

City of Trees: Woodland Futures

“Gorse Covert has been transformed from a wooded dumping area to a much looked after local oasis of trees and thanks for your input.....it is now an area to be visited and enjoyed.” – Barny Beswick, Wythenshawe Waste Warriors

Background

City of Trees aims to turn the future of several areas of woodland in the heart of Wythenshawe around. Originally designed as a garden city in the 1920s, the project looks to reinstate this idea of Wythenshawe through engaging the local community with the green spaces and local history on their doorsteps.



Project

Following the success of the pilot scheme in Gorse Covert, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and by engaging with partners such as local schools, Back on Track (an organisation working with disadvantaged adults), Styal Prison, Wythenshawe History Group and Wythenshawe Waste Warriors, City of Trees is cleaning up, making safer and improving the wildlife of Sandilands Wood, The Brundrit, Ash Wood, Park Wood and Big Wood.

Wythenshawe,
Manchester

KEY BENEFITS



Recreation
& Leisure



Health &
Wellbeing



Economic
Growth &
Investment

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

Through the Woodland Futures project, City of Trees has already led over 60 sessions with community volunteers, other charities and local schools carrying out woodland management. Over 370 volunteers have donated 1395 hours of their time to help the woods of Wythenshawe. The project aims to bring the woodlands back into sustainable management by planting trees and shrubs, clearing and improving footpath routes and entrances, controlling invasive species such as rhododendron, making and installing bird/bat boxes and introducing native wildflowers.

The project has already engaged local people with the history of the area through partnership with the Wythenshawe History group with whom City of Trees ran a Green Heritage Walk through the woods to talk about the history of the woods and the people who lived in and around them.

City of Trees have also partnered with the NHS recovery pathways service, assisting with a session based around green wellbeing to improve people's wellbeing through art, people and places.



Learning

Local groups such as Wythenshawe Waste Warriors, Wythenshawe History Group and Wythenshawe Woods and Waters, as well as the local residents and people already using the woodlands have been an invaluable goldmine of knowledge to direct the project in a manner that is most beneficial to the local area and the people who live there.

Future

Running until 2020, further improvements to the management of the woodlands will take place going forward. Bird boxes will be built by members of Back on Track and will be installed in the woodlands to provide extra habitat for nesting birds. More native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be planted. The project will also look to work more closely with the staff and women of Styal Prison – looking to run a mix of different learning activities with a connection with the woodlands.

For further information:

<http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/news/wythenshawe-woods-historic-heritage-be-revealed>

Growing Manchester

“Supporting groups from across Manchester to set up food growing projects and achieve our shared ambition to live sustainably” Jon Ross – Sow the City Director

Background

The Growing Manchester programme is about supporting community food growing projects to become more sustainable, ensuring that local people with the enthusiasm to grow food can access support to ensure their projects succeed. The programme was established in 2011 to assist community food growing projects and improve access to healthy and affordable food. The programme has grown rapidly in the last 5 years to include 100 groups on the database.



Project

Growing Manchester is supported by Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (a partnership between Manchester City Council and NHS Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group), and the programme is delivered in 2019 by Sow the City, an award winning social enterprise based in Manchester.

Growing Manchester groups represent over 1200 growers, and many more people benefit in the wider community through members sharing produce e.g. amongst family members. The programme supports a diverse range of hard to reach and vulnerable groups experiencing food poverty, mental health, social isolation, drug addiction and homelessness.

City Wide,
Manchester

KEY BENEFITS



Recreation
& Leisure



Health &
Wellbeing



Sustainable
Food

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

Growing Manchester works with community food growing groups across Manchester helping to:

- Assist community food growing groups to be resilient through advice (e.g. site design, community engagement) and encourage peer learning and support between groups (e.g. through networking events)
- Increase access to sustainable, locally grown food. The programme provides horticultural workshops on food growing and associated skills such as composting and beekeeping
- Increase awareness of the effects of food production on climate change
- Improve the physical and mental health and well-being of people involved in the project
- Increase the health and well-being of the wider community
- On average 800 people take part in the programme each year
- 400kg of Carbon Dioxide is saved each year on a medium sized community food project
- Groups save up to 24% on their annual household grocery bills



Learning

- The long running programme has developed a large network of people in the city that have a passion for improving and creating greenspaces and growing their own food
- Community food growing projects can engage with and bring together a diverse range of people. We all have food in common
- As well as providing healthy food, projects can help to tackle mental ill health, social isolation, climate change, and help people on low incomes

Future

The programme aims to expand again in 2020 to support more community groups to grow their own food in the city.

