



# GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE IMPACT REPORT 2022/23

# 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.**

We can only achieve this by working in partnership with others who want to make a difference. Our collective endeavour achieves more than we ever can as individuals. Adding value has been central to Groundwork's way of working since we were first founded and remains central to our mission.

Looking forward, many of our key partners and the communities we serve face an increasingly challenging financial and environmental future. We believe that we can continue to play a role in meeting these challenges, in part thanks to our years of experience but also due to our passion for finding innovative solutions and approaches. I am fortunate to be the Executive Director of Groundwork Yorkshire as I see every day the enthusiasm our great team bring to delivering their projects and programmes.

This impact report highlights some of what Groundwork Yorkshire has achieved in the last year. Many of our programmes and projects have never been needed more than now and I am pleased to report that many of the projects and partnerships highlighted here will continue to evolve in the new year. We will continue to work with individuals, partners and communities to grow human capital and build community resilience.

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



A. Curtis

**Adrian Curtis**  
Executive Director



# WE'RE 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 help people gain **confidence** and **skills**, get into **training** and work, protect and improve **green spaces**, lead more **active** lives and overcome significant **challenges** such as poverty, isolation, low skills and poor health.



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## 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.



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GREEN DOCTOR

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# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS 2022-23



**8,459**

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



**1,726**

Trees planted.  
Improving access to nature



**331**

Community groups supported. Building pride of place



**12,575**

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



**310**

Young people supported to learn, achieve & thrive



**161,127**

People benefitting from our public space improvements



**194**

Schools, businesses & SMEs supported with potential cost savings of £188,484



**188**

Projects delivered, bringing benefits to the people of Yorkshire

# GREEN DOCTOR



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Groundwork's Green Doctors help Yorkshire residents **stay warm, stay well,** and **save money** on household bills.



With over 1 in 10 households in the UK experiencing fuel poverty, it's a crucial lifeline for many residents. The service provides energy efficient experts, helping to reduce inequality and support those most in need.

-  **4,200 visits and calls completed**
-  **9,660 clients supported**
-  **£414,695 lifetime savings worth of energy saving measures provided**
-  **Carbon savings = 968,284 Kg CO2e**
-  **3,629 emergency fuel payments issued, worth £322,779**

## CASE STUDY

### Kirklees Resident



A resident contacted the Green Doctor team as they were struggling to use the storage heaters in their home; They rarely turned their heating on due to the high costs of running them. During a visit, the Green Doctor explained how storage heaters work, the function of each control, and how best to set these controls throughout the year.

On inspecting the resident's property, the Green Doctor identified that they had incandescent lightbulbs fitted and the hot water cylinder was not insulated. The Green Doctor helped to replace five lightbulbs, fitting energy efficient LED bulbs. They also fitted a hot water cylinder jacket, making a significant saving on their electricity bill.

As part of the follow-up call, the Green Doctor found the resident was struggling to top up their meter. The team then issued a £49 fuel voucher to help keep them warm.



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# RETROFIT



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How to get a **warmer**, more **comfortable** and energy **efficient** home

As part of Green Doctor, we provide retrofit services and energy efficiency reports for domestic dwellings and community buildings.

Retrofitting is the process of making improvements to your home so it becomes more energy efficient with lower emissions. Our Retrofit Assessors, along with independent qualified professionals, assess the property and produce a bespoke plan that matches a budget for work that can be carried out in stages. Working on all tenures and from Government funded schemes to the able-to-pay market.

 **15 projects across 7 local authorities**

 **Over 500 properties achieved retrofit measures**

 **Over 1,250 Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) created**



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## CASE STUDY

### Sheffield City Council Local Authority Delivery 2 Project (LAD2)

Our retrofit team worked in partnership with Sheffield City Council to reach a C rating EPC for 100s of properties across the Sheffield region. We were instructed to complete retrofit assessments, full Trustmark coordination and post EPCs on Sheffield council housing stock.

Measures for the project:

- + Loft insulation
- + Cavity Wall insulation
- + Solar Panels
- + Upgraded Ventilation

The team worked in partnership with Equans & Michael Dysons Associates to complete over 200 Retrofit Assessments. We were also instructed to model measure packages to make sure full compliance and targets were met for the project.

