

# INVERURIE URY RIVERSIDE PARK

SCIO Charity Number: SC046919

## NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 2022

### ISSUE 8

**A park for people and wildlife to enjoy together**

**A park fur fowk an wildlife tae enjoy thegither**

Ury Riverside Park (URP) continues to provide a beautiful environment for ever-rising numbers of visitors and 2022 is sure to bring many challenges caused by weather and nature. However, with the easing of covid-19 restrictions, we are looking forward to developing various projects currently being planned and maintaining the site to enable everyone to enjoy the Park.



The residents of Inverurie will be celebrating in various ways over the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June 2022 – and URP are planning to plant a spinney of fruit and native trees to mark the occasion. Details of events town-wide will be posted on-line and in the press by all organisations involved.

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH

##### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Ury Riverside Park SCIO Steering Group meets online - second Tuesday of each month, 6–7 p.m. All are welcome – if you wish to join in, please email your details to us so we can send the appropriate links.

##### ON-LINE & CONTACT:

**Please visit our Website / Facebook pages:**

WEBSITE: [www.uryriversidepark.com](http://www.uryriversidepark.com)  
[www.facebook.com/uryriversidepark](https://www.facebook.com/uryriversidepark)

WRITE VIA EMAIL:

[ury.riverside@gmail.com](mailto:ury.riverside@gmail.com)

#### PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES for 2022 include

**Portstown Bridge:** Preparations for the second footbridge over the River Ury, at the north-east end of URP are progressing and hopes are for completion later this year, together with a new path linking the bridge to the existing path network.

**Notice Boards:** We are grateful to the Garioch Partnership for funding substantial new Notice Boards which will be located near the entrances to the park. We are hoping to have these in place during the summer and they will hold posters and information sheets for Visitors to see as they arrive in the Park.

#### TALKS AND WALKS IN THE PARK

If you or your organisation would like to discuss ideas or make arrangements for social or school groups to meet in the Park for activities or talks, please contact via our email to discuss dates and what you would like to plan. Please check our URP website and facebook pages for details and dates of upcoming events.

## MORE URP NEWS

### WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

#### Monitoring of wildlife and plants:

Our volunteers are now recording sightings in the Park, which will be forwarded annually to the relevant Recorders. So we can give as complete a picture as possible, everyone is invited to send details of what they have seen in the Park via our email. Details should include ID name of your creature or plant, location in the Park and include a photo if available. A grid reference would be useful and can be found on [www.gridreferencefinder.com](http://www.gridreferencefinder.com) searching for AB51 6AB (very easy to use). Please send your findings to our email: [ury.riverside@gmail.com](mailto:ury.riverside@gmail.com)

### SEASONAL NOTICE BOARDS



Keep a look out for our new seasonal notice boards. These will be placed around the Park so Visitors with dogs and children are kept up to date about the whereabouts of our Nesting Birds, Invasive Giant Hogweed and other information.

**FUND RAISING:** Thanks to customers who nominated URP to receive donations from Co-op and Amazon-Smile in 2021, which go toward projects and running costs of the Park. If you are interested in contributing in this way, details / links are on our Website:- **smile.amazon.co.uk** and **Co-op:** <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes> and make **Ury Riverside Park SCIO** your chosen charity.

### SITE MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERS:



**Amenity areas, Verges, Plant and Wildlife areas:** A regular Maintenance Programme is planned by our Sub-Group and will include mowing, tending our 4000 trees planted over the last 3 years, and monitoring all areas for development of wildlife and plants.

**Current Projects:** Plans include creating a Wetland area around the exposed culvert area near the retail loop pathway with trees.

**Giant Hogweed:** Summer will reveal how successful our efforts have been in getting rid of the Giant Hogweed along River Ury in 2021. Eradication of this invasive plant is part of an ongoing programme for 2022 onwards, with continued spraying and mowing along the river banks to prevent the plants from flowering and seeding.

Our continued thanks go to the URP Sub-group, Inverurie Angling Association, Aberdeenshire Council / Contractors and volunteers, for their hard work in 2021 and future efforts for 2022.

**Take care along the river banks:** Visitors walking with dogs or children along the river banks should avoid Giant Hogweed plants which may re-appear in Spring. Broken stems release sap causing blisters on exposed skin / paws.

**Flooding on pathways:** Thanks to Aberdeenshire Council and Keithhall Nursery staff for their successful work during last Autumn, in redesigning and repairing the pathway on the retail loop path to prevent frequent flooding. Other areas are being looked at with a view to resolve surface flooding issues.

**Floodplain:** Visitors should be aware that URP is a floodplain designed to protect the town, and will continue to flood during times of heavy rain, when the river breaks its banks. If the footbridge becomes impassable, please make use of the alternative route from town to the Osprey estates via Oldmeldrum Road.