For further information

Contact Sow the City on info@sowthecity.org or call 0161 465 6954

Heaton Park: TreeTop Trek and Nets

“My two daughters age 8 and 11 absolutely loves the Zip Trek they were absolutely thrilled that they had done it and had a wonderful time zipping through the trees”

– User of TreeTop Trek

Background

TreeTop Trek Manchester opened on the 26th of May 2017 after winning a tender to be part of a major plan to kick-start Manchester city green spaces to encourage active enjoyment outdoors. The site is located in Heaton park, North Manchester. Open all year round and accessible for all ages and abilities, the TreeTop Trek provides a unique environment for families to be active outdoors and have fun together through our two high ropes woodland activities: TreeTop Trek and TreeTop Nets.

TreeTop Nets is a truly unique outdoor family attraction and the first of its kind for Manchester, providing a woodland adventure like no other. In bouncy nets, you can explore the treetops through a series of walkways, trampolines, treehouses, slides and ball parks, all suspended high up in trees.



Project

The Tree Top Trek aim was to allow young people to connect with nature through playing in a more natural environment than playing in a park where most of the materials that make up the park are man made. Through the Tree Top Trek, young people can feel their way through the course, and experience adventure by weaving through the tree canopy at a height of up to 15 metres.

Heaton Park, Manchester

KEY BENEFITS



Recreation & Leisure



Health & Wellbeing



Tourism

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

The Tree Top Trek is a aerial adventure where users weave through the tree canopy. Users scramble over 35 obstacles including balance bars, swinging lops and Indiana bridges along with 15 zip wires. The great thing about Tree Top Trek is that it is a high quality outdoor space which encourages people to use the space without damaging trees for the wildlife. The attraction is beneficial to communities who wouldn't usually use green spaces, as it provides a fun activity for all ages while also connecting people to nature, which has knock on benefits to health and well-being.



Learning

Unlike many high ropes attractions, TreeTop Trek is uniquely located at the heart of one of the UK's most vibrant cities, supporting Manchester's investment in its green spaces. Accessible by public transport, TreeTop Manchester offers a true woodland adventure to urban families who otherwise might not experience the outdoors as often. It is beneficial to have an attraction that encourages families to be active outdoors together and to challenge themselves in a way that they cannot do unless they are outside. Getting close to nature has proven to be good for physical and mental well-being. It is a highly rewarding activity with a strong sense of achievement.

Future

The TreeTop Trek team hope to continue to welcome new visitors to the attraction and grow the number of school visits. Over time, there is a possibility of upgrading the challenges on the Trek or to add new elements. This could also include other Tree Top Treks in different parks in Manchester. This would create opportunities for woodland to become used more by the public and also provide management of the woodland area that may have not been there before.

For further information

Visit <https://www.treetoptrek.co.uk/manchester> or email info@treetoptrek.co.uk

or call 01539 447186

Manchester Festival of Nature

“It is about getting people to recognise and appreciate the wildlife we have in and around Manchester. Getting out into wild places (and there are many in and around the city) is a great way to learn about the nature on our doorstep and benefit our health and well-being” – Alan Wright (The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and Northern Merseyside)

Background

2019 marked Manchester's first ever Festival of Nature (MFoN); a month-long celebration of all things wild in Manchester ending with a huge Festival of Nature, set in the beautiful Heaton Park. Bringing together over 20 different partners, MFoN and the associated Manchester Nature Consortium creates a united approach to the conservation of nature in Manchester and offers local residents the opportunity to explore, discover, protect and fall in love with the wildlife and wild places right on their doorstep. Plans are already underway for MFoN 2020 as this incredible celebration continues to evolve and grow.



Heaton Park, Manchester

KEY BENEFITS



Health & Wellbeing



Environmental Education



Biodiversity



Tourism

Project

The aim of Manchester Festival of Nature was to create a united approach to the conservation of nature and to inspire the people of Manchester to fight to save the cities wildlife.

