The Future of Northern Ireland's Urban Green Spaces:

Vision Summary

"Imagine a future where our urban green spaces are key community assets, connecting people, enhancing nature and helping towns & cities adapt to climate change[1]"

1   Northern Ireland's co-designed Urban Green
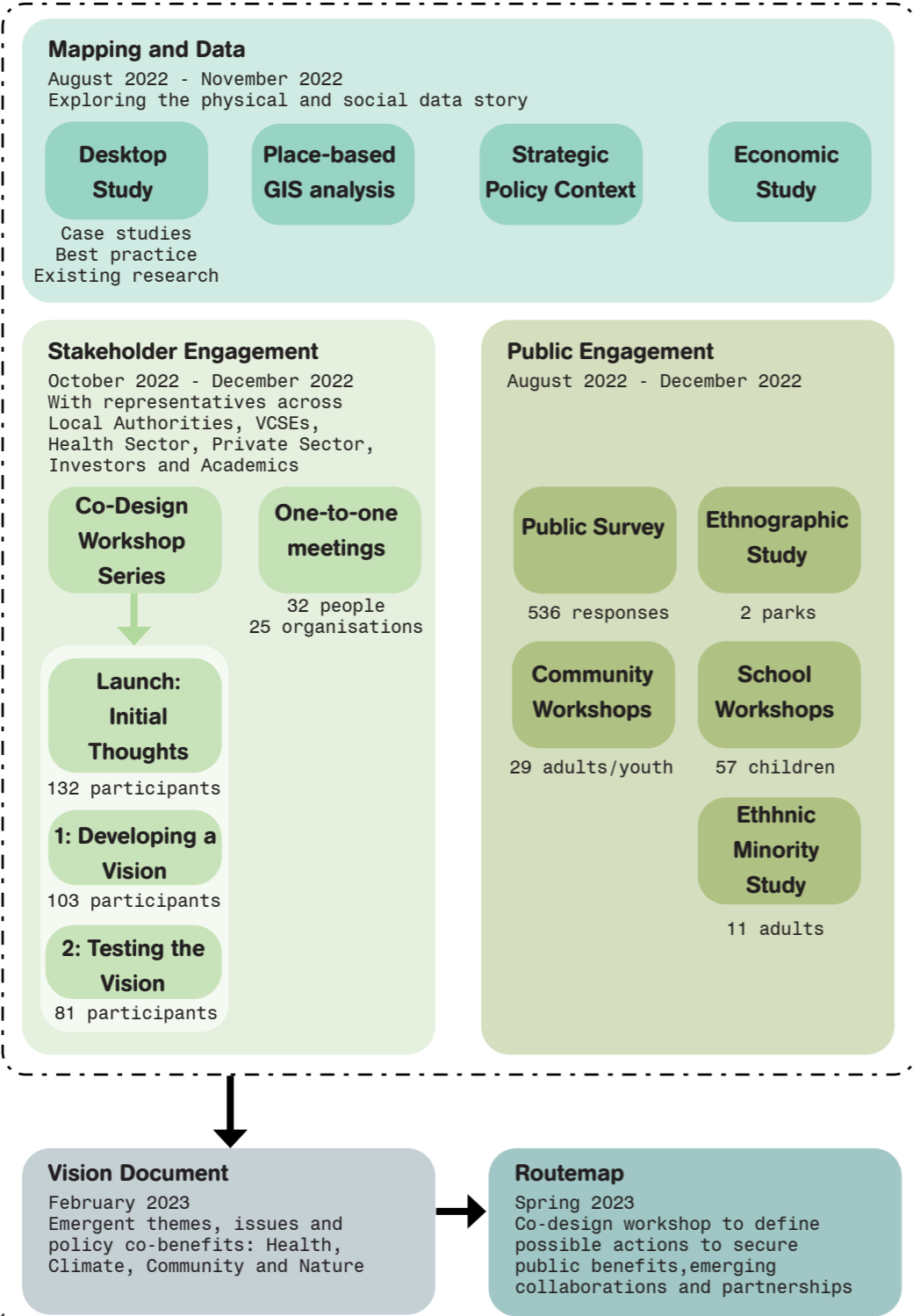   Space Vision Statement

Executive Summary

Urban green spaces* **play a key role in tackling the economic, environmental and health crises of our time. This document is a summary of our shared Vision for the future of Northern Ireland's urban green spaces to 2030 and beyond. Our Vision looks to set the course for a better future and build a community of leaders who understand and can help to realise the multiple public benefits of high quality urban green spaces in a changing world.**

This project is a collaboration between Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) and the National Trust, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) Programme. This project has been delivered by Useful Projects and Periscope with research input from Community Places.

The Vision has been co-created with key stakeholders, members of the public and community groups, by exploring potential futures for Northern Ireland and its urban green spaces. It specifically looks to 2030, whilst considering our long-term future beyond this.

Collaboration and co-design have been core to project process, as illustrated in the adjacent diagram (Fig 1). Through multiple research streams, the project team have actively listened to, supported and encouraged views and voices to input into a co-created Vision.

This document is a summary of the full Vision and Routemap.

Mapping and Data
August 2022 - November 2022
Exploring the physical and social data story

Desktop Study

Place-based GIS analysis

Strategic Policy Context

Economic Study

Case studies
Best practice
Existing research

Stakeholder Engagement
October 2022 - December 2022
With representatives across Local Authorities, VCSEs, Health Sector, Private Sector, Investors and Academics

Co-Design Workshop Series

One-to-one meetings

32 people
25 organisations

Launch: Initial Thoughts

132 participants

1: Developing a Vision

103 participants

2: Testing the Vision

81 participants

Public Engagement
August 2022 - December 2022

Public Survey

536 responses

Ethnographic Study

2 parks

Community Workshops

29 adults/youth

School Workshops

57 children

Ethhnic Minority Study

11 adults

Vision Document
February 2023
Emergent themes, issues and policy co-benefits: Health, Climate, Community and Nature

Routemap
Spring 2023
Co-design workshop to define possible actions to secure public benefits,emerging collaborations and partnerships

1 Project Map
2 Vision and Routemap diagram

1

Fig 2 illustrates the structure and components of the Vision and Routemap. The Vision comprises a co-created Vision Statement and an Overarching Aim, which sits above three interconnected Vision Pillars.

