

## OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND FUNCTION OF GI

Headline actions	Existing practical GI commitments	Key project updates	Lead MCC teams	Key partners	Date 2023/4
<p><b>1</b> River valleys and canals: we will continue to invest in the river valleys and canals to provide attractive settings for communities, leisure and recreation, health, and biodiversity.</p>	<p>There is an active commitment to managing land across the city's three main river valleys: the Irk, Medlock and Mersey. The <b>Our Rivers Our City</b> strategy adds an additional focus to priorities across these three catchments.</p>	<p>BRIL project – weir removal feasibility studies delivered. Volunteer activity delivered around Harpurhey Ponds, Lower Crumpsall Recreation Ground and Hendham Vale.</p> <p>New Medlock Valley Nature partnership established.</p> <p>The GM Natural Course project concluded.</p>	<p>Parks</p>	<p>Catchment partnerships Environment Agency The Natural Course Canal and River Trust</p>	<p>May 2023</p> <p>February 2024</p>
<p><b>2</b> Parks: we will enhance existing parks to maximise their potential in making Manchester a world-class city.</p>	<p>There is significant ongoing investment across the city's extensive 160-site portfolio of parks and green spaces, plus the new Park Investment Programme.</p> <p>Consideration of opportunities for appropriate GI (new and retrofit) during negotiations on all relevant planning applications.</p>	<p>£4.1mill invested across Parks estates.</p> <p>New data gathering at 6 sites has demonstrated 7.2 mill visits/year to these sites alone.</p> <p>28 new park plans produced, a further 22 in preparation.</p> <p>Parks Climate Action Plan launched 1/4/23</p>	<p>Parks</p>	<p>Charities Community groups</p>	<p>2023/24</p>

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<p><b>3</b> Trees and woodlands: we will provide effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting.</p>	<p>The city has a Tree and Woodland Action Plan with an aim to improve management and sustainably enhance tree canopy cover over time.</p>	<p>A new 10 year Tree and Woodland Action Plan was developed and is pending endorsement by the Council's Executive Committee.</p> <p>Over 5000 new trees were planted including 9 new community orchards and over 3500 hedge trees.</p>	<p>Arbor Parks</p>	<p>City of Trees Woodland Trust Wildlife Trust Groundwork Trust The Orchard Project</p>	<p>March 2024</p>
<p><b>4</b> Gardens: we will protect, promote, and enhance private gardens to support climate resilience.</p>	<p>The city has extensive garden coverage. The total area of domestic garden green space in Manchester is 12km<sup>2</sup> (My Back Yard: MMU 2018).</p>	<p>The Wildlife Trust continue to promote the value of garden space for wildlife, and MCC continues to work with communities through the RHS In Bloom programme and with Hubbub through the In Our Nature Project</p>	<p>N/hood teams</p>	<p>RHPs RHS Wildlife trusts Groundwork Trust Hubbub</p>	<p>2023/4</p>
<p><b>5</b> Other land: we will improve existing and introduce new GI/NBS within large estates and land holdings, e.g. registered housing providers, cemeteries, hospitals, universities, car parks.</p>	<p>Ongoing GI commitments through existing land management contracts of major landowners, e.g. housing providers.</p>	<p>Housing Providers continue to improve open space management across their estates, supported by their own GI networking platform.</p>	<p>Planning Housing Cemeteries</p>	<p>RHPs Southways Lead universities National Trust</p>	<p>2023/24</p>

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<p><b>6</b> We will develop healthy and climate resilient communities by delivering focused neighbourhood greening projects.</p>	<p>Numerous growing projects are undertaken across the city, with hubs in Hulme, Wythenshawe, and Heaton Park. There are also 41 allotment sites across the city.</p>	<p>The In Our Nature project is working to deliver community climate change projects across the city over the next two years.</p> <p>Round 4 of GM Environment Fund closed in Nov 23. Across the four rounds, 22 Manchester community projects were successful. In total this equates to nearly £1million of funding committed to Manchester projects.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood teams Parks</p>	<p>MCCA Hubbub Amity Sow the City Blossom</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Nov 2023</p>
<p><b>7</b> We will protect and enhance the city's key ecological assets, including Sites of Biological Importance (SBI). We will increase the number of SBI in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity. Local Nature Reserves: Increase the coverage of LNRs in line with national guidance to one hectare of LNR per 1,000 residents.</p>	<p>Manchester has 37 SBIs, with over 60% in active conservation management. Manchester has eight LNRs covering 392 hectares.</p>	<p>67.6% of SBIs are in Manchester are in active conservation management.</p> <p>In 2023 the Rochdale Canal was registered by CRT as being in active conservation management.</p>	<p>Parks EPI</p>	<p>GMEU Wildlife Trusts City of Trees CRT</p>	<p>2023/24</p>

