

Trees play a key role in defining the character and attractiveness of Manchester’s neighbourhoods contributing to biodiversity, climatic, air quality and many other benefits. We want to make sure that we cover a range of actions to enable the City’s trees to be cared for not just by the Council but by all stakeholders, including interested residents and partner organisations.

It’s important that everyone in the City has the chance to influence the Tree and Woodland Action Plan. Therefore a consultation was open between 10/11/2023 and 07/01/2024 to collect the opinions of residents. A total of 549 were recorded. A summary of the results can be seen below.

Section 1: Demography

To highlight how representative the findings are from the consultation, the demographics of survey respondents can be seen summarised below in comparison to the city-wide 2021 Census results.

| Age | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| 15-19 | 2 | 0.4% | 7.7% |
| 20-24 | 14 | 2.6% | 11.2% |
| 25-29 | 32 | 5.8% | 9.5% |
| 30-34 | 50 | 9.1% | 8.7% |
| 35-39 | 47 | 8.6% | 7.6% |
| 40-44 | 53 | 9.7% | 6.5% |
| 45-49 | 55 | 10.0% | 5.6% |
| 50-54 | 65 | 11.8% | 5.5% |
| 55-59 | 64 | 11.7% | 4.8% |
| 60-64 | 50 | 9.1% | 3.9% |
| 65-69 | 47 | 8.6% | 3.0% |
| 70+ | 62 | 11.3% | 6.50% |

| Sex | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| Female | 325 | 59.2% | 50.30% |
| Male | 185 | 33.7% | 49.70% |
| Prefer not to say/ Skipped | 39 | 7.1% | - |

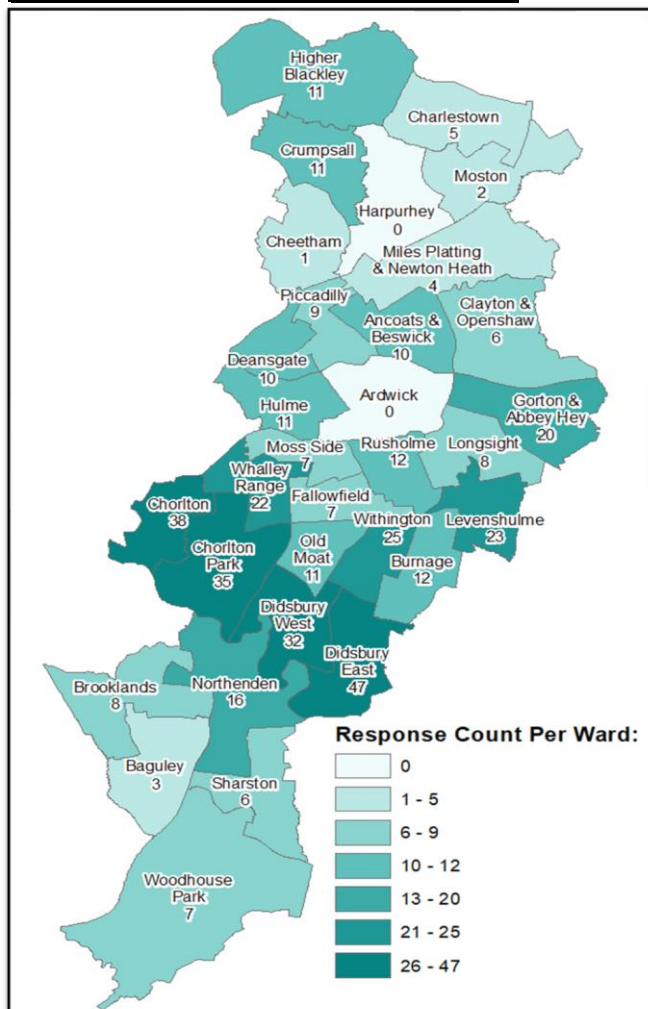
| Do you identify with the sex you were assigned at birth? | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| Yes | 506 | 92.2% | 91.7% |
| No | 2 | 0.4% | 1.0% |
| Prefer not to say/ Skipped | 41 | 7.5% | 7.3% |

