

IMPACT REPORT

 LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS



FOREWORD

At Groundwork Yorkshire we are passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green and able to shape its own destiny, where every community is strong and no-one is held back by their background or circumstances.

As part of the Groundwork Federation we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2022 and while much has changed many of the issues we have been wrestling with remain; restoring pride of place and a sense of community, tackling climate change, working with unemployed people to improve their life chances or supporting individuals and communities with the multiple challenges of the current cost of living crisis.

I am fortunate to be the Executive Director of Groundwork Yorkshire – even in these most challenging of times our team continue to rise to the challenge of delivering ever more innovative solutions and support to the communities we serve. This impact report highlights some of what Groundwork Yorkshire has achieved in the last year.

In the coming year we will be supporting a number of our local authority partners as they strive to make the most of the Levelling Up Opportunities designed to help build pride in place. We will also, as we always have, work with individuals and communities to grow human capital and build community resilience.

On behalf of the Trustees and myself I would like to thank our great team, our many partners and all of those who don't just participate in our projects but actively help us **Change Places** and **Change Lives**.

A. Curtis

Adrian Curtis
Executive Director



WE HAVE A MISSION TO MOBILISE PRACTICAL COMMUNITY ACTION ON POVERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. WE'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT:



IMPROVING PEOPLE'S PROSPECTS:

Increasing confidence, health and wellbeing, skills and employability of those most in need, lifting them out of poverty.



CREATING BETTER PLACES:

Helping people work together to make their surroundings greener, safer and healthier; getting involved in local decision making.



PROMOTING GREENER CHOICES:

Helping people, communities and businesses understand and reduce their environmental impact to fight climate change.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS: 2021/2022



7,840

People helped to reduce their energy use.
Tackling fuel poverty and climate change



389 Ha

Landscape restored = 544 football pitches.
Tackling the climate & biodiversity crisis



5,320

Trees planted.
Improving access to nature



312

Community groups supported. Building pride of place



23,954

Hours of volunteer time. Supporting people to be active in communities



241

Young people supported to learn, achieve & thrive



186,540

People benefitting from our public space improvements



170

Schools, businesses & SMEs supported with potential cost savings of £74,500



201

Projects delivered, bringing benefits to the people of Yorkshire



WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT A FUTURE WHERE:

- > Every neighbourhood is vibrant and green.
- > Every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny.
- > No-one is held back by their background or circumstances.

We believe that working with local communities to build their resilience is vital in facing up to the challenges of a global economy and changing climate.

We know that the negative effects of climate change and environmental breakdown impact first and worst on those who have the least power in society, and who contribute least to the cause of the crisis. A 'just transition' to an inclusive, net zero economy must tackle, rather than entrench, this inequality and provide a springboard for better work and healthier, happier lives in the places that need it most.

This means creating green jobs that build wealth in local communities, changing behaviour to reduce wasted food, energy and water, providing biodiverse, accessible green spaces, supporting businesses to be more responsible and empowering communities to lead activities that improve their quality of life and promote health and wellbeing.



CREATING BETTER PLACES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Groundwork Yorkshire's qualified Landscape Architects are passionate about creating better spaces and have a unique set of skills to bring together community engagement and quality design. Staffed by Chartered Landscape Architects, the team is dedicated to delivering imaginative and innovative design solutions to meet the needs of our clients.

The team has extensive experience of planning and managing projects from inception to design, implementation and aftercare. Environmental improvement and regeneration projects are undertaken for clients in urban and rural areas, both for public and private sectors.

In making changes to the places that people live, work and play, we strive to achieve maximum community involvement in design and implementation and are committed to delivering enhanced and sustainable environmental quality.

The plants are really beautiful. This air is giving us more oxygen and taking away the carbon dioxide. This is precious to us. We are very thankful for your plants and we promise we'll take care of them.

Pupil, Killinghall Primary School
Air Quality Schools



BETTER PLACE BRADFORD

Better Place was a three year project delivered in partnership between **Better Start Bradford** and Groundwork to involve local people and develop safer and healthier places for expectant parents and families with children under four years old to increase their access to outdoor spaces.

Groundwork Yorkshire were the lead landscape architects for the project, **improving a range of green spaces** throughout Bradford. These spanned from a small snicket leading to schools, to larger heritage parks.

