

# Manchester Tree Action Plan 2016-20 - Progress Update January 2021

## Objective 1 – Managing Sustainably

	Headline Action	Potential Projects/Activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales	Progress
1	<b>Map and monitor changes in the amount and distribution of trees across the city</b>	Refine datasets of tree and woodland cover	Universities, CoT, GM partners, FC	2017-20	CoT were commissioned to identify tree planting opportunities within wards. This work will be refined using development layers to identify possible locations for tree planting in conjunction with Eco System Services valuation.
2	<b>Develop a fuller understanding of the city’s tree resource</b>	Deliver annual highway tree inspection programme	MCC	2016-20	New MCC Tree Management System in operation. MCC Arboriculture team are now assessing each ward for suitability for tree planting opportunities using the new system.
		Investigate online mapping tool of planned tree works in the City	MCC, CoT, FC, Universities	2016-20	Ongoing. Possible refinement of new Beacon Trees mapping work.
		Encourage network of data gathering and information sharing, e.g. University access to canopy data for research	Universities, CoT	2017-20	MCC is an active partner of the CoT GM Forest partnership. Data sharing and consistent dataset appraisal has been instrumental in developing the new GM tree and woodland strategy “All our Trees”.
		Investigate opportunities for valuing Manchester tree stock, including the development of an ecosystem services valuation of treescape			New MMT Commission will look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution of the city's treescape</li> <li>• Managing the city’s treescape</li> <li>• Opportunity mapping</li> </ul>

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3	<b>Ensure continued and sustainable management of all trees and woodland, and best practice approaches employed</b>	<p>Develop, agree, and embed principles of tree management in Manchester.</p> <p>Develop tree and woodland management plans for MCC parks and greenspaces, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No waste timber going to landfill</li> <li>• Consideration of sustainable uses of woodland by-products</li> </ul> <p>Develop tree-focussed opportunity mapping for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and open spaces</li> <li>• City centre</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods</li> </ul> <p>Encourage the development of tree and woodland management plans by all landowners and managers of trees in Manchester</p> <p>Develop tree management good practice case studies as part of Manchester G&amp;BI Group</p>	<p>MCC</p> <p>MCC, CoT, GMEU, CGs</p> <p>MCC CoT</p> <p>RHPs, Universities, Network Rail, other landowners</p> <p>Manchester G&amp;BI Group</p>	<p>2017-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p>	<p>Tree officers are using the document daily, and this approach has been picked up by other tree officers across GM, and housing providers.</p> <p>Ongoing - Park Strategy approved. Tree-related best practice being embedded in Park Management Plans.</p> <p>Appointment of new River Valley and Urban Countryside lead will support natural environment initiatives in parks</p> <p>5 new SBI management plans produced</p> <p>Wythenshawe Park Masterplan being developed.</p> <p>New neighbourhood appraisals for tree planting being delivered by Arboriculture team. Systematic needs-based assessment looking at trees on verges in areas of low street tree cover.</p> <p>RHPs developing independent tree management policies and plans</p> <p>Tree-related case studies produced including NT Green Academies, Grow Green, West Gorton Community Park</p>



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6	<b>Develop partnership projects that sensitively improve the functionality of the treescape</b>	<p>Develop appropriate projects to deliver the City of Trees vision in Manchester including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Schools</li> <li>• Southern Cemetery Beacon Trees project</li> <li>• Community Orchard planting and management</li> <li>• Beacon trees Mapping Project</li> </ul> <p>Managing Manchester Trees</p> <p>Woodland Futures Project</p>	<p>LWT, MBP, MVP, GW</p> <p>MCC</p> <p>CoT, OP</p> <p>TEP, MCC, CoT, FoTE</p> <p>TEP, MCC, CoT</p> <p>CoT, MCC</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2019-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2020-21</p> <p>2020 – 21</p> <p>2020 -21</p>	<p>Forest Schools mapping work being undertaken</p> <p>Improve Southern Cemetery as an Urban Arboretum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dec 2019; 26 Mature trees planted.</li> <li>• Dec 2020 further 30 tree locations identified.</li> </ul> <p>Outline plan to engage communities with orchard planting and management being developed with the orchard project and MCC</p> <p>Develop pilot scheme to collate and assess suggestions for tree planting in neighbourhoods.</p> <p>New MCC Commission looking at tree management and mapping</p> <p>Develop sustainable management improvements in three Wythenshawe Woodlands</p>

