



# GROUNDWORK GREATER MANCHESTER



## OUR 2023 VISION AND PROGRESS TO DATE

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GroundworkGM



# INTRODUCTION - OUR VISION FOR GREATER MANCHESTER:

In 2018 we outlined our vision for Greater Manchester as follows:

A Greener, More Resilient City Region with Stronger, Healthier Communities,  
Responsible Businesses & Enhanced Prospects for all Local People


Over the past two years we have continued to support communities in Greater Manchester to make a difference where it's needed most. Together we have worked to improve, protect and lobby for our local environment, which is increasingly at risk from climate change.

Our multi-sector partnership approach, along with our range of high quality services, has delivered impact in a number of ways, which we have highlighted throughout this report.

Looking forward to 2023, we have reflected on our ambitions in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and have outlined how we will adapt our delivery through the provision of our services, any profits from which will be reinvested back into the local community, in line with our charitable objectives:

- Community engagement
- Landscape design & build
- Training & coaching for employment
- Early intervention to support health & wellbeing
- Safe & sustainable business support

As in 2018-20, we will continue to work in partnership with public, private & community stakeholders in Greater Manchester to:

- Enable organisations from all sectors to get involved in local climate and nature projects
  - Support a stronger community voice
  - Deliver more investment in local projects
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# BUILDING BACK BETTER - OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As an organisation fully committed to addressing the climate and nature emergencies, whilst also supporting those most in need, we pledge to play our full part in building Greater Manchester back better after Covid-19, supporting a green recovery in the city region.

We do not believe that the challenges of climate and disadvantage can be pursued separately, but that they are simply different sides of the same coin.

We aspire to deliver a socially just, economically strong Greater Manchester, which harnesses the power of communities and respects our planetary limits; this has always been at the heart of Groundwork's mission since our establishment in 1982.

Like many organisations, Covid-19 has provided an opportunity for Groundwork to pause and reflect on our vision and in particular our core purpose in anticipation of building back better. In this respect we have identified 3 core areas of action which we will focus on in the next 3 years:

> Supporting young people to bounce back

> Supporting greener growth

> Facilitating the power of communities to respond to the climate & nature emergencies



# BUILDING BACK BETTER

## Supporting Greater Manchester's young people to bounce back

There is no doubt the economic and social fall out of Covid-19 is going to have a significant impact on the future prospects of our young people.

Working in partnership with local authorities, youth organisations, schools and businesses, Groundwork will support Greater Manchester's young people through our personal development programmes.

We will help young people to strengthen their resilience, to be equipped to respond to changes in the local economy and to develop as agents of change.

### Young people working with us will:

- Feel more resilient and prepared for the future
- Have increased aspirations for employment, education or further training
- Be more actively involved in their communities & influencing decision making



# BUILDING BACK BETTER

## Supporting greener growth

We are working to embed green skills across all Groundwork's programmes, ensuring the people of Greater Manchester are equipped with the knowledge and understanding they need to make sustained changes not only to their own behaviours, but within their workplaces too.

We will work with public sector partners, employers and community groups in key sectors to ensure that the development of Groundwork's green skills training programmes aligns with our partners' carbon reduction strategies.

We will also support Greater Manchester's businesses to recruit future '*green-skilled*' talent from the target groups we regularly work with (young people not in employment, education or training, care leavers, people with criminal convictions and armed forces veterans) and to adapt their operations to support carbon reduction and embed green skills within their workforce.

People on our employment programmes will:

- > Have better climate awareness and work-related environmental knowledge
- > Be better equipped to access jobs, particularly greener jobs

Businesses we work with will:

- > Adopt more environmentally & socially responsible practices



# BUILDING BACK BETTER

## Facilitating the power of communities to respond to the climate & nature emergencies

Covid-19 has clearly demonstrated that there is phenomenal resilience and strength within our local communities. It has also highlighted that our green spaces are vital to positive mental health and well-being. With an uncertain economic future ahead of us, Groundwork will continue to do what we have always done, helping further unleash the power of our communities, in particular supporting them to be at the heart of climate and nature action in their own homes, at work and in their neighbourhood.

We will focus our work in those Greater Manchester locations which are most impacted by climate and poverty, organising and upskilling local people to take action and lead change.

We will be led by local people and we will ensure that community voices are heard by others across all sectors.