The Routemap identifies five enablers that stakeholders have identified as key to increasing the potential public benefit of urban green spaces across NI. Through a co-design process, participants also identified potential short, medium and long term actions.
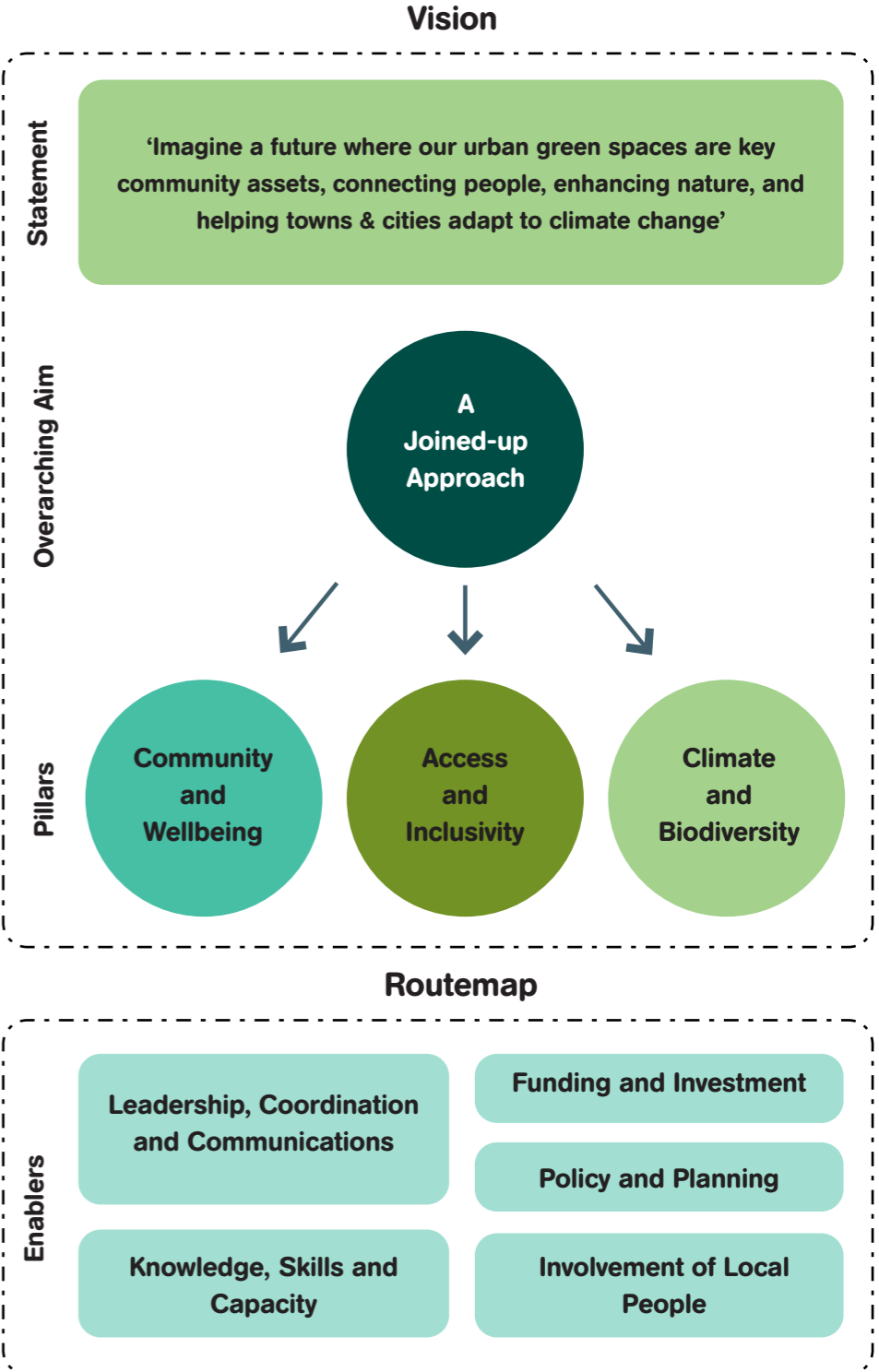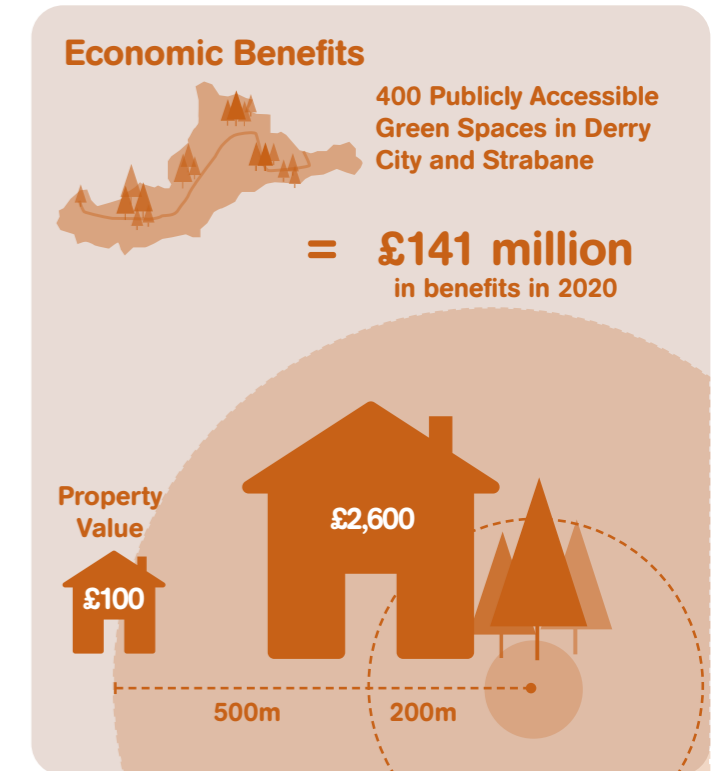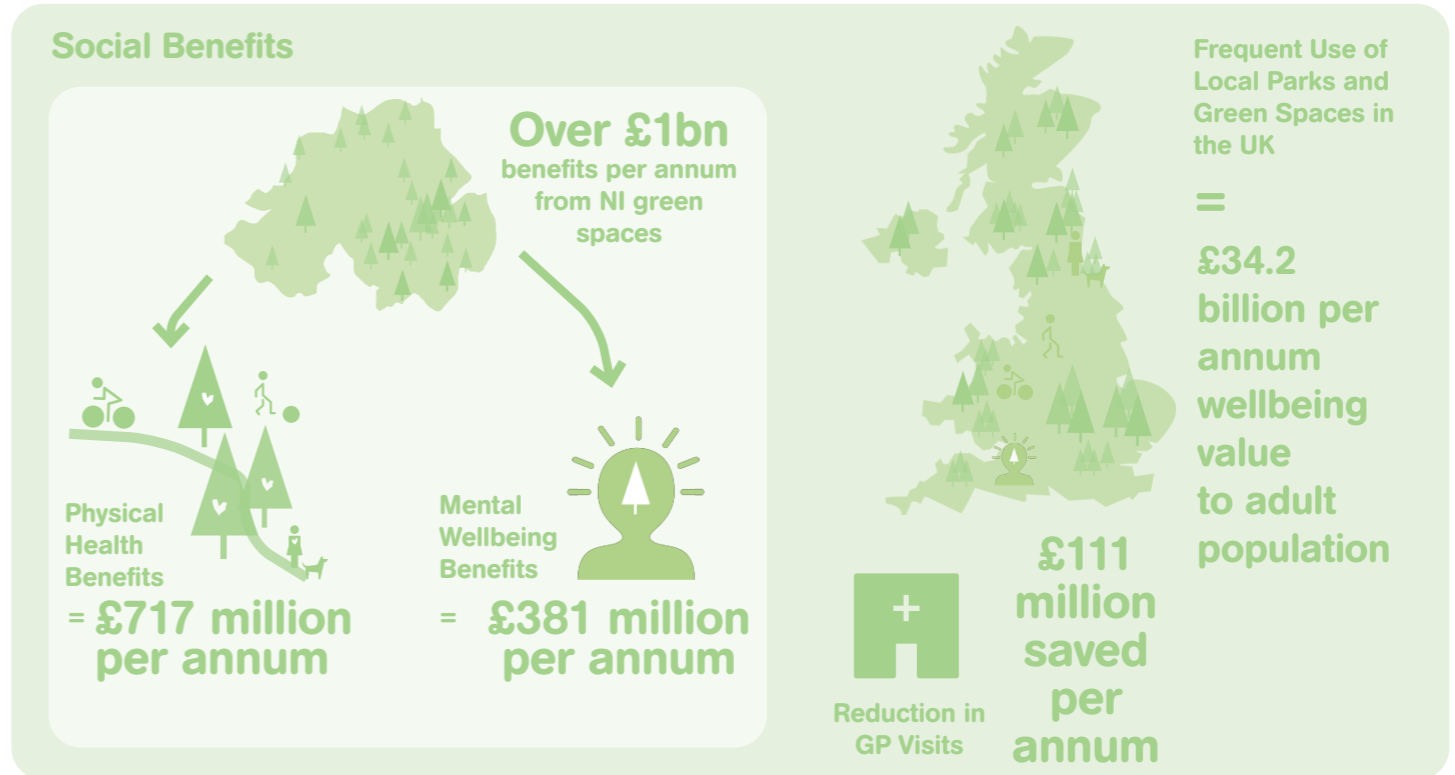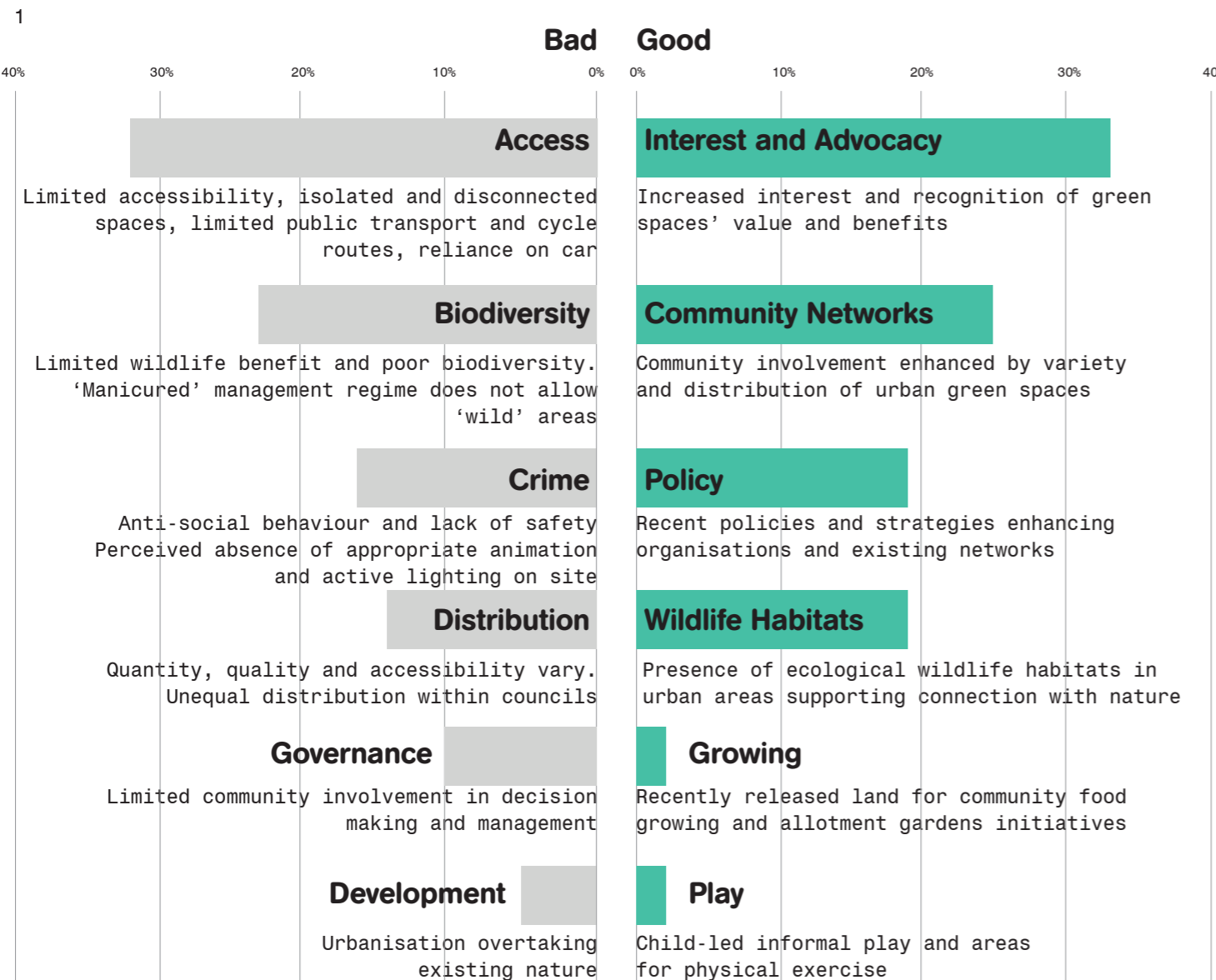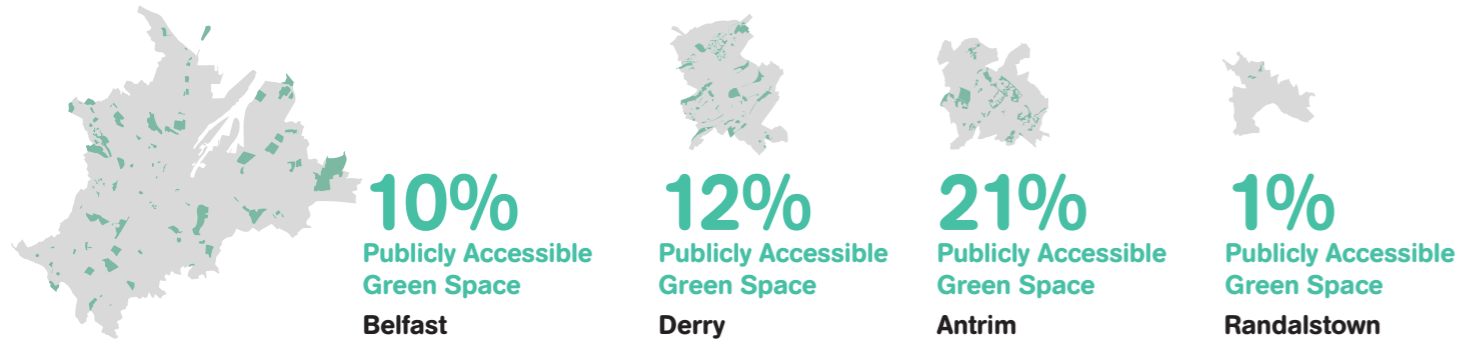
*Urban green spaces -for the purpose of this project-are defined as areas of green spaces in cities and towns of over 5,000 people, that are publicly accessible, including urban parks, play spaces, green public squares, allotments and other types of food growing, cemeteries, greenways and other informal open spaces that form part of the green and blue network.

