

# Green Spaces Fund

Impact to date  
June 2026



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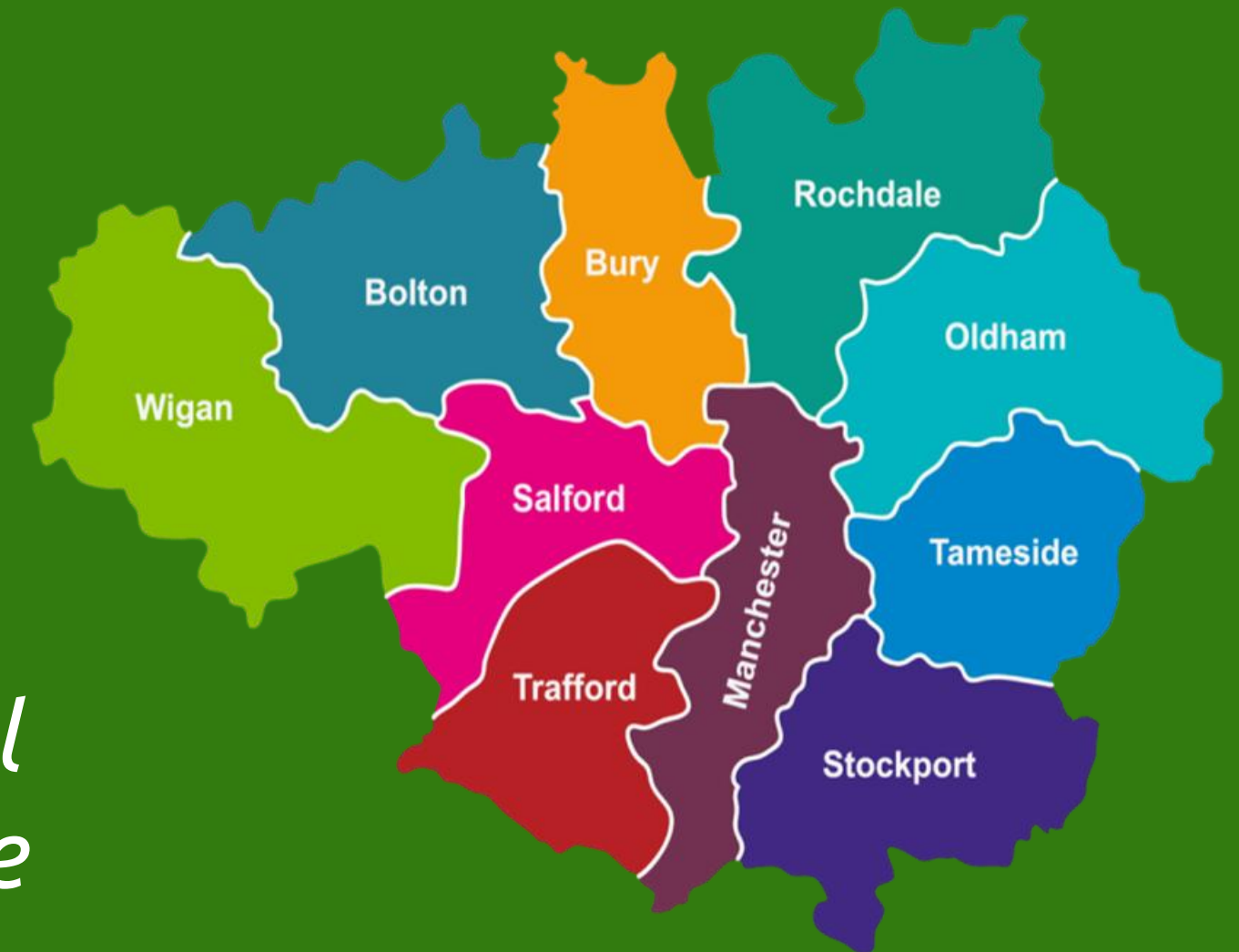


