within wider community education initiatives the awareness of the value and benefits of open spaces to help tackle anti-social behaviour and vandalism and reinforce community responsibility and empowerment through engagement.

4.4 Monitoring and Reporting

The Open Space Strategy will be delivered alongside our partners and stakeholders, with the council playing a key leadership and co-ordination role. The Action Plan will be monitored to review the implementation of the Strategy tasks and targets to inform a future review of the Open Space Strategy.

Effective monitoring of the progress of the aims and objectives and reporting these findings is a key aspect of this Strategy – it is how we can gauge how well the Strategy is being delivered. To see what has been successful and what has not; to identify obstacles and where necessary take action and make changes to ensure that the Open Space Strategy delivers on its goals.

1. It is planned that actions will be added to relevant Service Plans and monitor their delivery via this process.
2. The Geographical Information Systems (GIS) database will be updated as required recoding changes in open space quality and size. Any new open spaces will be added to the database.

3. "Undertake annual review of service plans to assess maintenance quality and site requirements".

Appendix 1

Area Based Strategies

Ward 1 – Troon

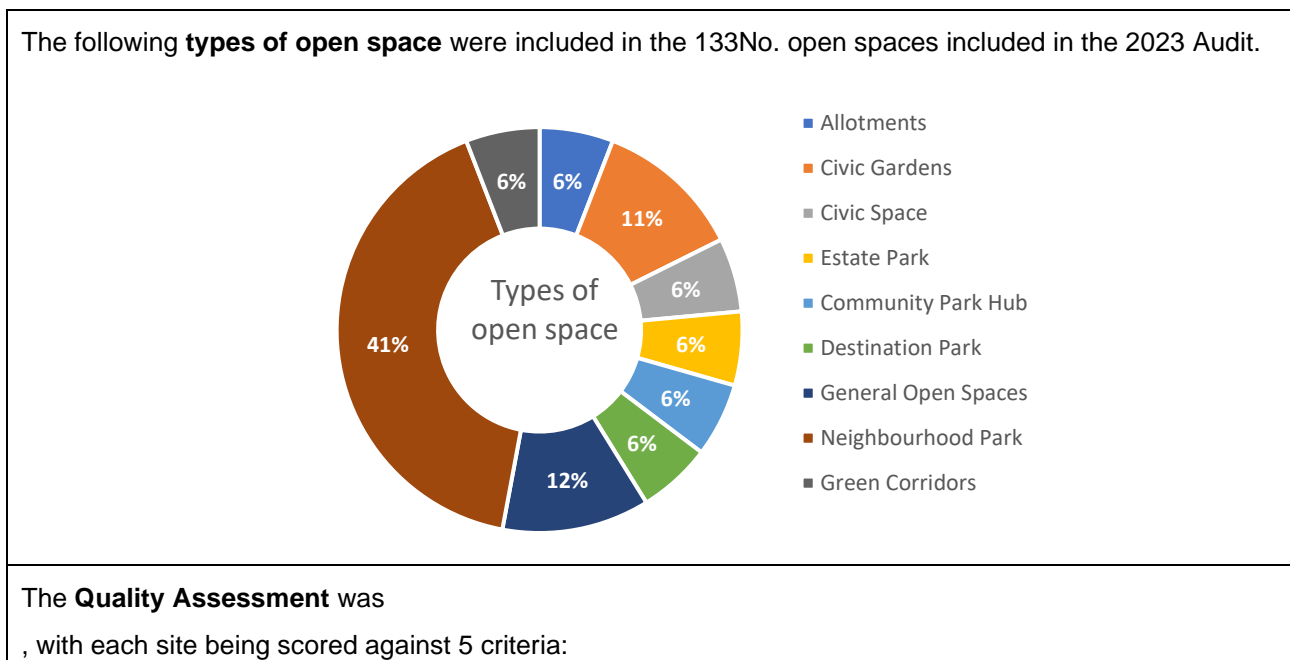
Troon is the northern of South Ayrshire's seaside towns. Its soft, sandy beaches overlook the Isle of Arran. Troon is synonymous with golf. Its 6 quality golf courses include three excellent public golf courses. The championship links course of Royal Troon hosted The Open in 2016.