Vision

Statement

'Imagine a future where our urban green spaces are key community assets, connecting people, enhancing nature, and helping towns & cities adapt to climate change'

Overarching Aim

A Joined-up Approach

Pillars

Community and Wellbeing

Access and Inclusivity

Climate and Biodiversity

Routemap

Enablers

Leadership, Coordination and Communications

Funding and Investment

Policy and Planning

Knowledge, Skills and Capacity

Involvement of Local People

2

1.1 Urban Green Spaces Today

Mapping green spaces across Northern Ireland highlights the importance of quantity, and perhaps even more crucially, access. The Covid-19 pandemic exposed deep inequalities in access to green space and nature in many neighbourhoods, towns and cities. With a renewed focus on climate resilience, green space advocacy, community action and activism, we have started on a vital journey to reclaim our public spaces for our communities, health and environment.

10%
Publicly Accessible Green Space
Belfast

12%
Publicly Accessible Green Space
Derry

21%
Publicly Accessible Green Space
Antrim

1%
Publicly Accessible Green Space
Randalstown

1

Bad / Good

Access
Limited accessibility, isolated and disconnected spaces, limited public transport and cycle routes, reliance on car

Interest and Advocacy
Increased interest and recognition of green spaces' value and benefits

Biodiversity
Limited wildlife benefit and poor biodiversity. 'Manicured' management regime does not allow 'wild' areas

Community Networks
Community involvement enhanced by variety and distribution of urban green spaces

Crime
Anti-social behaviour and lack of safety Perceived absence of appropriate animation and active lighting on site

Policy
Recent policies and strategies enhancing organisations and existing networks

Distribution
Quantity, quality and accessibility vary. Unequal distribution within councils

Wildlife Habitats
Presence of ecological wildlife habitats in urban areas supporting connection with nature

Governance
Limited community involvement in decision making and management

Growing
Recently released land for community food growing and allotment gardens initiatives

Development
Urbanisation overtaking existing nature

Play
Child-led informal play and areas for physical exercise

2

Social Benefits

Over £1bn benefits per annum from NI green spaces

Physical Health Benefits = £717 million per annum

Mental Wellbeing Benefits = £381 million per annum

Frequent Use of Local Parks and Green Spaces in the UK

= **£34.2 billion per annum** wellbeing value to adult population

£111 million saved per annum
Reduction in GP Visits

Environmental Benefits

£1 Invested in Climate Mitigation

£9 saved

1 = **£1,200-£8,000**
Economic Benefit per Tree over 50 years range

Economic Benefits

400 Publicly Accessible Green Spaces in Derry City and Strabane

= **£141 million** in benefits in 2020

Property Value
£100 £2,600

500m 200m

1 Comparison of green space percentages across towns and cities in Northern Ireland
2 Comments on current green space provision collated during the initial Stakeholder Engagement Workshop (17.11.22 and 21.11.22).
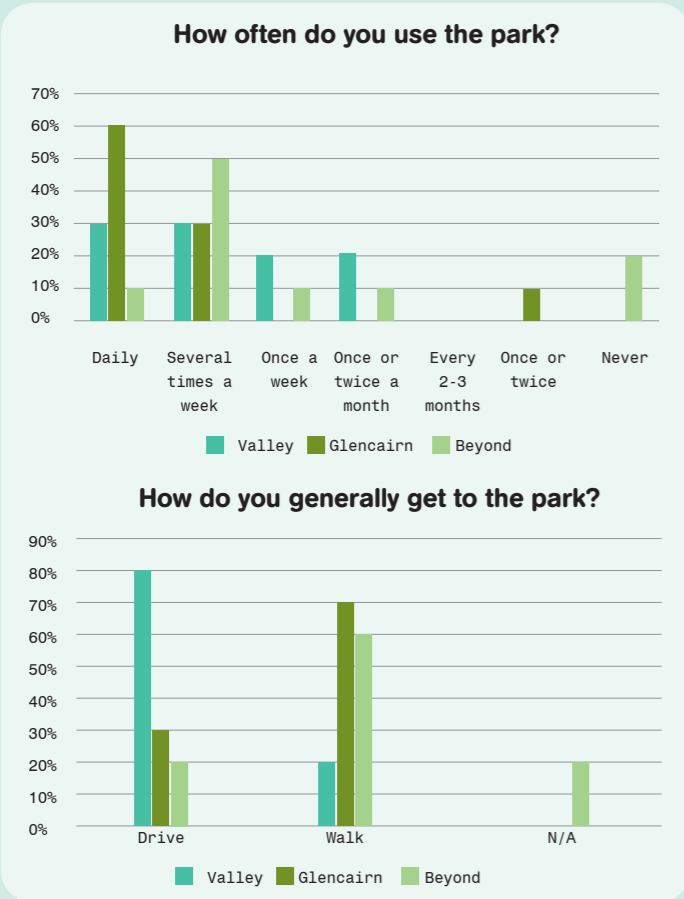
1.2 Vision Process

Multiple research streams in close collaboration with community and stakeholder groups have been core to the Vision process. A summary of the key findings are outlined below.

Mapping and Data
August 2022 - November 2022
Exploring the physical and social data story

Ethnographic Study
on two urban parks, Glencairn Park and Valley Park, comparing public use and associated attitudes.

How often do you use the park?

Legend: Valley, Glencairn, Beyond

How do you generally get to the park?

Legend: Valley, Glencairn, Beyond

Ethnographic Study Key Findings
— Animation of spaces is a key factor
— Age groups respond differently to activities on site
— Private means of transport influencing parks' usage

Public Survey Key Findings
— Even distribution of urban green spaces is key
— Walking distance and public means of transport
— Wellbeing benefits in accessing nature
— Safety and evening/night-time activation

Public Survey
to gain a wide range of stakeholder views on their personal experience of using their local urban green space.

Future of urban green spaces
What are your priorities for the future of urban green spaces in Northern Ireland?

Urban green spaces...

- Support more wildlife and biodiversity
- More green space in our towns and cities
- Are high quality and attractive
- Help mitigate climate change
- Are more accessible by walking and cycling routes
- Are designed in collaboration with local people
- Are more inclusive for all
- Have more cafés and toilet facilities
- Are better maintained
- Feel safer
- Have more events
- More playgrounds for younger and older children
- Better advertised and communicated
- Bring economic benefits to my local area
- Have more exercise equipment
- Other

Secondary points:

— More natural green spaces (e.g. more wildflower meadows, fewer lawns)
— Food growing opportunities (community gardens, fruit trees)
— Creation of green networks
— Improved lighting
— Pollution reduction
— Educational opportunities for all ages
— Places for adults to play

Public Survey Key Findings

— Proximity is key to enabling everyday use of green spaces
— Public transport is vital to providing access and improving number of visits
— Safety and night-time activation were key themes
— There is a high interest in using local green spaces and supporting biodiversity

Public Engagement
August 2022 - December 2022

Six community and youth 'My Place' engagement sessions with community representatives and members of schools enabled a more in depth focus on people's experience of four parks located across the region in three different council areas.