| Ethnicity | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| Asian | 10 | 1.8% | 20.9% |
| Black | 3 | 0.5% | 11.9% |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 21 | 3.8% | 5.3% |
| White | 462 | 84.2% | 56.8% |
| Another Ethnic Group | 4 | 0.7% | 5.1% |
| Prefer not to say/ Skipped | 49 | 8.9% | - |

| Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| Yes | 78 | 14.2% | 17.5% |
| No | 460 | 83.8% | 82.5% |
| Skipped | 11 | 2.0% | - |

| Orientation | Respondents | | CENSUS 2021 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | Count | % | % |
| Heterosexual or straight | 414 | 75.4% | 84.60% |
| LGBTQ+ | 47 | 8.6% | 6.70% |
| Prefer not to say/ Skipped | 88 | 16.0% | 8.70% |

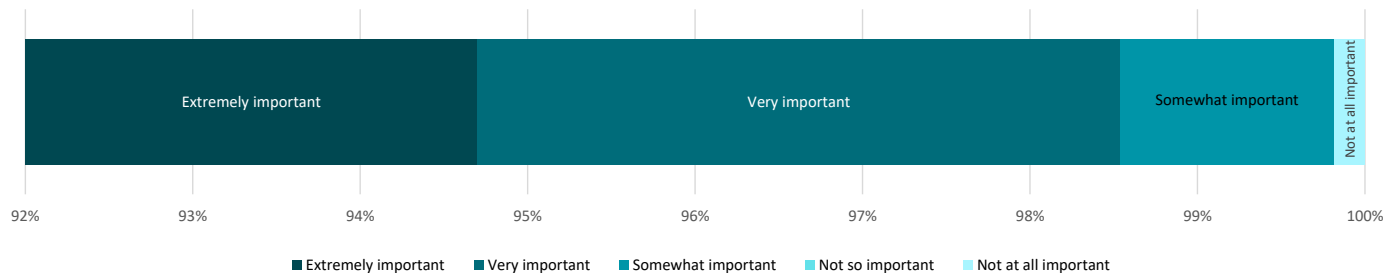
| Residence | Respondents | |
|---|-------------|------------|
| | Count | % |
| Manchester (ward breakdown in map) | 419 | 76% |
| Bolton | 2 | 0% |
| Bury | 24 | 4% |
| Rochdale | 13 | 2% |
| Salford | 8 | 1% |
| Oldham | 2 | 0% |
| Tameside | 12 | 2% |
| Trafford | 21 | 4% |
| Stockport | 25 | 5% |
| North West (Excl GM) | 6 | 1% |
| Outside North West | 1 | 0% |
| Partial PC | 16 | 3% |
| Skipped | 0 | 0% |



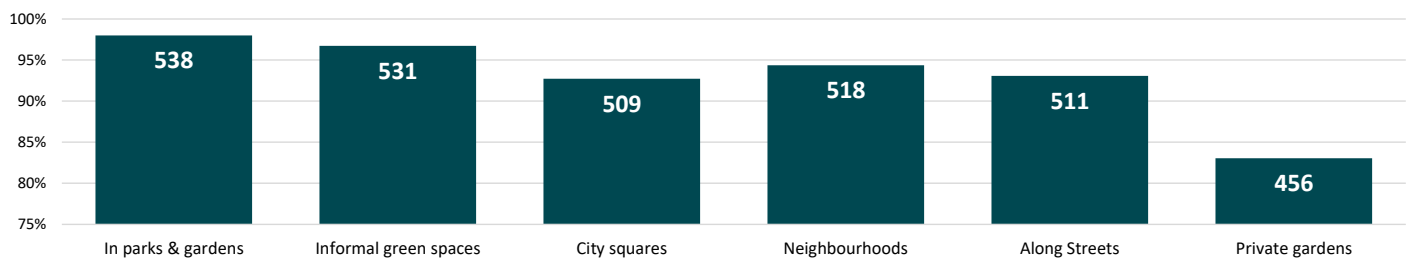
Section 2: Introduction

| Are you completing this survey on behalf of: | Count | % |
|---|-------|-----|
| An individual who lives and/or works in Manchester: | 492 | 90% |
| An individual who travels Manchester for leisure: | 16 | 3% |
| An establishment/organisation/company | 41 | 7% |