# Introduction

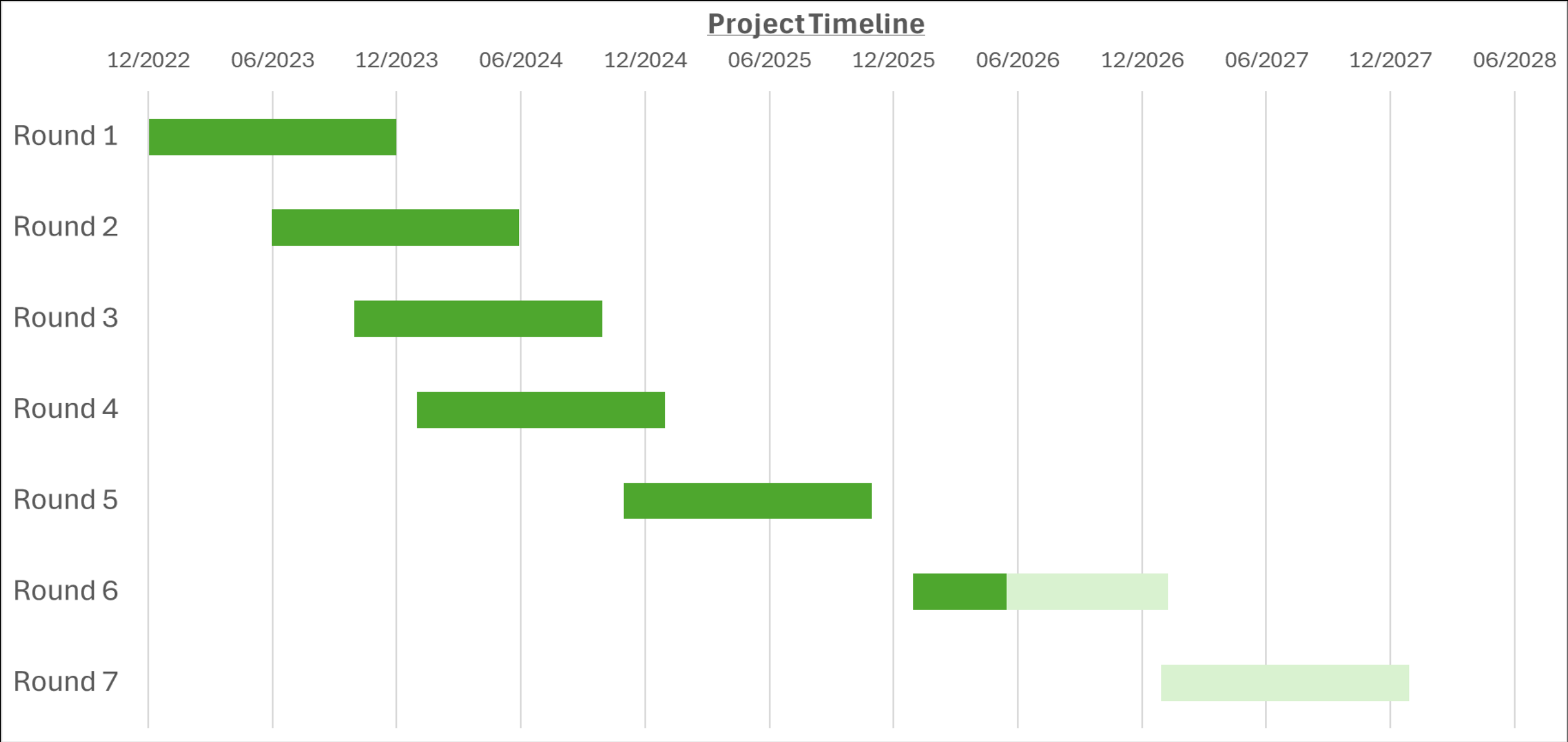
This is an overview of the outputs and delivery of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund as of May 2026.

The Green Spaces Fund was launched in summer 2022 following a commitment in the Mayor's manifesto to:

*“Create a new Green Spaces Fund to give small grants to communities to clean up and improve pocket parks and local green spaces or create new ones where they are needed.”*



To date, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has invested £4.2m into the Fund, which includes funding for the delivery of projects, management, and administration of the Fund by the Greater Manchester Environment Trust and support for communities provided by a partnership team of Green Spaces Fund Advisors. This investment has covered six rounds of funding since 2022. Additional funding has been invested in a seventh round which opened in 2026. Successful applicants are at various stages in the delivery of their projects.



# Overview of the Green Spaces Fund

## Types of projects awarded

The Green Spaces Fund was established to support community-led projects that increase the amount and quality of accessible, nature-rich green space across Greater Manchester, particularly in the areas where people need it most.

Community groups have been able to apply to the Fund to create or enhance green space in their area. The type of projects supported vary and include new pocket parks, improving unloved or neglected spaces and creating community food growing areas. Projects also vary in scale. Two sizes of grants are available depending on the size of the project proposed, with small grants from £2,000 up to £15,000 and large grants from £15,001 to £40,000.

## Funding and support provided

The total amount of funding from the GMCA directly awarded to 122 projects is £2.8 million. This has been split across 6 rounds, with £400,000 for Round 1, £800,000 for Round 2, £400,000 for Round 3, £300,000 for Round 4, £400,000 for Round 5 and £500,000 for Round 6. Additional funding of £1.4 million was deployed across these rounds to provide direct support to community groups to develop their applications and deliver their projects, as well as enabling management of the Fund.

The Green Spaces Fund is managed and administered by the Greater Manchester Environment Trust.

The Greater Manchester Environment Trust was created as a partnership between The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to bring together communities and funding bodies keen to channel their resources into addressing environmental problems.



