

# CASE STUDY: GROWGREEN MANCHESTER 'PARK THAT DRINKS WATER'

The GrowGreen project aims to create climate and water resilient cities using nature-based solutions (NBS), making nature part of the urban environment to provide solutions to challenges such as flooding, heat stress and poor air quality. Find out more about the GrowGreen project here: [www.growgreenproject.eu/about/project/](http://www.growgreenproject.eu/about/project/).

## Background

Manchester is often referred to as the “rainy city” with some of the heaviest rainfall in the UK. There are five rivers that run through the city that together with an ageing sewer system, culverted rivers, and surface water issues cause considerable flooding. Surface water flooding has increased tenfold between 1945 and 2008 and is predicted to increase with climate change.

This GrowGreen project aims to tackle some of these flooding issues, and created the first ‘park that drinks water’ in West Gorton in June 2020. The demonstration project aims to provide evidence of how NBS can be used to reduce flood risk whilst providing other benefits.



Image: Manchester City Council



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## How the park 'drinks water'

The NBS features in the park include bioretention tree pits, swales, rain gardens, permeable paving and an irrigation channel to provide flood protection to the surrounding urban areas. Existing trees were pruned to provide a more attractive tree cover and to contribute to the parks water retention capabilities. In addition, the park features meadow, woodland and community areas, and was designed with local residents.

## Additional benefits

- Reduced flood risk in the neighbourhood
- Improved air and water quality
- Increased biodiversity
- Enhanced community cohesion and active lifestyles

## Future work

The park will be monitored for a number of years to test how successful the NBS are, to help demonstrate the potential for their use.

GrowGreen is helping to fund ‘River Valley Action Plans’ for Manchester’s three main rivers as part of Manchester City Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy. These will highlight the key roles that the city’s rivers play in reducing flood risk, alongside other benefits.

Read the full project information here:  
[www.growgreenproject.eu/city-actions/manchester/](http://www.growgreenproject.eu/city-actions/manchester/)

YouTube video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QYGTOLVRUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QYGTOLVRUI)

Follow the park on Twitter [@growgreenMCR](https://twitter.com/growgreenMCR) and Facebook [@GrowGreenCities](https://www.facebook.com/GrowGreenCities)



Image: Manchester City Council