

#59 MERSEY FOREST

MERSEY FOREST

Website, 1990

Topic for advocacy HEPA - Physical Activity and Health / Cycling, transportation and active travel / Education and Active Schools / Sport facility and urban planning

<http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/>

Description of the good example

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for 25 years across the UK's Cheshire and Merseyside regions. Their story starts back in the early 90s, when 12 areas of England were chosen to be the focus of a long-term tree planting programmes, in order to benefit the people, wildlife and the economy. The largest of these designated Community Forest areas named Mersey Forest, covers more than 500 square miles of Merseyside and North Cheshire. Since then, through community and partnership working The Mersey Forest Partnership has planted more than 9 million trees equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area. Praised as a «visionary concept», our 'more from trees' approach brings a whole host of environmental, health and economic benefits.

Target - Who can best use this example or document?

Local authorities, community at large, public and private sectors, grant giving bodies, local and national government.

**All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.*

Highlights and outcomes

Why could it be useful for your organisation and advocacy?

The Mersey Forest was created with people, not just for the people and brings a whole range of social benefits for people, such as strengthening and engaging communities, keeping people fit and healthy and space for natural play; economic benefits such as attracting investment, increasing land and property values, job creation and timber industry development. Lastly, there are also environmental benefits with creating and managing a well-wooded landscape, planning the green infrastructure and boosting biodiversity.

Learning points - What can we learn from it?

Local authorities, national governments and other stakeholders can learn how to make an impact on the people's lives, the environment and the economy of their communities. The website provides supporting documents on strong and engaged communities, how to keep fit and healthy, how to attract investment and increase land and property value or how to promote job creation and establish partnerships with businesses. All of this through creating and managing a well-wooded landscape, green infrastructure planning, and boosting the biodiversity.

Further information

Mersey Forest
mail@merseyforest.org.uk
<http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/>