

Greening Greater Manchester

Keep on the grass

Supporting communities to change
their environment



01 Introduction

Our environment matters to all of us. Not just globally, locally too. The environment on our doorstep affects how we feel about where we live. A well-maintained, attractive and high quality environment helps make a place feel like a community – somewhere we are proud to live and work.

Improving the quality of the local environment around us, the streets, parks and green spaces is at the heart of Greening Greater Manchester (GGM). During the past six years, the scheme has made a difference to people's lives and to their local environment. More than 350 grants have been provided to support local community groups and environmental organisations with area-specific projects amounting to almost £4 million of total funding.

The diverse range of projects has been unified through a common aim to involve people in environmental improvement projects in their neighbourhood. This has taken many forms, from consultation work over initial proposals and plans to involve local people in decision making, to encouraging residents to take part in physical environmental improvement works. Aftercare and long-term management is also vital and GGM encourages project proposals that include a plan to sustain the project beyond the funding period.

Wildlife areas
Pocket parks
Nature reserves
Community forestry
Environmental education
Urban tree planting
Land reclamation
Cycle routes
Environmental art
Wildflower meadows
Waterside reclamation
Play areas

It's all part of
Greening Greater Manchester

02/03 The Landfill Tax, how it works

Greening Greater Manchester aims to:

ENGAGE – communities in ‘green’ projects that bring benefits to local people

EMPOWER – communities by giving people a say in the decision making process

PROVIDE – an opportunity for people to have a role in shaping their environment

HELP – generate a sense of community ownership

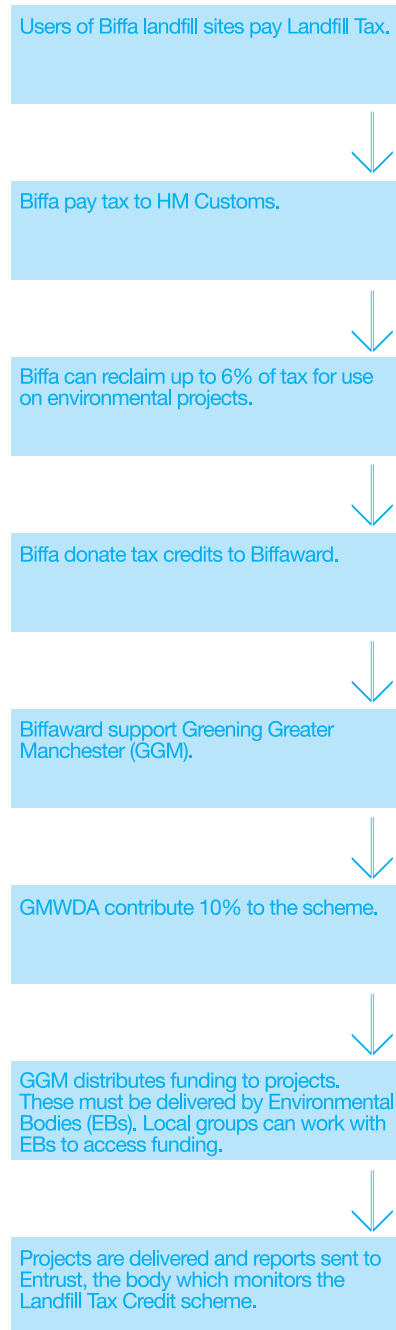
How it works

Greening Greater Manchester was established in 1998 to utilise Landfill Tax Credit and to support small-scale projects that often struggle to attract regeneration funding.

Landfill Tax is a tax on waste, which aims to encourage recycling and sustainable waste management by increasing the cost of waste disposal. The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (LTCS) was introduced alongside the Landfill Tax, allowing landfill operators to direct 6 per cent of the tax to fund environmental and community projects.

Landfill Tax Credits must be spent in compliance with the landfill tax regulations. These incorporate a number of ‘approved environmental purposes’. Greening Greater Manchester can fund projects which help to deliver the following:

- Projects that provide or maintain public amenities or parks within 10 miles of a landfill site
- Delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species habitats



GGM is funded by Biffaward, a multi-million pound environmental fund managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, which uses Landfill Tax Credits donated by Biffa Waste Services. The Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority provides 10 per cent of the funding. Under government regulations, only 90 per cent of a grant can be provided from Landfill Tax – the remaining 10 per cent must come from another source.

The Steering Group for GGM has representation from leading environmental regeneration charity Groundwork, the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, Biffa Waste Services and the local authorities in Greater Manchester. GGM is administrated and managed by Groundwork Northwest.