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1 Photograph taken during one of the participatory game sessions
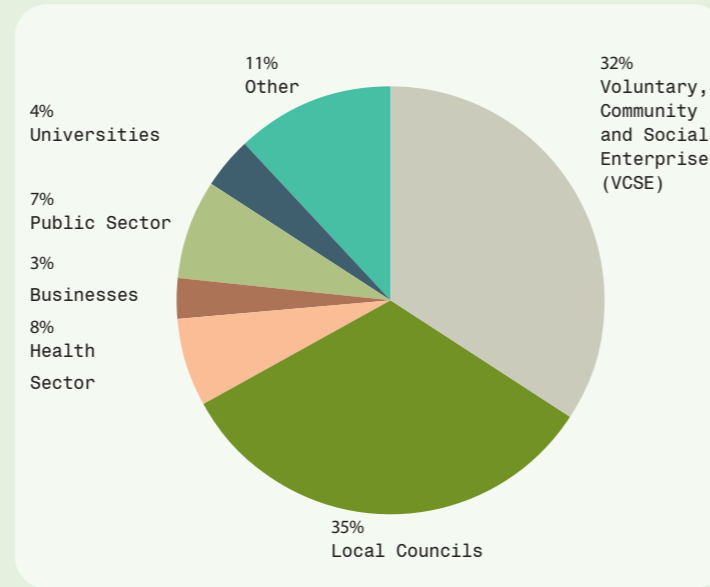
Public Engagement Key Findings

— The value of urban green spaces in offering affordable access to nature and healthcare benefits is widely recognised
— Relevant family-oriented activities, different types of play for all ages, and accessibility
— Lack of maintenance, lack of security at dusk/night time, and inefficient facilities
— Anti-social behaviours
— Lack of shelter raised as a key priority
— Kids expressed the desire for play equipment and natural forms of play in relation to trees
— Seasonal activities and occasional events to animate the space during spring and summer months and ensure safety
— Parks and green pathways should be accessible for all and cater for different ages, including teenagers

1.3 Co-Creating a Vision

Stakeholder Engagement

October 2022 - December 2022
With representatives across
Local Authorities, VCSEs,
Health Sector, Private Sector,
Investors and Academics

Conversations to understand
gaps, opportunities, needs and
aspirations across Northern
Ireland.

- 11% Other
- 4% Universities
- 7% Public Sector
- 3% Businesses
- 8% Health Sector
- 32% Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)
- 35% Local Councils

1

Workshop 1: Developing a Vision

A three-part conversation:
1. Where are we now?
2. Where are we going?
3. How can we get there?

The analysis of discussions
led to the definition of three
broader themes:
1. Climate and biodiversity
2. Community and wellbeing
3. Access and inclusivity

Workshop 2: Testing our Vision

Patterns and anomalies from Workshop
1 were analysed and drawn into an
emerging outline Vision.

The second workshop presented the
this to the participants for testing,
discussion and critique. A vote
looked to prioritise the developing
principles, followed by detailed
discussions to identify gaps and
anomalies.

Workshop 1 Key Findings

- Promoting and linking nature to health benefits and climate adaptation
- More joined up approach is needed; opportunities for forums and networks towards social cohesion
- The need for integration of different policies, aspects, and networks to reduce the SILO approach
- Lack of long-term thinking in management and funding
- More active and inclusive community engagement is needed to foster sense of ownership and safety.

Workshop 2 Key Findings

- Knowledge sharing and sense of ownership to promote local community engagement
- Food growing requires training and up-skilling
- Health sector and education involved in a more integrated long term planning
- Access for all is a key priority; animated spaces, accessible and safe for all
- Nature-based solutions connecting green and blue infrastructure
- Rewilding and wildlife management
- Communication of ecological and health benefits
- Integrated strategy and increased collaboration between existing networks as well as across different sectors

The wealth of information collected and analysed during the research process informed the framing of the collaborative Vision.

Vision Statement

The Vision Statement is an outcome of the Stakeholder
Workshops and summarises the main targets for
the future of Northern Ireland's urban green spaces.
This emerged through collaborative word clouds to
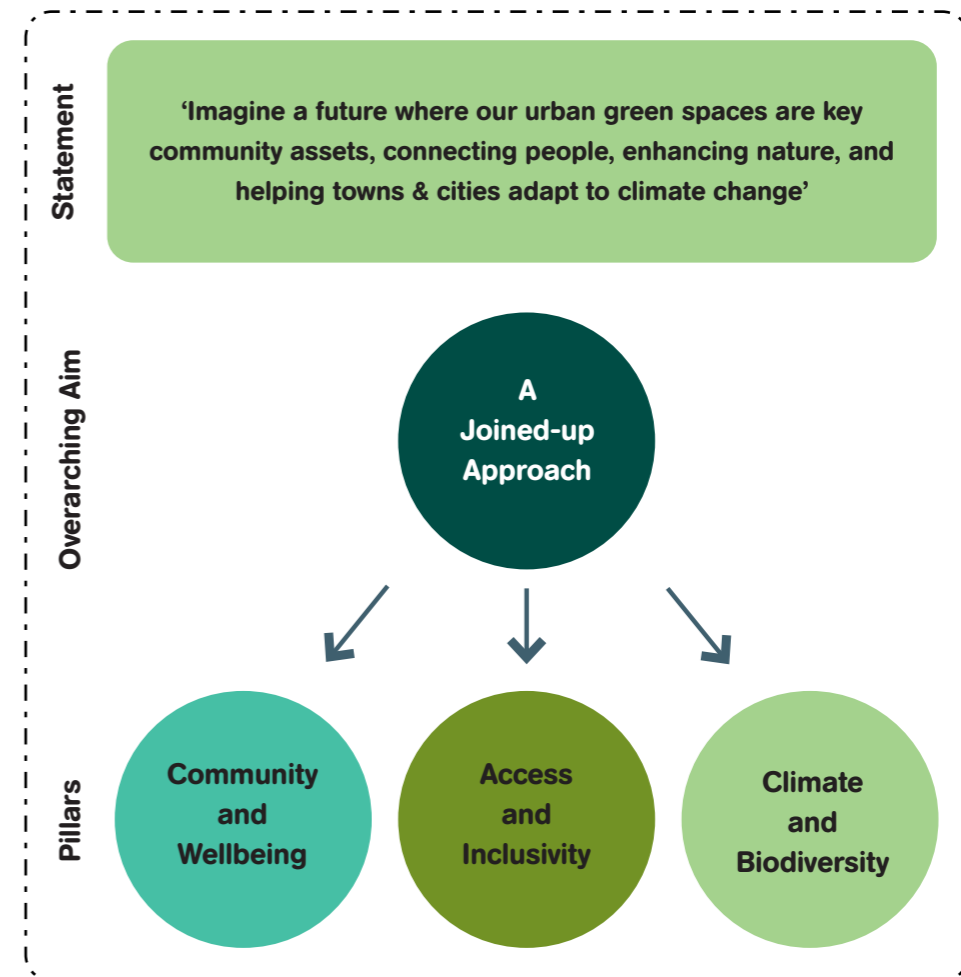determine key words, and a poll.