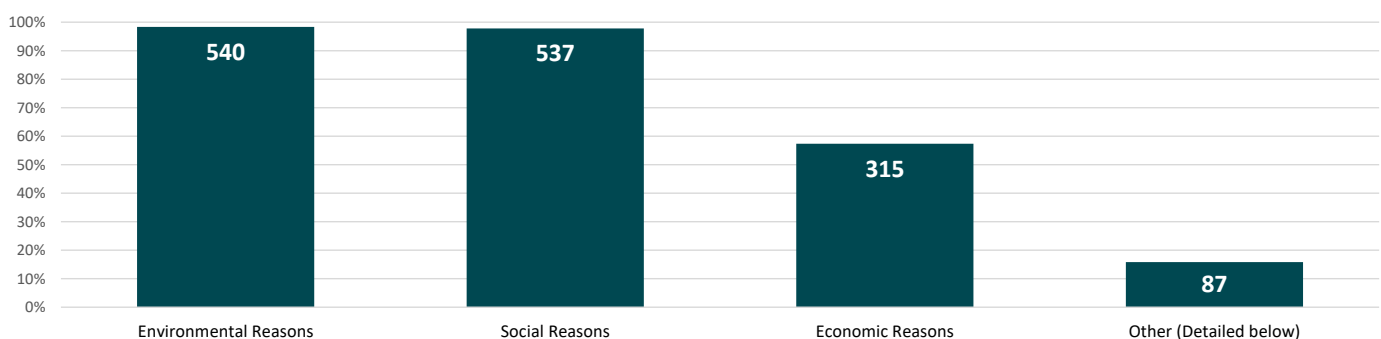
| How important do you think it is to have trees as part of the urban environment in Manchester? | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Extremely important | Very important | Somewhat important | Not so important | Not at all important |
| 94% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| 518 | 21 | 7 | 0 | 1 |



| Where do you value the presence of trees: | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| In parks & gardens | Informal green spaces | City squares | Neighbourhoods | Along Streets | Private gardens |
| 538 | 531 | 509 | 518 | 511 | 456 |
| 98% | 97% | 93% | 94% | 93% | 83% |



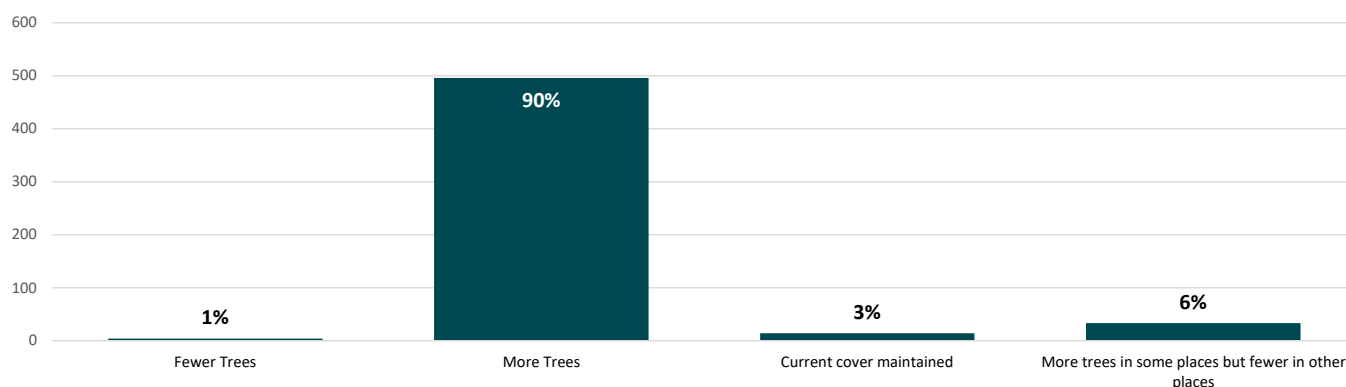
| Which of the following do you think trees are important for? | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Environmental Reasons | Social Reasons | Economic Reasons | Other (Detailed below) |
| 540 | 537 | 315 | 87 |
| 98% | 98% | 57% | 16% |