## Objective 2 – Planting Appropriately

	Headline Action	Potential Projects/Activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales	Progress
1	<b>Ensure continued healthy and diverse tree canopy cover across the city</b>	<p>Sustain tree and woodland canopy cover of 20% average to 2025</p> <p>Deliver suitable and sustainable tree planting projects which support biodiversity, in line with the G&amp;BI Strategy, tree audit baseline, park strategy and neighbourhood place plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-for-one tree replacement for highways trees</li> <li>• Delivery of tree replacement policies across city</li> <li>• 150 Highways trees planted annually (combination of new and replacement)</li> <li>• 1000 hedgerow trees planted annually</li> <li>• 1500 trees planted annually</li> </ul> <p>Develop Beacon/Heritage Trees Mapping project</p>	MCC, RVIs, RPs, CoT, Woodland Trust, LWT, TfGM	2016-25	<p>2020/21 - Start of climate-resilient tree planting programme.</p> <p>2019/20 - 10617 trees planted including 7612 Hedge trees</p> <p>2018/19 - 2994 trees planted including 3 orchards and 582 hedge trees</p> <p>2017/18 - 4933 trees planted including 4 orchards and 1585 hedge trees</p> <p>2016/17 - 2961 trees planted, including 6 orchards and 832 hedge trees</p>
2	<b>Continued planting of community orchards in suitable locations</b>	<p>Planting of at least 4 new community orchards annually</p> <p>Mapping of community orchard locations</p> <p>Encourage cropping, harvesting, distribution and usage of food provided</p>	<p>RFW, CoT, RPs, MCC, OP, CGs</p> <p>MCC, OP, CoT</p> <p>OP, CoT, RFW, CGs</p>	<p>2017-20</p> <p>2017-20</p> <p>2016-20</p>	<p>48 orchards planted cumulatively</p> <p>Ongoing Collaboration with OP New Project bid to build capacity and training around orchard planting and Management</p>

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3	<b>Investigate mechanisms for funding new tree planting, management, and maintenance</b>	<p>Support the delivery of the City of Trees Vision for Greater Manchester by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active involvement in the GM Forest Partnership (GMFP)</li> <li>Working collaboratively to develop sustainable tree planting and management project ideas through, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCC Parks and greenspaces opportunity mapping programme and tree sponsorship opportunities</li> <li>Investigating commercial opportunities for trees and woodlands</li> <li>Neighbourhood tree planting opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MCC, Manchester G&BI Group, CGs	2016-20	<p>Virtual GMFP meetings held in 2020– GM Tree and Woodland Strategy developed and signed off with GMCA</p> <p>MCC part of successful GM-wide bid to Defra to encourage woodland planting. MCC working with parks team and Arboriculture team to identify suitable locations.</p> <p>MMT work will look to investigate funding opportunities for woodland management in Manchester</p> <p>Arboriculture team developing neighbourhood opportunity maps. Beacon trees mapping tool being developed.</p>
4	<b>Develop a climate resilient approach to tree planting</b>	<p>Utilise a mixture of native and non-native planting projects to ensure resilience against pests and diseases</p> <p>Reduce risk of tree pests and disease by ensuring all new trees planted are from registered and approved sources</p> <p>Promote SuDS friendly demonstrators e.g. GrowGreen, West Gorton</p>	<p>MCC, Manchester G&amp;BI Group, CoT, CGs</p> <p>MCC, CoT</p> <p>CoT, MCC, RPs</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p>	<p>Ongoing. Climate Resilient Species list being developed. Ash Dieback Action Plan being considered as part of MMT project.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>West Gorton Community Park Opened in July 2020</p> <p>Our Rivers Our City looking to embed climate- and flood-resilience into River Valley Action Plans</p>

