

Scotland's Young People's Forest



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Young
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Forest**



Project Background

Vision: to create the first forest in Scotland that is co-designed, led and governed by young people.

Mission: to create and regenerate native Scottish forests, which are accessible to all, and utilised as an educational resource while combatting the climate and nature emergencies.

- Partnership: Young Scot, YouthLink Scotland, Woodland Trust, Green Action Trust
- Launched in February 2021
- Codesign panel of 19 young people aged 11 – 26 years old from across Scotland
- Supported by a National Expert Advisory Group





Ambitions

Land Use: To manage, regenerate and rewild various areas of land as forest sanctuaries

Equality and Accessibility: To create welcoming forested places that are inviting and accessible for everyone

Health and Wellbeing: To create outdoor spaces for people to reconnect with nature: places to enjoy for their own health and wellbeing or to share with others

Culture and Innovation: To create inspiring natural spaces for people to explore the connectedness of natural and cultural heritage through arts and technology both ancient and modern

Native Wildlife: To manage and restore native wildlife to help educate and reconnect people with native species

Young People: To enable and empower other young people to take action on issues of climate change and environmental concern

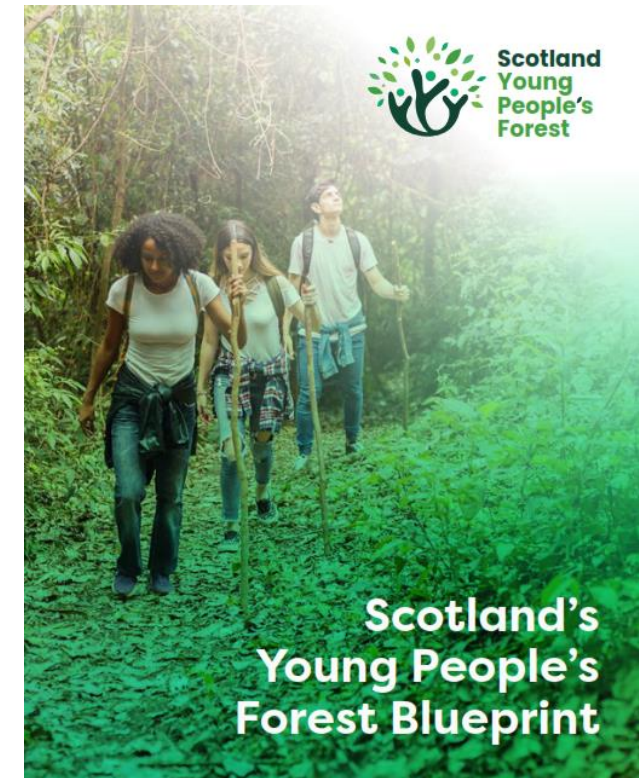
Phase 1 - 2 Activities

- Online meetings
- Site criteria, prototypes and blueprints created
- Site visits
- Residentials
- National Consultation Survey
- New project partners
- RSPB Baron's Haugh partnership
- Creation of youth worker toolkit and delivery of training
- SCVO Scottish Charity Award finalists for 'Climate Conscious' category and Holyrood Climate Action Award finalists for 'Youth Champion' category
- Opportunities for the panel:
 - COP26
 - BBC Scotland Documentary
 - International youth exchange in Sweden



Blueprint

- A blueprint for future sites and activity across Scotland. Created by the Youth Leadership Panel.
- Guidelines, ambitions and decision-making tools, co-designed by young people, which set out the ethos and vision that they hope organisations will work in line with to create their own spaces and activities for Scotland's Young People's Forest across Scotland.
- Includes:
 - What is Meaningful Youth Participation?
 - Decision-making as Part of Scotland's Young People's Forest
 - Definitions of Minor, Intermediate and Major Decisions and how young people should be involved
 - Ambitions - the Panel have developed ambitions to guide the programme and any future activity to ensure this continues to meet the needs of young people and align to their vision.



Download the Blueprint:





RSPB Scotland Baron's Haugh Partnership

- On site once every 2 months working with RSPB Warden at [Baron's Haugh nature reserve](#)
- Developing woodland and forest management skills
- Connecting with wider North Lanarkshire youth work community
- Activities have included:
 - Glade creation
 - Tree safety/ surveys and woodland management
 - Bird identification and territory mapping
 - Guided walk training





Youth Worker Toolkit

- Engage, equip, upskill and build a more confident youth work sector
- Work with youth groups on the SYPF 6 objectives
- 10 resource topics and activities
- Created with the support of the Youth Leadership Panel and Expert Advisory Group
- Download the toolkit:



Activity

This activity have been inspired by and adapted from this [Urban Nature Youth Worker Toolkit](#) designed and developed by the Natural History Museum in collaboration with The Prince's Trust, Voyage Youth and other regional partners.

Purpose

For young people to have:

- A better understanding and awareness of the urban green spaces in their local area.
- An increased comfort in local green space and increased knowledge of local urban nature.

Equipment

- Urban animal photos or names (one per young person)
- Clothes pegs (one per young person)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Access to computer for google maps
- A selection of or photos of natural objects for the urban scavenger hunt



Scotland's Young People's Forest Outcomes and Objectives

Equality and Accessibility: To create welcoming forested places that are inviting and accessible for everyone.

Land Use: To manage and regenerate various areas of land as forest sanctuaries for native Scottish wildlife.





Training for the Youth Work Sector

- Green Jobs
- Eco Anxiety
- Climate Justice
- Creative Outdoor Learning
- Engaging Young People with Green Spaces

- Collaboration across environmental and youth work organisations and expert speaker contributions

- Physical forest site will be future resource and build capacity of youth work sector



Scotland's Young People's Forest future project vision:

Site(s)

Identify a SYPF site

Begin planting and
working on site

Continue working with
RSPB at Baron's Haugh

Movement

Inspire more SYPF sites
across Scotland

Develop the SYPF toolkit

Distribute free trees

Fundamentals

Sustainability

Fundraising

Partnerships

Brand / online presence

Evaluation

Scotland's Young People's Forest Youth Leadership Panel

Q&A



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