Within the 87 answers that indicated a further reason to those listed, 8 key themes were identified. Below, the count of which each theme occurred and a representative example can be seen.

| Theme | Count | Example |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| Environmental | 37 | "Habitat for birds and insects" "They help the air quality" |
| Geographical (E.g. Flood prevention) | 14 | "Flood prevention" |
| Social Reasons (health) | 11 | "Mental health and wellbeing" |
| Aesthetic | 11 | "Trees are an important element in urban design, complementing good architecture" |
| Food Source | 9 | "Food and other resources" |
| Economic reasons | 6 | "Equalities reasons - areas of deprivation tend to correlate with lower tree cover" |
| All | 4 | "Trees are amazing and good for everything" |
| Other Response | 1 | - |

| In Manchester, would you like to see: | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| Fewer Trees | More Trees | Current cover maintained | More trees in some places but fewer in other places |
| 4 | 496 | 14 | 33 |
| 1% | 90% | 3% | 6% |



As well as being asked their opinions on the amount of trees planted in Manchester, respondents were also given the opportunity to describe where they would choose to see this implemented. Of the 267 comments given, 7 key themes were identified in the answers. Below, the count of which these themes occurred and a representative example can be seen.

| Where would you like to see your answer in place? | | |
|---|-------|---|
| Theme | Count | Example |
| Urban | 142 | "Lots more along streets and highways" |
| Parks | 70 | "Parks where there is capacity" |
| City Centre | 61 | "There is not enough green space in the city centre" |
| Everywhere/ Anywhere | 57 | "All over Manchester" |
| Maintenance comment | 44 | "Woodlands need to be managed correctly in maintaining these beautiful areas" |
| Private Spaces | 35 | "More street trees, community facilities and private gardens" |
| Community Space | 21 | "Council land being given to community groups to plant more orchards" |

Section 3: Key Objectives & Headline Actions

Four objectives from the original Tree Strategy will continue to shape the many actions that both the Council and stakeholders are already undertaking individually and in partnership, as well as future actions that are required. Within each of the objectives there are various headline actions. Respondents were asked to rank the importance of each action to highlight their priorities within each objective.

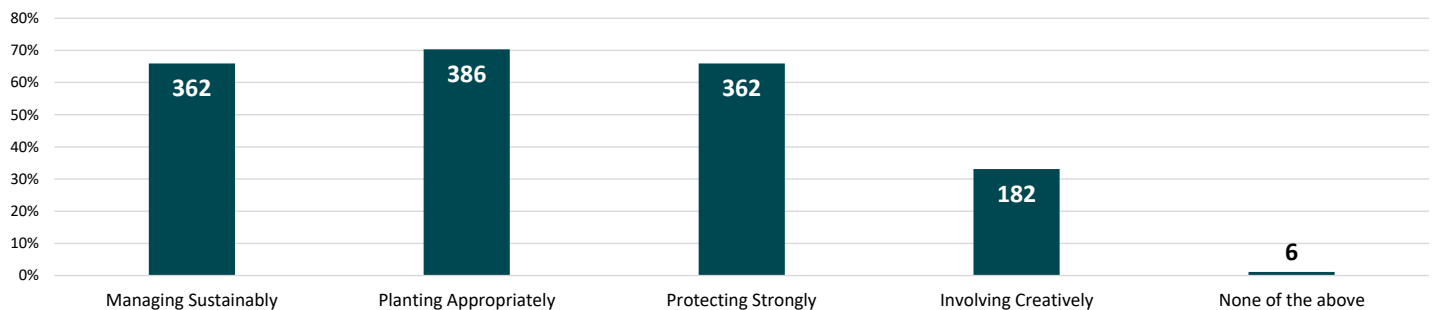
| Objective 1: Managing Sustainability | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Overall Rank | Headline Action | Average Rank |
| 1 Most Important: | Integrate trees into all relevant strategic regeneration frameworks, plans and policies | 1.9 |
| 2nd | Ensure climate resilient, sustainable management of the City's treescape | 2.1 |
| 3rd | Develop a fuller understanding of our treescape (trees and woodlands) | 2.9 |
| 4th | Develop and deliver partnership projects that sensitively improve the functionality of the treescape | 3.1 |

