



Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund Prospectus

The Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund will fund projects that must be completed and reported upon by 31 March 2027. The deadline for applications is 1pm, Friday 2 October 2026.

What is The Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund

The Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund is a key part of a 5-year research and innovation project called Stanley SuDS+ (Sustainable Drainage Systems) that has worked with local people to help reduce flood risk and build stronger and more resilient communities.

The “+” in SuDS + represents the wider social, environmental and wellbeing impact and need. It aims to show how community investment in local spaces and people can strengthen local connections, improve well-being, the environment, and develop greater pride in place.

As part of the legacy of Stanley SuDS+, a total of **£30,000** is available to support community-led projects across South Moor & Quaking Houses, South Stanley, East Stanley and Craghead & The Middles. Grants of **£1,000 to £5,000** are available to Community groups, schools, charities, residents' associations and other local organisations to deliver activities



For further information on the Stanley SuDS+ project, please visit <https://stanleysuds.co.uk/>

What Can it Fund?

Projects do not need to focus on flooding or drainage directly. Instead, they should demonstrate how they will support the wider social, environmental and community benefits represented by the "plus" in SuDS+. Stanley SuDS+ worked with residents to identify seven vision statements for the future of the area. Projects funded through this programme should support at least one of these visions.

1. Create a Sense of Pride and Ownership Over the Local Environment

- Encourage respect and care of the area and help to prevent littering and antisocial behaviour. Encourage curiosity in local life and inspire people to shape their local community, which could involve fostering active community involvement
- Give people a stake in the community to and co-create local initiatives and spaces together with them, so that people are invested in, and contribute to, their success and longevity.
- Celebrate the local sense of pride in the place, community spirit, its histories and local stories

2. Create Beautiful, Vibrant and Diverse Public Spaces Accessible to All

- Create modern, attractive and welcoming spaces and activities for people of all ages and all needs.
- Improve the outlook of spaces by involving the community, businesses and organisations and changing behaviours to keep spaces loved and looked after.
- Revitalise existing nature sites and provide access to new ones on the community's doorstep
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3. Strengthen Local Community-Led Networks, Groups and Services

- Support community and volunteer groups to continue to be inventive, and grow their resilience
- Create new community-led services that are tailored to local needs
- Grow the community capacity to support and lead community initiatives
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4. Provide Training and Education for the Workplaces of the Future

- Encourage children and young people to become agents of change
- Educate and train community members to become SuDS champions and experts

5. Help Create Local Job Opportunities and Support Organisations

- Create rewarding and secure careers that are available locally
- Inspire new organisations and ideas and give them an initial leg up

6. Support Affordable Living Costs and Improve the Quality of Housing

- Help to reduce the impact of rising costs of heating and food
- Help improve health and wellbeing at home

7. Enhance Community Resilience to Flooding

- Help to provide information and tools about flooding and responses
- Help mobilise communities to respond to flooding events
- Empower communities to access local and wider support systems

Example Projects could include:

- Community gardens and food-growing initiatives
- Small-scale SuDS features such as rain gardens
- Environmental education programmes
- Community events and volunteering programmes
- Biodiversity projects
- Skills training and employability initiatives
- Community space improvements
- Flood awareness and environmental activities

Who Funds Stanley SuDS+ programme

Stanley SuDS+ is part of a wider [Defra-funded innovation programme](#) of 25 local projects across the country to test new ways of working and reduce flood risk.

Partners include Arup, Durham County Council, Environment Agency, Isle Utilities, Northumbrian Water, Teesside University, Veridian Logic, Wear Rivers Trust, Local Community Groups, and Residents.

Groundwork London are the grant administrators and will be working in collaboration with Groundwork North East & Cumbria.

Who can apply?

The Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund supports local organisations and individuals **based in** and or **delivering in** the Stanley SuDS+ research areas.

The following types of groups/organisations are eligible to apply:

- Constituted Community Organisation
- Not for Profit Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Registered Charity
- Education Establishment/Schools
- Religious Organisation
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Friends of Group
- Tenants and Residents Association
- Unconstituted groups

Unconstituted groups are community groups of more than one person who meet regularly, are not formally arranged or constituted, but do put energy and enthusiasm into their projects. If you are applying as an informal non-constituted group, you will need to provide reference details in your application for someone who can vouch for your work in the local community

This could be:

- A local councillor or council worker
- A school representative (e.g. teacher, headteacher, administrator)
- A local charity representative
- A healthcare professional (e.g. doctor, nurse or healthcare worker)
- A local shop or business owner
- A religious leader
- A qualified professional (e.g. solicitor or social worker)
- A local police officer

Please get in touch with Groundwork if you are unsure who to ask.

You will also need to have a bank account with at least two signatories. You may need to partner with an organisation who can hold the grant money for you, if you are successful, as grant money cannot be paid into a personal bank account. This partner organisation could also assist you with delivery and planning, if you would like, but this depends on the arrangement you agree with them.

If you are interested in applying but unsure if your group/organisation is eligible, please contact Groundwork to discuss.

What can the funding be used for?

You can apply for funding for a wide variety of items, such as materials, sessional workers' fees, plants, tools and storage. See the table on the next page for examples.

Type	Description
Capital	This includes items which will be used to physically create the project. These include: • Tools and equipment • Plants, trees and compost • Materials such as wood, benches, nails, screws, paint etc.
Revenue	This includes costs needed such as: • Labour costs • Sessional workers • Educational sessions relating to creation, maintenance or environmental benefit of the project • Workshop cost that engages the community • Volunteer management and recruitment • Organisation setup
Ancillary	These are costs which are not essential to the project being completed, but which can help to make it more successful. These include: • Celebration event • Volunteer travel and refreshments • Promotion and marketing

Please note that we will want to see that the items in the budget offer good value for money. This does not mean you need to choose the cheapest option, but you should be able to show that your budget offers both quality and a reasonable price.