All GGM projects must be within 10 miles of a Biffa operation.

Biffaward seek to support projects that are particularly innovative, of lasting community and environmental benefit and improve quality of life. GGM projects are assessed for the level of innovation, community benefit and involvement, partnerships with relevant groups, and to what extent the projects contribute to sustainable development.

For more information about Landfill Tax, see www.entrust.org.uk

Purpose of this publication

We are proud of GGM and how much has been achieved for local people and the places where they live. We want to share with you some of these achievements and provide some advice and guidance if you are looking at ways of improving your area.

This publication contains some of the stories behind the projects supported to date and provides advice on how to make your part of Greater Manchester greener. It is a snapshot of what GGM is about and how small scale environmental improvements can make a big difference.

Thank you

Greening Greater Manchester has succeeded on the combined skills, enthusiasm and energy of many different community groups, environmental organisations and companies. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have played a part in the Greening Greater Manchester story.

- Biffa Waste Services
- Biffaward
- Groundwork
- The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities
- Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority

04/05

Make a splash



Salford
[Light Oaks Park's pond restoration](#)

“For the past decade and more, the pond at Light Oaks Park in Salford had become a blot on the landscape, which instead of being an attraction for visitors to the park was a landmark to be avoided,” said Mary Ferrar, Secretary of The Friends of Light Oaks Park.

“Following several years of lobbying to have the pond restored, the news that we had received funding from GGM was not only great for the local community, it also provided a lifeline to the park’s wetland habitat which was suffering due to years of neglect,” added Mary.

A study funded by GGM revealed not only a poor aesthetic value of the pond, it also found a number of undesirable features that included limited levels of oxygen, eroded banks surrounding the water and elevated concentration of nitrogenous compounds.

Man-made rubbish like shopping trolleys, traffic signs and food wrappers as well as excessive amounts of leaf litter have now been cleared. Additionally, large amounts of silt have been removed, which not only makes the pond more visually appealing it also reduces the offending odour around the water.

With no other ponds in the immediate vicinity, the park’s wetland habitat has once again become a focal landmark of civic pride. The park’s visual appearance, water quality, educational facilities and wildlife habitats are benefiting from a long-term management approach to maintaining this valuable community resource.

Go wild in the wetlands

A pond is a fascinating habitat to study yet in the last century the UK has lost more than a million ponds through modern farming methods and building works.

As the nation’s ponds disappear so does the wildlife that live in them and a number of pondlife species like the Great-Crested Newt and Natterjack are now on the official list of rare species.

With a few practical steps, everyone can help ponds and their wildlife.

Firstly, you can investigate your local area to discover if any ‘wild ponds’ need some care and attention. Alternatively, if you think a pond is a victim of disregard, perhaps you could get a group together to restore it, or contact the organisations listed below for help and guidance.

Remember to take care as ponds can be very deep, so never go it alone

Another way to help develop native wetland biodiversity in this country is to create your own pond. At least 80 per cent of Britain’s ponds can be found in private gardens or school grounds.

Environmental and animal friendly ponds should follow these simple steps:

- Create a pond with a sloping edge so that animals can easily get in and out of the water
- Place pond-side rocks and logs beside the water to provide a hibernating area for amphibians
- Non-native pond plants like floating pennywort can become a problem if they invade other water courses, so stick to native species
- Keep the pond ice-free in winter by leaving a floating object on the surface to create an air hole

For more information about wetland habitats contact:

[English Nature](#)
Telephone 01733 455 000
www.english-nature.org.uk

[Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside Wildlife Trust](#)
Telephone 01772 324 129
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire

06/07

Woodland conservation

Bury
Prestwich Clough Community Woodland

“The enthusiasm and commitment of local residents really helped to get this project off the ground,” explains David Dutton, Wildlife Officer for Bury Council, who has been instrumental in the development of the Friends of Prestwich Clough – the local community action group.

In the 1990s, Prestwich Clough in Bury was suffering from a number of environmental and social problems as a result of years of neglect.

David tells how the local community decided to take on management of their environment; “Local residents to the Clough had become increasingly concerned about a number of problems in the area such as invasive species on site, which were threatening the ancient woodland habitats, public access as well as illegal incursion by unauthorised motorbikes.

“United under a common purpose to restore the Clough to its former glory, the Friends of Prestwich Clough approached the council to enable them to take action, which is when and how I became involved.”

In partnership with the local community, David worked with the ‘Friends of’ group to make improvements to the Clough, which enabled them to receive GGM funding through Red Rose Forest.