The homes are now more energy efficient, warmer, better ventilated and have means of producing their own electricity via solar panels, reducing energy bills.



Michael Dyson  
ASSOCIATES LTD



# PLACES



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 clients' needs.



**68**

projects delivered



**5**

community consultations



**595**

trees planted



**62,255 m<sup>2</sup>**

of land Improved

## REIN PARK

The team worked at Rein Park in Seacroft, Leeds to improve the play area and create a pump track for the community.

The installed play area was complimented by a tree and bulb planting scheme to link the different areas. **14 Birch trees** were planted and large swaths of daffodil and snowdrop bulbs, helping to improve **608m<sup>2</sup> of land**.

We also worked alongside Leeds City Council and the LS14 Trust to develop and deliver the Rein Park Pump Track in Seacroft, Leeds. It was funded by Section 106 money and **improved 1,300m<sup>2</sup> of land** in the park.

The all-weather tarmac course is complimented by a drainage system on this traditionally very wet site. The track has been a huge hit in the local community and complements other facilities in the park.



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# PLACES



## MORLEY TOWNS DEAL

After the successful Towns Fund Bid to central government, Morley secured £24.3m to deliver projects to transform the town. Part of this funding has been earmarked for the greener and connected programme which includes:

- ✓ The development of **eight** parks
- ✓ The redesign and upgrade of a number of **pocket parks**
- ✓ Better **facilities** for pedestrians and cyclists
- ✓ Improved **connections** to the rail station
- ✓ Improving the **civic space** around the Grade I listed Morley Town Hall

All projects will be completed by March 2026

Our Landscape Architects are leading on the delivery of the first three of these projects. Masterplans were developed for eight parks to help secure the funding and these are being further consulted upon, detailed and delivered in phases over the next four years.

The project so far, has been very well received by the client and residents and several consultation events have taken place to inform the proposals, both online and face to face. Final plans were produced in partnership with the Council and the Greener and Connected Sub Group for 2022/23 for the first two of these parks, Hembrigg and Dartmouth Parks, as well as proposals for Magpie Lane pocket park.





# PLACES

## DYNAMIC DRAINS

Groundwork Hull's Dynamic Drains project has been running for three years in partnership with Hull City Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency. The project aims to increase biodiversity along the man-made three and a half mile stretch of the Beverley and Barmston Drain. The team also work to improve the water quality, engage the local community in nature and collective action to address issues such as littering and fly tipping.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



## GROUNDWORK PRIDE LIMITED

Groundwork Pride is our landscape contracting subsidiary specialising in delivering minor civil, soft and hard landscaping contracts throughout Yorkshire including maintenance, invasive species treatment and landscape creation. GPL predominantly work with major housing developers, local authorities and other public bodies.

- ✓ 13 projects completed, worth over £1 million
- ✓ Worked on 20 separate housing development sites



# PLACES



## FRYSTON, FRICKLEY AND RABBIT INGS

Our Countryside Rangers manage over 217 hectares of Land Trust owned, open space to enhance the local wildlife and provide spaces and events for communities. The land covers Fryston Country Trails, Frickley Country Park and Rabbit Ings Country Park.

The Land Trust monitor the site management and use, based on five key performance indicators; community cohesion, economy, education, environment and health. With these in mind the rangers work to enhance the natural environment and engage the community in various events throughout the year.

- ✓ 3,045 hours of volunteer time by 246 individuals
- ✓ 11 education events, engaging 269 local children
- ✓ Over 10 different habitat types managed
- ✓ Successful breeding of skylarks, a red listed bird species
- ✓ 310 species of invertebrates found in summer 2022 at Frickley, 23 considered significant, with two new to Yorkshire

## GOLF

Groundwork Golf is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Groundwork Yorkshire. It comprises two operational golf courses – **Whitwood Golf Course**, a 9-hole golf and footgolf course in Wakefield; and **Springhead Park Golf Course**, an 18-hole golf course and coffee shop in west Hull.