## OBJECTIVE 2: USE APPROPRIATE GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE AS A KEY COMPONENT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO HELP CREATE SUCCESSFUL NEIGHBOURHOODS AND SUPPORT THE CITY'S GROWTH

Headline actions	Existing practical GI commitments	Key project updates	Lead MCC teams	Key partners	Date
1 Embed G&BI into key plans and policies.	There is a commitment to: Assisting preparing Places for Everyone (PfE) (GM Joint Development Plan)- Review all related Local Plan Policies Develop a new Tree and Woodland Action Plan in 2023.	PfE has been through Examination in Public successfully. The plan has been recommended for approval in March 2024.	EPI	Developers	March 2024
		Work has begun on a new Local Plan for Manchester. Policies will be drafted from the evidence base collected from projects such as OROC, GMT and UGF and BNG studies.			Ongoing
		Draft Tree and Woodland Action Plan set to be approved at Executive Committee in March 2024.			March 2024
2 Embed GI into citywide strategic regeneration and infrastructure schemes.	Key demonstrators will include Victoria North, and Mayfield.	Mayfield Park received four awards.  Victoria North progressing.	Planning Strategic Development	Developers	

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<b>3</b> Embed GI in developments of any scale across the city.	Consideration of opportunities for appropriate GI (new and retrofit) during negotiations on all relevant planning applications	Land at Bennett Street, incorporates linear park within residential scheme.  Victoria North will include green roofs and other GI.	Planning Strategic Development	RHPs Private landowners	Ongoing
<b>4</b> Embed GI into city centre development and planning initiatives.	Major GI/NBS improvements through projects listed.	Castlefield Viaduct 2 year pilot looking to make permanent.	Planning Strategic Development	Developers National Trust	Ongoing

## OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Headline actions	Existing practical GI commitments	Key project updates	Lead MCC teams	Key partners	Date
<p><b>1</b> Improving green routes: greening transport routes (e.g. tramlines, footpaths, cycle routes, roads, rail corridors including disused) to encourage walking and cycling, reduce flood risk and provide corridors for wildlife.</p>	<p>Ongoing commitments to manage sustainable transport corridors, such as Oxford Road Corridor, Chorlton Cycleway.</p>	<p>Manchester Active Travel Strategy was approved by Executive in February 2023.</p>	<p>Highways Parks EPI</p>	<p>TfGM Wildlife trusts Sustrans CoT Rambler's Association</p>	<p>Feb 2023</p>
	<p>Preparation of Manchester Active Travel Strategy</p>	<p>Continued work and awareness raising events to improve cycling and walking routes around the city to access green spaces.</p>			<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>Over £48 million committed to Bee Network Travel route improvements in Manchester, including Chorlton Cycleway, Northern Quarter Cycleway, Northern &amp; Eastern Gateway Connectivity, radial routes and cycle hire.</p>			<p>2023/24</p>
<p><b>2</b> Improving blue routes: river valleys and canals; enhance river valleys and canal tow paths to improve accessibility and use as active travel routes and wildlife corridors.</p>	<p>There is an active commitment to managing and across the city's three main river valleys, the Irk, Medlock and Mersey, which includes improvements to access where appropriate.</p>	<p>The new Medlock Valley Nature Partnership is developing proposals for a Medlock Valley Way walking route.</p>	<p>Highways Parks EPI</p>	<p>Groundwork River Trust Canal and River Trust TfGM</p>	<p>2023/24</p>
	<p>The Canal and River Trust is actively trying to improve Ashton and Rochdale Canal towpaths and waterways.</p>	<p>The Council began works to improve signage, surfacing and access/egress on the Rochdale Canal in partnership with the Canal and River Trust.</p>			