Two rounds of GGM grants have led to vital improvements in the management of the area and the problems on site are now being rectified.

“The regeneration of the Clough is a very rewarding project and with every improvement you can see the results of your hard labour.”

“Although it is an ongoing exercise, we have already been able to make considerable progress. A kissing gate and bow top fence have been installed to prevent access to the Clough, as well as the reintroduction of 20,000 local provenance wildflowers. We have also planted an avenue of forty standard trees on route to the Mount, in memory of Graham Callan, a local resident and active member of the Friends of Prestwich Clough,” added David.

Form your own residents’ group

Varying in size, a residents’ association is a group of tenants or residents who get together because they want to tackle issues that affect their area.

A residents’ association can help you to get more involved in decisions that affect your home and environment, and improve links with the local authority and public services in the area.

For more information about setting up a residents’ association in Greater Manchester, or to find out if there is a group where you live, contact:

Groundwork Northwest
Telephone 0161 237 3200
www.northwest.groundwork.org.uk

Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside Wildlife Trust
Telephone 01772 324 129
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire

British Trust Conservation Volunteers
Telephone 01302 572 244
www.btcv.org

Red Rose Forest
Telephone 0161 872 1660
www.redroseforest.co.uk

Mersey Basin Campaign
Telephone 0161 242 8200
www.merseybasin.org.uk



08/09

Creating green spaces for the community



Rochdale
[Holt Community Garden](#)

“It was a blot on our landscape that was crying out for the care, imagination and enthusiasm of local people’s green fingers,” explains Cllr Denis Whittle, a Holt resident.

To improve the aesthetics of the estate and to create a focal area for events, relaxing, socialising and gardening, Holt Tenants and Residents’ Association in Rochdale combined their skills and knowledge to transform a derelict site into a well designed community garden for the area’s 400 residents.

“With the help of a local builder and with funding from GGM, we were able to put our ideas and dreams into practice and create an urban oasis.”

“It’s now a great ecological resource used by everyone in the community, young and old,” added Denis.

Situated next to a large hill, residents can take a rest on the garden’s bench, made from recycled plastic bags or admire the wildlife. Alternatively, if they wanted to work up a sweat they could even do some gardening, with the onsite tools.

Physical improvements made to the former neglected wasteland include 20m of new pathways and 150m² of land improvements. The garden is a shared resource for the whole community and one that will be further developed and enhanced year after year.

Develop your own community garden

There are 10 million people in Britain today without access to a garden. Community Gardens provide back gardens for 300,000 regular users.

The benefits of community gardening include:

- Helping communities bond together through a sense of shared purpose and pride
- Greening the local environment and kick-starting regeneration
- Creating opportunities for people to acquire new skills
- Encouraging wildlife, local plants and animal diversity
- Promoting physical health through regular exercise, stress reduction and creative achievement
- Improving nutrition and helping people to grow their own food
- Providing rich educational opportunities for children

Are you tired of your local environment? Do you think you could transform your local wasteland into a wonderland?

If you fancy improving an open space in your neighbourhood, the following organisations can help:

[Groundwork Northwest](#)
Telephone 0161 237 3200
www.northwest.groundwork.org.uk

[Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside Wildlife Trust](#)
Telephone 01772 324 129
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire

[GreenSpace](#)
Telephone 0118 946 9060
www.green-space.org.uk

[The Civic Trust](#)
Telephone 020 7170 4299
www.civictrust.org.uk

[Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens](#)
Telephone 0117 923 1800
www.farmgarden.org.uk

[British Trust Conservation Volunteers](#)
Telephone 01302 572 244
www.btcv.org

10/11

Creative approaches to public space

Oldham
Dobcross Village Community

“The anniversary of the Queen’s 50 years on the throne seemed the ideal opportunity for the Residents’ Association of Dobcross Village Community (DVC) to celebrate this event with the restoration of our benches. Situated in Church Fields, the benches were in desperate need of repair, after many years of wear and tear,” remembers local resident, David Makin.

A focal point of village life, the two benches in the centre of the village are located on a steep hill and are a popular resource for the local community and visitors to the conservation area on the edge of this National Park.

“We can’t remember when the benches were first installed but in the last couple of years before we received GGM funding, the seating had worn away and no one was using them, which was such a shame as they had once been much appreciated, especially on Whit Friday Band Contest,” added David.

“To commemorate the jubilee, the DVC decided to repair a once-loved resource so it could be enjoyed once again by all and this time we also made sure they are accessible to people with mobility problems by installing hand rails and shallow steps.”