Overarching Aim & Pillars

The following pages outline the Vision's Overarching
Aim and three Pillars.

The Overarching Aim is to unite and develop a much
more joined-up approach towards urban green spaces.
This looks to bind together multiple targets, groups,
projects, and initiatives to better support one another.
Integration is at the core.

Beneath this, the three thematic Pillars are inter-
connected, capturing the multi-dimensional nature
of future benefits. Key ecological, health, and social
benefits of the urban green spaces, the urgency to
respond to current health and climate crises, as well
as the need for more socially-cohesive and safe-for-all
green areas have driven the themes and future targets
analysed over the following pages.

The following pages comprise:
- a short description of the Overarching Aim and each of the Three Pillars,
- three to four principles.
- further guidelines that sit below these principles.
- a 'Could We...' box that suggests possible implementation projects. These are not exhaustive, but a starting point to move towards implementation. Please refer to the main Vision & Routemap document for further detail on the implementation strategy.

Statement

'Imagine a future where our urban green spaces are key
community assets, connecting people, enhancing nature, and
helping towns & cities adapt to climate change'

Overarching Aim

A Joined-up Approach

Pillars

- Community and Wellbeing
- Access and Inclusivity
- Climate and Biodiversity

2

1 Workshop attendees overview
2 Vision structure diagram

1.4 The Vision: A Joined-up Approach

Integration is paramount to Northern Ireland's future vision. Across the country, thousands of people are working towards a similar goal yet often remain disconnected from one another. Working together, we can propel small initiatives into national models, grow seed-funds into regular financial support, and consider multiple needs simultaneously. Knowledge-sharing, common agendas, interdisciplinary collaborations, and cross-sector communications all look towards a joined-up way of working. A 'Joined-up Approach' looks to tackle the great issues of our era together, to deliver multiple outcomes for the people, environment, and economy of Northern Ireland.

Key Principles:

1 Benefit Assessment & Advocacy
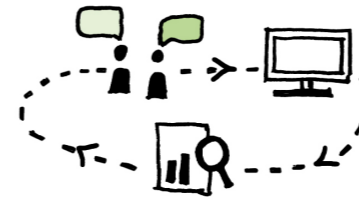
We need to continually acknowledge and assess the public benefits of urban green space. Economic value encompasses health, wellbeing, ecology, as well as social and environmental issues. Different audiences put 'value' in different places. Having readily available, comprehensive and easily communicated data allows us to demonstrate the value of urban green spaces to everyone. Education and advocacy is crucial in growing support and engagement with the importance of urban green spaces across Northern Ireland.

2 Balancing People and Wildlife

We must equally consider the social and natural aspects of urban green spaces, in line with Doughnut Economics principles. Wildlife or Nature Reserve areas supporting biodiversity, SuDS functions and climatic regulation must be strategically balanced with areas of amenity, play, sports and tourism across our towns and cities. Together, this can provide a set of holistic conditions to set circular economies for sustainable environmental as well as community development.

3 Cross-Sector Collaboration
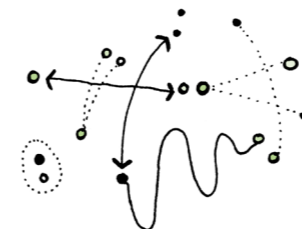
Nature-based solutions must span seamlessly across social, health, environment and climate sectors. Cooperation, shared resources and approaches must be utilised to connect agendas, targets and projects - across sectors, disciplines and boroughs.

4 Co-Design and Co-Management
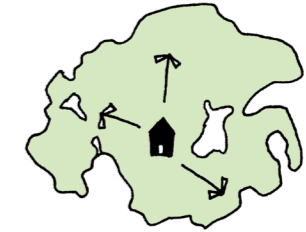
Local community groups, councils, private management companies, and environmental organisations need to work together to plan and manage NI's green spaces. A sense of ownership is crucial for community groups and individuals to feel part of their local spaces. Tapping into local knowledge and skill-sharing can tighten relationships between green space, education and employment.

Guidelines

As part of a joined-up approach, integrated urban strategies should look towards:
– Delivering conservation at a landscape scale
– A sustainable repurposing of town and city centres that support placemaking and pride of place
– Adoption of the '15 minute city' neighbourhood concept - where all daily needs are reachable within a fifteen minute walking or cycling distance
– Dedicated training on shared management strategies
– Support strategies to lower skill-gaps

Could We...
– Create an open-access data-sharing platform that collates both quantitative and experienced green space benefits
– Invite key stakeholders (health trusts, wildlife agencies, flood alleviation bodies) to contribute to open data sharing on the value of green and blue spaces
– Forefront local skill-sharing initiatives
– Regularly bring together local council members across sectors to share best practice
– Form a dedicated cross-disciplinary steering group for Northern Ireland's urban green spaces
– Create an interactive 'tree story map' of Northern Ireland, encouraging local school children to participate
– Set up a common approach to actively assess and monitor the quality of every urban green space and what ongoing management is required. Particular support needed around tackling anti-social behaviour
– Use the collectively collated data to target funding and pool funding initiatives

1.5 Pillar 1: Community and Wellbeing

A good standard of health and wellbeing should be a basic human right across Northern Ireland's urban neighbourhoods, and green spaces can help radically improve this for all. The first Vision Pillar addresses how we can maximise health benefits (both physical and mental) by ensuring our green spaces are grown from bottom-up as well as from top-down, and that they are welcoming, active and loved as a central part of our everyday lives.

Key Principles:

1 Community Management

Building relationships with and between local communities is vital in empowering a sense of ownership, pride in place, and care towards local urban green spaces. This applies both on a daily basis and across generations. Knowledge- and experience-sharing between community groups will help nurture successful approaches, building an understanding of what works where for who. Such an approach is also key for understanding what does not work where and who is being left out. Community management must specifically target non-standard groups.

2 Active for All
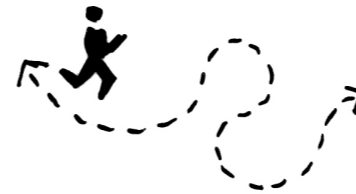
To fully tap into the enormous health and wellbeing value of urban green spaces, social cohesion is crucial. Activation measures are invaluable in transforming spaces in terms of perceived accessibility and inclusivity. Targeted priorities should be mapped, monitored and developed with park users and non-users, including sports and physical activity initiatives such as park runs and walking groups; alongside physical interventions such as multi-generational programming. This looks towards increasingly positive and animated attitude shifts towards urban green spaces.

3 Integrated Neighbourhood Planning

Integrated community engagement is a vital part of the design and delivery of projects, reaching far beyond consultation alone. Community groups and individuals should be integrated into the formulating, shaping and implementation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Spokespeople should include multiple voices from all ages, backgrounds and demographics, nurturing existing local partnerships and reading across existing policies.

4 Education across Generations

Integrating urban green spaces within nurseries, schools, colleges and universities is as important as linking them with old people homes, care centres and rehabilitation units. Nature-led education is a lifelong endeavour and plays a core role in how green spaces are perceived and engaged with. This can be done through physical locations, growing initiatives, curriculums, trips and training programmes.