If you have any queries regarding which category particular costs would fit into then please contact Groundwork to discuss.

How can the Community Fund help you?

The Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund is designed to empower communities to act on issues that matter to their community, including flooding and the environment and community development.

The application form will ask you to demonstrate the need for your project within your local community. This can be anything from grassroots knowledge of an issue to community consultation at any level.

We actively encourage new applicants, even those without prior experience in securing grant funding. Contact our team for support with your application or project ideas.

Timeline

Applications can be made at any time until the deadline 1pm, Friday 2 October.

The timetable below sets out the relevant dates on which applications will be assessed, application workshops held, awards made, and initial payments provisionally made.

Event	Date
Application window opens	Wednesday 26 August
Online application support workshop	Thursday 10 September, 4 to 5:30pm
In-person application support workshop	Tuesday 15 September 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Application window closes	Friday 2 October 1pm
In principle awards made	Mid-October
First payments made	Late October
Delivery starts	2 November
Mid project monitoring	January 2027
Project complete and final monitoring	15 March 2027

Are you eligible to apply?

Please review the checklist below before you apply to ensure you are eligible for the fund. We will ask you to complete a short eligibility checker prior to accessing the application form portal.

To be eligible, you must:

- Start delivery of your project after 2 November 2026 and be complete by 15 March 2027.
- Deliver a project in one of the study areas South Moor & Quaking Houses, South Stanley, East Stanley, Craghead & The Middles.
- Have a project idea that aims to address one of the 7 Visions
- Be able to demonstrate the need for your project
- Have permission from the landowner for the works at the site
- Commit to monitoring and evaluating your project's progress and outcomes
- If an informal or unconstituted group, you can provide reference details for someone who can vouch for your work in the local community
- You have a UK bank account with at least two signatories. If not, you can partner with an organisation who can hold the grant money for you

It is really important that all deadlines are met. This includes monitoring and evaluation and project completion. Please ensure you bear this in mind when designing your project and completing your project plan.

How do you apply?

Before starting your application, we recommend that you read the application guidance and application portal user guide available on the Groundwork Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund webpage. This will assist with giving tips on how to answer the questions.

Applications must be submitted through the online application portal on the Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund webpage on the Groundwork website, or via the below link:

[CLICK Here to apply](#)

We are not able to process applications in MS Word documents via email or other formats. If you need help or support accessing the application portal or completing the application form, please get in touch with Groundwork London and a member of the team will be happy to help you.

Application Support

We are holding application workshops to help you apply to the Stanley SuDS + Community Fund

This is an opportunity to find out more about the funding strands, meet members of our team and get key guidance on how to apply to the fund.

Online Information Session

Date: Tuesday 8 September

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Online via Zoom

Register: [Here](#)

In-Person Information Session

Date: Thursday 10th September

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Venue: Craghead Village Hall

Register: [Here](#)

Telephone Support

Online support via team or a telephone

To book email: stanleycommunityfund@groundwork.org.uk

What happens after submitting an application?

The deadline for submitting a Stanley SuDS + Community Fund application is 1pm, Friday 2 October 2026.

Once your application is submitted:

- You will receive confirmation of submission and a copy of your application form via email
- A panel will review applications and make funding decisions within a month of the deadline
- Successful applicants will receive an in-principle grant offer (which will include any feedback and may include conditions for receiving funding)
- Once any conditions have been met, successful applicants will be asked to sign a funding agreement
- Monitoring and evaluation will be required during and after project delivery to assess outcomes

If you are unsuccessful, we will provide feedback and signpost you to other potential funding opportunities. We also offer feedback calls for all applicants.

FAQs

How do I know if I live in one of the eligible areas?

If you would like to check whether your area is eligible, please see the above map detailing the areas covered for this grant.

Can two or more organisations apply together?

Yes. You can apply as partners, though one organisation must act as the lead organisation and will be responsible for money, communications and completing any monitoring requirements.

Does the project space need to be accessible to the public?

The site does not necessarily need to be open access to the public, but does need to have a positive impact on the local community. Where awareness raising is an element of the project, levels of access to the project site should be at a level that allows communities to effectively engage with the project. If there are any barriers to entry to a space to take part in the project, such as paid membership, these spaces will also not be eligible.

Can councils apply?

No, But Councils can signpost organisations to the fund.

Can schools apply?

Yes, but the projects must be addressing the SuDS+ visions.

What do I do if I run into problems delivering my project or something is more expensive than anticipated?

If you are successful, Groundwork London are here to support you. Please contact the Stanley SuDS+ Community Fund team to ask seek advice for questions throughout your project delivery. This includes if your plans change unexpectedly, if you need to change your budget or anything else relating to your grant.

Are contractors allowed?

You can use contractors for work, if necessary. However, where possible we would encourage you to use volunteers from communities to help with the project, as this will help to encourage a sense of shared ownership over the achievements of the project.

Can large organisations or charities apply?

Yes, but all projects should be driven by the needs and wants of the community.

Do I need match funding?

No, you do not need match funding.

Will extensions be allowed in any circumstance?

We can only offer extensions on a case-by-case basis, where events are unforeseeable or beyond the applicant's control. Please ensure you bear in mind the project delivery period when designing your project and ensure your activities are suitable.