### Objective 3 – Protecting Strongly

	Headline Action	Potential Projects/Activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales	Progress
1	<b>Investigate effective tree replacement and compensation measures</b>	Develop and agree appropriate compensation measure for tree loss and replacement in Manchester	MCC, CoT	Developed 2018-19, Use is ongoing	Ongoing. Cavat tree value assessment being used by MCC planners alongside the Manchester Residential Quality Guide which includes minimum 2:1 tree replacement
2	<b>Ensure trees of high value are designated as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)</b>	Continue to designate new TPOs as appropriate	MCC	2016-21	Ongoing
		Enforce as appropriate against unauthorised works to trees protected by tree preservation orders or within conservation areas	MCC	2016-21	Ongoing
		Promotion of the Tree Preservation Order process via neighbourhood teams	MCC, CoT, Partners	2016-21	Ongoing
3	<b>Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity</b>	Increase the number of sites of biological importance (SBIs) in active conservation management by 1-4% annually, working with landowners and land managers  Provide statistical report to Defra annually	MCC, GMEU  MCC	2016-21  Annual	2020/21: 62% of SBIs in active conservation management  2019/20: 62% of SBIs in active conservation management. Loss of Barlow Eye SBI.  2018/19: 63% of SBIs in active conservation management. Rosehill Wood Management Plan in place  2017/18: 61% of SBIs in active conservation management. Gibb Wood work undertaken  2016/17: 58% of SBIs in active conservation management. Active work with UoM volunteers on Painswick Park Meadow and Castle Hill SBIs

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4	<b>Use planning conditions to ensure high standards of tree works, protection and management</b>	<p>Tree officers to provide guidance and advice through the planning process to ensure compliance of tree works against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BS 5837 (the British Standard for Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction)</li> <li>• BS 3998 (the British Standard for Tree Work)</li> </ul>	MCC, Developers	2016-21	Ongoing through work of tree officers



## Objective 4 – Involving Creatively

	Headline Action	Potential Projects/Activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales	Progress
1	<b>Further develop research into the benefits of trees</b>	Ongoing programme of collaborative GI research including trees, to measure the impact of GI across the range of social, economic and environmental benefits set out in the Strategy.	Universities, MCC, Manchester G&BI Group, MCCA	2019-22	Ongoing. Ignition Project has developed an evidence base assessing over 1000 sources of information including 193 pieces of focussed research around the benefits of street trees. Both Ignition and the Grow Green projects have real life living lab assessments underway about the effectiveness of street trees in the urban environment in terms of helping combat climate change.
		Protecting Playgrounds	Groundwork, University of Lancaster	2016-20	Project will look at the best tree species for hedges that can possibly help negate the effects of air pollution. Tredges installed. Awaiting results, delayed due to furloughed staff.
		Update GI evidence base with tree and woodland related research	CoT, MCC, GM partners, Universities	2020	i-Trees Eco assessment of tree cover across GM; value of Manchester tree stock is c.£3m per annum
		All Our Trees – Manchester Assessment	CoT, MCC	2020/21	Initial overview of all 'plantable' opportunities across the MCC estate for maximising a range of ecosystem services. To