Ward Information

Ward Area	1,422ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	597.6ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	236.56ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	14,740
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	12.45ha (17 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 1 contains 6.89 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 17 parks and open spaces in Ward 1 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 10 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.



- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 17 selected open spaces in Ward 1 were given an average quality score of 3.40 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been an overall increase in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.35. The quality of most sites has been upheld and the quality of 2 sites has improved considerably (Fullarton Estate and Troon Esplanade).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Troon and Barassie have a number of Neighbourhood parks and a Community Park Hub, which provide access to the majority of the residential areas. There is an area to the south east of Troon that is more than 600m from a Neighbourhood Park. However, the Ward benefits from access to a large expanse of beachfront and the Fullerton Estate offers a range of recreation opportunities on the edge of Troon.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 1 meets the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people). Access to the coastline and beach along the Troon and Barassie seafront has not been included in this calculation, so the town is well provided for with regards to quantity of open space.

Quality of the open spaces should be improved as part of the Council's ongoing management programme, as set out in the action plan.

The residents of Troon and Barassie have good **access** to a wide range of different types of good quality open space.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
TRO01	Burn's Road Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of play area as a multi-use facility • Entrance area with features for natural play • Improve the overall landscape quality • Active travel connections / facilities 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
TRO05	Hosiery Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify the play / recreation offer of the site • Improve the overall landscape quality • Improve the connections to and around the site 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	High
TRO07	Struthers Primary School Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify the play / recreation offer of the site • Improve the overall landscape quality • Improve the connections to and around the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
TRO10	Troon Esplanade Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel upgrades and facilities • Trail of sculptural play / seating along seafront 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
TRO11	Troon Shorefront / Esplanade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality public realm features and furniture • Active travel upgrades and facilities • Trail of sculptural play / seating along seafront 	Long term 5 - 10 years	Medium
BARA04	Walker Avenue Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of the site • Provide a high quality and diverse play offer • Improve the connections to and around the site • Creation of a community garden 	Long term 5 - 10 years	Medium

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 2 - Prestwick

The coastal town of Prestwick, is Scotland's oldest baronial burgh, dating back over a thousand years. The Scottish King, Robert the Bruce, is said to have drunk water here, and Bruce's Well can still be seen today. Prestwick's name comes from the Old English for, priest's farm: preost meaning "priest" and wic meaning "farm". The town was originally an outlying farm of a religious house.

Ward Information

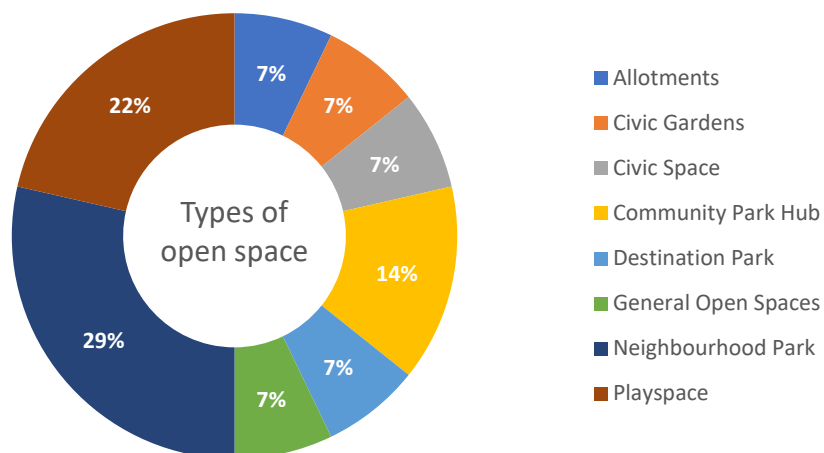
Ward Area	1,222ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	566.39ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	77.9ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	15,170
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	22.43ha (14 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 2 contains 5.14 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

It should also be noted that, while not included in the classification of open space, the western fringes of this ward are coastline and beach and are well used for recreation and have high amenity value.

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 14 parks and open spaces in Ward 2 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.



