

## Manchester Tree Action Plan 2016-20

The context for the Tree Action Plan is provided by **Manchester's Great Outdoors: A Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Manchester**, an overarching document that provides the strategic framework for the different elements that comprise green and blue infrastructure. The key Headline Action within the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy of direct relevance to the City's trees is "Effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting." This Action Plan provides more detail about what this means for the City's trees.

The Action Plan is set out under the same objective headings used in the original Manchester Tree Strategy:

1. Managing sustainably,
2. Planting appropriately,
3. Protecting strongly and,
4. Involving creatively.

It also aims to follow the key principles set out in the Trees and Design Action Group publication **Trees in the Townscape**. The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) is an open collaborative forum facilitating cross-sector and cross-disciplinary dialogue and projects promoting the role of the urban forest throughout the United Kingdom. The action plan also takes on board best practice approaches suggested by partners including the **Woodland Trust** and **City of Trees** (formerly Red Rose Forest). The Action Plan has been developed collaboratively, working with a range of organisations and agencies, referencing existing and new partner commitments. It is a list of actions to be delivered by all partners and stakeholders, demonstrating true commitment to a sensible, sustainable and essential future for trees and woodlands in the City.

### Monitoring, Review and Progress Reporting

The Action Plan will be updated quarterly and reported on annually. It is dynamic and accessible, making it far easier for tree related activity, from statutory bodies to community groups, to be captured.

The success of the Action Plan will ultimately be driven not just by the realisation of the activity illustrated below, but by the on going push by all of us to recognise and support the true value of trees to the City; making commitments to enhance and protect the treescape in Manchester for many years to come.

## Objective 1 – Managing Sustainably

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
1	<b>Map and monitor changes in the amount and distribution of trees across the city</b>	Refine datasets of tree and woodland cover  Refresh Manchester Tree Audit	Universities, CoT  GM partners, CoT, FC	2017-20  2017-18
2	<b>Develop a fuller understanding of the City's tree resource</b>	Develop MCC tree management system  Deliver annual highway tree inspection programme  Investigate online mapping tool of planned tree works in the City  Encourage network of data gathering and information sharing e.g. University access to canopy data for research  Investigate opportunities for valuing Manchester tree stock including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of an ecosystem services valuation of treescape</li> </ul>	MCC  MCC  MCC, Universities  MCC, CoT, FC, Universities  Universities, CoT	2016  2016-18  2017-18  2016-18  2017 -20
3	<b>Ensure continued and sustainable management of all trees and woodland and best practice approaches employed</b>	Develop, agree and embed principles of tree management in Manchester  Develop tree and woodland management plans MCC parks and greenspaces, which include: <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> Develop tree focussed opportunity mapping for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and open spaces</li> <li>• City centre</li> <li>• neighbourhoods</li> </ul> Encourage the development of tree and woodland management plans by all key landowners and managers of trees in Manchester  Develop tree management good practice case studies as part of MACF GI Group	MCC  MCC, CoT, GMEU  MCC CoT  RPs, Universities  MACF GI Group	2016-17  2016-20  2016-20  2016 – 20  2016-2020

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
4	<b>Ensure green and blue infrastructure (including trees and tree management) are considered as part of major new developments and retrofits and policy reviews</b>	Projects to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport infrastructure changes</li> <li>• Lower Medlock</li> <li>• Lower Irk Valley</li> <li>• Housing investment plan</li> </ul> Local Plan Review	MCC, TfGM, developers  MCC	2016-2020  2016-2019
5	<b>Develop climate resilient approaches to tree and woodland management</b>	Encourage use of trees within broader climate resilient adaptive plans e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage projects, public realm improvements  Develop Ash Dieback Strategy in partnership with Natural Capital Group  Encourage diversity of tree stock e.g. appropriately diverse species and age ranges to help increase resilience to pests and disease	GM CoT, MCC  GM, CoT, MCC, FC, MCC, CoT	2016-2020  2016-17 2016-18
6	<b>Develop partnership projects that sensitively improve the functionality of the treescape</b>	Develop appropriate projects to deliver the City of Trees vision in Manchester including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Trees</li> <li>• Forest Schools</li> <li>• Community Orchard planting and management</li> <li>• RSPB Willow Tit conservation Project – Stenner Woods</li> </ul>	CoT LWT, MBP, MVP, GW, CoT RSPB	2016/17 2016