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<p><b>3</b> Cross-boundary working to improve access and connectivity.</p>	<p>Manchester is committed to cross-boundary partnership working and is a key partner of both GMCA and TfGM. Key initiatives will include the integration of Manchester City Council projects into the wider Bee Network, and the integration of the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy into the new Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Network.</p>	<p>Natural Course Project continues to assess ecosystem services and functionality across the wider catchment.</p>	<p>Highways Parks EPI</p>	<p>Natural England GMCA Wildlife trusts Ramblers TfGM GMEU MCRactive</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>Work with Highways England on possible BNG opportunities for Irk Valley sites. Including Boardman Brook and Blackley Forest, both in Hr Blackley.</p>			<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>As part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Natural England are supporting development work in the Medlock Valley as well as the Mersey Valley as part of a new Lost Wetlands project in the Bollin Valley and parts of South Manchester.</p>			<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>The council continue work supporting the Catchment Partnerships of both the Irwell and Upper Mersey, along with the new Medlock Valley Nature Partnership and Bringing the River Irk to Life project.</p>			

## OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASED G&BI UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Headline actions	Existing practical GI commitments	Key project updates	Lead MCC teams	Key partners	Date
1 Monitor existing G&BI within the city.	There is some autonomous monitoring of G&BI within the city through parks, tree management systems etc and independently, i.e. through the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and universities. Partners are encouraged to capture, share, and monitor GI-related activity.	<p>A new commission around biodiversity net gain and urban green factor was produced. The Natural England urban habitats data layer was used as a foundation for the study which will inform decision making.</p> <p>The Growing Manchester's Trees canopy study, City Roots study and infographics have been published on the MCC website. It is the foundation for the development of a new tree and woodland action plan.</p>	Planning	The Environment partnership The Wildlife Trusts Groundwork Trust Natural England City of Trees	<p>Feb 2024</p> <p>March 2024</p>
2 Develop research into the benefits of G&BI to provide the basis for new policy, projects, programmes, and investment mechanisms.	<p>Key supporting evidence has been commissioned and projects developed, including:</p> <p>Our Rivers, Our City My Wild City consultations Managing Manchester's Trees My Backyard Garden Survey GHIA (importance of GI to an ageing population) opportunities in GI. Grow Green Online resource platform Protecting Playgrounds Study Manchester Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>A new Open Space Study for the City has been completed.</p> <p>A new commission around Biodiversity Net Gain has been completed.</p>	Planning	<p>WSP Consultants</p> <p>TEP The Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>2023</p> <p>Feb 2024</p>



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<p><b>3</b> Raise awareness of the benefits of G&amp;BI through public engagement and involvement, promotion, communication, education, and training.</p>	<p>Manchester has an ongoing commitment to engage and raise awareness of the importance and value G&amp;BI brings to the city through numerous campaigns and projects.</p>	<p>Approximately 7.2 million people visited Manchester parks in 2023, an increase of 18% on pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Teams have supported the delivery of an additional 32 local projects and initiatives focused on Nature &amp; Biodiversity across the city.</p> <p>Manchester Festival of Nature had 4000 attending, with 19 partner organisations involved through the Manchester Nature Consortium. The event had 34,000 impressions via X 9 (formerly Twitter) Instagram and Facebook.</p> <p>1,812 events and activities have been delivered in Parks with an estimated 600,000 attendees.</p>	<p>Comms, supported by Planning, parks, n/hoods, policy and partnerships</p>	<p>Wildlife Trust MCCA Hubbub City of Trees RHS Groundwork National Trust Rivers Trust Community groups MNC</p>	<p>2023/24</p> <p>June 2023</p>

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<p>4 Showcase local best practice and seek recognition for delivered projects.</p>	<p>MGO for Knowledge Exchange Continued development of a portfolio of GI-related case studies (70 at present).</p>	<p>Manchester City Council was a highly commended finalist in the Climate Action 2030 category of the CIEEM awards.</p>	<p>N/Hoods Planning</p>	<p>CIEEM TEP RHS GrowGreen Studio Egret West Bura Happold Environment Agency</p>	<p>May 2023</p>
		<p>Mayfield park won the CIEEM innovation category and was a finalist in five categories, winning both the Excellence in Landscape Design and Excellence in Place Regeneration professional categories at the Landscape Institute Awards.</p>			<p>Nov 2023</p>
		<p>Manchester received 110 RHS Britain in Bloom awards in 2023. Manchester also won the title Best Large City in the North West.</p>			<p>Nov 2023</p>