



**SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST
PRESS RELEASE**

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**CATHERINE STREET INCLUSIVE PARK WINS SCOTTISH BUILT
ENVIRONMENT AWARD**

The Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards, supported by the Scottish Government, celebrate community-led built environment projects that have transformed their locality. The winning and commended projects were announced at a ceremony at The Trades Hall, Glasgow on 24th April.

The winner of the My Place Awards 2023 is Catherine Street Inclusive Park in Dumfries.

A working group led by parents of disabled children formed in 2018 to campaign for an inclusive play space in Dumfries. They were frustrated that their children didn't have accessible space to play and socialise.

With the dream of redeveloping a run-down local playpark, the working group was constituted as 'Include Us' (a SCIO). Following community consultation, the group successfully raised £225,000 from trusts, community fundraising and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The concept for Catherine Street Inclusive Park is "welcoming, inclusive and naturally playful." The park has a unique design with physical, social and sensory play in mind. Visitors to the park can play with waterwheels, sand chutes and trampolines. Through partnerships with carer groups, autism and disability groups, mental health services and employability services, the park offers a variety of activities to support community cohesion and skills development.

Since opening in 2020, the park has been a hub of activity, supporting health and wellbeing. Described as a 'community centre without walls', the park encourages all age groups and abilities to share a space and spend recreation time side-by-side.

Member of My Place Awards 2023 Judging Panel, Gordon Murray, said: *"Entries to the 2023 My Place Awards were of extremely high quality, but what made Catherine Street Inclusive Park stand out from the crowd was its engagement with the local community. The project achieved sustainable growth through embedding itself in the community, and is a model for future projects."*

The My Place Awards are free to enter and open to buildings, public realm schemes and designed landscapes in Scotland. To enter a community-led built environment project for the 2024 My Place Awards, submit an entry form at myplacescotland.org.uk.

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[Download photos of Catherine Street Inclusive Park.](#)

Full details on the 2023 My Place Award entries, and short films about the winning and shortlisted projects can be found at myplacescotland.org.uk.

For further information please contact Erin.Burke@scottishcivictrust.org.uk

Notes for editors:

About Scottish Civic Trust

The Scottish Civic Trust's mission is to celebrate Scotland's built environment, take action for its improvement and empower its communities. The Vision which drives this is thriving, beautiful and well cared for buildings and places, which help to support and sustain a high quality of life. More information can be found at www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

Founded in 1967, the Scottish Civic Trust exists to help people connect with their built heritage and take a leading role in guiding its development. In its infancy, it successfully campaigned for the restoration of Edinburgh's New Town and was instrumental in saving New Lanark – both now part of Scotland's network of six World Heritage Sites.

In addition to these major milestones, Scottish Civic Trust was also the first to bring Doors Open Day to the UK – now the largest free festival of architecture in the UK – which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2019. More information can be found at www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

Further Information

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