A partnership of 5 organisations, led by Groundwork Greater Manchester, was created to support and enhance the delivery of the Fund, with each represented by a Green Spaces Fund Advisor.

The Advisors work in partnership and empower community groups to take positive and meaningful action for nature, ensuring activity reflects the needs of the wider community and is inclusive.

They directly engage and support community groups where the Fund is needed the most, from project conception through to application submission and project delivery guidance.



The Wildlife Trust for  
**Lancashire  
Manchester &  
North Merseyside**



**RHS**



**sow the city**



**City  
of Trees**

# ➤ How have community groups been supported?

The Green Spaces Fund Advisors have been building relationships with community groups across Greater Manchester. Each local authority has a dedicated Green Spaces Fund Advisor. The advisor engages with groups in that area who are interested in the Fund and creating a project in their community.

The role encompasses:

- Community outreach work to promote the Fund and generate project ideas, particularly targeting areas where the Fund would have the greatest impact.
- Supporting applicants to apply, carrying our regular check-ins and meetings, and helping groups with their application.
- Supporting successful groups in project delivery, helping them sustainably deliver their projects particularly with volunteer days and in choosing and sourcing capital items.
- Supporting groups beyond the end of their project, advising, and helping them access new funding, sourcing volunteers and running their group/wider network.



The advisor team support goes beyond Green Spaces Fund focused work, with the team providing invaluable advice to community members on bids for other funding opportunities to help realise their project goals.

Time is prioritised to those who need it most and are new to applying for funding and developing ideas and delivering projects.

Over the years, feedback from groups has praised the advisors' skills, knowledge, and experience.



<b>Green Spaces Fund Round</b>	<b>Number of applications supported to apply by advisors</b>
1	31
2	67
3	57
4	44
5	24
6	40

# ➤ Aims of the fund and how they've been delivered

## ➤ **Aim 1 – Benefitting communities with a lack of quality greenspace**

Reach communities where there is poor access to quality green spaces.  
Tackle inequalities including health and wellbeing.  
Enable people to have contact with nature.

## ➤ **Aim 2 – Tackling our climate and biodiversity emergency**

Improve Greater Manchester's green and blue spaces.  
Tackle climate and biodiversity emergencies.  
Have a priority fit with Greater Manchester's priorities for nature recovery and wider environmental ambitions.

## ➤ **Aim 3 – Encourage and Empower communities to take positive action for nature**

Opportunities for training & skills through volunteering.  
Empower community groups to take actions in their local area.

## Aim 1 – Benefitting communities with a lack of quality green space

In achieving this aim, the Fund seeks to:

- Tackle inequalities including health and wellbeing.
- Reach communities where there is poor access to quality green spaces.

In addition, a spread of projects across Greater Manchester's Local Authorities has been sought, including through the work of the Green Spaces Fund Advisors.

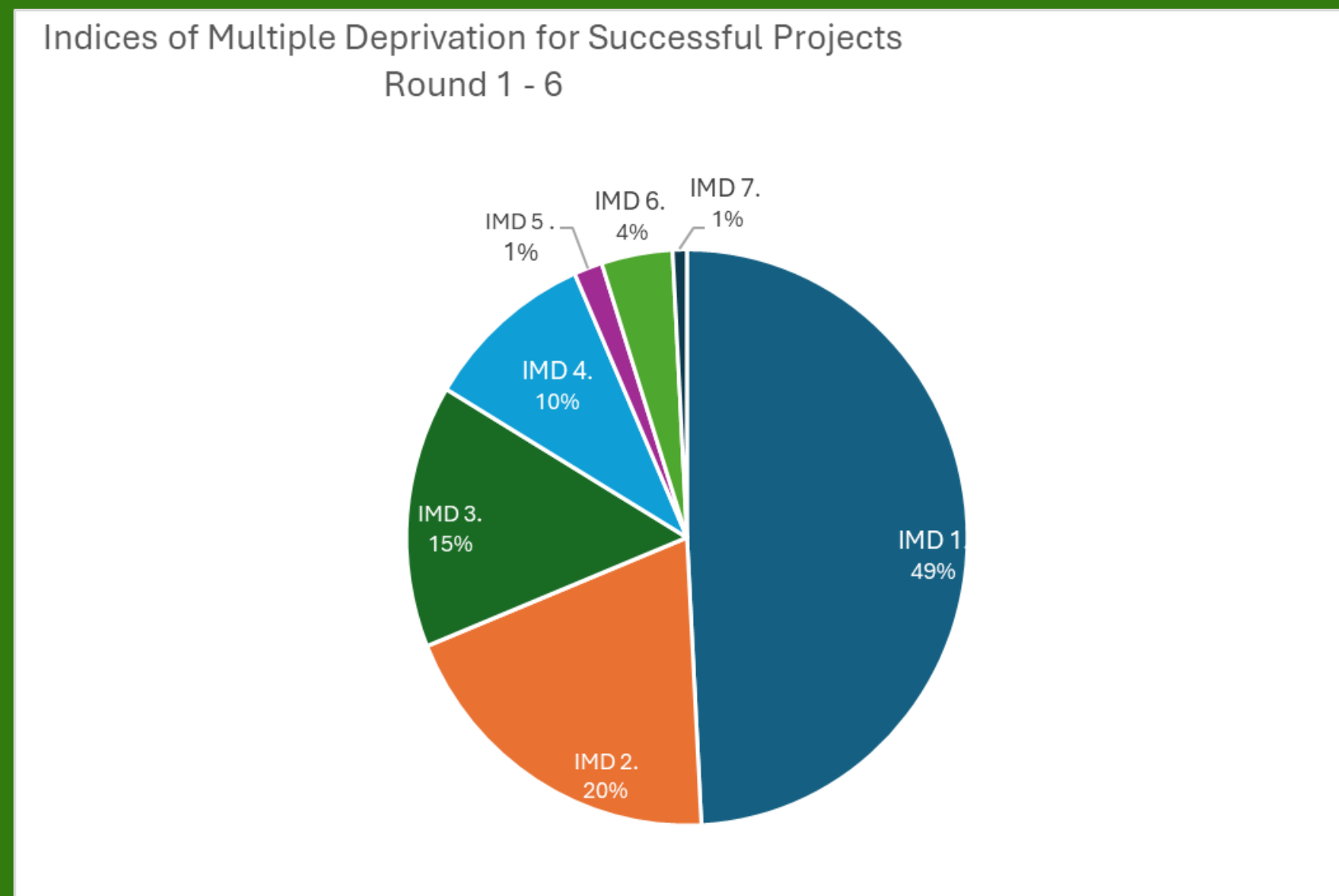
Its impact in these areas can be looked at by assessing the location of each project against the following:

- The Index of Multiple Deprivation, which is a measure of relative deprivation and inequalities at a small local area level based on economic, social and environmental factors. Areas are ranked from 1 to 10, with areas in 1 being in the 10% most deprived, 2 in the 10-20% most deprived, and so on.
- The Accessible Natural Green Space Standard, which is a measure of the current level of access to green space in an area, and green cover in the local area.

# Aim 1 – Benefitting communities with a lack of quality green space

Tackling inequalities.

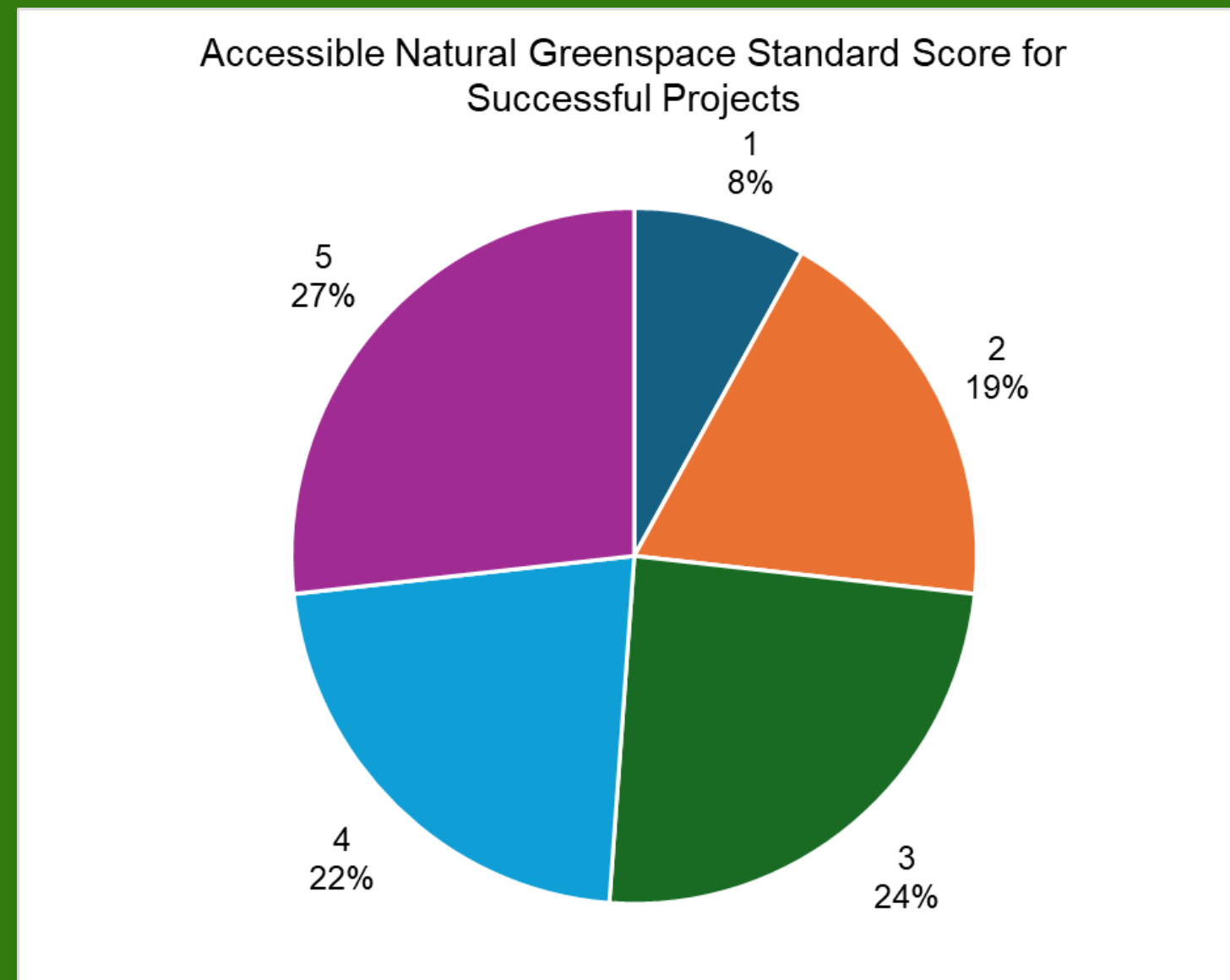
Across the 6 rounds, the successful projects are located in communities in the top 60% of deprived areas nationally (IMD 1-6). Nearly half (49%) of the projects benefit those in the top 10% most deprived areas (IMD 1) and 84% benefit those in the top 30% (IMD 1-3).



