



GROUNDWORK

GREATER MANCHESTER

2022/23 IMPACT REPORT

FOREWORD

I have worked at Groundwork for over 10 years and never cease to be inspired by the potential of Greater Manchester's people, communities and places. However, I can honestly say that our support has probably never been needed more than in 2022/23. The people we support have faced an unprecedented cost of living crisis and our natural environment remains under threat from climate change.

We are fortunate to be part of a City Region that is facing these challenges head on – localising power and finding innovative solutions to tackle social and economic inequalities. The team at Groundwork Greater Manchester are proud to be part of this collective effort and to bring our expertise and knowledge where it's needed most.

A great example this year is our Resilient River Valleys programme which tackled multiple challenges at once ([read more on page 6](#)).

We are positive and ambitious for the future, and have recently released our 3-year strategy which you can read about [here](#). If you share those ambitions then please reach out. We are always open to new and innovative partnerships with those who share our vision of a greener, fairer and stronger for all people and places in Greater Manchester.



Deborah

Deborah Murray
Executive Director

PEOPLE

COMMUNITIES

PLACES

PEOPLE

Delivering training at HMP Forest Bank

Having a stable job can be a critical part of a person's journey back into society after being in prison. Thanks to funding from The City and Guilds Foundation and the support of Sodexo Justice Services, Groundwork's employment and training specialists delivered short courses in construction and retrofit at HMP Forest Bank.

Working with people who were close to release, the team provided a mix of practical and classroom-based learning to help build confidence and provide skills for the construction sector and growing green economy.

The project was designed with and involved a number of construction employers meaning the course featured the latest training needs, reflected real life experiences of the sector, with real jobs to progress to on release.



Over
900
people gained formal qualifications



Over
4000 Green
Doctor visits completed to support people with their energy use



Almost
2,000
young people taking part in environmental social action

Kyson's Story

Kyson began working with Groundwork via the Proud Trust's LGBTQ+ youth group, who wanted to work together to improve their outdoor space. With support and encouragement from Groundwork's youth workers Kyson's love for nature was harnessed beyond this single project, leading him to become a founding member of the Friends of Trafford Ecology Park & Conservation group.



Utilising nature for good health

As part of the Nature for Health partnership, our environmental educators developed a series of Green Social Prescribing sessions to help patients from North Manchester General Hospital with a wide range of mental health needs.

[View project →](#)



Keeping homes warm & people well

To prevent health deterioration over the winter months, our Green Doctors supported Rochdale residents experiencing health problems, installing a number of energy efficiency measures, from radiator foils to double glazing, so they could live warm and well in their homes.

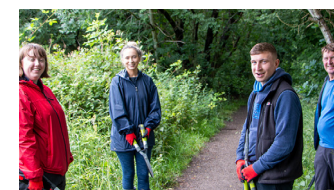
[View project →](#)



Building confidence for the future

Our Prince's Trust TEAM coaches worked for their 24th year to supporting unemployed young people through a 12-week personal development course, helping build their confidence and preparing them for work or further training.

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COMMUNITIES

Strengthening community connections on the River Irk

A number of successful volunteer groups operate along the River Irk, working to clean up the river, improve access and protect nature. In 2021 our community leads worked alongside these volunteer groups, local communities and environmental partners in a conversation titled, **Love Your River Irk**. Through these conversations they identified a desire to build connectivity and capacity within the volunteer groups, to attract new and more diverse people to enjoy the river environment and to raise awareness about how individuals can help love their river.

During the programme:

1. Supporters exchanged skills and experiences through online and in-person workshops covering species identification, wildlife identification and how to manage invasive species.
2. Volunteer groups connected online to discuss common challenges they faced and shared ideas on solutions.
3. Almost 2,000 people engaged with the programme, many of whom were infrequent users of the river corridor previously.