Working in partnership with a local craft person, the two benches were restored to their former glory in oak and York stone, which are materials sympathetic to the natural environment of Dobcross in Saddleworth, Oldham.

Introduce your own landscape feature

Community art, eco-art or land architecture? There are many ways to describe how communities have connected with their local environment by placing man-made images, colours, patterns and structures in the environment to complement and rejoice in nature.

Most environmental artwork is designed for specific locations and often involves collaboration with artists and landscape architects as well as schools and community groups.

Sometimes outdoor artwork reclaims and helps remediate damaged environments that are often designed to work in harmony with ecosystems, sometimes using natural resources like water and wind power.

It is easier than you think to get involved in creating your own community artwork. Mosaic, woodcarving, stonework and metalwork are becoming more accessible to local communities and training courses are also available. Additionally, you can work collaboratively with local artists who may be able to source funding to work with you on a project.

For more information about installing community-based artworks in your neighbourhood, contact the following:

[Groundwork Arts Toolkit](#)
Telephone 0121 236 8565
www.artandregeneration.com

[The Arts Council](#)
Telephone 0845 300 6200
www.artscouncil.org.uk

[National Association of Local Government Arts Officers](#)
Telephone 0116 267 1441
www.nalgao.org

[Asian Arts Access](#)
Telephone 01753 571 050
www.asianartsaccess.org

[CITE Commissions in the Environment](#)
Telephone 0161 228 1400
www.citeuk.org



12/13

Keep the noise down



Bolton
[Combating noise pollution at Tonge Valley](#)

“The noise from the scramblers on Tonge Valley was unbearable and it was especially bad in the evenings and at weekends,” said Merilyn Woods, secretary of Entwistle Street Residents’ Association.

“Motorbike riders were illegally accessing the former landfill site, causing damage to the pathways and blighting local residents with the constant noise of engines.”

In partnership with Red Rose Forest, the 200-plus members of Entwistle Street Residents’ Association placed 3ft by 3ft rocks along the perimeter of Tonge Valley and adjacent private land where the scramblers were accessing the site.

“By blocking the motorcycles’ entry point to the valley, our quality of life has improved as we have seen a reduction in noise levels and we now feel safer when walking our dogs or just using the area as a recreational space,” added Merilyn.

Ensuring public open spaces are safe and accessible to all members of a community is a vital element of good land management. Greening Greater Manchester has supported many communities by enabling them to reclaim spaces which are prone to nuisance behaviour.

Problems with noise – help is available

Noise problems such as motorcycles, loud music and barking dogs can affect a person’s mental and physical health. Noise levels above 70 decibels are usually regarded as unacceptable.

How much noise is acceptable?

- A motorcycle at a distance of 25ft is recorded as 90 dB
- A power mower is recorded as 96 dB
- Garbage disposal at 80 dB
- Bird calls are recorded at 44 dB

To find out how to prevent noise pollution contact:

[Health and Safety Executive](#)
Telephone 0161 952 8200
www.hse.gov.uk

[Environment Agency](#)
Telephone 0845 9 333 111
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

[British Standards Institute](#)
Telephone 0208 996 7111
www.bsi-global.com

14/15

Establishing environments for wildlife

Manchester
[Operation Bullfinch at Chorlton Water Park](#)

“As part of the children’s environmental studies and to improve the local area, Operation Bullfinch was launched with Mersey Valley to help protect one of Britain’s most popular birds – the bullfinch,” said Chris Harper, Chorlton High School teacher.

The loss of woodlands and hedgerows during the last 30 years has seen the number of bullfinches in the UK drop by more than half.

School children from Chorlton High School, with help from the park’s wardens and community groups, planted an orchard at Chorlton Water Park to encourage bullfinches to the area.

“With funding from GGM, the children planted a range of fruit trees and shrubs that were identified as producers of winter-feeding resources to encourage bullfinches to stay in the park,” added Chris.

“Educational projects like Operation Bullfinch are great as they provide a practical learning experience, improve the children’s knowledge of their environment and bring long-term benefits to the wider community.”

“I feel it is vital to bring children out of the classroom and into the wider environment, and this project is an excellent way of doing this.”

Encouraging birds to your garden

Feeding birds is a popular activity – more than half of the British population feeds birds in gardens and this offers an easy way to see wild birds up-close.

Greater Manchester top ten most sighted birds are:

- Starling
- House Sparrow
- Blue Tit
- Blackbird
- Magpie
- Great Tit
- Collared Dove
- Greenfinch
- Robin
- Chaffinch

How to correctly feed garden birds

Plant a bird table in the garden, alternatively hang nut or seed feeders from a washing line or tree. Do not use nylon mesh bags filled with peanuts as birds can trap their feet in these devices.