# Aim 1 – Benefitting communities with a lack of quality green space

Access to quality green space.

The lower the Accessible Natural Green Space Standard score, the closer the project is to an existing natural green space. 73% of projects benefit areas classed as "very poor," "poor," or "average" against the standard.



## Aim 2 – Tackling our climate and biodiversity emergency

In achieving this aim, the Fund seeks to:

- Improve Greater Manchester's green and blue spaces.
- Tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- Have a priority fit with priorities for nature recovery and wider environmental ambitions.

Of the 93 completed projects to date, the groups have delivered impressive improvements across Greater Manchester.



## Aim 3 – Encourage and empower communities to take positive action for nature

In achieving this aim, the Fund seeks to:

- Support opportunities for training and skills through volunteering.
- Empower community groups to take action in their local area.



122

The infographic features a large white number '122' centered on a dark green background. The background image shows a group of people sitting on the ground in an outdoor setting. At the bottom, the text 'GREEN SPACES FUND' is written in white capital letters.

projects funded

GREEN SPACES FUND



137,771

The infographic features a large white number '137,771' centered on a dark green background. The background image shows a person wearing a blue shirt and a headscarf working with plants in a garden. At the bottom, the text 'GREEN SPACES FUND' is written in white capital letters.

people engaged  
with projects

GREEN SPACES FUND



5,421

The infographic features a large white number '5,421' centered on a dark green background. The background image shows a group of people standing in a line, possibly at a community event. At the bottom, the text 'GREEN SPACES FUND' is written in white capital letters.

volunteers  
recruited

GREEN SPACES FUND

# ➤ Statistics per round

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Round 1</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> Jun '22 – Aug '22</b>	<b><u>Round 2</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> Nov '22 – Jan '23</b>	<b><u>Round 3</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> Mar '23– Jun '23</b>	<b><u>Round 4</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> Sept '23– Oct'23</b>	<b><u>Round 5</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> Jun '24 – Jul '24</b>	<b><u>Round 6</u> <u>Applications</u> <u>received from:</u> May '25 – Jul '25</b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Number of applications submitted</b>	71	76	65	45	33	58	348
<b>Number of groups supported to application stage by the Green Spaces Fund Advisors.</b>	31	60	58	44	24	40	257
<b>Total funding sought</b>	£1,460,000	£1, 054, 400	£1, 597, 330	£1, 063,704	£630 , 865	£1, 429,613	£7,235,912
<b>Total funding awarded</b>	£400,000	£800,000	£400,000	£405,000	£370,000	£517,000	£2,892,000
<b>Number of successful applicants</b>	21	31	16	18	17	19	122
<b>Confirmed match funding received by completed projects</b>	£213,650	£81,232	£107,296	£80,011	£74,489	Project delivery will end in Spring 2027.	£556,678

# ➤ Applications received and projects awarded per local authority

Local Authority	Number of applications per local authority	Number of projects	Funding awarded	Population per local authority
Bolton	33	11	£145,712	2.96
Bury	43	8	£211,108	1.93
Manchester	87	33	£806,934	5.52
Oldham	29	13	£226,882	2.42
Rochdale	33	11	£271,906	2.23
Salford	26	12	£354,391	2.69
Stockport	28	10	£168,789	2.94
Tameside	25	6	£172,124	2.31
Trafford	26	11	£287,489	2.35
Wigan	19	7	£90,703	3.29

# ➤ Projects per local authority population

The population in each local authority varies.