Both courses have a club membership, but also provide a pay and play offer, helping to make golf available to the wider community.

- ✓ 510 members
- ✓ Over 15,000 pay and play rounds
- ✓ Over 2,200 footgolf rounds



# COMMUNITIES



Healthy Holidays is important to ensure that children can access a hot, healthy meal and fun activities throughout school holidays. It allows them to come to our sessions without fear of judgement, exclusion or prejudice.

## WEST YORKSHIRE

During school holidays, we ran a Healthy Holiday programme for families living in the **Morley South and Ardsley** and **Robin Hood** Wards of Leeds. The programme provided outdoor activities and healthy food which families help prepare, cook, then share together.

A separate summer programme was delivered in Bradford for children attending **Academy at St James**. This programme focused on forest school activities and was a first for the school.



48 sessions run



640 children attended



## EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

**Go Wild Goole** ran throughout August 2022 at West Park, Goole. A structured educational programme focusing on the environment, nature and health. The scheme was funded by the Healthy Holidays scheme, targeting children entitled to free school meals.



57 sessions run



690 children attended



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# COMMUNITIES

## LADYPIT LANE ALLOTMENT

We run weekly sessions at our community allotment in Beeston, Leeds, providing support to **seven core members** of the local community. The allotment provides a **safe space** for its members, giving them a chance to **socialise** and learn some **new skills**. The project aims to increase **fitness** and mobility, improving mental **well-being** and growing healthy, fresh food which is enjoyed together and taken home.



## COOKING ON A BUDGET

Funded by Tesco, these one-off sessions teach participants how to cook cost effective, family friendly meals and explore **budgeting**. The sessions are flexible in audience and have been delivered across the region to a wide range of organisations including schools, rainbow, beavers, community centres and church groups.



14 sessions run



210 people attended



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# COMMUNITIES

## THE MORLEY SHED

The Morley Shed is open to those aged 40 and over. It is a fully equipped wood workshop open to all abilities.



The Shed is more than just a workshop, it helps bring people together; tackling **mental health** and loneliness by providing a space to **socialise**. It's a great place to share skills and knowledge, or just have a cup of tea and a biscuit and spend time with like-minded others. The Shed currently had over **60 active members** and is open over **200 days** across the year.



## WARM SPACE AND COMMUNITY PANTRY

Our warm space and pantry sessions were held every Thursday afternoon and Friday morning throughout winter in our Morley reception area. Sessions were scheduled as a co-ordinated local response with other local organisations to maximise the offer to the local community. Over the season we saw a significant increase in the amount of people using the space and purchasing items from the pantry. While some users came in just for a friendly cuppa and chat, others accessed it due to cost of living pressures.

*"It's so hard trying to make money stretch to cover the basics. I'm on a basic pension and after buying little food, there is precious little left. I like to think I am good with money, but there is not a lot you can do when the bills have gone up and some of them have tripled."*



Warm space and pantry accessed over **222** times during December 2022 - March 2023



**30** warm space sessions held

# COMMUNITIES

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

We work with various organisations on their CSR, offering tailor made packages to help make a positive impact on communities. We help site hosts, organisations and volunteers every step of the way to plan and run a CSR day. We have various sites to choose from, suitable for different group sizes.



## GRANT MANAGEMENT

As a trusted partner our experienced grant management team helps to support thousands of projects every year through our grant programmes, ensuring money gets to where it's most needed.



- ✓ 612 Tesco Community Grants were issued across the region
- ✓ 40 Comic Relief Grants were issued across the region equating to £314,164
- ✓ ESF grant programme ended with a total of 238 groups supported and funded in West Yorkshire across the duration of the programme





# COMMUNITIES

## GREEN GUARDIANS

The Green Guardians project was funded for a second year via the Housing Advisory Panels in seven areas of Leeds. We improved **134 gardens** which were referred to us after being deemed unsafe or overgrown due to tenant vulnerabilities. The project **prevents enforcement action**, significantly improves the **physical appearance** of the local communities, and **improves wellbeing** of the tenants.