Communities in Greater Manchester that we support will:

- Have more people involved in climate and nature action
- Demonstrate a sustained increase in greener behaviours
- Have a stronger community infrastructure





**GROUNDWORK**  
GREATER MANCHESTER  
**2018 - 2020**



# OUR WORK ACROSS GREATER MANCHESTER SINCE 2018

## GREENER, MORE RESILIENT CITY

delivered

**3,494**

energy efficiency  
home visits

been involved in

**239**

land improvement  
projects



## STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

**1,130**

community groups  
supported

**1,986**

volunteers mobilized



## RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICE

supported

**274**

businesses to be more  
sustainable



## ENHANCED PROSPECTS FOR ALL

Supported **523** people into education, training  
or work

Supported **1,537** young people to learn & achieve

Supported **1,026** people to gain new qualifications



# GREENER & MORE RESILIENT CITY

## OUR PROGRESS

in numbers 2018-20

1,546,749

square metres of  
land improvements

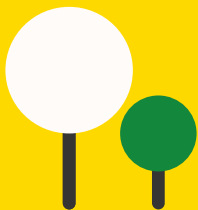


3,494

home visits by  
Energyworks team

219,174

estimated CO2  
savings



883

trees planted

## IN ACTION

Over the past two years we have prioritised working with residents, public bodies and local businesses to help them understand how our natural assets, including rivers, parks and green spaces, can help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

For example, as **community engagement** lead in the Grow Green project, we have involved residents in West Gorton, Manchester in the design of a new park, educating them about how different design solutions

help to 'slow the (water) flow' and reduce **flood risk**, whilst also providing a fantastic greenspace in which to play and relax. As Citizen Engagement partner in the IGNITION project we have **engaged local businesses** in a range of environmental solutions, including green roofs, showcasing the benefits they bring not only the environment but to a business's bottom line.

At the same time, our **landscape architects** have been busy putting so called '**Nature Based Solutions**' into practice, working with Lancaster University to identify the optimum species mix for plant screens around school playgrounds in order to reduce air pollution. As part of the **Natural Course** programme, we led the removal of a Victorian weir on Eagley Brook in Bolton; as a result two kilometres of the brook was opened up to native fish, taking the Irwell Catchment one step closer to 'Good' ecological status.

Throughout 2018-20 we have also continued to deliver our Energyworks programme; installing **energy efficiency measures** in homes across Greater Manchester. Since 2018 we have visited 3,494 homes and installed over 25,000 small measures, such as draft excluders and new lightbulbs and 903 larger measures such as new central heating systems. The result; an estimated 219,174Kg in **carbon savings**.



## IN PHOTOS



1. Alan, 83 from Heywood with his new boiler, made possible thanks to support from the Energyworks team.



2. Bronte & our Young River Leaders, Maisie and Daisy, exploring the River Irk in Manchester.



3. 11 year old Shay at our Youth Community Buzzing Day, a planting engagement event in West Gorton, Manchester.



4. Wardeh and her two children take part in a seed bomb workshop as part of community engagement activities for Grow Green, West Gorton.



5. Members from the Irwell Catchment Partnership and the Irwell Facilitated Farmers Group visit Smithills Estate in Bolton to learn more about Natural Flood Management techniques.



6. The Green Team in Rochdale installing street trees to aid drainage, absorb pollution and create shade.



7. Landscape Architect Richard getting stuck in at a community planting event as part of Grow Green, West Gorton, Manchester.



8. Kyra, aged 5 engaging with nature & play at Really Wild Adventures in Bolton.

# STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

## OUR PROGRESS

in numbers 2018-20

**1,130**

community  
groups  
supported



**16,929**  
people benefiting from  
public space  
improvements

**1,986**

volunteers  
mobilised



## IN ACTION

As the Locally Trusted Organisation for the **Big Local** project in Brinnington, Stockport we continued, for a 5th year, to **support the local community** to mobilise their ideas. As a result

the community have come together to create a range of initiatives responding to local need and building upon community strengths. These include a domestic abuse support helpline, thriving community growing space, community loan service and a regular events programme.

We have also been working with the Big Local group in Kirkholt, Rochdale, training and employing three local people as Estate Rangers and providing local residents with free construction training.

In Hattersley, Tameside we worked with Onwards Homes to encourage residents to increase outdoor activity. Alongside a number of family **horticulture** workshops we recruited volunteers to assist in tidying up vulnerable residents' gardens; **improving their wellbeing** through the physical and social nature of the activity whilst simultaneously providing up to date practical experience which could help to improve their employability prospects.

**Young people** from Crumpsall, Manchester were inspired to transform an area of their park locally known as 'The Obelisk' following regular interactions and support from our youth workers in the area. The team of 10 young people coordinated improvement works with the local Friends Of group, Manchester City Council and our landscape architects. The group safely cleared the space and worked together to install new planting, helping to improve the appearance of the space and improve its **biodiversity**.

We have continued **coaching & mentoring** young people across our city region throughout the last 2 years. During Covid-19 our successful Achievement Coaching programme was quickly transferred online, providing mental well-being support to over 65 young people during this challenging time.





## IN PHOTOS

1. Roots To Wellbeing participants in Wigan raise funds together for the 102.4 WishFM Toy Appeal.

2. Corporate partner, Gradus help with planting in the recently designed Age UK dementia friendly garden in Tameside.

3. Community Project Lead Julie helps Isaac plant flowers to attract bees and improve biodiversity near his home and school in West Gorton.



4. The Big Local Brinnington meet at the Green Thumbs allotments to show Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, their achievements.

5. Young people from Manchester Youth Zone create nature sculptures as part of the Young River Leaders programme, with support from older youth club volunteers.