Pockets of green spaces and playgrounds were either discovered by the team through research or were nominated by a member of the public for improvement. The community team organised public consultations and co-design sessions where information was gained about the site and it's land users. Parents of small children were especially considered in these consultations to gain a more accurate image of what should be proposed for young ones.



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FOLKESTONE STREET

This playful area in **Bradford** boasts a wealth of features stretched along the pedestrianised section of the street. The '**Yellow Brick Road**' themed path guides people to different areas where children can **interact** and absorb a variety of **sensory experiences** whilst being encouraged to keep fit. Features include artistic metalwork, stone carvings, stepping stones, balance beams, hoops, games markings, tree planting, successional bulb planting and tree dressing. There were various **workshops** and **consultation** exercises to engage as many of the local community as possible.



10 trees planted



90 people engaged



220 footpaths created



4 artists commissioned



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LAISTERDYKE LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN

As part of **Better Place Bradford**, **Laisterdyke Library** was selected as one of the areas of improvement. The **community garden** was in poor condition and had very few interventions that would draw children in. There was also a problem with dog fouling which was addressed by installing a **1.8m high Ivy green screen** around the boundary, blocking access for the animals. The screens, along with Thuja hedges, also pick up pollution particles from the roads as well as create a **greener boundary**.

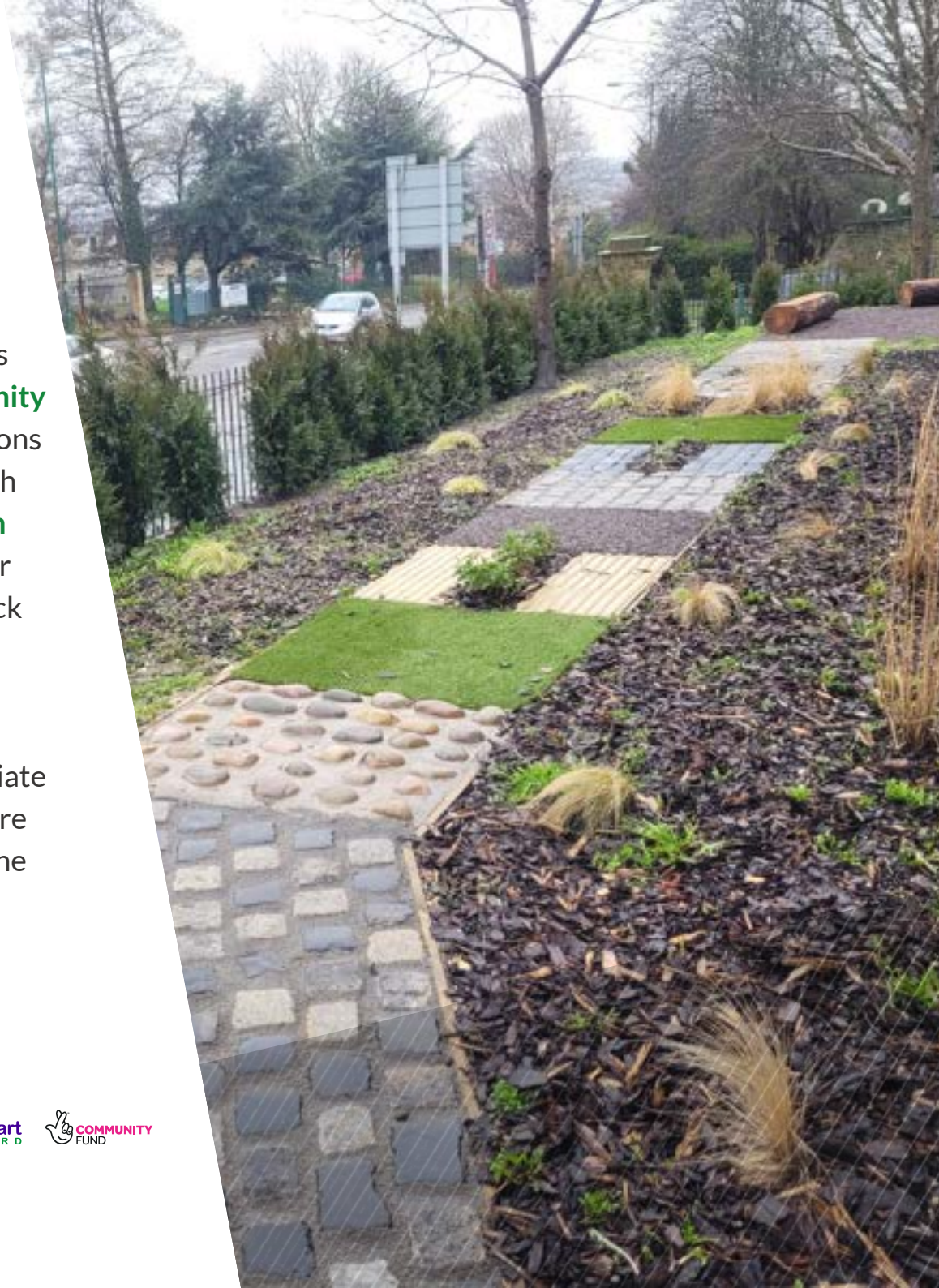
A **story area** with a shade sail was designed as an appropriate place for children to read books, tell stories and play. A bare foot trail and mud kitchen were also installed increasing the play factor on the library garden.