Guidelines

As part of the community and wellbeing vision, socially-led strategies and projects should look towards:
– Recognition, development and advocacy of the work done to date on the health benefits of green spaces, particularly post COVID-19
– Health prescriptions and social prescribing
– Focus on food growing spaces, programmes and allotments, as tools for education, local production, wellbeing and self-empowerment, and for social engagement across generations
– Support small-scale attitude-orientated gestures, to in turn, grow larger engagement bodies

Could We...
– Create local planning forum groups, involving voices from 8 years to 88 years
– Conduct a research study to identify local groups not currently using green spaces, and develop specific projects for them
– Spread the word about Healthy Living Centres and the health benefits of green space
– Ensure every resident in Northern Ireland has equal opportunity to an allotment within 15-minutes walk from their home
– Review of current facilities through more detailed local surveys
– Invest in facilities that can generate income to help fund the parks such as cafe, shelter, occasional events
– Provide better multi-age playspaces
– Provide sheltered spaces and benches
– Build governance structures for all local green spaces, i.e. friends groups who can advocate, engage, identify improvements and support activity programmes
– Offer training to empower people to grow food, undertake surveys, and practical conservation works
– Ensure a wide range of events/activities in urban green spaces to increase inclusion and attract new audiences

1.6 Pillar 2: Access and Inclusivity

One of the biggest problems with Northern Ireland's urban green spaces is people's ability to get to them quickly and easily on a day-to-day basis. Similarly, some groups can be unintentionally excluded as they feel there is nothing for them when they get there. The second Vision Pillar addresses accessibility and connectivity, supporting urban green spaces across the country, for everyone.
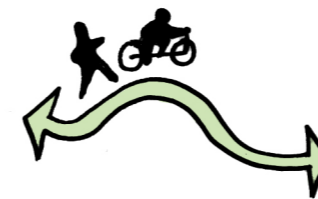
Key Principles:

1 Access for All

Our urban green spaces should be inclusive and welcoming to everyone - advocating environmental justice across age groups, backgrounds and cultures; acknowledging all abilities, needs and tastes; and considering locals as well as national and international visitors. This includes improvements to public transport in parallel with the programming of green spaces, providing both the ability to get there and a reason to do so. This is particularly crucial in peripheral city and town areas.

2 Active Travel

Improving cycle and pedestrian routes will be crucial to ingraining urban green spaces into daily movement networks, as well as improving physical health and reducing carbon emissions. This includes strengthening links in and between urban areas; identifying and bolstering designated routes and trails; and securing pedestrian priority routes. A holistic vision for good street design should include SuDS and other green elements as well as cross-generational use and active transport - taking a multiplex approach to the design of public open space.

3 Green Connectivity
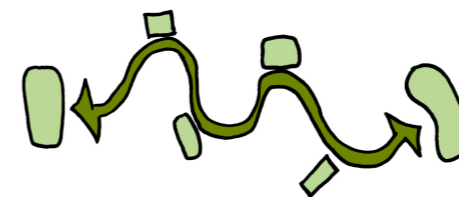
Connecting green spaces through greenways, linear parks, green streets and swales looks towards an interconnected green network across our towns and cities. A perceived wider vision of a single connected green infrastructure looks beyond the perception of single individual spaces. A crucial part of green connectivity includes improving public access to existing spaces, and allowing free movement between spaces by working together with landowners.

Guidelines

As part of the access and inclusivity vision, nature-led strategies and projects also look towards:

– Compiling an in-depth understanding of current perceptions around safety and isolation, particularly around gender differences
– Safety by design, tackling anti-social behaviour through methods such as Community Safety Partnership
– Collaboration between government departments to better connect public transport with parks

Could We...

– Conduct a detailed study of which specific groups use which specific spaces
– Collaborate between boroughs and local councils to strengthen pedestrian priority routes and designated cycle paths toward a coherent active travel network of greenways within the towns and cities
– Ensure every green space has sufficient cycle parking
– Support tactical micro-greening projects to make links between community parks
– Ensure every resident in Northern Ireland has equal opportunity to a green space within 15-minutes walk from their home
– Develop a website or social media profile to raise awareness about fantastic urban green spaces in Northern Ireland and how to get there
– Focus on safety, in particular during night time, improving lighting and activity
– Work with Translink to provide better access at key times
– Provide cycle hiring facilities
– Look at provision of green routes between schools and local green spaces

1.7 Pillar 3: Climate and Biodiversity

Nature-based solutions will be crucial in creating a climatic-responsive future for Northern Ireland, that serves all species. The third Vision Pillar addresses future environmental, climatic and ecological needs. This includes flood alleviation, shading, habitat creation, tree equity, green space management and environmental education. Urban green spaces will play a key role in removing carbon emissions from the atmosphere and storing carbon in vegetation and soil.

Key Principles:

1 Green - Blue Networks

A comprehensive green-blue infrastructure network looks to balance ecological and environmental needs, such as connecting biodiversity gain with long-term flood management (as part of the Joined-up Approach). This develops existing green spaces including wetlands and flood areas, parks and pocket parks, greenways and green corridors, SuDS, coastal sites, green roofs, terraces and meanwhile sites. Connecting green and blue functions will form a vital driver across strategy-making, design and management.

2 Urban Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

A holistic nature-led response to the climate emergency seeks to enhance the relationship between ecological and rewilding areas, with managed spaces. To do this, we need to understand natural needs, ecological processes and soil impacts. We particularly look towards increased habitat creation, tree coverage, and the regeneration of brownfield sites.

3 Long Term Thinking
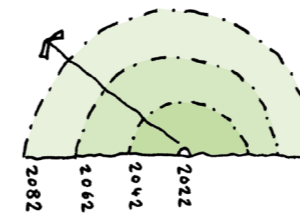
Through long-term management strategies, we look to cultivate different ways of thinking about and interacting with urban green spaces, and move towards more regenerative practices. This allows us to plan for and adapt to climatic shifts. Dedicated training on conservation and management seeks to support this across private green spaces and gardens as well as those that are public.

Guidelines

As part of the climate and biodiversity vision, projects and strategies also look towards:
– Targeted biodiversity monitoring and public data-sharing
– Sustainable urban food forests and food provision
– Providing urban shading to mitigate against the urban heat island effect, and expected risks in summer temperatures due to climate change
– Demonstrate the link between urban green spaces, tree planting and urban air quality
– Linking up action for climate and biodiversity through urban local Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs).
– Implementing regenerative design principles, where the built environment has a net positive impact on natural systems.

Could We...

– Run conservation and education workshops at local green spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds including schools
– Develop ZSL's 'Rewilding our Cities' programme
– Encourage good management through piloting programmes demonstrating grass cutting regime and pruning that enable biodiversity to thrive
– Involve research on soil impact on biodiversity to inform the park management and maintenance process
– Provide more comprehensive maps of biodiversity baseline and target improvements by habitat and species to help guide management strategies as part of local nature recovery networks
– Provide detailed maps of flood risk and set out plans for interventions in parks to reduce wider flood risk including costing the plans and assessing the benefits
– Further develop and better integrate Living with Water programme
– Map clean air zones and show how parks contribute to better air quality

1.8 Overview of the Routemap

To help drive implementation of the Vision and support it to become a reality, a Routemap has developed through a co-design process. The Routemap should be viewed as an "invitation to collaborate" to take the Vision forward. It provides a guide for which activities need to take place, not a definitive list, recognising it will evolve over time.

