

## Case Study 6

# Breathing Life into Glasgow's Stalled Spaces



'Stalled Spaces' is a city-wide initiative which delivers an innovative approach to dealing with issues relating to poor environmental conditions that have become more prevalent due to the economic downturn. The initiative focuses on the temporary use of vacant or under-utilised land to deliver a range of projects including urban growing spaces, community gardens, wildflower meadows, mountain bike trails and art sculpture parks, which enables physical renewal and fosters community empowerment.

### Context

The initiative involves residents in the project which, in turn, increases confidence and involvement in decision-making and community life.

The project supports a wide range of recreational and cultural activities reflecting the diverse nature of our communities.

By developing and delivering value-added projects in partnership with community groups, the Stalled Spaces Initiative is enriching the quality of people's lives by improving their social, economic and environmental well-being.

### Project Background

In response to increased levels of vacant and derelict land, Glasgow City Council passed a

**"Glasgow's innovative approach assists communities, landowners and developers to gain maximum benefit from a stalled site or land which hasn't been able to be developed due to the current economic difficulties. It makes a great difference to help a community kick start activity on a site to give it back a purpose for all local people to enjoy."**

Councillor Gordon Matheson,  
Leader of Glasgow City Council

motion promoting the installation of temporary landscaping of vacant spaces. From October 2010, the 'Stalled Spaces' initiative has been developed by officers within the Development Plan Team of the Planning Service. Through

## Key Points

- The initiative has developed and delivered projects re-using vacant or under-utilised land on a temporary basis.
- It has empowered community involvement in open space renewal throughout the city.
- It has developed an integrated approach between multiple partners and organisations to help improve the environment of communities.
- It has provided capital funds for groups to redevelop spaces and has engaged with landowners and developers.
- It has increased access to locally grown food and promoted good dietary health.
- It has provided opportunities for the creative sector to implement arts projects and engage with local communities.
- It has provided opportunities for inter-generational projects to reduce negative perceptions between age groups and provided training opportunities for young people currently unemployed.

promotion via the Council's website, the initiative has offered support and professional advice to community groups and organisations at all levels.

This has included on-the-ground physical works, general capacity building assistance and direct negotiation with landowners.

## What it Does

By enabling unproductive land (stalled spaces) to be temporarily used to deliver a range of community benefits, the project has met all its objectives and has allowed citizens of all ages and abilities to play an active part in the life of their built environment.

As a result of the Community Support for Stalled Space funding, it is estimated that a total match funding package of nearly £500,000 has been attracted in; over 6 times the amount invested by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association. Other

## Awards:

Concrete Garden - Stalled Space received Chairman's Award for Design - Scottish Design Awards, 2011.

Shortlisted for Glasgow City Council's Flourish Awards – Health & Well-being Category, 2012





fundes include Climate Challenge Fund, GHA Greenspace Fund, Postcode Lottery, Area Committees, Creative Scotland, BBC Children in Need and Awards for All.

In addition, a variety of in-kind support has been provided. This has ranged from supply of wood for raised beds, greenhouses, plants, paint, soil and compost to staff time, marketing costs, consultants and professional costs. Although it is difficult to accurately calculate the value of this, it has been approximated at £56,000. This figure is likely to be considerably higher on completion of the monitoring process.

**“A derelict space is now becoming transformed into an attractive community area where children can learn about and access the natural outdoors in a safe way.”**

Sharon McKenna,  
Beechwood Nursery, Easterhouse

The team has also developed signage which is installed at each stalled space. This helps emphasise the temporary nature of the project, highlights the variety of uses and promotes the initiative to a wider audience.

To date, ‘Stalled Spaces’ has helped over 40 projects across a range of locales within Glasgow. This has involved hundreds of citizens participating in temporary urban renewal activities within their communities.

The initiative has resulted in 13ha of land being brought back into use. Of this, 8ha are located within the worst 15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation dataset.