The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 14 selected open spaces in Ward 2 were given an average quality score of 3.21 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been an overall increase in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.16. The quality of most sites has been upheld and the quality of 1 site has improved considerably (Outdale Avenue Allotments).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Preswick is well provided for with regards to access to a range of parks (Neighbourhood parks and Community Park Hubs) and benefits from access to the beach and associated recreation / play facilities. Oval Park is the centrally located, largest park facility in the town, which is currently in very good condition. While the town meets the accessibility standard overall, the residential area to the east contains only few small neighbourhood open spaces located on the outer extents of the town.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 2 does not meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people), so all open space sites should be protected from development. However, access to the coastline and beach along the Prestwick seafront has not been included in this calculation. The sea front promenade should be improved through regeneration works to increase the amenity and recreation value. Any planned residential developments should provide open space on-site.

Quality of the open spaces should be improved, where possible, as set out in the action plan.

The residents of Prestwick have good **access** to a wide range of different types of open space.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
PRE02	Arran Park Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the overall landscape quality and seating 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Low
PRE05	Mossbank Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop as a community hub Broaden the play opportunities on the site Better path connections to and around the site Community garden or food growing spaces 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Medium
PRE07	Orangefield Drive Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden the play opportunities on the site Improve the overall landscape quality 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
PRE09	Oval Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop as a community hub Diversify the play / recreation offer of the site Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Improve the connections to and around the site Additional gym facilities 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
PRE10	Prestwick Foreshore / Esplanade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active travel upgrades and facilities Trail of sculptural play / seating along seafront 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Medium
PRE11	Old Pool Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore alternative community uses for the site Review existing play equipment 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Low

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 3 – Ayr North

Ayr is a town and former Royal Burgh and is the administrative centre for South Ayrshire Council. Historically, Ayr was the county town of Ayrshire until 1975. Ayr is currently the most populated settlement in Ayrshire and the South of Scotland. It is the 13th most populous locality in Scotland.

Ward Information

Ward Area	674ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	382.4ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	125.57ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	16,790
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	18.03ha (15 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 3 contains 5.15 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

It should also be noted that, while not included in the classification of open space, the western fringes of this ward are coastline and beach and are well used for recreation and have high amenity value.

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 15 parks and open spaces in Ward 3 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 10 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.

Type	Percentage
Neighbourhood Park	53%
Playspace	27%
Civic Space	7%
Semi Natural Greenspace	6%
Community Park Hub	7%

The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 15 selected open spaces in Ward 3 were given an average quality score of 3.10 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been an overall decrease in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.25. The quality of most sites has been broadly upheld. However, the quality of a number of sites has decreased slightly (James Brown Avenue, Westwood Avenue, Murray Street Play Area, Mossie Road Play Area, Oswald Road Play Area and Walker Road 75/77 Play Area).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Heathfield is well provided for, with regards to access to Newton Park Community Park Hub, which is of excellent quality. However, the residential areas of Newton, Whitletts, Dalmling and Craigie have access to a number of Neighbourhood Parks, most of which are of low quality and with few recreational opportunities. Craigie Park and the River Ayr walkway are close by, but the residential area lacks a centrally located Community Park Hub and high quality Neighbourhood Parks.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 3 does not meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people), so all open space sites should be protected from development. However, access to the coastline and beach along the Ayr seafront has not been included in this calculation. The sea front promenade should be improved through regeneration works to increase the amenity and recreation value.

Quality of the open spaces should be improved as a priority, where possible, as set out in the action plan.

The residents of the majority of Ayr North do not currently have good **access** to open space. Projects should be prioritised to increase the quality of existing open spaces and new open space opportunities identified, where possible. Any planned residential developments should provide open space on-site.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
AYR04	The Stream Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further improvements of the landscape quality / biodiversity Active travel connections / path upgrades 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Medium
AYR35	Walker Road 42 /48 Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality and accessibility of the site Broaden the play opportunities on the site Improve the entrances / appearance / safety 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
AYR44	Russell Drive Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace and upgrade the play equipment Improve the built / landscape quality of the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Medium

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 4 – Ayr East

Ayr is a town and former Royal Burgh and is the administrative centre for South Ayrshire Council. Historically, Ayr was the county town of Ayrshire until 1975. Ayr is currently the most populated settlement in Ayrshire and the South of Scotland. It is the 13th most populous locality in Scotland.