The two main components of the Routemap are:

– **Enablers:** Enablers are activities that need to happen to support achievement of the Vision.
– **Pilot Projects:** Pilot projects are ideas and suggestions for physical urban green space investment and improvement projects that test out the Vision.

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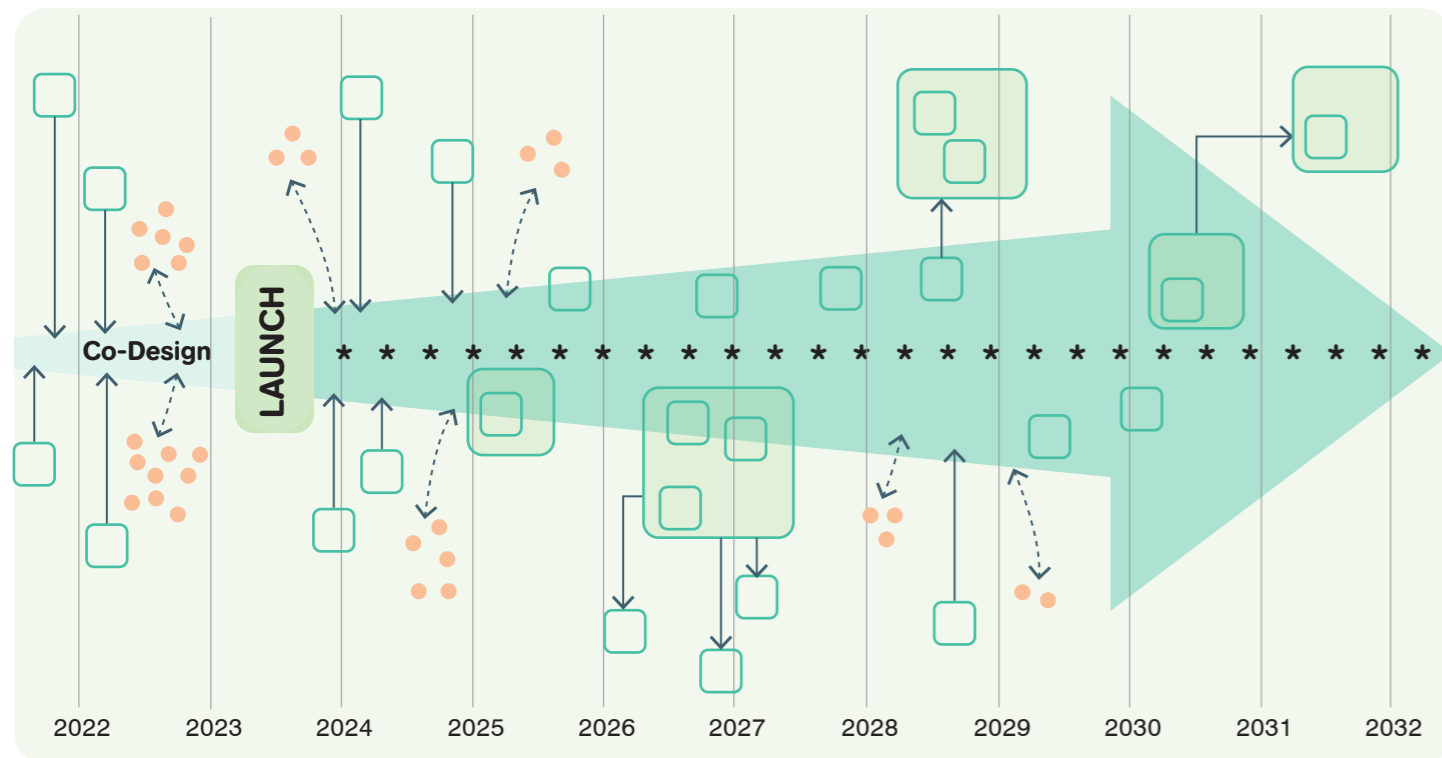
The Routemap diagram above illustrates how the project will gain momentum over time. It will connect, bolster and grow existing projects as well as generate new ones, continuing to connect with many individuals and groups. Pilot projects will inform bigger models, both within this project umbrella and externally.

1 Routemap diagram

Key

▉	Enablers
★	Quarterly Forum
▢	Pilot Project
▣	Model or Method
●	Individual or Group

Enablers Overview

The Routemap establishes five key '**enablers**' to focus efforts on, recognising that this is a journey of many paths. The five enablers are:

1. Leadership, coordination and communications
2. Funding and investment
3. Involvement of local people
4. Knowledge, skills and capacity
5. Policy and planning

For each of the five enabling themes, an indicative action plan has been developed for the following timeframes:

– Immediate actions (May-Dec 2023)
– Short-term actions (2024-2025)
– Long-term actions (2026-2030)

Whilst the action plan spans 2023-2030, our Vision looks much further ahead, to 2040 and 2050.

To achieve this Vision, we recognise we need involvement and collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders. As such, for each enabler, we highlight which stakeholder groups should be most involved in delivery. The stakeholder groups are:

– NI UGS programme leaders (e.g. the organisation or partnership who will lead the Vision implementation)
– NI Executive (particularly Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Department for Infrastructure, Department of Health, Department for Communities), Health and Social Care Trusts, Public Health Agency
– Local Authorities
– Private sector – developers, land owners, urban designers, local businesses
– Third sector organisations (environmental, social and economic) – NGOS, charities, think tanks, industry institutes, foundations and networks
– Residents, community and interest groups
– Universities, colleges and schools

From these stakeholder groups, specific leaders, delivery partners and wider stakeholders have been identified who want to collaborate in the project to achieve ambitious and lasting change for people, and places.

Pilot Projects Overview

We have identified a selection of potential pilot projects (physical urban green space investment or improvement projects) to help spark ideas and invite stakeholders to test out new and innovative ways of designing, delivering and managing urban green space projects in line with the Vision.

They are based on the Vision principles, and capture the essence of many of the "Could we" text boxes from the Vision section.

Measuring Success

This Routemap also includes a section on measures of success – how we will measure whether the Routemap is being successfully implemented and the Vision is being achieved.

Alignment with Programme for Government Outcomes

To help build the case for increasing investment in urban green space, we have also demonstrated how the urban green space agenda aligns to, and helps achieve, each of the Draft Programme for Government Outcomes. Clearly articulating the benefits that urban green spaces contribute to the region's wider social, economic and environmental goals demonstrates and underlines the multiple outcomes and added value which can be achieved by appropriate investment in urban green spaces.

Methodology

The Routemap has been informed by:

– The initial brief for this work.
– Insights gathered during the Autumn 2022 Vision co-design workshops.
– The 'Routemap and action plan' co-design workshop held in February 2023, which was attended by 40 stakeholders.
– Future Parks Accelerator priorities and National Lottery Heritage Fund priorities (as potential future funding sources).
– Published reports and guidance related to the enablers.
– Stakeholder feedback April 2023.