| Objective 2: Planting Appropriately | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Overall Rank | Headline Action | Average Rank |
| 1 Most Important: | Ensure a fair, climate resilient, healthy, and diverse canopy cover across the city | 1.9 |
| 2nd | Investigate mechanisms for funding new tree planting, management and maintenance | 2.6 |
| 3rd | Continued planting of community orchards in suitable priority locations | 2.7 |
| 4th | Continued planting of hedges in suitable locations | 2.8 |

| Objective 3: Protecting Strongly | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Overall Rank | Headline Action | Average Rank |
| 1 Most Important: | Increase the number of woodland Local Nature Reserves to improve access and conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity | 2 |
| 2nd | Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity | 2.5 |
| 3rd | Use Development management tools to ensure a high standard of tree works, protection and management | 2.7 |
| 4th | Deliver effective tree replacement and compensation measures | 2.8 |

| Objective 4: Involving Creatively | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Overall Rank | Headline Action | Average Rank |
| 1 Most Important: | Promote and raise awareness of the importance and value of trees | 1.9 |
| 2nd | Encourage, provide and record opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity | 2.3 |
| 3rd | Showcase best practice, develop case studies and seek recognition for delivered projects | 2.9 |
| 4th | Further develop tree related research to inform decision making | 2.9 |

| If any, which of these key objectives do you think are especially important? | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Managing Sustainably | Planting Appropriately | Protecting Strongly | Involving Creatively | None of the above |
| 362 | 386 | 362 | 182 | 6 |
| 66% | 70% | 66% | 33% | 1% |



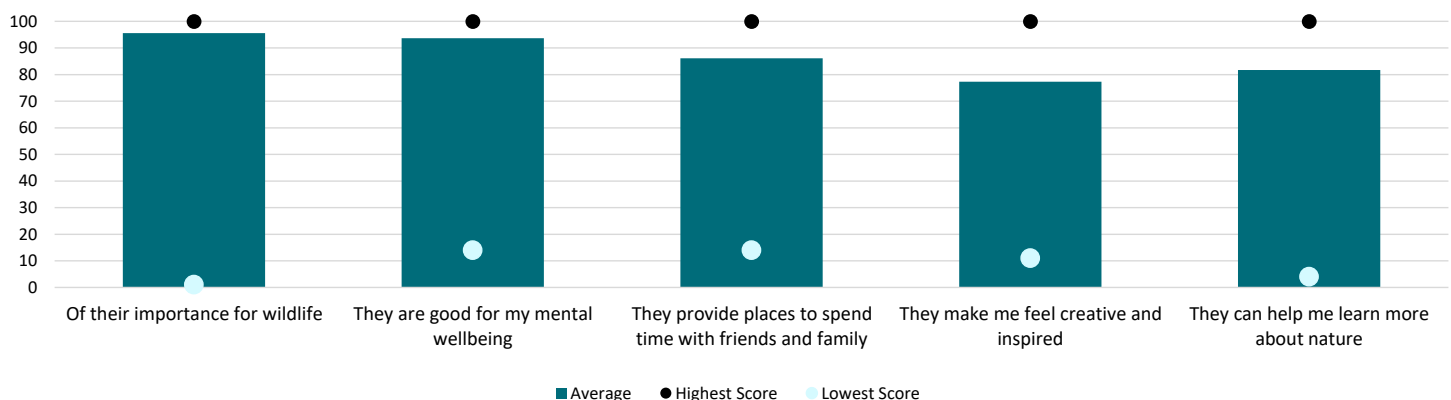
When given the opportunity to make any further comments on the existing headline actions, 359 respondents suggested they had no feedback.