The figures below account for this difference and show the number of applications submitted, number of projects funded and amount of funding given by each local authority per 100,000 population.

Local authority	Number of applications submitted	Number of projects awarded funding	Funding awarded
Bolton	11.2	3.7	£49,234
Bury	22.2	4.1	£108,902
Manchester	15.8	6.0	£146,199
Oldham	12.0	5.4	£93,722
Rochdale	14.7	4.9	£121,509
Salford	9.6	4.4	£131,291
Stockport	9.5	3.4	£57,260
Tameside	10.8	2.6	£74,492
Trafford	11.1	4.7	£122,303
Wigan	5.8	2.1	£27,542

# ➤ Impact of the fund to date across each local authority

## 93 completed projects

Local authority	Number of completed projects	Amount of green space created m2	Amount of green space improved m2	Number of trees planted	Number of volunteers recruited	Number of people engaged with the projects
<b>Bolton</b>	10	384	27,218	1503	634	13,781
<b>Bury</b>	8	639	66,848	2,471	485	6,861
<b>Manchester</b>	25	5,183	189,477	2,844	1,609	87,258
<b>Oldham</b>	10	2,351	7,768	145	710	3,989
<b>Rochdale</b>	8	2,835	6,837	650	141	2,151
<b>Salford</b>	7	15,259	66,705	33	157	7,821
<b>Stockport</b>	7	326	21,175	10	333	1,904
<b>Tameside</b>	5	4,150	6,357	737	609	2,841
<b>Trafford</b>	7	70	60,047	1,243	509	10,155
<b>Wigan</b>	6	479	159,256	130	234	1,010

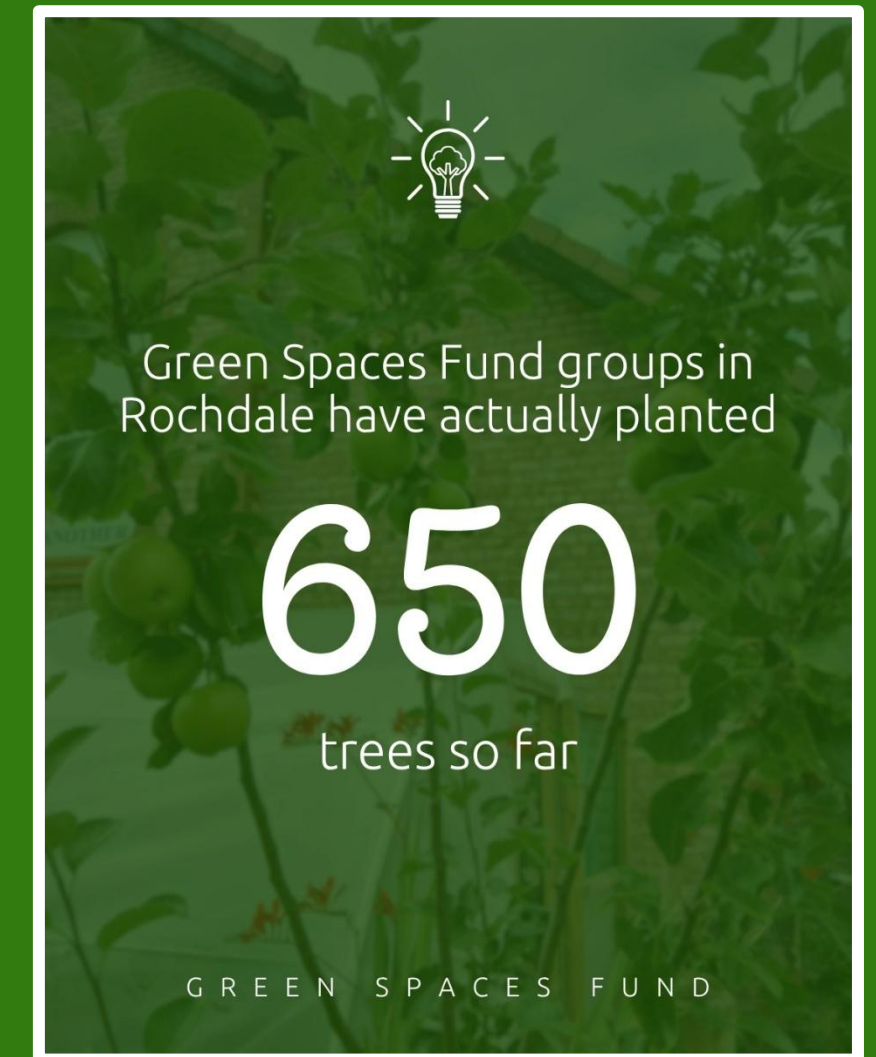
# ➤ Impact highlights

The projects have excelled in certain areas of delivery and gone beyond their proposed targets, demonstrating the appetite for and popularity of their works. Some examples of these are below:

## Bury



## Rochdale



# ➤ Impact highlights

The projects have excelled in certain areas of delivery and gone beyond their proposed targets, demonstrating the appetite for and popularity of their works. Some examples of these are below:

## Stockport



## Tameside



# ➤ Impact highlights

The projects have excelled in certain areas of delivery and gone beyond their proposed targets, demonstrating the appetite for and popularity of their works. An example of this is below:

## Bolton



## ➤ Funds from our corporate supporters

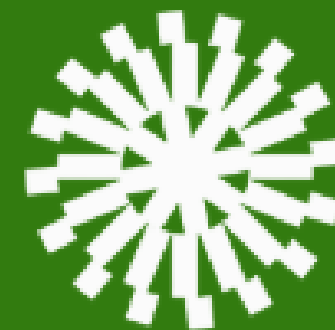
The Green Spaces fund has been building relationships with corporate supporters over recent years and has successfully secured £150k towards Green Spaces Fund projects. We endeavour to increase this and thank those organisations who have helped to spread the reach of the fund to date. If you would like to find out how to get involved with corporate support, please visit our website [here](#).

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**Enterprise Mobility**<sup>™</sup>

**Autotrader**



**Tyler  
Grange**



## Bolton Case Study



The “Ivy Road Community Project” in Bolton received £32,800 in Round Four of the Green Spaces Fund. They wanted to transform plain grass verges on either side of the street into a thriving green hub, as the diverse local community are largely without access to gardens or growing space.

They have planted 15 fruit trees on site, several fruit bushes, hundreds of bulbs and a wildflower patch. They’ve also added many edible plants, providing free food for anybody who needs it. Any unused produce is donated to the local food bank.

“The site has now become a place for people to use and enjoy rather than the scrubby land they saw previously.” - Heather, Harpers Lane Community Garden.

## Bury Case Study



The “Rewilding Fairfield Hospital” project in Bury received £40,000 in Round Four of the Green Spaces Fund to enhance the grounds of the hospital.

They have created three distinct gardens, each with its own purpose:

- Bog Garden: Supports wildlife and enhances biodiversity.
- Peace Garden: Designed to promote well-being for staff and patients.
- Education Garden: Provides a learning space for local nurseries and schools.

They’ve enhanced 9,174m<sup>2</sup> of green space and planted over 13,000 bulbs and 190 trees around the site.

The gardens are now also a valuable tool for social prescribing, connecting people with preventative health support and reducing pressure on the NHS.

# Manchester Case Study



The "Sustainable Northmoor Urban Greening (SNUG)" project was awarded £40,000 in Round Two of the Green Spaces Fund.

The group have improved four separate sites across Longsight, including turning the disused bowling green in Crowcroft Park into a community orchard garden. They have added 63 fruit trees, a pond, hügel beds, a wildflower meadow and perennial shrubs to the park.

They've also improved an existing garden for a local primary school, planted five new street trees on Northmoor Road, and worked with residents of East Road to turn the alleyways behind their houses into food growing areas.

"On our busiest days we have had all ages working together, from toddlers and teenagers to grandparents." - Claire, Friends of Crowcroft Park.

# Oldham Case Study



The "GROWE Project" in Oldham was awarded £15,000 in Round Two of the Green Spaces Fund.

The group took on a derelict orchard site in 2022. It had lain empty for several years and required an incredible amount of work to make it safe and accessible.

30 new trees and over 1000 plants have been planted across the site, alongside 30 new features like bat and bird boxes, bug hotels, ponds, a wildflower meadow, a hügelkultur seating area and a forest school shelter. These enhancements create a functional space that is open to the public and free to use for various community activities that connect people with nature.

"The Green Spaces Fund has helped us achieve our goals and connected us to groups across Greater Manchester." - Victoria, Northern Lily CIC.

# Rochdale Case Study



The “Deeplish Community Garden” project in Rochdale was awarded £32,600 in Round Two of the Green Spaces Fund. They wanted to create an accessible, welcoming green space that could be a base for education, community engagement and improve local biodiversity.

They have successfully transformed the bare grass area at the centre into a functional green space with over 100 native plants, seating areas, and educational signage. Hundreds of community members have participated in their events, ranging from tree planting and composting workshops to the Saturday kid’s club and summer holiday programme.

“What was once a neglected space is now a vibrant, shared asset for the whole community.” - Sohail, Deeplish Community Centre.