Ward Information

Ward Area	424ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	276.9ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	78.8ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	12,400
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	28.57ha (5 sites) (River Ayr Walkway included).
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 4 contains 6.35 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 5 parks and open spaces in Ward 4 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.

Type	Percentage
Estate Park	20%
Community Park Hub	40%
Neighbourhood Park	20%
Civic Space	20%

The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 5 selected open spaces in Ward 4 were given an average quality score of 3.14 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been a slight increase in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.12. The quality of most sites has been

upheld. However, the quality of one site has decreased slightly (The Mount Play Area).
<p>With regards to Accessibility of Open Space, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.</p> <p>Ayr East is well provided for with regards to access to a range of large areas of open space and parks (Neighbourhood Parks and Community Park Hubs), with Glencairn Park which is excellent quality. The area benefits from access to extensive areas of open space at Castlehill Estate and Kincaidston Recreation Area.</p>
<p>Open Space Summary</p> <p>The quantity of open space in Ward 4 does not quite meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people), so all open space sites should be protected from development. However, the open space resource includes 3 large areas of open space in the heart of the residential area and the River Ayr Walkway. Any planned residential developments should provide open space on-site.</p> <p>The overall Quality of the open spaces should be improved as a priority, as part of the ongoing Council Management programme, along with specific open space improvement projects as set out in the action plan.</p> <p>The residents of the majority of Ayr East have good access to a wide range of different types of open space. It should also be noted that the majority of the residential areas fall within the catchments of Corsehill Gardens, Rozelle and Belleisle Estate parks.</p>

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
AYR08	Castlehill Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better path connections to and around the site Improve drainage Develop estate management to improve biodiversity 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Medium
AYR18	Kincaidston Recreation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Better path connections to and around the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
AYR39	Woodpark, The Mount Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded recreation and play facilities Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Improve the connections to and around the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 5 – Ayr West

Ayr is a town and former Royal Burgh and is the administrative centre for South Ayrshire Council. Historically, Ayr was the county town of Ayrshire until 1975. Ayr is currently the most populated settlement in Ayrshire and the South of Scotland. It is the 13th most populous locality in Scotland.

Ward Information

Ward Area	1,159ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	577.29ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	239.47ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	16,750
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	100.59ha (30 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 5 contains 9.10 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

It should also be noted that, while not included in the classification of open space, the western fringes of this ward are coastline and beach and are well used for recreation and have high amenity value.

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 30 parks and open spaces in Ward 5 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.

Type	Percentage
Estate Park	20%
Community Park Hub	40%
Neighbourhood Park	20%
Civic Space	20%

The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 3 selected open spaces in Ward 5 were given an average quality score of 3.54 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.42. There has been an overall increase in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.46. The quality of most sites has been upheld and the quality of a number of sites has improved considerably (Belleisle Estate, Corsehill Gardens, Cambusdoon Estate and Rozelle Estate).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Ayr West is well provided for with regards to park provision, with Belleisle and Rozelle Estates providing an extensive area of parkland with a wide range of facilities for local people and visitors. The area also benefits from access to the beach and associated recreation / play facilities. There is also a good distribution of Neighbourhood Parks and Community Park Hubs. However, the new residential areas at Doonfoot do not have good access to local facilities e.g. Neighbourhood Parks.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 5 meets the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people).

Quality of the open spaces with low quality scores should be improved, as set out in the action plan. The quality of the other larger open spaces that serve the wider council area (including Ward 4 Ayr East) should be upheld.

The majority of residents of Ayr West have good **access** to a wide range of different types of open space. However, the new residential areas at Doonfoot do not have good access to local facilities e.g. Neighbourhood Parks.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
AYR11	Craigie Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Active travel connections / path upgrades 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
AYR22	Mill Street Play Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the built / landscape quality of the site Improve the path connections / accessibility 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
AYR27	Rear of Gower Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore use and management by the local community 	Long term 5 - 10 years	Low

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 6 – Kyle

Kyle comprises the area to the east of the main settlements of Troon, Prestwick and Ayr and is predominantly rural in nature. It includes the historic settlement of Dundonald with its 14th Century castle and several former Ayrshire coalfield communities.

