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### SPT Community Path Fund 1. Introduction

We are **Walking Scotland**, Scotland's Walking and Wheeling charity. Walking and wheeling are the most affordable and practical ways to help solve some of Scotland's biggest challenges, from health inequalities to the climate-nature emergency.

This funding program is delivered by Walking Scotland and funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).

In their most recent <u>Regional Transport Strategy</u>, SPT presented their vision that the 'west of Scotland will be an attractive, resilient and well-connected place with active, liveable communities.'

In line with this, the aim of this funding is to enhance local path networks, making it easier for people to walk and wheel around their communities to carry out every day functional journeys, such as to school, workplaces or the shops.

We are especially looking to support community-led projects and welcome applications from groups that have not reached out to apply for funding before. If you need help with your application or project, please contact us at <u>communitypaths@walkingscotland.org.uk</u>.

#### 2. Who can apply?

Our fund is open to any community organisation with a constitution and bank account, based within and intending to undertake the work within the following areas:

Argyll and Bute
East Ayrshire
East Dunbartonshire
East Renfrewshire
Glasgow City
Inverclyde

North Ayrshire North Lanarkshire Renfrewshire South Ayrshire South Lanarkshire West Dunbartonshire

Examples of eligible groups:

- Constituted community groups and clubs
- Registered charities
- Educational establishments
- Community Councils and Community or Development Trusts
- National Park Authorities.

### 3. Who cannot apply?

Our fund is not available to:

- Individuals
- Sole traders
- Commercial companies
- Local Authorities.



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#### 4. How much can you apply for?

You can apply for up to a maximum of  $\pm 10,000$ :

- For applications up to £3,000, we can fund 100% of project costs.
- For applications between £3,001 and £10,000, we can fund up to 75% of total costs. Applicants must provide at least 25% match funding.
   Volunteer in-kind contributions may count toward this.

See Appendix <u>2</u> and <u>3</u> for details on acceptable in-kind contributions, including guidance on how to calculate their value.



#### 5. What you can spend our funding on.

It can be used to:

- Construct new paths to improve path network connectivity.
- Create technical designs for path projects to support applicants through the tendering and construction phases.
- Upgrade existing paths to make them more accessible and easier for people to use
- Install seating with back and arm rests to provide rest points along routes.
- Remove barriers on paths that are restrictive for people using adaptive equipment, cargo bikes or wheelchairs.
- Install directional signage on paths.
- Plant wildlife-friendly shrubs and trees (up to the value of £3,000) next to paths.
- Install lighting.

Where possible, we would encourage applicants to include as many of the eligible items above within their application and project.

Your project must adhere to best inclusive practices in design. We can provide additional support to applicants to help with this and would be delighted to meet on site to talk over projects. Further information regarding this can be found in <u>Section 10.</u>

#### 6. What you cannot spend our funding on.

Our funding can't be used to:

- Build paths in community gardens.
- Produce feasibility studies.
- Install bins.
- Cover project cost or activities that have already occurred.
- Planning application fees.
- Legal fees.
- Purchase land.
- Purchase bikes.
- Produce walking leaflets.
- Deliver projects outwith the SPT area.

#### 7. How to apply.

The first stage in the application process is to submit an expression of interest (EOI) with a brief project summary (guidance on how to do this is in <u>Appendix 1</u>).

If it complies with our fund's criteria, we will ask you to complete a full application.

You must also have the following in place before submitting your EOI / application:

- All permission including landowner permission and planning permission, if required.
- Any additional match funding.

Where volunteers are likely to be directly involved in practical work as part of your project, applicants must ensure that appropriate public liability insurance is in place to cover these activities.

If you need help with your application, please contact us on <u>communitypaths@walkingscotland.org.uk</u> or 01786 641 851.

### 8. Timescales

Event	Date
Applications Open	15 July 2025
Online Information Events	22 July 2025 (2pm to 3pm, 6.30pm to 7.30pm) 28 July 2025 (2pm to 3pm) 29 July 2025 (6.30pm to 7.30pm)
Application Deadline	8 September 2025
Project Completion Date	23 February 2026
Evaluation Report Deadline	27 February 2026

If you are interested in joining our online events to learn more about the fund, please sign up <u>here</u>.



#### 9. Evaluating your project.

Successful applicants will be required to submit an evaluation report when their project is completed – see timeline above. Walking Scotland will send a reporting template to groups / organisations who receive funding. Where possible, we would like to work with projects to install footfall counters to help measure the impact of projects.



# **10. Adhering to best practice inclusive design** principles.

Well-built and maintained paths and path networks are key to connecting communities, improving pedestrian safety and ensuring walking and wheeling are accessible to all. To achieve this, it is essential that projects funded adhere to best practice inclusive design principles.

This section outlines what we mean by best practice inclusive design principles and provides links to other information that will help you with your project.

We are able to provide advice and support to help applicants develop projects that comply with best practice inclusive design principles. We would be happy to attend site visits to talk over projects to help with this. Please contact us at

<u>communitypaths@walkingscotland.org.uk</u> for further information.