# Salford Case Study



“The Secret Garden” project at Irlam Library in Salford was awarded £15,000 in Round Two of the Green Spaces Fund. The idea was to create a usable green space for the community, since the library’s rear garden had not been used for years and was no longer accessible.

They’ve now created a beautiful, fairytale-themed space where people can sit with a book, chat with friends and attend regular horticultural workshops and classes. The garden is also improving the biodiversity of the area. Hundreds of flowers, vegetables, herbs, grasses and shrubs have been planted as well as three potted trees.

“We now know how to bring people together and support local organisations in making things better for both the green spaces and the community” - Kerry, FOIL (Friends Of Irlam Library).

# Stockport Case Study



Beacon Counselling launched the “Greenwell Space” in Round Five of the Green Spaces Fund and were awarded £11,000.

They have converted the grey, hard landscaped Merseyway shopping centre into a lush, green, biodiverse hub that promotes an array of wellbeing benefits to the local community. The project is in an IMD 1 area which highlights the urgent need for accessible green space for wellbeing support.

The group believe the scheme will improve mental health, with the space allowing people to have meaningful connections with nature by holding wellbeing workshops with professionals, social prescribing and volunteering sessions. They’ve installed 13 large planters so far, containing 70 plants in total, with much more to come.

“I love my flowery jaunt to work now!” - Pauline, Stockport resident.

# Tameside Case Study



The LEAP Children & Families Centre in Tameside was awarded £34,700 in Round One of the Green Spaces Fund. They wanted a safe, accessible, calm, and welcoming environment that could be used in all seasons to support people through challenging times.

They have transformed the spaces around the perimeter of their building, creating nature-rich nursery play area, a shaded potting area, a lovely garden and an edible plants bed. The garden has enabled people to learn new skills and make friends, as well as reducing loneliness and isolation and improving people’s mental and physical health.

“We’re so proud of the transformation from a blank, boring canvas to a beautiful green space, and the children and families coming in every day are loving it.” - JoJo, LEAP CFC.

# Trafford Case Study



The "Old Trafford Community Goes Wild" project was awarded almost £40,000 from the Green Spaces Fund in Round Three.

Their site on Stretford Road was used as unofficial parking on event days and had become damaged and was frequently covered in litter, resulting in complaints from residents. The group has made huge improvements to the area, creating a green trail and planting wildflowers and native hedges to boost local biodiversity. Volunteers have filled new planters with over 1,000 pollinator friendly plants such as allium, crocus, narcissus, and tulips.

"The area has been transformed from unloved and churned up grass to a space rich in biodiversity. It would not have been possible without the GMET and our fantastic volunteers." - Caroline, Love Old Trafford.

# Wigan Case Study



The "GROW with the FLOW" project at Low Hall Nature Reserve in Wigan was awarded £33,000 in Round Two of the Green Spaces Fund. They have carried out a significant amount of work, including repairing large sections of damaged pathways, installing a rubbing post trail through the woodland and meadow for mini explorers, re-profiling the pond and creating a bird hide.

They have also planted 100 mixed variety trees in the woodland, 12 fruit trees in the orchard, and spread over 4kg of wildflower seeds across the reserve. By making these lasting improvements, the group have raised the profile of Low Hall, creating a space that can be enjoyed by everyone.

"The Green Spaces Fund has enabled us to make lasting improvements that were long overdue, not only for our wildlife habitats but for our community." - Joanne, Friends of Low Hall.

# ➤ Testimonials

*We have contributed to the biodiversity of the Wildbrook site .There was lots of very enthusiastic pond dipping, and in particular the kids had good reactions to seeing the bloodworms (non-biting midge larvae), water beetles and water fleas jetting about under the microscopes. It's good that you've got the native bees nesting somewhere near the orchard too!*

**Local Food First  
Oldham  
Awarded: £14,823  
Funded by Autotrader**



*Thanks GMET once again from the bottom of all of our hearts for your support of our project. It has really transformed the atmosphere of the building, grown community and changed hearts and minds.*

*With warmth and gratitude.*

**The Monastery of St. Francis & Gorton Trust  
Manchester  
Awarded: £40,000  
Funded by GMCA**

# ➤ Testimonials

*Our project is all about improving these streets with new plants, tidying them up, and providing care for a community space.*

*We have regular volunteering sessions where people can come and share a cuppa and a chat, enjoy planting together, and make where we live, work and play better for everyone.*

**Pemberton Community Association**  
**Wigan**  
**Awarded: £4,466**  
**Funded by GMCA**



*Feedback from members of the public walking through the park has been excitement and gratitude for planting fruit and looking forward to the harvests in years to come. One person expressed to me that they never thought it would happen around their particular area, as there is nothing like this around Cheetham Hill.*

**Friends of Cheetham Park**  
**Manchester**  
**Awarded: £11,500**  
**Funded by GMCA**

