

Grey goes to Green

Green Streets

redroseforest

Green Streets is Red Rose Forest's project which helps communities in Manchester, Salford and Trafford transform their neighbourhoods by planting street trees, creating door step gardens and installing innovative environmental art works.

Green Streets started in Manchester and Trafford in December 2001 and has recently expanded into Salford. In its three years of operation, the Forest has completed over 40 projects.

Rather than just giving out funding or telling people what they should have, Green Streets encourages residents to take an active role in every stage of the project, from consultation and funding to delivery and aftercare. By engaging residents in as many aspects of the greening projects as possible, we are not only encouraging communities to take ownership for the trees and plants; we are also helping to rebuild community spirit through greater social interaction and generating a renewed sense of pride in where people live.

An essential part of this approach is a special CD which enables residents to see what their street would look like with a variety of greening elements on it. The package works by taking a digital image of the street scene, loading this on to a PC or laptop and then adding greenery to the street picture.

Living Wall, Trafford

Residents from Lacy Street approached the Green Streets project because they wanted to improve the look and feel of their street.



After consulting with the local community, conventional urban greening treatments, such as trees, planters or hanging baskets, were ruled out because residents were unconvinced they would survive on the narrow streets. In addition, their particular concern was the dilapidated state of their boundary walls and fences; but they were worried that more obvious 'greenery' solutions would only be vandalised.

This left the Green Streets team looking for a more innovative and unusual solution – and so the 'Living Wall' concept was born.

The Living Wall has been designed by the Community Technical Aid Centre. It consists of drystone walling enclosed in a fine mesh cage for security, a technology which has not been used for residential purposes before. Behind the wall, a soil bed contains a range of

climbing plants which will grow up the wall.

Eventually, the wall will be covered in plants that will flourish over the coming years, ensuring a fabulous visual impact.

The Living Walls are one metre high, and consist of locally sourced limestone. The walls were also deemed appropriate for the large number of elderly residents on the street, who required a very low maintenance scheme. Whilst the Living Walls will require minimum maintenance, they will become the responsibility of the residents, who will be given basic training on their care and development by the Forest.

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