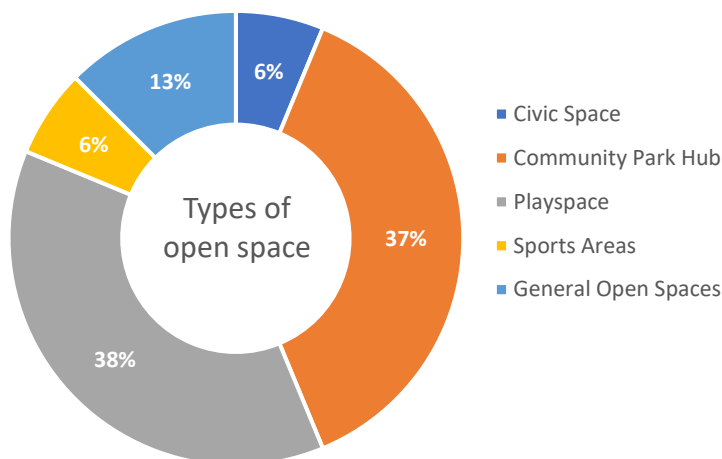
Ward Information

Ward Area	12,745ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	608.53ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	52.57ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	13,700
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	16.69ha (16 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 6 contains 3.84 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 16 parks and open spaces in Ward 6 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.



The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 16 selected open spaces in Ward 6 were given an average quality score of 3.17 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been a slight decrease in the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.24. The quality of most sites has been broadly upheld but quality of a few sites has decreased (Bruce Avenue Play Area and Mossblown Recreational Area).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

The smaller settlements of Dundonald, Loans, Monkton, Mossblown, Symington and Tarbolton all have good access to Rural Park Hubs, located within the village boundaries and providing a central community open space resource.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 6 does not meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people). However, each village contains a Community Park Hub, which provides a central community open space resource. The villages are set in the countryside, with access to the rural path network.

Quality of the open spaces with low quality scores should be improved, as set out in the action plan. A priority should be ensuring that each village has good access to a high quality Community Park Hub.

The residents of the villages of Kyle have good **access** to at least 1 centrally located community open space.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
DUN01	Dundonald Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masterplanned approach to make the site more cohesive / signage and paths / connections to Dundonald Castle Extend and enhance the facilities on the site to make it a destination hub 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
DUN02	Bruce Avenue Play Area, Dundonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of the site Relocate play facility / replace with more appropriate natural play facility 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
LOA01	Loans Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the play opportunity and diversity Improve the connections to and around the site Active travel connections to wider path network Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Drainage issues 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	High
MON02	Main Street Rec Ground, Monkton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the connection with the Monkton Primary Play Area and wider active travel paths Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
MOS01	Station Road, Mossblown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality and accessibility of the site Develop natural play Improve the overall landscape quality Seating area in this central location 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
SYM02	Shaw Park, Symington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the connections to and around the site Upgrade the play area to widen diversity of offer Improve the landscape quality 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
SYM03	Brewlands Crescent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the play area and relocate Explore alternative community uses for the site 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium
TAR02	Tarbolton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the overall landscape quality Active travel connections to wider path network Diversify the play / recreation offer of the site Extend the biodiversity and green network value 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	Medium

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 7 – Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton

Maybole, a small market town situated 9 miles south of Ayr, is the ancient capital of Carrick. Its long history is evidenced from the many fine buildings on view. High Street is especially striking, running from the imposing town hall, built in 1887, to the equally impressive and much more unexpected Maybole Castle, believed to be the towns oldest inhabited house. North Carrick is the area to the south of Ayr and the River Doon and is characterised by small rural communities and rolling farm land.