6. Jim & Margaret take a ride with Stella on Cycling Without Age's new riskshaw. One of 600 projects in Greater Manchester provided with funding from Tesco Bags of Help; a grant fund managed by Groundwork.

7. Members of the Willow Hey Men In Sheds group in Farnworth, Bolton get ready to cook the produce they grow on site with their new cooking equipment. Made possible thanks to funding from Getting Connected and Active Alliance.

# ENHANCED PROSPECTS FOR ALL

## OUR PROGRESS

in numbers 2018-20



523

people into work,  
education or further  
training

1,537

young people  
supported to learn  
& achieve



1,026

qualifications gained

## IN ACTION

Over the past two years our employment, skills and training programmes have continued to support a number of specific groups on work-related programmes.

This year we celebrate a decade of partnership work with Rochdale Borough Housing on The Green Team; an **apprenticeship scheme** designed to provide opportunities to unemployed people in Rochdale whilst also tackling unsightly public places. The Green Team has completed 13 projects in the past two years, from curb-side improvements to community gardens. Ten local people have been involved in the programme and they have gained over 20 qualifications.

We have supported over 200 armed forces **veterans** across Greater Manchester to gain sustainable employment through Operation ReOrg. As part of this programme we have developed a **training programme** covering key skills, such as First Aid, Manual Handling and Fire Safety.

Care leavers have significantly worse life chances than children as a whole. We worked with **care leavers** aged 18-25 across Tameside and Stockport providing 1-2-1 coaching and support to help them identify career goals, access training and get ready for work. 60% of the young people supported progressed into employment or full time education with a further 11% engaging in vocational training. In addition, we provided training to improve their financial capability skills and assist them in managing their personal finances more effectively.

Since 2018 over 400 **young people** facing barriers to education, training and employment have participated in the Prince's Trust Team programme, delivered by Groundwork in Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside and Wigan. Team is a 13-16 week programme which offers work experience, qualifications and involvement in community projects. 53% of the young people involved have entered into work or further education following participation in the programme.

Our Roots to Wellbeing provision seeks to support participants' **mental well-being** through a range of outdoor activities and was made available in Wigan and Tameside in 2019/20.





## IN PHOTOS

1. Traineeship coach Gemma supports Sophie as part of her training to become a youth worker.

2. Paul, a supervisor in the Fencing & Landscaping commercial services team, working on landscaping project in Salford. The team is made up of members of previous Groundwork employment programmes, including veterans and people with a criminal record.



3. The veterans employment team, and ex-servicemen; Terry & David.

4. Jack from Oldham taking part in the construction traineeship.

5. Vicki from the Care To Work programme - helping care leavers understand their finances.



6. Prince's Trust programme executive Rosalind with new graduate Charlie.

7. Ryan & Gareth - members of The Fencing & Landscaping Team, busy at work in Rochdale.



8. Samira, Jack H and Jack B join Prince's Trust Assistant Team Leader Rory on a community project in Rochdale.

# RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICE

## OUR PROGRESS

in numbers 2018-20



**274**  
businesses supported

**702**  
people accessing  
Groundwork skills  
training



**11,506**  
people participating in  
corporate  
volunteering

## IN ACTION

Over the past two years we have strengthened our relationship with our long standing business partners and welcomed several new businesses on board who share our vision for Greater Manchester.

Industrial manufacturer Franke joined our network of Groundwork supporters in 2018, with their employees **volunteering** on a number of community projects. In Hattersley, Tameside, Franke's staff, supported by our expert facilitators, helped the community to achieve a long held ambition to bring an unused allotment back to life.

We were appointed as the main contractor for **landscaping services** for Wythenshawe Community Housing Group in 2019. As a result, we have been able to recruit an additional 4 people from the local area to join our team, who work on improvements to tenant gardens and public spaces across the estate.

Established Groundwork partner, Cargill furthered their support in 2019 by providing a generous **donation** which enabled us to build a forest school shelter at Trafford Ecology Park. Once erected it was quickly put into use, as Cargill provided funding for a 38 week forest school programme for 10 young people from the Canterbury Centre, a Pupil Referral Unit, in Salford.

We have provided a number of services to businesses across Greater Manchester to help them to become more sustainable in their practices. We have delivered **Carbon Literacy training** to employees at Peel, Beaver & Struthers and Intu; providing employees with the knowledge and tools to make environmental improvements in their personal life and at work.

In addition, our **consultants** have helped a number of businesses and organisations with services including carbon footprinting, pollution prevention and environmental management systems.



1



2



## IN PHOTOS

1. Groundwork Business Consultant Oleh on site with longstanding client LUR.

2. Team Building in Hattersley with corporate partner JLL.

3. Groundwork's sustainable business team presenting with a client.

4. Peel Group taking part in corporate volunteering at Trafford Ecology Park.

3



4





# HELP US TO DELIVER MORE



COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

LANDSCAPE DESIGN &  
BUILD

TRAINING & COACHING  
FOR EMPLOYMENT

EARLY INTERVENTION  
TO SUPPORT HEALTH  
& WELLBEING

SAFE & SUSTAINABLE  
BUSINESS SUPPORT



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