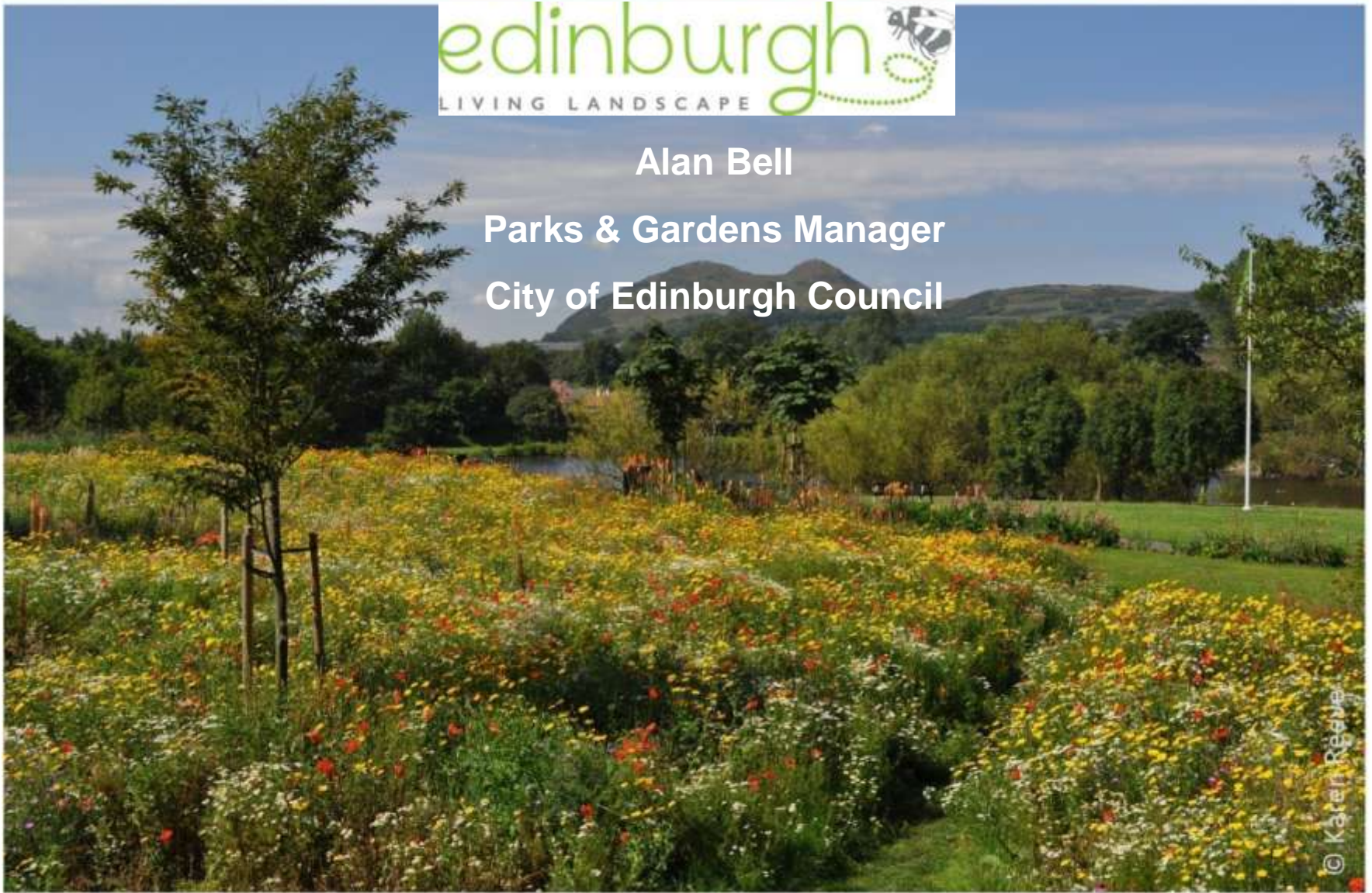


Alan Bell

Parks & Gardens Manager

City of Edinburgh Council



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'Nature in your neighbourhood'

**Creating high quality, nature rich
and beautiful places where
citizens want to be**



How Edinburgh Living Landscape can look

- Reducing how often some areas of grass are cut
- Leaving some areas to grow, allowing natural grassland to thrive
- Mowing walkways
- Creation of meadows
- Tree planting
- Planting herbaceous perennials in place of annual bedding



Progress 2015

- 151 sites now being managed as part of the programme
- 78 naturalised grass sites (35ha)
- 73 floral meadows
 - City Centre and Leith = 11 sites
 - North= 11 sites (no grass)
 - East= 20 sites
 - South West= 27 sites
 - West=43 sites
 - South= 19 sites
 - Natural Heritage – 11 sites (all native meadow)
 - Urban Pollinator – 9 sites (inc. 2 perennial)



Corstorphine Hill: April-June 2015



Corstorphine Hill: July-August 2015



Other examples



The Bowl - Balerno



**Curriemuirend
Park**



Meadowhouse Road



Sighthill Park



Cramond Foreshore



Other examples



Floral Meadows



Floral Meadows



A71



Colinton Mains Park



Harrison Park



Saughton Park

Floral Meadows



Wester Hailes Quarry Park

Winhill Park



Stenhouse Place East



Sighthill Park



Monitoring

- Monitoring of all sites took place throughout summer
- Sites assessed as A, B,C,D
- Mixed bag of results across neighbourhoods and season
- Very little evidence of litter, dog fouling or fly tipping



Public response

- Package of communication and engagement activities rolled out to community, schools and council staff
- 41 emails received relating to ELL
 - 14 complaints
 - 4 specifying litter or dog fouling
 - 4 general enquiries or suggestions
 - 7 compliments!
 - Remainder were duplicates or found to be unrelated to ELL sites.
- Positive responses and comments on social media
- Interactive online map of sites



Relaxed grass

Relaxed grass cutting is a method of maintaining grass that reduces the frequency of cut, encourages biodiversity and looks attractive.



Benefits

- Saves money
- Looks well-kept
- Reduces carbon footprint

Considerations

- Not suitable for all areas
- May look unkempt

Requirements

- You need to discuss the current frequency of the cut and the type of grass you are using. For cutting only use 60-70% cutting length and avoid cutting during peak flowering periods. Always use a mulcher for 'topping' (mow 2/3).

Cutting heights

- For cutting heights over 100mm, use a mulcher.
- Don't cut too low, or the grass will die.
- Mow at least once a week for 12-15 weeks.
- Mow at least once a week for 12-15 weeks.



Planning

- Identifying suitable sites with community groups and neighbourhood teams (naturalised grass, shrub beds, meadows)
- Sowing and maintenance of meadows (schools, Friends or youth groups)
- School grounds development and use for outdoor learning
- Have your say...



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