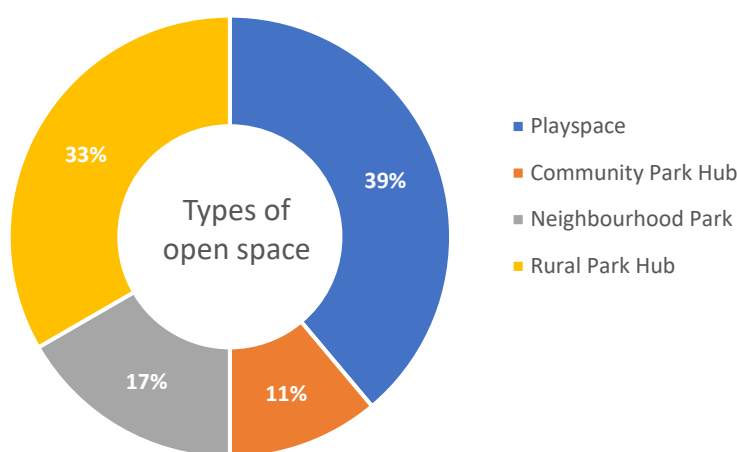
Ward Information

Ward Area	39,384ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	882.28ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	90.83ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	12,320
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	21.28ha (18 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 7 contains 6.10 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 18 parks and open spaces in Ward 7 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.



The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 18 selected open spaces in Ward 7 were given an average quality score of 3.34 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been an overall decrease in

the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.26. The quality of the sites in all settlements, apart from Maybole, has been upheld. The overall quality of open space in Maybole has decreased (notably Dailly Road Play Area, Glenalla Road and Miller Park Play Area).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Annbank, Coylton, Crosshill, Straiton, Kirkmichael and Dunure have good access to Rural Park Hubs. Maybole has a Community Park Hub and a few Neighbourhood Parks, so has good access to parks. However, the overall quality of these parks is poor. Minishant is a small village and contains a play space.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 7 does not quite meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people). However, each of the larger villages contains either a Rural or Community Park Hub, which provides a central community open space resource. The villages are set in the countryside, with access to the rural path network.

Quality of the open spaces with low quality scores should be improved, as set out in the action plan. The quality of Maybole's open spaces should be addressed as a priority. Furthermore, each village should have good access to a high quality Community Park Hub.

The residents of the villages of Ward 7 have good **access** to at least 1 centrally located community open space.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
ANN01	Annbank Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded sports and recreation facilities Improve the landscape quality / biodiversity Better path connections to the River Ayr Way Woodland Improvements 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
COY03	Hillhead Play Area, Coylton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade play facilities, including natural play Provide a community garden or pocket park, with natural sculptural play elements Improve the landscape and amenity of the site 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	High
MAY01	Miller Park Play Area, Maybole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the landscape and built elements Improve the connections to and around the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
MAY04	Memorial Park, Maybole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the landscape and built elements Improve the active travel opportunities Wider path connections around the golf course Landscape and infrastructure improvements 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	High
MAY07	Dailly Road Play Area, Maybole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the landscape / built quality Design / facilities to tackle anti-social behaviour 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.

Ward 8 – Girvan & South Carrick

The traditional holiday resort of Girvan dates back to 1668 when it became a municipal burgh incorporated by Charter. Girvan's harbour is a centre of attraction for visitors and offers convenient mooring facilities for visiting yachts. From here you can set off for a day's sea angling or a pleasure trip around Ailsa Craig, the plug of an extinct volcano and now a bird sanctuary. South Carrick is a sparsely populated upland area containing several small rural communities. It is dominated by farmland and upland/moorland landscapes.

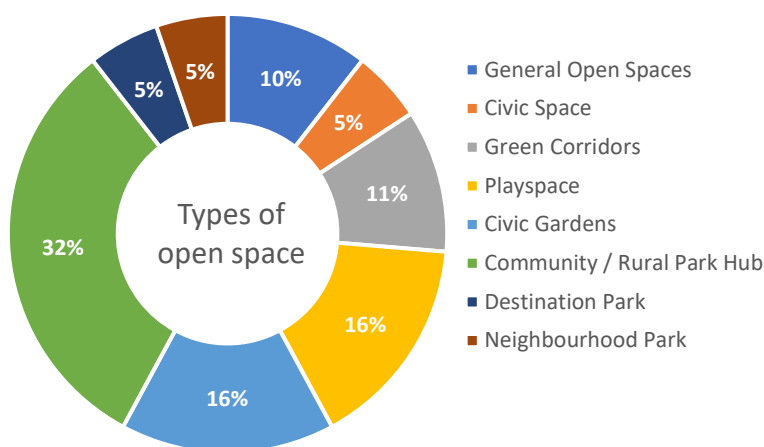
Ward Information

Ward Area	29.59ha
Total Area Open Space (based on 2012 data)	672.07ha
Council Held Open Space (based on 2012 data)	95.37ha
Total Population in 2019 (estimate)	10,750
Amount of Open Space reviewed in 2023	ha (19 sites)
In terms of Quantity of Open Space , when compared with the Fields in Trust standard of 6.55ha per 1,000 people, Ward 8 contains 6.43 hectares of open space per 1000 people (not including golf courses).	