# **10.1.** Developing new paths to improve path network connectivity.

If your project involves building a new path it needs to meet the following minimum design standards.

With all projects we encourage people to exceed these minimum standards:

- All new or improved paths should be designed and constructed in a manner which provides accessible, safe, multi- modal use.
- Path surfaces must be firm, smooth and consistent in width and appearance. They should also be designed and constructed to a standard which allows a minimum serviceable lifespan of not less than 15 years.
- Finished path widths should be sufficient to safely accommodate both current and reasonably anticipated future levels of use. A clear width of no less than 1.5 metres must be maintained at all points along the path. In exceptional circumstances, and only for very short distances, consideration may be given to reducing the width to no less than 1.2 metres, for example at immovable pinch points such as mature trees.

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- Linear gradients should not be greater than 1:12
   (8%) at any point along the length of the path.
- Finished path surface cross gradients or cambers must not exceed 1:40 (2.5%) but should be sufficient to allow surface water run-off and help avoid puddles forming.
- On new path projects, there cannot be any gates or gaps with a usable width of less than 1.5m.



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## **10.2 Upgrading existing paths to make them more accessible and easier for people to use.**

If your project involves upgrading an existing path, it must still comply with the minimum design standards outlined above, including those relating to surface materials, width, gates and gaps.

However, we understand that many communities have long-standing paths built before current accessibility standards were established, and these are often used for everyday travel. Some of these routes may have a linear gradient steeper than 1:12 (8%).

We are able to fund improvements to such routes. Nevertheless, we strongly encourage you to explore whether rerouting or redesigning the path could bring it in line with modern standards.

This is something we would be very keen to help with, please contact us at <u>communitypaths@walkingscotland.org.uk</u> for further

information.



**10.3 Installing seating with back and arm rests to provide rest points along routes.** 

The importance of seating is often underestimated but, for many people, they make paths more accessible. Seats provide an opportunity to pause and rest as well as a chance to chat with friends, to actually be in a place, rather than just passing through.

We will only fund seats that have arm and backrests. Armrests can be used as leverage to help people stand up, and backrests provide important lumbar support.

Please refer to page 107 in <u>Outdoor Accessibility</u> <u>Guidance – Walking Scotland</u> for further good practice advice.

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### 10.4 Removing barriers on paths that are restrictive for people using adaptive equipment, cargo bikes or wheelchairs.

Our funding can be used to remove narrow gates or gaps that can prevent access for users of adaptive equipment, cargo bikes or wheelchairs.

All projects must follow the principle of the least restrictive option. This means that if a gate is being removed, the preferred solution is to leave a gap in its place. If a gap is not suitable, the next best option would be to install a bollard. If neither of these is appropriate, a self-closing gate may be used as a last resort. In such cases, the gate must have a clear usable width of at least 1.5 metres and must comply with BS 5709:2018.

For specification of gaps and self-closing gates please refer to page 89 in <u>Outdoor Accessibility Guidance –</u> <u>Walking Scotland</u> and <u>Outdoor Access Design Guide –</u> <u>Walking Scotland</u> for further good practice advice.



# **10.5 Installing directional signage (fingerposts and wayfinding).**

Signage and wayfinding support walking and wheeling by making routes easier to navigate and more welcoming. They provide clear, accessible information about paths, distances and nearby amenities, helping users feel confident and informed.

We will fund directional signage that complies with best practice, as outlined in our <u>Signage Guidance for Outdoor</u> <u>Access.</u>

We can fund a smaller project that promote routes to key everyday destinations. In addition, we can support larger, community-wide signage projects that connect recreational routes with those used for everyday functional journeys. This enables the creation of cohesive, consistent networks of promoted paths. In these cases, more than 50% of the signage must be located on routes used for everyday functional journeys.

We encourage applicants to consider using the <u>Scottish</u> <u>Path Grading System</u> where appropriate (Scottish Path Grading Guidance has been updated to make it easier to use on active travel routes, updated guidance due to come out during August / September 2025).

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10.6 Making places where people walk and wheel more attractive and pleasant to use through planting wildlife-friendly shrub and trees.

<u>Research</u> from the Healthy Streets Approach shows trees and shrubs can make streets and path networks more attractive, comfortable and enjoyable to walk along.

Applicants can apply for funding up to the value of £3,000 to plant trees or shrubs beside footpaths, pavements and other walking routes.

Eligible activities include planting street trees, installing planters (with significant life-span) and greening neglected spaces. We will not fund any projects that reduce the useable width of paths, for example, planters being placed on pavements. Please note, we cannot fund bedding plants.

All proposals should include plans for long-term maintenance to ensure the greenery remains healthy and well-kept. Applicants must provide a list of the plant species they intend to use, along with details of the proposed planting locations.

For information and guidance on what to plant please see <u>Guidance and advice | Keep Scotland Beautiful</u> and <u>Resources | Community gardening / RHS</u>.