✓ **37m** of Thuja Western Red Cedar planted

✓ **15.5m** Ivy screen planted



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BREATHE EASY SCHOOLS

To help tackle the issue of **air pollution** around schools, we worked in partnership with Balfour Beatty on the 'Breathe Easy' project. By using **nature-based solutions** and the expertise of our landscape architects, we created a natural barrier to make the air cleaner for the school children who breathe it.

Along with volunteers from Balfour Beatty and Sunbelt Rentals, we worked within **Seacroft Grange Primary School's** playground to create a green barrier of Western Red Cedar hedging plants and Birch trees to help trap the fine particulates from vehicle emissions.



Over **380** hedging plants and trees planted



25 volunteers from Balfour Beatty, Sunbelt Rentals and Groundwork

Balfour Beatty



**SUNBELT
RENTALS**



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“

It has been a fantastic effort by Balfour Beatty and Sunbelt Rentals to make this project happen and we hope when the results are published, it will be the first of many projects rolled out around school playgrounds throughout the country.

Mark Knight, Principle Landscape Architect

SUSTAINABLE SPACES

Central England Co-operative group has teamed up with Groundwork UK to create a range of different **spaces on land** around its own retail stores and funeral homes funded by their plastic carrier bag levy fund.

The **Dodworth** store was chosen as one of four pilot projects which transformed part of its car park into a new **community space**. A much needed, accessible slope from car park level up to the High Street side has been incorporated, along with **picnic tables, stepped timber planters** with **flowering plants, herbs, sensory species** and **fruit trees**. This has softened the space, provided year-round colour and created an attractive meeting place for residents and visitors. Artist **Adrian Moakes** was also commissioned to design sculptural elements around the theme of **biodiversity** which appear throughout the site.



325 m2 of land transformed into a community space



Six new trees planted



28 local school children took part in activity on the opening day



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The **co-operative**
Central England Co-operative



“We were really lucky to find Groundwork UK as our main partner. It was a space that was used, but we had capacity in the car park for better use, more valuable use. We’ve had lots of lovely comments, we’ve had lots of questions whilst we’ve been doing it. We hope that people enjoy the space”

Hannah Galimore, Social Change Manager for Central England Co-operative

AIR QUALITY SCHOOLS

Five schools in Bradford were selected for boundary improvement measures with the goal of **reducing pollution** levels entering the school grounds and affecting children attending them. Exposure to these particles for undeveloped lungs can have lasting negative effects and Groundwork's aim was to reduce this risk.

The focus areas were around boundaries where **pollution from vehicles** is more likely to affect children such as fences facing main roads and car parks close to where children play. We planted **Thuja hedges**, **Ivy screens** and **trees** which have been proven to capture the smaller particles.

The project was completed successfully and children and teachers at one school were so pleased that they wrote thank you letters from each year group.



375m of Thuja Western Red Cedar



176m of Ivy Green Screen



32 trees planted



REIN PARK

This play area was created as part of the overall masterplan for the park which has been developed with the **local community**. The site has a long history of vandalism so careful thought went in to the equipment chosen. The play area is unique, being in a linear formation running through the park.