2023 Audit Refresh of Selected Sites

In 2023, 19 parks and open spaces in Ward 8 were selected to be reaudited following the 2012 methodology. The sites identified were those that have undergone upgrades in the past 8 years, the largest sites or those with a cluster of recreation facilities. Focusing resources on these sites was considered to highlight any changes to the SAC open space resource.

The following **types of open space** were included in the 133No. open spaces included in the 2023 Audit.



The **Quality Assessment** was undertaken, with each site being scored against 5 criteria:

- Accessibility and connectivity
- Attractiveness and appeal
- Biodiverse supporting ecological networks
- Active, supporting health & well-being
- Community supported

The 19 selected open spaces in Ward 8 were given an average quality score of 3.74 (out of a maximum score of 5.0), with the average across the Council area being 3.40. There has been an overall increase in

the quality of open space since 2012, when the average quality score was 3.78. The quality of most sites has been upheld and the quality of 1 site has improved considerably (Barrhill Recreation Ground).

With regards to **Accessibility of Open Space**, maps have been produced illustrating a range of buffer zones of around each open space. From these plans we can clearly see which households are located further than this distance from open space, and so could be considered to have poorer access to open space. Refer to the Audit Technical Report for more information.

Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell and Dailly have good access to Rural Park Hubs. Kirkoswald is a small village and contains a play space. Girvan contains a wide range of parks, including Victory Park, Stair Park, Knockcushan Community Garden and good access to the beach and Shorefront Play Area.

Open Space Summary

The **quantity** of open space in Ward 8 does not quite meet the Fields in Trust standard (6.55ha per 1,000 people). However, each of the villages contains either a Rural or Community Park Hub, which provides a central community open space resource. The villages are set in the countryside, with access to the rural path network. Girvan and Maidens have access to the coastline and beaches, which has not been included in this calculation.

Quality of the open spaces is good overall. Those sites with low quality scores should be improved, as set out in the action plan.

The residents of the villages of Ward 8 have good **access** to at least 1 centrally located community open space.

Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following table contain potential improvements that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with SAC Officers:

Ref.	Site Name	Recommendation	Timeframe (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
BAL02	Ballantrae tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurface tennis courts 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Low
COL01	Colmonell Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the landscape and amenity of the site Improve the connections to and around the site 	Short term 1 - 2 years	Low
GIR01	Girvan Foreshore / Esplanade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality public realm features and furniture Active travel upgrades and facilities Trail of sculptural play / seating along seafront 	Medium term 3 - 5 years	High
GIR04	Linden Avenue Open Space, Girvan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the overall landscape quality Active travel connections to wider path network Extend the biodiversity and green network value 	Short term 1 - 2 years	High
MAI01	Maidens Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage interpretation and visitor facilities Active travel connections / upgrades / facilities Trail of sculptural play / seating along seafront 	Long term 5 - 10 years	Medium

Note: The table summarises the actions, for full details read the audit sheet for each site and settlement.



South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. See information here: [Interim Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018.

1. Policy details

Policy Title	Open Space Strategy
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Fiona Ross – Service Lead Neighbourhood Services

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	x
Disability	-	x
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – gender identity (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage? (Fairer Scotland Duty). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	x

Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	-	x
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	x
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	x
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Medium
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Medium
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

5. Summary Assessment

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)	NO
Rationale for decision: The overarching impact is Low. There are 2 areas where it is believed there will be a medium impact and that is in participation and health and wellbeing.	
Signed : Fiona Ross – Service Lead Neighbourhood Services Date: 23 rd July 2026	