## Objective 2 – Planting Appropriately

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
1	<b>Ensure continued healthy tree canopy cover across the City</b>	<p>Sustained tree and woodland canopy cover of 20% average by 2025</p> <p>Deliver suitable and sustainable tree planting projects 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 Tree planted annually</li> <li>- 1000 hedgerow trees planted annually</li> <li>- 2500 trees planted annually</li> </ul>	<p>MCC, RVIs, RPs, CoT, Woodland Trust LWT</p> <p>MCC TfGM, MCC MCC MCC CoT RPs MCC CoT RPs</p>	2016-20
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>Develop Beacon Trees Mapping project</p>	<p>RFW, CoT, RPs,</p> <p>RFW, MCC UoM CoT</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2017-18</p>
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</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</li> <li>• Investigating commercial opportunities for trees and woodlands</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>MCC, MACF GI, RPs,</p> <p>MCC EA, MCC, CoT, GW CoT MCC</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-18</p> <p>2017-18</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 <b>disease</b> by ensuring all new trees planted are from registered and approved sources</p>	<p>MC, MACF GI, CoT</p> <p>MCC, CoT</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-20</p>

### Objective 3 – Protecting Strongly

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
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	2017
2	<b>Ensure trees of high value are designated as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)</b>	Continue to Designate new TPOs as appropriate Enforce as appropriate against unauthorised works to a tree protected by a tree preservation order or within a conservation area Promotion of the Tree Preservation Order process via neighbourhood teams	MCC MCC MCC, CoT, partners	2016-20 2016-20 2017-18
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 work with landowners and land managers  Provide statistical report to Defra annually	MCC GMEU  MCC	2016 –208  2016-20
4	<b>Use planning conditions to ensure high standard of tree works, protection and management</b>	Tree officers to provide guidance and advice through the planning process to ensure compliance of tree works against  BS 5837 (the British Standard for Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction) BS 3998 ( the British Standard for Tree Work)	MCC, Developers	2016-18

## Objective 4 – Involving Creatively

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
1.	<b>Further develop research into the benefits of trees</b>	<p>Local universities, MACF and MCC to establish an ongoing programme of collaborative GI research including trees, initially for 2016-20, to measure the impact of GI across the range of social, economic and environmental benefits set out in the Strategy. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating 'ecosystems@Manchester' multi-disciplinary research network at the University of Manchester</li> <li>• Nerc Gardens and Ecosystem Services project</li> <li>• Nerc GHIA project</li> <li>• Nerc Green Growth</li> </ul> <p>Update GI Evidence base with tree and woodland related research</p>	<p>Universities, MCC, MACF GI, MCCA</p> <p>UoM</p> <p>MMU UoM UoM</p> <p>CoT, MCC Universities</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>2016-18 2016-18 2016 -18</p> <p>2016-20</p>
2.	<b>Encourage and record the delivery of community led and focussed tree projects and food growing</b>	<p>Projects to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Food Wythenshawe</li> <li>• Heritage trees</li> </ul>	<p>RFW CoT</p>	<p>2016-20 2016-18</p>
3.	<b>Raise the awareness of the benefits of trees</b>	<p>Establish social media platforms for ongoing promotion of tree related information</p> <p>Ward councillors and local communities to include tree activity in ward plans as appropriate,</p>	<p>Ward Councillors, CoT, MACF GI Group</p>	<p>2015-16 and ongoing annually</p>
4	<b>Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity</b>	<p>Support and delivery of tree related activity, training and capacity building:</p> <p>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>• RVI volunteer and engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Lancs WT Moston Fairways Volunteers Scheme</li> </ul>	<p>CoT, CGs, MCCA, Third Sector partners MCC</p>	<p>2016-20</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>

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
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 the city's trees and woodlands attract visitors and create new recreation opportunities, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaton Park Canopy Trail</li> <li>• Heritage Trees project</li> <li>• Beacon Trees</li> </ul> <p>Promote the City's existing parks and green spaces to maximise their usage by local communities, workers and visitors</p>	<p>MACF GI Group, MCC, MCCA, MM, UoM, MCC CoT CoT, MCC</p> <p>MCC, Universities</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-17</p>

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## **Part 2 – Monitoring, Review and Progress Reporting Actions**

