



redroseforest

Red Rose Forest is Greater Manchester's Community Forest. It was established in 1992, as part of the National Community Forest Partnership, which is creating greener, healthier and more prosperous environments in and around major conurbations across England, by engaging communities and greatly increasing woodland cover and accessible green space.



In the 12 years that Red Rose Forest has been operational, dramatic changes have taken place, thanks in the large part to the Red Rose Forest Partnership. The core Partnership, (which consists of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Trafford and Wigan and the Cities of Salford and Manchester, the Forestry Commission and The Countryside Agency) contributes significantly to the delivery of Red Rose Forest. In addition, a wider partnership of other Government and non Government organisations, charities, volunteers and local communities all play their role in delivering the 'Forest Vision' - all playing their part to deliver a full programme of regeneration and renewal across a large part of Greater Manchester.

Red Rose Forest mission:

“To develop well-wooded multipurpose landscapes that will improve the quality of life for those living and working within the Forest boundaries, create better environments into which businesses can invest and that people will use, cherish and enjoy”

Red Rose Forest is striving to fulfil its 40-year target to plant 25 million trees, in an environmentally and socially sensitive way within its highly urbanised operational area.

The result of this, and the many other activities that the Red Rose Forest Partnership is involved in is long-term, wide spread improvements to the quality of life of local people. Impacting on the state of their local green spaces, parks or woodlands, the sense of social cohesion, local economies, the health of local people, education and understanding of environmental and related issues.

“The Partnership - all playing their part to deliver a full programme of regeneration and renewal across a large part of Greater Manchester”

“long-term, wide spread improvements to the quality of life of local people. Impacting on social cohesion, local economies, health, education as well as the environment”

annual figures 2003-2004



MEASURES	ANNUAL ACTUAL	ANNUAL TARGET	SINCE 1995 ACTUAL	% OF TARGET COMPLETED
Woodlands				
Area of new planting (ha)	80	150	1114.01	83
Area of existing woodland brought into management (ha)	63	100	947	133
Recreation and access				
Woodland newly opened for access (ha)	63	/	1329	/
Non-woodland areas opened for access (ha)	25	75	621	92
Routes opened up for recreation and access (km)	21	10	571	634
Non-Woodland				
Non-woodland habitats created or managed (ha)	115	50	965	450
Hedgerows created and/or managed (km)	2	5	77	180
Non-woodland features created or restored (#)	213	/	/	/
Land Reclamation				
Woodlands planted on damaged or reclaimed land (ha)	1	/	/	/
Community Involvement				
Community events (#)	2484	700	9046	172
School events (#)	713	/	/	/
Financial and In Kind Support				
Total support secured (£)	£2,081,975	4,700,000	28,865,416	55
Marketing and PR				
Media items featuring the Forest (#)	96	/	/	/
Materials promoting the Forest (#)	42,000	/	/	/

“greatly increasing the overall value of partners’ investments”

chairman's statement

2003-2004 has been an exciting year for Red Rose Forest. Existing projects continue to develop, whilst new initiatives are keeping Red Rose Forest at the forefront of environmental and social regeneration in the region, in a way that also meets local needs.



Green Streets (delivering community-led urban regeneration) and Green Tips (regenerating closed landfill for community use) are both branching out to work with new partners and in new areas - ensuring that they remain responsive to local need and continue to improve the areas within which they work. Similarly, the Forest's Community Network has continued as a major delivery mechanism for the Forest - enabling Red Rose Forest's successful involvement in the Woodland Wildflower project, for example, to be celebrated nation-wide.

Red Rose Forest's continued close involvement with the Newlands programme - a £23 million pound land regeneration programme - as it begins to actually deliver 'on the ground' demonstrates Red Rose Forest's ability to translate regional and national policy and trends into tangible local benefits - thinking globally, acting locally.

Another exciting area that Red Rose Forest has moved into over the past year has been that of Biomass. In the face of ever decreasing sources of fossil fuels and ever increasing calls to find an alternative, Red Rose Forest, alongside other key bodies in the field, is promoting wood and wood waste as a viable source of renewable energy.

Demonstrating that Red Rose Forest, (and the National Community Forest Partnership as a whole) is a well respected and valued mechanism for regeneration, Defra Minister, Rt. Hon. Alun Michael MP's announcement in March 2004 of a further two years of core support for the Community Forests was well received by the Red Rose Forest Partnership. We are now relishing the opportunity to use this continued Government support as a springboard to find fresh sources of funding - from the private sector, local, regional and national funding bodies and new and existing partnerships to name but a few.