*"The work carried out was great and nicely done. Both guys were polite and professional. Couldn't thank you enough for the excellent work."*



## ARDSLEY WELLNESS WALKS

A series of monthly themed guided walks were delivered around **Ardsley Reservoir**, targeted at people from the local area who were affected by; low level mental and physical health issues, social isolation, post-Covid anxiety or a lack of exercise and time spent outdoors. Referrals came from many sources including local GP practices, social prescribers and patient groups.



**Seven** walks delivered



Average attendance of **17** people per walk



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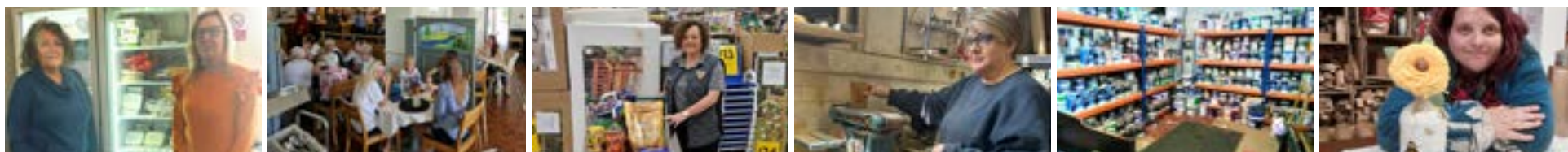
# COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The Groundwork Community Fridge, based at Springhead Park Golf Club, works with local businesses to source fresh foods that might otherwise go to waste and make them available to residents of Hull who are struggling to cope with the current economic crisis.

Our Tea Time Club supports families, providing an affordable meal for adult members of the family and free meal for children.

- ✓ 249 households supported through the community fridge
- ✓ Tea time club supported 49 residents



## THE SHED, HULL

As part of our strive to be sustainable, our Hull communities' team manages the Community Repaint Scheme for Hull and Humber. The project works with local businesses to divert viable, high quality paint for various uses from landfill. The paint is then sold at just £2 per litre to individuals, community groups, schools and anyone that is looking for paint.

- ✓ 4,507 litres of paint collected, with 3,316 litres redistributed into the local community
- ✓ An average of £16,812 saved by customers



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## GROUNDWORK IN HULL

Delivered 19 projects

Eight public spaces improved

Over 417,339 square meters of land improved

Delivered alternative learning enrichment activities with two pupil referral units

21 volunteers actively involved contributing 492 hours

1,000 trees planted

Distributed 113 affordable cooking appliances for struggling households

# PEOPLE

## GROUNDWORK LEARNING CENTRE



GROUNDWORK  
LEARNING CENTRE

Classes in Digital Skills, Arts and Crafts, Creative Wellbeing, Family History and Employment Support have taken place throughout the academic year.



Over **200** sessions delivered



**70** adults attending per week



## GREEN SKILLS

Our Green Skills programme is targeted at unemployed adults, aged 19 plus, to gain a range of green skills, enabling them to find employment. Each course ran for 12 full days and participants achieved Level 1 Horticulture Certificate, LANTRA Brush Cutter qualification and a CSCS qualification. The programme has been delivered in York, Sheffield, Sherburn-in-Elmet and Selby.



**96** sessions



**96** adults attended



Approx **85** achieved all qualifications



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FirethornTRUST

JOHN LEWIS  
PARTNERSHIP

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# PEOPLE

## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

A targeted programme for young people in Year 9, run over six full days, on local green space. The students undertake a range of work experience within horticulture, achieving a NOCN Level 1 Horticulture Certificate. We have delivered to schools in Selby, Tadcaster, Sherburn-in-Elmet, York, Northallerton and Scarborough.



72 sessions

FirethornTRUST



72 young people achieved NOCN Level 1



## OUTDOOR WOODLAND LEARNING

Outdoor Woodland Learning is a programme of outdoor learning for children aged five to 10, based in nature. Our fully qualified green leaders provide a fun, educational and safe environment for learning.



72 sessions

FirethornTRUST



180 children attended





# 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 2022/23.

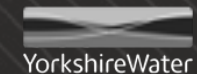
## IMPACT REPORT 2022/23 GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE

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