Despite 190 respondents stating they had further comments, 253 left feedback. Within the 253 comments, 8 key themes were reflected. Below, the themes can be seen listed with the counts in which they occurred (broken down by their prior answer) with a representative example.

| Is there anything you'd like to add to the headline actions? | | | |
|--|------------|-------|--|
| Theme | "Yes" Only | Total | Example |
| Maintenance Comment | 59 | 68 | "Preserving and protecting existing trees which have taken years to become established" |
| Urban Areas | 42 | 49 | "If new urban woodland can be created all the better" |
| Environmental | 39 | 45 | "Include the biodiversity benefits of soil and grasslands not just trees" |
| Construction/ Development | 22 | 24 | "Ensure trees are considered in all planning applications which seek to cut trees down" |
| Council Responsibility | 18 | 21 | "City council allow flexibility in conservation areas" |
| Education | 16 | 19 | "School outreach, planting events, existing tree celebrations, education for all" |
| Community Involvement | 9 | 14 | "Working with local organisations that have expertise and shared goals" |
| Food Source | 12 | 13 | "Consider trees as a food source. Foraging for fruit should be simple and available to everyone" |

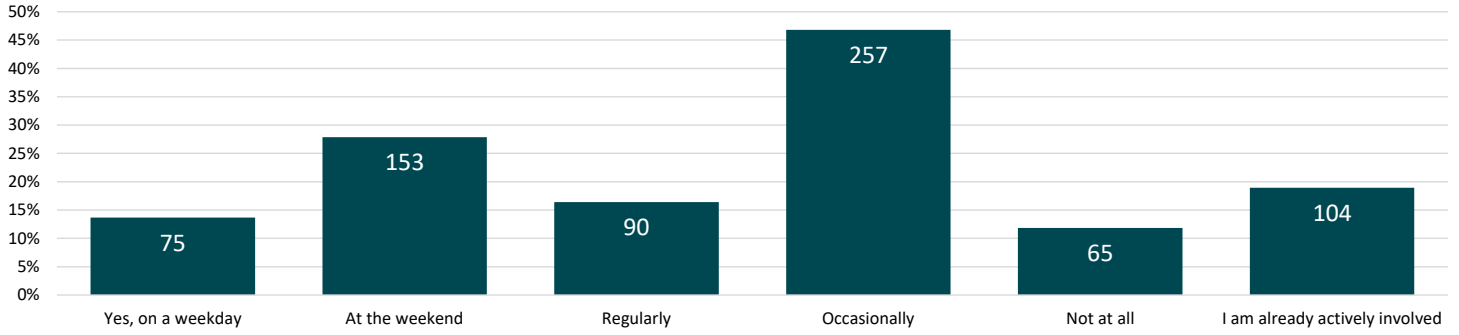
Section 4: Values

| I value my local trees, woods and forests because.... (Rated between 1-100) | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Value: | Average Rating | Highest Rating | Lowest Rating |
| Of their importance for wildlife | 95.6 | 100 | 1 |
| They are good for my mental wellbeing | 93.6 | 100 | 14 |
| They provide places to spend time with friends and family | 86.1 | 100 | 14 |
| They make me feel creative and inspired | 77.3 | 100 | 11 |
| They can help me learn more about nature | 81.7 | 100 | 4 |



Would you be interested in being actively involved with helping to plant or look after trees/woodland in Manchester ?

| Yes, on a weekday | At the weekend | Regularly | Occasionally | Not at all | I am already actively involved |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 75 | 153 | 90 | 257 | 65 | 104 |
| 14% | 28% | 16% | 47% | 12% | 19% |



| I am already actively involved | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| Theme | Total | Example |
| Friends of Park | 40 | "Work with local park friends group" |
| Local community | 27 | "I work within my local community" |
| Volunteering | 21 | "I volunteer with The Conservation Volunteers who plant trees regularly in the winter" |
| Personal Land | 18 | "I have a big garden with some fruit trees and lots of bushes and other plants" |
| Work | 16 | "As an organisation we already work with and actively plan and manage trees with Manchester City Council" |
| School Settings | 4 | "I work for a primary school in Manchester and we would be happy to plant some trees" |

Section 5: Summary

The Manchester ward with the most engagement was: East Didsbury.



94% of respondents think it's extremely important to have trees as part of the urban environment.



90% of respondents would like to see more trees in Manchester.



Respondents value the presence of trees in parks and gardens the most (98%).



Respondents value local trees mostly due to their importance for wildlife.