I am encouraged to see how well the Red Rose Forest Partnership, and the wider Forest partnerships have delivered against it's key aims this year, and believe that this excellent work can only continue - achieving the Forest Vision for the benefit of all. Thank you to all those who have made this possible.

Rt. Hon. Lord Thomas of Macclesfield
Chairman and Patron of the Red Rose Forest Partnership

“ability to translate regional and national policy and trends into tangible local benefits”

“well respected and valued mechanism”

achieving change in communities

Red Rose Forest is a Community Forest - with the emphasis upon the work that we do with, and on behalf of, local people and businesses. This means that the work the Forest Partnership undertake has a massive impact on the whole community - Red Rose Forest will not undertake anything that has no greater social benefit - making our work socially sustainable and of real benefit and use to the people living within the Forest boundaries.



The Red Rose Forest Community Network is still active and growing - providing the vital link between local communities and Red Rose Forest. In 2003/2004, Red Rose Forest organised or supported 112 training sessions and events for members of the Community Network - providing them with the skills and knowledge that they need to deliver the Red Rose Forest vision, as well as enhancing their ability to carry out their work. Skills learnt were not just all technical or 'Forest' focused - many, such as Health Walk leader training, ethnic participation training events (with the Black Environment Network) and the People and Landscape training (with Manchester University) are transferable, increasing the overall value to partners of all the training undertaken. The Forest Partnership in turn held over 3,197 events - from tree plants to craft days, bat spotting walks to kite making classes - all of which helped to promote the Forest Vision and enabled thousands of people to engage with their local environment in a way to suit them.

Red Rose Forest also co-ordinated two hugely successful community initiatives this year. The Bulb Bonanza, (which made the link between private company Parkers Dutch Bulbs Ltd and hundreds of local people, schools, community and church groups, to provide them with over 3 tonnes of free spring bulbs), and the Woodland Wildflower project. In its third year, this project continued to engage a wide range of the local communities in Red Rose Forest with the practices of woodland wildflower propagating - making serious contributions to the overall project achievements announced this year - two hectares of wildflowers sown in previously species poor, urban woodland and over 1000 members of the public engaged in the project.

The Woodland Wildflower project has now 'spun off' into several area-specific shorter term projects, allowing individual local authorities and communities to benefit considerably from the experience that Red Rose Forest has developed in this field.

Green Streets, Red Rose Forest's community-based urban greening project, has been having a huge impact upon communities right across its operational area of Manchester, Trafford, and, new for 2003/2004, Salford. Planting 310 street trees and many other urban greening treatments, from bulbs and planters and environmental art is just the tip of the impact that Green Streets is having. Over 50 community and residential groups have been fully supported through Green Streets to develop skills like bid writing, project management and consultation. Residents who have had a tree or other treatment installed on their street or near their place of work have been given some basic training about aftercare - with the end result being an impressive 94% street tree survival rate, and many hundreds of individuals learning new skills.

In March, Red Rose Forest launched its latest Community initiative - the Greater Manchester Off-Road Motorcycle project. Providing a joined up, multi-agency approach to tackle the problem of illegal off-road motorcycling, and providing better facilities for legal pursuers of the sport, Red Rose Forest is co-ordinating work that will address a serious and pressing issues for thousands of people right across Greater Manchester.

“socially sustainable and of real benefit and use”

“many hundreds of individuals learning new skills”

“having a massive impact on the whole community”

achieving change in the environment

Red Rose Forest has been working throughout 2003/2004 towards its target to plant 25 million trees, with new and existing projects helping to significantly increase tree stocks across the area.



In total, the Red Rose Forest Partnership has planted 80.24 hectares of new woodland this year - taking the total number of hectares since the Forest began up to 1114 hectares. In addition, 62.98 hectares of woodland have been brought back into better management in 2003/2004 - meaning healthier woods that are more accessible, less likely to be a burden on the local community and more likely to become a working, profitable woodlands.

The Woodland Certification Scheme, launched this year as a joint project with The Mersey Forest, promotes the concept of better maintained woodland - making it easier and more beneficial for woodland owners to improve the condition of their land and strive towards achieving the globally recognised standard of excellence. The project produced the first ever 'Mini Guide' to Certification, which was well received across the sector (www.miniguide.info)

Red Rose Forest also assisted all its Local Authority Partners this year to apply for funding through the Forestry Commission Woodland Grants. In total five year grants totalling £172,800 have been secured for our Local Authority partners to assist their management of local woodlands and green space.

Red Rose Forest is the most urban of all the Community Forests - meaning that space to develop large expanses of new community woodland is at a premium and alternatives frequently have to be sought. To this end, the Green Streets project has planted 310 street trees this year, whilst the Green Tips project has worked on over 80 hectares of new community woodland on ex-landfill sites, and the Newlands project confirmed in 2003/2004 to create 435 hectares of new community woodland in the region - much being on Red Rose Forest's derelict and underused land.