12 trees planted



110 people engaged

ST MATTHEWS PRIMARY SCHOOL



10 footpaths created



6 people engaged

We worked with St Matthew's Primary School to extend the **nursery area** playground to make use of a neglected piece of adjacent land. The existing **brick wall was removed** and the **earth remodelled** to create a gentle slope to the new play space. We also built **green screens** to help filter out pollution from the nearby busy road. A new multi play unit with slide and a tree seat was installed along with bamboo planting to create lots of outdoor spaces for the children to enjoy.

JUBILEE HALL PLAYGROUND

This play area was installed in the grounds of the **youth centre** in **Rawdon** to replace the remains of a run-down playground and includes **equipment for all ages**.



12 trees planted



15 people engaged

HAINSWORTH PARK

A small **play area** in **Farsley** was in need of an update but rather than excavating the existing one, a new area was created next to it, allowing children to enjoy both.

The proposed design took a **naturalistic** approach, combining a mix of traditional play equipment, boulders and planting. Funding from **Friends of Hainsworth Park** allowed for trees to be planted, giving a more natural feel.

The use of wet pour was minimalised and reserved for just a few pieces of play. The rest of the play pieces used grass matting, allowing grass turf to grow through.

✓ **Seven** pieces of traditional play installed and **five** non-traditional

✓ **730m²** of land developed



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HAREWOOD PLAY AREA

A play area has been created in this once overgrown neglected part of **Harewood**. The planning process was challenging due to the site being in a conservation area but all obstacles were overcome to create an exciting **play space** for all ages to enjoy.

The play area is well integrated into the landscape with **timber play equipment** for a natural feel. We installed equipment suitable for toddlers and younger children, **nature trails** and **artwork**, outdoor **gym** equipment and a **tennis court** along with disabled parking, **wildflower** areas and we also planted **trees** in the area.



120 trees planted



290lin.m of footpaths created



20 people engaged and one artist commissioned



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VENTNOR STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our work in Ventnor Street allowed to engage the **community** with this project, with emphasis on the **Bangladeshi women** and children to show that they can be empowered to make things happen. The space was previously neglected and was transformed into an **oasis** for the whole community to enjoy.

To get the community involved, we held **art workshops** to create mosaic tiling and steel screens with an Islamic theme.

A film was made showing the progress of the project and we held an opening event attended by **local councillors** and members of the **community**. The film was also showcased at the **National Science and Media Museum** in Bradford.

- ✓ **12 footpaths created**
- ✓ **75 people engaged**
- ✓ **3 artists commissioned**



Groundwork Yorkshire 2021/2022



OUR VALUES

THE GROUNDWORK APPROACH:

We will deliver impact through a range of diverse local and national projects, programmes and services, responding to the changing needs of local communities and the opportunity to build powerful partnerships to unlock new resources.

Wherever and however we deliver, our approach will be informed by the following commitments.



We will invest in the places and people that need us most. Prioritising our resources to bring about lasting change by building skills and capacity within local communities where we can make most difference.



We will work with local leaders and listen to local voices. Ensuring our work is shaped by those it is designed to benefit and adding value to the assets that exist in local areas.



We will grow a culture of equity and inclusion – operating transparently and with integrity, and seeking out a diversity of viewpoints, both in the work we do and the people we employ.



We will be committed to collaboration – forging strong partnerships, contributing to a thriving community sector and helping others lead where this will achieve greater impact.



We will act as environmental exemplars – championing practical action to combat the climate and nature emergency and measuring and reducing our own environmental impact.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We will prioritise our work and measure our achievements based on the difference we make to the lives of people, our impact on the environment and our contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have identified six goals which align most closely with our work.



Goal 1: No poverty

Helping people into work and building the resilience of those who are most vulnerable.



Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables.



Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Creating jobs and enterprise and helping young people into work.



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Improving green spaces, promoting sustainable transport and improving air quality.



Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Reducing waste and promoting positive environmental behaviours among communities and businesses.



Goal 13: Climate action

Promoting practical action and strengthening the resilience of communities to cope with climate-related events.

THANK YOU!



Working in partnership with public, private and community stakeholders, we improve, protect and enhance our local communities, partners and environment. A wholehearted THANK YOU is extended to all the organisations and people we have worked with in 2021/22.

IMPACT REPORT 2021/2022 GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE

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