The types of activities that people got involved in through #MFoN are:

- Bat outing
- Butterfly and bird watching
- Surveys
- Volunteering opportunities
- The Lost Words Production

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

Over 7,000 people joined Manchester Festival of Nature on the day with the help of more than 120 officers and volunteers which included:

The first #MFoN was a partnership between The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, City of Trees, the National Trust, Manchester City Council, Manchester Metropolitan University, The Conservation Volunteers, Action for Conservation, RHS Bridgewater, Chester Zoo, Moors for the Future Partnership, Manchester Museum, the University of Manchester, Friends of the Earth, The Carbon Landscape, Myplace, The Tree Station, Friends of Chat Moss, British Cycling, Heaton Park Beekeepers, Treetop Trek and the Canal and River Trust. It was supported by Nectar Creative, the Casey Companies, VokkerStevin and Niche Event Hire.

All these partners made sure there were plenty of interesting activities in the main Market of Nature. There were performances by author and musician Margit van der Zwan, environmental discussions involving young people and performances based on the children's book, the Lost Words. The MFoN team were thrilled with how the event went and can't wait for Manchester Festival of Nature to become a summer highlight for Manchester's residents for many years to come.



Learning

The residents of Manchester that took part the activities during the month long event or that of the main festival on the 29th of June, discovered the rich array of wildlife living right alongside them. The festival engaged people, both young and old, in the fight to save our wildlife, resulting in more people being educated about wildlife in the city.

Future

The hope is that the Manchester's Festival of Nature (MFoN) can become a yearly event that people can look forward to annually. The aim is to start to involve other charities and organizations to spread the word of nature further afield and create an even bigger turnout in next years festival.

For further information

See the website at <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/events/manchester-festival-of-nature>

or email Alan Wright on awright@lancswt.org.uk or visit the Twitter page @MancNature



Wythenshawe Park and Hall: 10-year Regeneration Plan

“Wythenshawe Park is such a beautiful place that holds many fond memories of childhood and people have grown up attending the park with family throughout. It would be great to see it being used more and more activities or events happening that bring the community together.” Wythenshawe Park User

Background

Wythenshawe Hall was originally the Tatton family's home. But in 1830, a number of fields around the Hall were opened out to create an area of parkland. The Hall and parkland were then bought in 1926 by Lord and Lady Simon during the time when Manchester City Council were developing Wythenshawe as 'The Garden City'.

Now Manchester City Council recognises Wythenshawe Park and Hall as a major historic and cultural asset, both in providing accessible green space and activities for communities, and in its potential to become a significant visitor attraction which would support the economic growth and employment opportunities in Wythenshawe and South Manchester. To support this process, a 10-year strategic plan for the park and hall has been developed in partnership with stakeholders, park users and the wider community.



Project

The Manchester Park Strategy recognises the value and importance of its parks to communities. One of the challenges facing parks is that they are not a statutory service. The approach to the development of a ten year plan was to create a high quality park for the benefit of its community and visitors. Exploring opportunities for closing the gap between income and expenditure and ensuring the park's long-term sustainability, the plan is based around five key themes: Heritage, Community & People Sports, Health & Wellbeing, Horticulture, Wildlife & Greenspace and Pleasure & Fun.

Wythenshawe, Manchester

BENEFITS



**Recreation
& Leisure**



**Health &
Wellbeing**



**Economic
Growth &
Investment**

COST



TIMESCALE



Outcomes

The ten year strategy has resulted in a shared vision for the park which will enable stakeholders, partners, park users and the community to work together to deliver positive change. It will act as a route forward and support the next stages of the project including further feasibility work and applications for funding. The implementation of the ten year plan should ensure that Wythenshawe Park and Hall is:

- A park its community can be proud of;
- A vibrant, cohesive destination with a clear purpose and identity;
- A positive resource for Wythenshawe – inclusive use for local and distance visitors alike – promoting South Manchester and catalysing growth;
- Well used and its assets meet their potential;
- Income generating with re-investment for continued improvement and sustainability.



Learning

Key to the success of the future of Wythenshawe Park and Hall will be the user groups that make the park such a vibrant place. A number of these groups and people have become disengaged, and one of the challenges of the project has been bringing them back together and helping them to understand the realities and frustrations of delivering significant change; the park's user groups are now leading a funding application to support the development and implementation of a new governance structure for the park, which will support the delivery of the ten year plan in partnership with Manchester City Council.

Future

Moving forward with the delivery of the ten year plan will include:

- Further feasibility and business planning
- Engagement with the community's specifically hard to reach groups
- Improved coordination of park's user groups and volunteers
- Strategic funding applications

For further information

Email Kylie Ward on k.ward@Manchester.gov.uk