

FOREWORD

On behalf of all staff, Trustees, supporters and partners, we are very pleased and proud to introduce our latest Impact Report.

2021-22 was our first full year of operation follow the merger between Groundwork Bolton, Bury, Oldham & Rochdale and Groundwork Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside & Trafford in late 2020 to create Groundwork Greater Manchester. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the year saw a significant growth in the size and scale of the Trust and we are now an organisation of over 100 full time staff, with a turnover approaching £6 million, operating across the Greater Manchester City Region and into Pennine Lancashire.

During 2021-22 our capacity was further enhanced by the employment of over 50 young people on the Government's

"Kickstart" programme. We also started the process of refreshing our Board of Trustees to ensure, as far as possible, that they are reflective of the communities we serve.

We are very conscious that the growth in scale has to be matched by at least an equal growth in our impact and social value and we hope that this report highlights how we have done exactly that!

Supporting the expansion of the depth and breadth of our projects and programmes, we have a refreshed focus and sense of mission, underpinned by our clear thematic priorities of:

- > Facilitating the power of communities
- > Delivering jobs & skills for a greener economy
- > Supporting young people to fulfil their potential

As we move out of the Covid Pandemic and focus on tackling the climate & nature emergency and cost of living crisis, it is clear that the services we provide are more important than ever to the communities, businesses and individuals we work with.

And, as always, we work passionately and in line with our values – in particular as champions of social justice and advocates for environmental responsibility.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and that it inspires you to join us in our mission!

Best wishes



Tony Berry Chair of Trustees



Mike Ormerod Executive Director

2021/22 IMPACT REPORT

SUPPORTING GREENER GROWTH



100
young people into employment in the green economy



Trained over
150
people to reduce their carbon at home and at work



Natural Neighbourhoods

Funded through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, Natural Neighbourhoods focused on improving the employment prospects of unemployed people living in places suffering from the economic downturn.

Linking in with DWP Kickstart scheme, which supported young people at risk of long-term unemployment, Groundwork, City of Trees and Mersey Rivers Trust provided entry level land management and environmental renewal work placement roles to 12 young people throughout 2020/21.

Teams worked on a variety of environmental improvements in parks and urban green spaces in Greater Manchester, including Boarshaw Clough in Middleton and Pitt Street Park in Glodwick, Oldham.



Jess' Story

Jess took part in the Kickstart scheme, working on the Natural Neighbourhoods programme as a way to start a career working outdoors and supporting the Green Economy.



Other Projects

Low Carbon Careers

Supporting unemployed young people from across Greater Manchester into careers in the natural environment, waste and recycling and retrofitting.

View project →



Construction Workforce

Supporting and inspiring young Care Leavers in Stockport into careers in the construction sector, prioritising new sustainability practices

View project →



Green Team

Supporting unemployed Rochdale residents into a career in landscaping or the natural environment.

View project →



2021/22 IMPACT REPORT

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL

Supported over

500

young people to engage in social action projects, with 85% of participants showing increased wellbeing.



300
unemployed
young people into
employment or

further training.



young people with 1-2-1 coaching and mentoring, with 85% of participants reporting improved wellbeing.

Community Action for the Planet

Following a community screening of David Attenborough's, A Life on our Planet at Khizra Mosque & Community Centre in Cheetham Hill, Manchester, twenty-two young women were inspired to join Groundwork's Young Green Leaders programme, gaining skills and confidence to take environmental action.

With support from Groundwork's qualified Youth Workers and Manchester City Council Neighbourhood Officers, the young women developed the idea to transform a concrete wall in the car park into a living wall. Rallying together their community, they constructed the living wall and planted over 150 evergreen plants.



Samir's Story

Samir took part in the Achievement Coaching mentoring programme, gaining the confidence to build up his resilience and set out a positive path for his future.



Other Projects

Achievement Coaching

Providing 1-2-1 coaching and mentoring to young people facing a range of challenges, from low-level anxiety, to uncertainty about their future.

 $\mathsf{View}\;\mathsf{project}\to$



Supporting unemployed young people through a 12-week personal development course, helping build their confidence and prepare them for work or further training.

View project →

Forest School - sponsored by Cargill

Hosting weekly forest school sessions to 18 young people, who have previously disengaged with traditional education, developing their team building skills and embedding values of helping others and protecting nature.

View project \rightarrow









FACILITATING THE POWER OF COMMUNITIES

Our Streets Chorlton

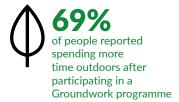
As part of The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund; supporting communities across the UK to take action on climate change, the Our Streets Chorlton project focused on supporting residents to create ways to use cars less locally.

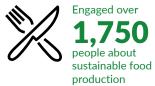
Groundwork, WalkRide GM and other project partners, worked closely with residents from two streets and three local schools to organise a series of road closures, where people were prioritised over cars and walking and cycling was encouraged.

Since the road closures took place, residents have been keeping in touch with one another, making plans on how they can further reduce emissions on their streets.









Julie's Story

Julie was isolated and struggling with confidence before engaging with the Big Local Brinnington project in Stockport. She's now a pillar in her community, inspiring others to get involved in local activities.



Other Projects

Food Wave

Delivering climate education to raise awareness of sustainable patterns of food production and supporting local street actions to amplify young peoples voices.



Energyworks

Providing energy saving services to Greater Manchester residents enabling them to be warmer, healthier, and better off in their homes.

View project →

Our Rivers, Our City

Leading stakeholder engagement sessions, engaging with as many people as possible in the conversation about the future of Manchester's River Valleys.

View project →









PROTECTING & ENHANCING GREENSPACE AND NATURE







Eco-Streets

Developed as part of the IGNITION project, and funded thanks to support from We Love MCR and GrowGreen, Eco-Streets supported 4 community groups in Greater Manchester to transform unused, outdoor areas into exciting green spaces which feature nature-based solutions that help alleviate climate change.

Our Landscape Architects and Community Engagement team worked with resident groups to co-design and build their spaces. They explained how features such as Green Roofs, Living Walls and Rain Gardens help to reduce the impacts of climate change, like flooding and heat stress, and support nature's recovery. Over 100 volunteers helped to install the spaces including local councillors, businesses and schools.

Our participative approach led to a strong sense of community ownership and recruitment of volunteers who are now proud guardians of their spaces.

Elena's Story

Elena and other residents from Gorse Hill in Manchester came together during the Covid-19 lockdown to create a new greenspace in their alleyway, adopting nature-based solutions which help tackle climate change.



Other Projects

Farms for Water

Supporting farmers to deliver a range of actions to improve the water quality of the River Irwell.

View project →

Rhodes Ravine

Recruiting and training local people on a Green Skills training programme to enhance greenspaces within the Kirkholt Estate in Rochdale.

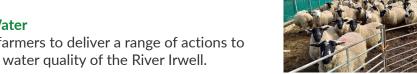
View project →

Charles Morris House

Redesigning the outdoor area in this sheltered accommodation scheme to include a sensory garden, continual walking path and food growing beds.

View project →







WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership with public, private & community stakeholders, we improve, protect and lobby for our local environment, which is increasingly at risk from climate change.

A wholehearted thank you is extended to all the organisations we have worked within 2021/22. It is impossible to list all of our partners, but a selection of our core delivery partners includes:



SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS IN GREATER MANCHESTER





