Suitable foods for birds include black sunflower seeds, peanuts, mild grated cheese, dried fruit and dry porridge oats. Place a bird bath on your table as birds need a regular source of water for drinking and bathing.

Grey squirrels and bats can be a nuisance at bird tables. To deter them, smooth petroleum jelly along the metal post or enclose the post of the bird table with a section of smooth plastic pipe and place a large inverted biscuit tin over the top of the post, beneath the tray

To find out more about bird preservation in your area, contact:

[Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside Wildlife Trust](#)
Telephone 01772 324 129
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire

[The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#)
www.rspb.org.uk

[Greater Manchester Bird Club](#)
Telephone 0161 428 2175

[Leigh Ornithological Society](#)
www.leighos.org.uk



16/17

Developing thriving new habitats



Urmston in Trafford Flixton Park Wildlife Corridor

The Wildflower Corridor derived from an entry in the 'Greenspace Challenge', Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Service initiative to encourage young people to value their local parks and green spaces, and involve them in environmental management and improvement work.

"The Council wants to foster young people's sense of ownership and respect for their outdoor environment. The primary schools in Trafford can play a vital role in ensuring we make a positive difference," said Gary Devine, from Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Services.

"The 'Challenge' has proved to be very popular with the pupils and we received many exciting and thoughtful entries, including designs for low-level mazes, park features and poems about the local environment."

"The best entry from St Michael's Primary School in Flixton was the Wildflower Corridor. Although the design did not win the Challenge overall, pupils from the class expressed their desire to see the feature be brought to life. The feature will not only enhance the look of the area, it also aims to encourage birds and wildlife."

Gary added: "To put the design into practice, Red Rose Forest was contracted with regard to managing the project after they successfully applied for funding through GGM."

"Everyone is really looking forward to Spring when the wildflower seeds and saplings we planted last year will come into bloom, and then we can all enjoy the new look Flixton Park."

Wildlife-friendly gardening

Industrialised farming practices, erosion of hedges and the nation's obsession for neat and tidy gardens is placing more than 600 individual species in Britain at risk.

Creating a wildlife garden will encourage native wildlife to flourish, giving you a rich biodiversity of natural plants, insects and animals in your own back yard.

Greening Greater Manchester's helpful hints to create a wildlife garden

- Choose plants that are attractive to native wildlife like berry-bearing plants, holly and honeysuckle
- Allow a range of plants to seed to provide winter food for seed-eating birds
- Be tolerant of weeds as some of them are native plants
- Source organic solutions to slug pellets and pesticides
- Create 'untidy' corners to provide overwintering sites for insects
- Compost your garden and kitchen waste to make organic compost for the garden
- Install a water butt to collect rainwater, which is better for plants and saves resources in times of drought

To find out more about wildlife gardening in your area contact:

[The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire)
Telephone 01772 324 129
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/lancashire

[Red Rose Forest](http://www.redroseforest.co.uk)
Telephone 0151 738 1913
www.redroseforest.co.uk

[Landlife](http://www.landlife.org.uk)
Telephone 0151 737 1819
www.landlife.org.uk

[National Wildflower Centre](http://www.nwc.org.uk)
Telephone 0151 738 1913
www.nwc.org.uk

[Plantlife](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)
Telephone 01722 342 730
www.plantlife.org.uk

18

How to apply for a Greening Greater Manchester Grant

To check when the next round of funding is due, visit www.ggm.org.uk.

Application forms and full criteria are available from the GGM website.

Alternatively, use the contact details at the back of this brochure.

Greening Greater Manchester funds projects in the following boroughs of Greater Manchester:

Bury
Bolton
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale
Salford
Stockport
Tameside
Trafford

19

The Future

There is much more that can be done to improve the environment of Greater Manchester. GGM continues to play a valuable role by supporting and enabling communities to improve their local environment.

The latest round of projects includes the development of a nature trail at Trafford Ecology Park; new sport and recreation facilities for teenagers at Culmere Pocket Park, Wythenshawe and disabled access improvement to a memorial forest in Oldham.

20

Contact Greening Greater Manchester

If you would like to find out more about GGM please contact Groundwork Northwest.

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0161 237 3200

Fax
0161 237 3211

Email
info@ggm.org.uk

You can also find out more about GGM and download the latest application form and grant guidance by visiting:
www.ggm.org.uk

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