

Developing Greater Manchester's plan for nature recovery

Who are we?

Greater Manchester is one of the country's most successful city-regions. Home to more than 2.8 million people and with an economy bigger than that of Wales or Northern Ireland. Our vision is to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old. We're getting there through a combination of economic growth, and the reform of public services. Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of ten Greater Manchester councils and Mayor, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region.

What is the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Greater Manchester Combined Authority is developing a new plan to help nature recover across the city-region. Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out long-term priorities to help nature recovery across the region, alongside proposing actions that we can all work towards.

Working with stakeholders from across the city-region, the new strategy will go beyond simply showing how and where we will bring nature back into Greater Manchester – it will set out a blueprint for a greener, more liveable city-region, with fairer access to green space. It will identify areas already important for nature and people, alongside opportunities to create a network for nature that connects nature and people across the city-region.

Our plan will form part of a national ambition to create a [National Nature Recovery Network](#), as set out in Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Act. The National Nature Recovery Network will be a country-wide chain of wildlife-rich places, aiming to expand, improve and connect these places across our cities, towns, countryside, and coast.

Why do we need a plan for nature recovery?

From urban parks and gardens to reserves, rivers and canals, nature in Greater Manchester comes in all shapes and sizes. It's the air we breathe, the water we drink, the earth we build on and the soil we grow our food in.

We know that people across Greater Manchester want better access to greenspaces. Having access to parks, gardens, rivers and canals is vital to us being able to live a good life and for our physical and mental wellbeing. They help us tackle the challenges posed by climate change, including flooding and water security, air quality and carbon storage. And nature

even plays a key role in the success of our economy and in our prosperity, contributing the equivalent of £1bn per year to our city-region.

However, the [State of Nature Report 2023](#), released by more than 60 non-government organisations including the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust, shows continued decline in the abundance of wildlife in the UK. Around one in six species is at risk of extinction, 43% of UK birds under threat, only 11% of UK land protected and just 7% of woodlands in the UK considered to be in good ecological state

Like the rest of the country, in Greater Manchester the abundance and diversity of some of our key species is now in long term decline. This means that our natural environment is becoming less resilient and less able to provide us with the benefits we often take for granted. This includes defence against climate change and the extreme weather that we are already experiencing.

We also know that nature can recover if we give it a chance, but progress isn't happening at the scale or speed required.

Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy will address this, giving us an opportunity to weave the protection and improvement of nature into Greater Manchester's approach to development, regeneration, new and existing infrastructure and the delivery of services like health, transport and utilities.

What will our strategy cover?

Whilst the exact content of our strategy will be developed over the coming months, there are a few key themes that will be covered:

- Working with partners we will be consulting on and setting out our GM wide priorities for nature recovery – include the actions we should all act together towards in our:
 - Parks and public green spaces
 - Rivers, canals, lakes and ponds
 - Homes and gardens
 - Streets and highways
 - Wider urban and rural land

How is our strategy being developed?

Working with stakeholders from across the city-region, the new strategy will go beyond simply showing how and where we will bring nature back into Greater Manchester – it will set out a blueprint for a more liveable city-region. It will identify areas already important for nature and people, alongside pinpointing opportunities to create a new network for nature that better connects nature and people across the city-region.

Who is our strategy for and how can you get involved?

Everyone has a role to play in helping nature recover, from the nature-focused decisions businesses and landowners make to the individual efforts of residents right across Greater Manchester.

We want to work with as many landowners, businesses and communities as possible when developing our strategy, to better understand action already being taken and agree priorities and actions for the future.

Once our draft strategy has been developed, we'll be going out far and wide to get views from communities, businesses and others across Greater Manchester.

What's happening when?

We'll be putting out regular progress updates through our GM Green City newsletter and project blogs on the Green City website. We'll also be putting out regular project briefings for specific audiences – like this one!

Summer 2024 will see us hold a public consultation on our strategy via an online survey and a series of in-person events.

How can you keep in the loop?

Keep up to date on progress as our Local Nature Recovery Strategy is developed by subscribing to our [Green City newsletter](#).

You can also visit our [LNRS website](#) for all the latest updates, including listings for any workshops or other events.