## Keep Scotland Beautiful



Keep Scotland  
Beautiful

Your charity for Scotland's environment

# It's Your Neighbourhood Award 2021

Level 5 - Outstanding

Awarded to

**Ury Riverside Park**



Community  
Participation



Environmental  
Responsibility



Gardening  
Achievement

Thank you for keeping Scotland beautiful

Barry Fisher, Chief Executive, Keep Scotland Beautiful

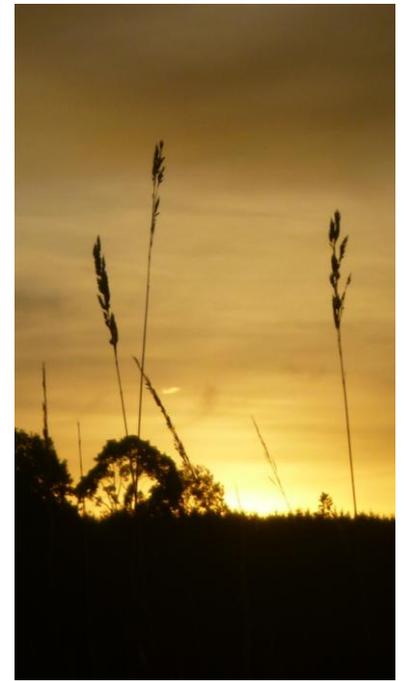
[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)

We support the ambitions of the  
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Assessors came to visit Ury Riverside Park in April 2021 and awarded a certificate, Grade 5, their highest level. This is very exciting news, and acknowledges everyone's hard work.

### Ury Riverside parkrun

The popular **parkrun** has continued to meet on Saturday mornings at 9.30 a.m. and ran very successful events on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Despite a few cancellations due to flooding and icy conditions, runs have been held most Saturdays. Updates and information on how to join in and volunteer are available on the parkrun website: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/uryriverside>



**On-line:** Please visit Tripadvisor and 'Like' our Facebook page.

We also welcome pictures / comments / observations about the Park from our visitors either on-line or email.

If you would like to receive this Newsletter on email, please send your contact details to us.

We do not share information with other organisations and Data Protection terms apply.

**If you see any creatures in distress in the park, please phone Scottish SPCA  
Tel: 03000 999 999  
for advice**

# LITTER AND DOG WASTE ARE SPOILING OUR PARK

There has been a large increase in visitors who come to enjoy Ury Riverside Park with their children and dogs, or to exercise, and **MOST** take their litter home and pick up after their dogs.

**BUT there is also a core group of dog walkers who do not pick up after their animals. WHY?**

In places where the vegetation has died down during the winter, it is obvious that there is an increase in both bags of poo and abandoned piles of dog waste.

The worst areas are near the entrances by the retail park loop and the Birch Drive entrance and around the river banks. It seems that some dog walkers think it is ok to nip into the park with their dog, allow it to 'do', then nip out again without taking the poo away.

Apart from being offensive to those who come to enjoy the park and do clean up, abandoned poo and bags also causes difficulties for volunteers using equipment. Mowing of grass areas and path edges is due to start up and if you can imagine your lawn mower clogged up with plastic and poo, you can see the problem our volunteers are going to have.

As it is, volunteers clean up after you several days a week - and yet the day after cleaning up, on many occasions, there is MORE. Again **WHY?**

Please think about the stink and damage to equipment that you are causing and disgust felt by walkers and parents who have to clean up their shoes and children after your neglect – think how you would feel if that happened in your garden! Would you allow it?

Please consider the other visitors to the Park who are responsible and clear up after their dogs, and join them by taking the waste produced by **YOUR** dogs away with you.



## IT'S EASY

# Pick it up ~ Take it home !

Visitors to the Park are asked to take their litter and dog waste bags to litter bins outside Lidl / Birch Drive (near footbridge entrance) or home for disposal.

If you would like to join in regular Inverurie Community Council Litter-picks, please contact ICC below.

ICC are also looking at strategies for resolving litter and dog waste problems in the town in general and anyone with ideas or comments on how to deal with this is invited to email their thoughts to:

[inverurie.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:inverurie.secretary@outlook.com)

or email URP for details.

**URY RIVERSIDE PARK – PICTURE GALLERY**

**Everyone is welcome to contribute to future editions of the Newsletter, contact details on page 1.**

**AUTUMN - WINTER 2021-22**



Frosty sunrise in December



Autumn Leaves



Seed head and pods



CONTRASTS - Frosted Trees and warm balmy autumn day



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**ACTION IN THE PARK – repairing culvert and improving flood-risk to path**



**Spring is coming...**



Found mid-February on the riverbank near the footbridge, these Snowdrops were a lovely surprise having survived floods and winter storms.

**And finally....**

Look out for our new Notices in the Park and near the river giving information about Giant Hogweed, Ground Nesting Birds and more.....

**Caution – Giant Hog Weed**

Giant Hog Weed is an invasive plant which is present in the park. Contact with the plant or its sap is dangerous to both people and animals causing severe blistering and permanent scarring. Aberdeenshire Council and Ury Riverside Park SCIO are carrying out work to control this non native species.



**For safety of you and your pet avoid contact with these plants**

Ury Riverside Park – A park for people and wildlife to enjoy together.

Find out more at [www.uryriversidepark.com](http://www.uryriversidepark.com)



Photograph Acknowledgement– Thanks to Ian Talboys for the photographs on the new Seasonal Notice Boards.