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		Managing Manchester Trees	MCC, TEP, CoT	2020/21	be refined using housing and development layers.  Evolution, management and opportunity mapping work
2	<b>Encourage and record the delivery of community-led and - focussed tree projects and food growing</b>	Projects to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Food Wythenshawe</li> <li>• Wythenshawe Woodlands</li> <li>• Green Trail</li> <li>• Urban Orchard Project</li> </ul>	RFW, CGs  CoT, CGs  Ramblers, CGs  MCC, The Orchard Project	2016-20  2018-21  2016-20  2020	Ongoing – new funding secured  A case study on woodland futures has been developed  Green Trail launched July 2019, refined in early 2020.  Project bid in development
3	<b>Raise awareness of the benefits of trees</b>	Establish social media platforms for ongoing promotion of tree-related information  Ward councillors and local communities to include tree activity in ward plans as appropriate	Ward councillors, Manchester G&BI Group, CGs, MCC, OP, MCCA  MCC neighbourhood teams, ward councillors, Community groups  As above	2016-20  April 2019  2019-21	CoT, Woodland Trust Websites  Nature of Hulme adopted and integrated into ward plan  Northern Quarter Nature and Nature of Ardwick plans being developed as part of Climate Action Plans

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4	<b>Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity</b>	<p>Support for and delivery of tree-related activity, training and capacity building. Related volunteer opportunities to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Friends of” group events and activities</li> <li>• Development of CoT Citizen Forester Volunteer Scheme</li> <li>• River Valley Initiative volunteer and engagement opportunities</li> </ul> <p>UoM Tree Trails – A ten-year project creating world-class facilities for staff, students and visitors to enjoy as part of the university’s campus masterplan.</p>	<p>Manchester G&amp;BI Group, Community Groups, MCC, OP, MCCA</p> <p>UoM</p>	<p>2016-21</p> <p>2017 - 2027</p>	<p>My Wild City Project and Virtual MfON . Formal citizen engagement on hold due to Covid.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Three interactive trails launched that highlight 50 of the 1,500 trees across Oxford Road Campus, North Campus and Whitworth Park. Additional tree planting expected as part of masterplan</p>
5	<b>Showcase local best practice and seek recognition for delivered projects</b>	<p>Apply for national awards wherever appropriate e.g. Britain in Bloom RHS Awards for community greening projects</p> <p>Encourage nomination of Champion trees as part of notable and ancient trees in Britain and Ireland register</p>	<p>MCC</p> <p>MCC</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p>	<p>2019: 152 In Bloom Awards 2018: 154 In Bloom Awards 2017: 166 In Bloom Awards</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
6	<b>Raise the profile of Manchester as an attractive place to live, work and visit with access to high quality GI within and beyond Manchester</b>	<p>Use of the city’s trees and woodlands to attract visitors and create new recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Promote the city’s existing parks and green spaces to maximise their usage by local communities, workers and visitors</p>	<p>Manchester G&amp;BI Group, MCC, MCCA, MM, UoM</p> <p>MCC, Manchester G&amp;BI Group, CGs</p>	<p>2016-21</p> <p>2016-20</p>	<p>Importance of parks and woodlands during Covid has been recognised globally.</p> <p>MCC represented at the EU Cities and Regions Conference, speaking in relation to urban forests and biodiversity, and various other international</p>

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					virtual platforms including Grow Green network, Cities with Nature, Clever Cities.

## Abbreviations

City of Trees	CoT
Community groups	CGs
Environment Agency	EA
Forestry Commission	FC
Friends of the Earth	FoTE
Greater Manchester	GM
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	GMEU
Green & Blue Infrastructure	G&BI
Groundwork	GW
The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside	LWT
Manchester – Green and Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder Group	MCR GI Group
Manchester Climate Change Agency	MCCA
Manchester City Council	MCC
Manchester Garden City	MGC
Manchester Metropolitan University	MMU
Manchester Museum	MM
Natural England	NE
The Orchard Project	OP
Real Food Wythenshawe	RFW
Registered Providers (Formerly Registered Housing Providers)	RP
River Valley Initiatives:	RVI
• Irk Valley Project	
• Medlock Valley Project	
• Moston Brook Partnership	
• Mersey Valley Partnership	
Transport for Greater Manchester	TfGM

Tree and Design Action Group  
University of Manchester  
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TDAG  
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WT