Fife's River Park to see £2.9million investment in



A coalition of organisations, local and national, are working together on the River Park project.

The support of National Lottery players will transform the River Leven Valley into a beautiful public space that highlights the area's history.

Our funding – awarded to the Green Action Trust – will support the rejuvenation of the valley into an accessible and biodiverse parkland that brings Levenmouth's social and economic heritage to life.

The land around the River Leven has been derelict for many years, leaving a vacant network of gravelled areas, overgrowth and unsafe, inaccessible paths. The River Park Programme will create two river park gardens, enhancing the environment around new travel routes and establishing spaces for:

- recreation
- play and sport
- outdoor community learning
- growing
- a green skills academy

A new era in the Leven

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Andy Milne from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Helen McCafferty from Green Action Trust walk along the Leven.

Discussions with local communities demonstrated a strong interest in learning more about the history of the area's mills, which were once key to the economy. The park development will preserve a historic mill complex, alongside installing a heritage trail that shares stories from the community.

> Not only will the River Park forge better access to the river and between communities, it will also create opportunities for improved health, well-being and economic prospects that will benefit the local community for years to come.
>
> *Pauline Silverman, Green Action Trust*

The grant will also enable skills training for local people, including workshops, paid work placements and heritage and archaeology courses. A youth forum will offer mentoring and further opportunities.

A broader mission of change

The River Park Programme is part of a wider initiative to transform the local area. A group of national organisations are working with local government and businesses to make the Leven a great place to live, work and visit – all with economic and environmental sustainability in mind.

Pauline Silverman, Director of Strategy for the Green Action Trust, said: “Not only will the River Park forge better access to the river and between communities, it will also create opportunities for improved health, wellbeing and economic prospects that will benefit the local community for years to come. We are delighted to accept this funding on behalf of the wider River Leven partnership and galvanise the regeneration of the River Leven valley.”

Find out more about plans for the park on the project’s website or explore more projects we’re supporting across Scotland.



Lynn Morrison, Anna Higham, Douglas Frost and Aisha Fatunmbi-Randall from Leith Theatre Trust. Credit: Leith Theatre Trust.





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A young boy taking part in a community gardening project as part of Nextdoor Nature. Image: Gavin Dickson.

Our local nature initiative reached eight times further than planned