North East Mayoral Strategic Authority Environment Fund FAQ

What do we mean by Green and Blue Spaces:

Green and Blue spaces are defined as areas of vegetation, inland and coastal waters, generally in or near urban areas, including green roofs and walls, and other green infrastructure. These spaces have a range of positive effects on human physical and mental well-being and provide opportunities to reconnect with nature. They also provide important habitats for species, improve habitat connectivity, and help protect where we live from risks such as flooding, coastal erosion, extreme heat, and air pollution.

What kind of activities the Fund will support

The Mayor's Nature Fund - This is aimed at improving people's lives through being involved in projects that create community green and blue spaces and improve understanding of the natural environment at a community level. Examples of what could be considered are below. This is not an exhaustive list and you may have an idea that is not listed. Please call us before submitting an application to talk through your project:

- Organising volunteer and community activity to create new areas that are nature friendly and where people can enjoy being outdoors
- Taking on waste land and improving local biodiversity
- Planting wild flowers to support pollinators and other wildlife, and make more attractive community spaces
- Community food growing projects
- Installing a community garden in an area with limited green space and lack of private gardens
- Running activities in local parks that help people learn about nature and how to help look after it where they live
- Tree planting- mini / pocket forests in urban and rural settings

The Naturally Resilient Communities Fund - To illustrate the benefits to people and places of investing in vegetation and water-based habitats to better manage flooding and erosion, improve air quality, cool urban centres, protect wildlife, and improve quality of life.

This revenue funding will support community engagement in larger schemes such as co-design and volunteer activity, including partnerships with public bodies that have greater regional significance:

This is not an exhaustive list, if you have an idea that is not listed, we would be happy to speak with you

- Green roofs and vertical gardens on community buildings that help manage rainwater, prevent local flooding, and keep buildings cooler
- Installing ponds as part of schemes to reduce flooding
- Stream or river erosion measures that protect communities

- Coastal/ estuarine projects that protect communities from erosion and rising sea levels such as coastal and marine habitat protection and creation
- Peat bog protection and restoration
- Expansion of existing or creation of new woodland with native species and those adapted to future climate change scenarios
- Larger scale wetland projects that protect communities at risk from flooding

Will you fund the whole project?
No, the North East MSA is keen to invest in projects alongside other funders and partners. There is no restriction on where the funding comes from as long as it is financial. Community Foundation North East and Point North are also looking for other funds to support projects.

What do I need to include in my EOI and application?
In your EOI you need to will be asked to briefly outline how you will deliver some or all of the following targets. If shortlisted for Stage 2, you will then be asked to give greater detail within the application:

Area of natural land improved	The total Sqm's of natural land that is improved. Natural land is defined as consisting of forests, grasslands, freshwater systems, wetlands, coastal and estuarine areas. Improved means adding, renovating, or repairing facilities with the aim of creating better public space. **It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.**	Site plan or equivalent mapped area detailing the area that has been improved, along with photos of the site before and after completion
Number of residents who have received a direct intervention in line with the aims of the programme	Number of residents who take part in funded activities	People count Verification evidence to be confirmed.
Number of residents supported to participate in education	Residents who have received support to engage in education (lifelong learning, formal education) or training activities (off-the job/in-the-job training, vocational training etc.).	Evidence of registration Evidence of intervention Evidence of exit and impact

Direct jobs created	New, permanent full time equivalent (minimum 35 hrs a week) jobs created as a result of the North East MSA investment. **Not essential for all applicants**	Sign off by a senior representative of the organisation. Equality and Diversity information
Residents supported into volunteering	Number of residents who have accessed support in line with the programme aims and have since started engaging in a regular voluntary activity	People count - Verification evidence to be confirmed It is expected that applicants should have some form of database or CRM system to be able to collect and provide this data.
Improved perceived health and wellbeing	A count of the number of residents who have been supported by North East MSA funding to improve their health and wellbeing.	People count - Verification evidence to be confirmed It is expected that applicants should have some form of database or CRM system to be able to collect and provide this data.

Are there any resources we can look at to help us?

Local micro forests:
https://www.urbanforest.be/en/home-4/
https://earthwatch.org.uk/program/tiny-forest/

Intro of new ponds:
https://www.wwt.org.uk/discover-wetlands/gardening-for-wetlands/how-to-build-a-wildlife-pond
https://www.tcv.org.uk/media_hub/all-about-ponds/

Community food growing:

Community food growers' guide - Nature Towns and Cities

Wild flower meadows
https://naturerecovery.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Meadows_Final.pdf

https://www.forestryengland.uk/nature-wildlife/species-for-the-future
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/53897/state-of-the-uk-s-woods-and-trees-2025-summary-england.pdf
https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/how-to-rewild/rewilding-advice