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How does the council define rewilding?

The council does not have a definition per se regarding 'rewilding' but can assume it will encompass the naturalisation and extension of existing green spaces on our managed estate throughout the city.

Do you have any current or planned policies/initiatives on rewilding? If yes, can you provide details of these?

The Edinburgh Living Landscape Programme was introduced in 2014/15. You can find out more detail here <https://edinburghlivinglandscape.org.uk/> On a city wide basis we have approximately 147ha of naturalised grasslands that fall under the Living Landscapes banner, these areas have been introduced gradually since 2015 and will be maintained during 2022. This year we will be maintaining 95 meadow areas city-wide which consist of both annual and perennial meadow areas. Also as part of the Nature Network work that the Thriving Greenspaces Team are carrying out with partners across the city there is a proposed Wildling Wee Spaces project with schools that is hopefully in the pipeline too.

Have you set aside any budget or funding for rewilding?

There is no specific budget set-aside for 'rewilding' initiatives. Costs are incorporated into 'business as usual' budgets, including many of our existing meadows. External funding is often sought to extend naturalised areas in identified parts of the city, working with ELL partners. For instance, during 2022 the City of Edinburgh Council in conjunction with Edinburgh University has secured funding from NatureScot to implement 8 wildflower meadows along Cramond and Gypsy Brae along with tree planting. This funding allows us to continue the work we did in 2020 which was also funded by NatureScot which resulted in the original 8 meadows along Gypsy Brae/Cramond. As part of the funding agreement Edinburgh Council must adhere to a 10 year compliance period in which these meadows must be maintained and the University carry out biodiversity survey and monitoring work throughout this period too.