#### **10.7 Installing lights**

To help make walking and wheeling routes feel safer and more accessible after dark, this fund supports the installation of lighting. Well-placed lighting can increase visibility and feelings of safety, encouraging more people to use paths and public spaces in the evening.

We can fund solar powered and hard-wired lighting, for all lighting projects we require detailed specifications so that we can ensure lights are fit for their intended purpose. All proposals should contain plans for long term maintenance.

As part of funding design projects, we can fund proposals to help with planning for lighting projects.

### **10.8 Funding for design work**

We can fund technical design work for path projects. This will enable applicants to prepare the information needed for the construction stage of a path project, by commissioning professionals such as landscape architects to complete technical drawings.

We have a Technical Officer who can provide you with further advice. For more information, contact us at <u>communitypaths@walkingscotland.org.uk</u>.



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#### Appendix 1

#### How to submit an EOI

Go to <u>grantsforall.org.uk</u> and create a log in, if you do not have one already.

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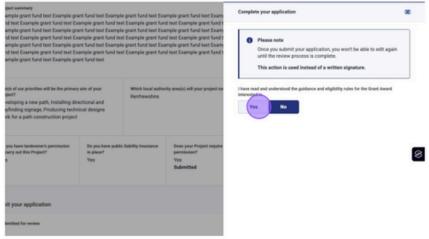


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22. Click "Submit expression of interest"

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Congratulations, you have submitted an EOI. We will be in touch with you shortly to discuss your application.

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### Appendix 2

#### Example of how to use in-kind match funding

The example below is intended to help you calculate the value of volunteer in-kind contributions and understand how this affects how much funding you can apply for and how much additional funding you need to source from other funders.

In this example the project involves a local community group ran by volunteers who wish to upgrade a section of worn out path surface, with a new surface to improve accessibility. The project requires commissioning a local contactor to carry out the work for you. They have quoted you £11,000 for the work.

#### Your volunteer in-kind contributions

You have 2 volunteers who have worked on producing documents that were used while tendering and getting a contact in place. These volunteers will be managing the contractors when they are on site. Using the day rate shown in table in <u>Appendix 3</u> you can see that this type of work is valued at £350 per day (or £50 per hour).

You've worked out how many hours they have each worked out while producing the tendering and contact documents and you've estimate how often they will be on site managing the contactor.

Estimated value in volunteer in-kind contributions: £2,100.



# How this affects how much you can apply for and how much you still need to source

The table below shows how volunteer in-kind contributions affect total project costs and highlights that by including volunteer in-kind contributions the amount of additional funding you need to source from other funders can be reduced.

	Values with in-kind contributions included	Without in-kind contributions included
Quote for contactor	£11,000	£11,000
Volunteer in-kind contributions	£2,100	0
Total project cost (quote + in-kind contributions	£13,100	£11,000
How much you can apply for (75% of total project costs)	£9,825	£8,250
How much funding you need to source from other funders (Quote from contactor – grant applied for £11,000 - £9,825 = £1,175)	£1,175	£2,750

### Appendix 3

#### How to work out your volunteer 'in-kind' contributions

The amount of time that volunteers spend working on your project has a monetary value.

Use the standard day rates below to work out the inkind contribution which volunteers will give to your project.

Volunteer category	Task examples	Day rate
Unskilled volunteer task	<ul> <li>Installing signage or waymarkers along an active travel route</li> <li>Cutting back vegetation and carrying out clearance work to form a new active route</li> <li>Clearing and maintaining ditches and drains on an existing active travel route</li> </ul>	£100 per day
Skilled volunteer task	<ul> <li>Surveying active travel routes to assess their condition and use</li> <li>Carrying out administrative tasks such as keeping financial records of your project</li> <li>Operating strimmers, power barrows, whacker plates or rollers</li> </ul>	£200 per day
Professional volunteer task	<ul> <li>Creating graphics and print layouts for active travel leaflets.</li> <li>Producing tender documents and letting works contracts for your project</li> <li>Managing contractors and designers working on your project</li> </ul>	£350 per day

#### Appendix 4

#### **Application Questions**

Once you have submitted an EOI and we have initially approved your application, you will be invited to submit a full application on the Grants for All portal. The questions are listed here, should you want to compile your answers in a Word document.

- 1. How do you know there is a need for your project?
- 2. How will your project make it easier for the local community to carry out everyday functional journeys?
- 3. Has your local community contributed to the development of your project idea, and will there be opportunities for them to be involved in any aspects of the project's delivery?
- 4. What methods will you use to monitor and evaluate the success of this project?
- 5. What experience or ability do you have within your organisation that will directly help you to successfully deliver this project? Include examples of any similar projects that have been successfully delivered by your group. List the skills and experience of the people who will be directly involved in the delivery of this project.
- 6. Who have you identified as potential beneficiaries of the project?
- 7. Will your project take place within one of Scotland's 20% most deprived communities or in an area that experiences very high levels of rural isolation?



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