	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Delivery agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1	Key performance indicators	Potential measures to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number/area of trees/woodland with management plans</li> <li>• The percentage of tree canopy cover across Manchester</li> <li>• The number of trees removed and replaced through development, in parks and on highways</li> <li>• Numbers engaged with through volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>	All	2016-20
2	Annual review and reporting	Undertake an annual review against the Action Plan and publish the findings through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MACF website</li> <li>- MACF Annual Report</li> <li>- Manchester State of the City Report</li> <li>- Plus others as appropriate</li> </ul>	MACF GI, MCCA, UoM, MMU, UoS, MCC, and all other stakeholders as appropriate	2016-20
3	Website and news stories	Publish stories on progress against the Action Plan and specific projects on the MCC website, plus other channels as appropriate	MCC All	2016-20
4	Review and update the action plan	Undertake a full review of progress against the Action Plan in 2020 and publish an updated version for the following 3-5 year period.	MACF GI, MCC, and all other stakeholders as appropriate	2020



## Contributors

The MACF Green and Blue Infrastructure Group and the Council are grateful to the following organisations that have contributed to the development of this Action Plan and made commitments to support its delivery.

CityCo	CCo	<a href="http://cityco.com/">http://cityco.com/</a>
City of Trees initiative	CoT	<a href="http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/">http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/</a>
Community groups	CGs	
Environment Agency	EA	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency</a>
Forestry Commission	FC	<a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/</a>
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	GMEU	<a href="http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit">http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit</a>
Groundwork	GW	<a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk/">http://www.groundwork.org.uk/</a>
The Wildlife Trust For Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside	LWT	<a href="http://www.lancswt.org.uk/">http://www.lancswt.org.uk/</a>
Manchester A Certain Future - Green & Blue Group	MACF GI	<a href="http://macf.ontheplatform.org.uk/">http://macf.ontheplatform.org.uk/</a>
Manchester Climate Change Agency	MCCA	<a href="http://macf.ontheplatform.org.uk/">http://macf.ontheplatform.org.uk/</a>
Manchester City Council	MCC	<a href="http://www.manchester.gov.uk/">http://www.manchester.gov.uk/</a>
Manchester Environmental Education Network	MEEN	<a href="http://www.meen.org.uk/">http://www.meen.org.uk/</a>
Manchester Garden City	MGC	<a href="http://cityco.com/project/manchester-garden-city/">http://cityco.com/project/manchester-garden-city/</a>
Manchester Metropolitan University	MMU	<a href="http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/">http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/</a>
Manchester Museum	MM	<a href="http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/">http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/</a>
Natural England	NE	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about</a>
National Trust	NT	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Network Rail	NR	<a href="http://www.networkrail.co.uk/">http://www.networkrail.co.uk/</a>
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	OMBC	<a href="http://www.oldham.gov.uk/">http://www.oldham.gov.uk/</a>
Real Food Wythenshawe	RFW	<a href="http://www.realfoodwythenshawe.com/">http://www.realfoodwythenshawe.com/</a>
Registered Providers (Formerly Registered Housing Providers)	RP	
River Valley Initiatives:	RVI	<a href="http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500194/irk_river_valley_project/4753/irk_valley">http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500194/irk_river_valley_project/4753/irk_valley</a>
Irk Valley Project		
Medlock Valley Project		<a href="http://www.medlockvalley.org.uk/MedlockValley/">http://www.medlockvalley.org.uk/MedlockValley/</a>
Moston Brook Partnership		<a href="http://oldham.gov.uk/info/200393/parks_countryside_and_canals/699/moston_brook_green_corridor/2">http://oldham.gov.uk/info/200393/parks_countryside_and_canals/699/moston_brook_green_corridor/2</a>
Mersey Valley Partnership		
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB	<a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/">http://www.rspb.org.uk/</a>
Trans Pennine Trail partnership	TPT	<a href="http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/">http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/</a>
Transport for Greater Manchester	TfGM	<a href="http://www.tfgm.com/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.tfgm.com/Pages/default.aspx</a>
UK Green Building Council	UK GBC	<a href="http://www.ukgbc.org/">http://www.ukgbc.org/</a>
University of Manchester	UoM	<a href="http://www.manchester.ac.uk/">http://www.manchester.ac.uk/</a>
University of Salford	UoS	<a href="http://www.salford.ac.uk/">http://www.salford.ac.uk/</a>
The Woodland Trust	WT	<a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/</a>

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