

Unveiling Edinburgh's Private Gardens: A Study of Capital Green Spaces

Edinburgh, Scotland's historic capital, presents a unique case study in the national assessment of private garden spaces. While renowned for its public gardens and parks, a new comprehensive study by [Garden Living Co.](#) reveals fascinating insights into the city's private outdoor spaces.

1. Edinburgh's Private Garden Profile

The analysis shows Edinburgh achieving a PGSI (Private Green Space Index) score of 43.82, placing it in the mid-range of UK local authorities. This score reflects the city's distinctive balance between preserving green spaces and accommodating its dense historical urban fabric.

The capital demonstrates impressive statistics:

- 82% of Edinburgh homes feature private gardens
- Average garden size stands at 156.4 square meters
- Total private green space spans 19.3 million square meters

2. Historical Context Shapes Garden Distribution

Edinburgh's garden landscape tells a tale of two cities. The New Town, with its Georgian architecture, features some of the city's most substantial private gardens, particularly in its famous crescents and squares. Meanwhile, the medieval Old Town, with its characteristic high-rise tenements, presents a different picture with communal gardens often replacing private spaces.

"Edinburgh's unique architectural heritage has created a

fascinating mosaic of private green spaces,” explains Richard Webb from Garden Living Co. “The contrast between the spacious gardens of the New Town and the more compact spaces of other areas reflects the city’s evolutionary development.”



Image by [zhugher](#) from [Pixabay](#)

3. Neighborhood Variations

The study reveals significant variations across Edinburgh’s districts:

- Grange and Morningside lead with larger private gardens
- Stockbridge and Inverleith benefit from both private gardens and proximity to public green spaces
- City center areas show lower private garden ownership but higher rates of shared green spaces

4. Modern Developments and Green Space

Recent developments in Edinburgh show a growing emphasis on

incorporating private outdoor spaces:

- New residential projects increasingly include balconies and roof gardens
- Garden shares and community gardens are emerging as innovative solutions
- Planning policies now emphasize the importance of private outdoor space in new developments

Edinburgh's approach to private gardens demonstrates how historical cities can adapt to modern green space needs. The city's planning department continues to work on policies that protect existing private gardens while encouraging the creation of new ones in development projects.

"Edinburgh's balance of private gardens reflects its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site that must also function as a modern capital city," notes Webb. "The city's approach to preserving and creating private green spaces could serve as a model for other historic urban centers."

Methodology

The study analyzed various factors across Edinburgh's neighborhoods, including:

- Total private green space area
- Percentage of properties with private gardens
- Average garden size
- Historical garden preservation rates
- Modern development integration

This comprehensive analysis of Edinburgh's private gardens not only provides valuable insights into the capital's green spaces but also offers lessons for other historical cities

balancing preservation with modern development needs. As urban planning continues to evolve, Edinburgh's approach to private gardens demonstrates how cities can maintain their green heritage while adapting to contemporary requirements.