Over
1,200
climate and nature projects
delivered in communities



Almost
500
people inspired to
grow food at home



Over
50 schools
supported to help
connect pupils with
nature

Mark's Story

Mark volunteered in his local area for years before becoming Marketing & Projects Officer at the Brinnington Big Local Hub. In his role and as a resident he is passionate about delivering services, events and physical improvements which reflect what local people want, and deserve.



Supporting Levenshulme Youth Project to take climate action

Our youth workers supported a group of young women to develop a series of social action projects which help combat the effects of climate change in their local area.

[View project →](#)



Connecting Rochdale residents with nature

Our community leads worked throughout the year in three areas of Rochdale, supporting residents to connect with nature, and each other, following the isolating effects of Covid-19.

[View project →](#)



Community conversations about climate change

Our community leads engaged and supported a number of Manchester based community groups and faith centres in a conversation around climate change, kickstarted with a showing of David Attenborough's: A Life on Our Planet

[View project →](#)



PEOPLE

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Greening Swinton Square

To mitigate the effects of climate change, urban landscapes must change from grey to green. By introducing nature-based solutions, towns and cities can become more resilient, biodiversity can thrive and the local community's wellbeing can improve.

Thanks to the support of IGNITION partners and Avison Young, our community leads engaged local residents, visitors and businesses in conversation about how we could 'green' Swinton Square Shopping Centre, an urban mall at the heart of Salford.

Participatory design workshops harnessed local passion, with our landscape architects bringing the community's ideas to life, whilst ensuring the end result was manageable.

Our in-house landscaping team installed living walls, green roofs and a rain garden in the centre a few months later. These nature-based solutions incorporate hidden systems which, in periods of heavy rain, absorb excess water and reduce flooding in the square and on neighbouring streets

The result; a greener, more resilient space. A space where local people want to spend more time, and visit more often.



The equivalent of
73 football pitches of
greenspace created or improved



Over
3,500
trees planted



Designed and delivered
28
nature-based solutions



Remembering Rose

Rose volunteered at the Rangers Organisation in Sholver, Oldham for over 25 years. During this time Groundwork had the pleasure of supporting her with a number of projects, from building a community garden to setting up a forest school. In June 2022 Rose was recognised as a Groundwork Community Star, just months before we sadly lost Rose to a battle with cancer.



Creating Pitt Street Community Park

Building on a consultation undertaken by The Ghazali Trust, our community and landscaping teams supported residents in Oldham to create a new community park, complete with food growing beds and an orchard.

[View project →](#)



Developing Firwood Community Wetland

Our landscaping team supported Firwood & District Residents Association to maximise their wetland greenspace by building new pathways, a boardwalk, and a low-level bridge, making the space more accessible to local people.

[View project →](#)



Greening neighbourhoods in Hattersley

Working closely with Onward Homes and local residents, our community leads supported the transformation of underutilized neighbourhood greenspaces.

[View project →](#)



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Resilient River Valleys

Resilient River Valleys was a partnership project between Groundwork Greater Manchester, City of Trees and Mersey Rivers Trust, funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, which ran from 2021 to 2023.

The programme brought together Groundwork Greater Manchester's three core delivery areas; developing green skills and job opportunities for local **people**, supporting **communities** to connect with nature and enhancing the **places** where they live and play, so they are more resilient to the effects of climate change.

The outcomes generated throughout the programme demonstrate how interlinked these strands are in building a greener, stronger and fairer Greater Manchester.



6,461
engaged community members



154
community members regularly volunteering at their local greenspace



6,687
Trees & shrubs planted



693
volunteers have supported green space improvements



37.5 Hectars
of land improved



1,237
School children connected with nature



895m
metres of hedgerow planted or improved



5km
footpath created / restored



361
people trained



26
sites had NBS installed



30
Trainees been employed on the project



PEOPLE

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership with public, private & community stakeholders, we harness the strengths of Greater Manchester's communities in order to mobilise practical action that delivers environmental and social justice.

A wholehearted thank you is extended to all the organisations we have worked within 2022/23. It is impossible to list all of our partners, but a selection of our core delivery partners includes:



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