### CSGN Support and Learning

In 2011, the CSGN Development Fund provided financial support to seven stalled space projects throughout Glasgow. These included two urban growing spaces, two community gardens, an outdoor learning space, an outdoor collaborative arts space and provision of beehives and training to four stalled space projects.



This support has enabled the Initiative to provide additional resources to projects, adding value and encouraging community ownership.

By addressing a CSGN priority, the Stalled Spaces Initiative has received a greater profile, supporting its continuation and promotion.

### Future

The initiative has completed its first year and will be evaluated, following this it will work closely with the stakeholders and key partners to incorporate any amendments required. Funding has been secured for a second year of the Community Support for Stalled Spaces grant.

Moving forward, a principal focus for the Initiative is to develop links and partnerships with Glasgow’s creative sector. Already, leases have been secured for artists involved

in Glasgow's International Festival of Visual Art. In addition, Creative Scotland will join the evaluation panel for Community Support for Stalled Spaces 2012/2013.

The Initiative also plans to establish a 'Stalled Space Forum' where Local Authorities can come together to share good practice and assistance on the approach to vacant and derelict land.

Also, Stalled Spaces is assisting in the delivery of the Sustainable Glasgow Initiative by developing the 'Food Miles' Education Pack. This toolkit will be available to Glasgow's 140 Primary Schools and provides the opportunity to link the Curriculum for Excellence directly to growing food locally and demonstrates the carbon impact of produce travelling long distances.

The 'Food Miles' pack will help local children to make informed choices, assisting them to develop as positive contributors, while providing a greater awareness of the how we can all tackle Climate Change.



## **Stalled Spaces - Honey pots for stalled plots**



### Outcomes

**Greater Community Involvement:** The Initiative has helped over 40 Stalled Space projects in a range of locales within Glasgow, involving hundreds of citizens participating in temporary urban renewal within their communities.

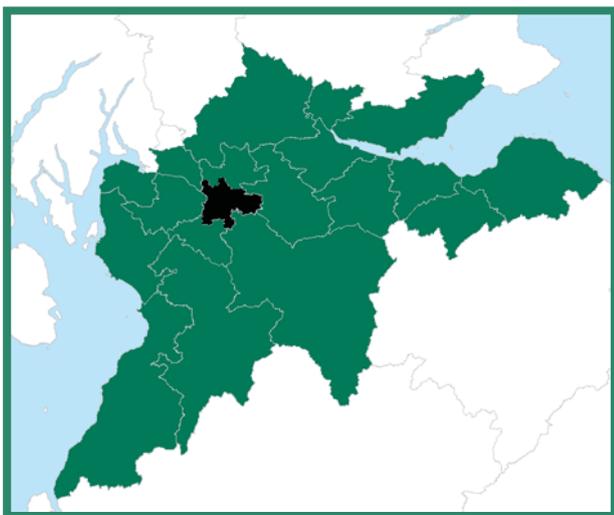
**More Greenspace:** 13ha of land have been brought back into temporary use. Some 8ha are located within the worst 15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation dataset.

**Increased Funding:** As a result of community interest in the Stalled Space initiative, and the CSGN funding secured, a match funding package of nearly £500,000 has been attracted to the project. This total is over 6 times the amount invested by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association combined.

**Improved Well-being:** The project has developed and delivered added value projects across social, economic, environment and cultural development fronts that enrich the quality of people's lives.

## Location

The Stalled Spaces sites are located across the city of Glasgow as shown in the maps below.



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## Project Partners

Glasgow Housing Association  
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership  
Creative Scotland

## What is the CSGN?

The CSGN is a national development within the National Planning Framework which aims to make 'a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development'. It involves public agencies and stakeholders (those with an interest in our work) working together to align their policies, programmes and actions to achieve a common aim. That aim is to change the face of Central Scotland by restoring and improving the rural and urban landscape of the area.

## Getting in Touch

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