

Support and resources to help you create educational green spaces at your school



GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



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The benefits of greening your school

Schools are often the heart of communities, visited by hundreds of young people and their families. Across Greater Manchester, schools work hard to provide welcoming spaces to learn, play, grow and thrive. Schools also often have significant outdoor spaces, even within busy urban areas, from car parks and pathways to playgrounds and sports pitches. These areas have the potential to be adapted and improved in ways that enhance and increase the natural green space across the school ground.



By doing so they can create:

- Havens for wildlife
- Calming and positive areas that enhance pupil well-being
- Outdoor classrooms for learning
- Reduced local flooding
- Shade during heat waves
- Improved air quality

These benefits directly support students, staff and the wider community, helping build Greater Manchester's resilience to the climate emergency. Functional green spaces, such as rain gardens, planters, living walls, green roofs and trees are also known as nature-based solutions (NBS) to the climate emergency.



Where can my school get support?

Across the city region there are a range of organisations that can help schools learn more about NBS, the importance of green space, the role it plays in tackling the climate crisis and most importantly how they can go about funding and installing their own NBS within their school.

Since 2019, **the IGNITION project** has worked to identify the benefits of nature-based solutions and find creative ways to

finance and install them at scale across Greater Manchester.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), City of Trees and Groundwork Greater Manchester were partners in the IGNITION project and all offer support and services to schools. We have also worked with United Utilities and the Department for Education to support the installation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as rain gardens and green landscaped areas in schools.

City of Trees – Trees for Learning

City of Trees, Greater Manchester's Community Forest charity, is tackling the climate emergency head on through planting trees and restoring woodlands across the city region.

Through Trees for Learning, City of Trees can help schools to green their grounds and improve climate resilience by supplying free trees and organising tree planting events with students.

They provide expert knowledge and help to design a tree planting plan for your school, along with planning a day of tree planting and maintenance with all key stage levels.

Depending on the space and funding available they can offer schools a variety of projects including woodland creation, hedges, orchards, and forest school areas.

City of Trees can also provide dynamic outdoor learning for all key stage levels producing session plans that meet the curriculum in unique ways such as sensory trails and 'tree detective' tree hunts. Many of these sessions can be adapted to lower and higher ability children with scope for further learning.

There is no cost to the school and City of Trees provide all trees and equipment.

How to get your school involved:

- [Find out more on the City of Trees website](#)
- Call 0161 872 1660 or email team@cityoftrees.org.uk to get in touch with the City of Trees team



Royal Horticultural Society

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is the UK's leading gardening charity. They aim to enrich everyone's life through plants and to make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. They are committed to inspiring everyone to grow.

The national **RHS Campaign for School Gardening** supports schools and groups – inspiring young people through the power of plants, offering free resources, projects and guidance to get them growing. [Click here to find out more about the Campaign for School Gardening and to join the campaign.](#)

Green Plan It is a project designed to help secondary school students from Year 8 and 9 discover the amazing world of plants and rethink the role of green spaces and gardens. Small teams of students are set with a challenge to come up with a creative and innovative design for a garden they would like to see in their school or community. Over the course of 12 weeks from September to December, they will take part in fun activities to help explore plants and understand more about the benefits they can have on us as individuals, society and the environment around us. If you would like to express your interest in taking part in 2022, please let us know by emailing greenplanit@rhs.org.uk.

The RHS has a variety of **training courses** to help you inspire the next generation to get outdoors. Suitable for anyone working with young people, from teachers and teaching assistants to group leaders and volunteers - no previous horticultural experience is necessary! [Click here to find a training course](#) – you can find a training course at your local RHS Garden Bridgewater in Salford. If you're interested in our training courses but have some questions, feel free to get in touch with a member of our team by emailing cpd@rhs.org.uk.

RHS Education and Learning offers a range of free [interactive, hands-on workshops](#) for children at Foundation Stage, and in Primary and Secondary schools (KS1-4) including those with special educational needs (SEN). Workshops take place in the unique spaces at RHS Garden Bridgewater, including the Peel Learning Garden – inspired by the idea of plants as machines, this is an interactive outdoor space that encourages students to discover how plants grow and the amazing adaptations that help them survive. Workshops include the Green City Challenge, where students work together to design a garden or greenspace, for their school or local community to make it resilient to climate change, and the primary school programme Planting for the Planet where pupils are encouraged to think about our impact on the environment and why plants are so important to the planet and their lives. Contact schoolsbridgewater@rhs.org.uk to get in touch with the team.



Groundwork Greater Manchester

Groundwork Greater Manchester is working to create a greener, more resilient city region with stronger, healthier communities, responsible businesses and enhanced prospects for all local people. They offer a range of services for schools from [designing outdoor learning and play spaces](#) to [installing green screens to improve air quality](#), [forest schools activity](#), [youth social action](#) and [coaching & mentoring](#).



Groundwork can support your school through:

- Site visits to assess the potential and opportunities for NBS at the school
- Designs and costed proposals which can also be used to support funding applications
- Design and build projects, including a participatory approach to design involving governors, teachers and school children / young people where appropriate.
- Complimentary sessions with teachers / children / young people to build understanding and recognising the importance for the climate and nature crises, including a resource pack

How to get your school involved:

- [Visit the Groundwork website to access a range of online tools](#)
- Contact Groundwork on greatermanchester@groundwork.org.uk or call the Trafford office switchboard on 0161 220 1000

United Utilities – SuDS for Schools

United Utilities is leading the design and delivery of sustainable drainage at a series of sites across the North West, including at some sites within Greater Manchester. Following the delivery of these, the learning that has been generated from the delivery of these projects will be brought together to help others when looking as to how SuDS can be retrofitted and integrated within schools. Additionally, educational material will be provided to those schools to support the key messaging around water reuse and how SuDS can help balance demand for clean water and also achieving the ambition of capturing rainwater before it gets to sewers to increase our communities resilience to climate change.

How to get your school involved:

- [Visit the United Utilities schools website for more information](#)

More information

Find out more about the IGNITION project by visiting the project website:
www.IGNITIONgm.com.