Whilst increasing woodland cover is an important part of Red Rose Forest's remit, community forestry is about much more than just planting trees. A good community woodland has diverse environments, which include:

- wildflowers (this year saw the announcement of the total figures for the Woodland Wildflower project - with over two hectares of wildflowers planted in species poor urban woodland across Red Rose Forest)
- hedges (1.6 km planted or restored by the Forest Partnership this year)
- good public access (109 km of route or green space created, opened or improved for public access)
- Diverse habitats (213 hectares of 'non-woodland' habitats created in 2003-2004)



“healthier woods that are less likely to be a burden and more likely to become a working, profitable woodlands”

“every hectare of woodland is contributing to a healthier and better quality environment”

achieving change in the economy

The work that the Red Rose Forest Partnership and our other partners do can have a significant impact upon the local economy of the area - supporting the woodland and timber industries, creating environments which are more attractive to investment and new business and playing a role in the economic regeneration of local communities.



In 2003/2004, Red Rose Forest continued to support woodland owners, as well as the timber industries - helping to make their operations more economically viable and profitable, and opening up new avenues of opportunity for future funding and business development.

The Woodland Certification project, has introduced over 150 woodland owners this year to the concept of certifying their woods, making their timber more attractive on the sales market, and increasing their chances for attracting future funding and support. The Woodfuel Biomass project similarly has drawn local, regional and national attention to the economic value of Greater Manchester woodland - targeting much of its work at woodland owners, timber producers and industries looking to develop more sustainable energy sources.

Red Rose Forest also continued to provide access to and advice on vital woodland support funding throughout this year, which has proved to be an important supplement to the incomes of farmers and other landowners within the Red Rose Forest area.

Developments with the Newlands project this year have also mean that Red Rose Forest is closely involved with economically targeted soft end land regeneration. The two sites identified within the Red Rose Forest area for development under Newlands are LIVIA in Salford and Moston Vale in Manchester. Both these were chosen using the Public Benefit Recording System - ensuring that work on both will have maximum economic benefits for the surrounding areas and the region as a whole.

Green Streets has to engaged more and more companies within the private sector in the work with the project - demonstrating their commitment to the local environment and community. Private sector investors in Green Streets this year included Transco, RAC and Millfield Estates.

Red Rose Forest also continued its successful relationship this year with United Utilities PLC. The Forest received support totalling £56,416 from the private sector this year.

“helping to make operations more economically viable and profitable”

“work will have maximum economic benefits for the surrounding areas and the region as a whole”

achieving change across the region



“promoting Community Forestry across the whole of the Northwest”

Community Forests Northwest and Joint Working with The Mersey Forest

Red Rose Forest has continued to work with its neighbouring Community Forest The Mersey Forest, where appropriate to promote community forestry across the whole of the Northwest region.

Examples of current joint projects include:

- The multi-million pound Newlands programme - carrying out targeted soft-end land reclamation on key areas of derelict or underused land across the Mersey Belt - is working with Community Forests Northwest to ensure that both the region's Community Forests play a key role in this groundbreaking project.
- The Woodfuel Biomass project, launched in 2003 is raising awareness of local wood waste as a viable sustainable fuel source.
- The Woodland Certification project, a cross-Forest initiative is delivering an effective awareness-raising, support and information campaign to hundreds of woodland owners across the region.
- A feasibility trial into the production of marketable goods from local wood waste.
- Green Streets, will soon be developed in The Mersey Forest - delivered as a joint initiative through Community Forests Northwest.

Community Forests Northwest is a registered charity, created to support the work of Red Rose Forest and The Mersey Forest, by raising their profile regionally and nationally, and continuing to seek funding for the Forests' work.

Through Community Forests Northwest, £212,256 has been raised for the Forests this year (with £132,298 being raised for Red Rose Forest specifically) - and access to the business community and regional and national funding bodies and agencies has been increased.

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get involved The Red Rose Forest Partnership welcomes any organisation, group or individual that wishes to become actively involved in delivering Forest objectives for local, regional or national benefit. Red Rose Forest's success is based on a partnership approach to delivering the 40-year vision that links to and delivers many regional priorities. The wider Forest Partnership that includes landowners, businesses, government agencies, environmental and voluntary bodies, countryside services, communities, schools and many individuals, is fundamental to the Forest's development and success. **A National *community forest* Partner**

Red Rose Forest is a Partnership of The Countryside Agency and the Forestry Commission with the Metropolitan Boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Trafford, Wigan & the Cities of Manchester and Salford.