

# Manchester OLOAA Strategy 2026–2036

## Building a Thriving Outdoor Community – One-Page Summary



### Purpose & Scope

The *Manchester Outdoor Learning and Outdoor Adventurous Activity Strategy 2026-2036* (OLOAA Strategy) provides a **citywide framework** to embed **high-quality outdoor learning and adventurous activities** into everyday life for people of all ages across Manchester. It is **the first all-age outdoor learning strategy developed by a UK Core City**, designed to support health, wellbeing, education, inclusion, and community connections through time-spent outdoors.

### Context & Development

This Strategy replaces and expands on previous plans, extending beyond youth-focused initiatives to include **all age groups**, and incorporates both **indoor and outdoor learning environments** where appropriate. It was developed through **research, consultation, facility needs analysis and demand modelling**, including work with Sheffield Hallam University and local communities.

The Strategy aligns with **Manchester's broader city-wide ambitions** such as the *Our Manchester Strategy 2025-2035* and emerging local planning and open space policies.

### Vision

To create an **inclusive, accessible, and sustained outdoor learning and adventurous activity offer** that supports lifelong engagement with nature and outdoor pursuits — improving physical and mental wellbeing, reducing barriers to participation, and strengthening community use of outdoor spaces.

## Strategic Priorities

The Strategy sets out **six interlinked priorities**:

1. **Enhance Accessibility & Inclusivity** – reduce barriers for people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in outdoor activities.
2. **Strengthen Workforce & Training** – build skills and capacity among educators, activity providers, volunteers and community leaders.
  1. **Develop Delivery Networks** – support and expand the partnership network of community groups, schools, clubs and providers.
3. **Improve Facilities & Infrastructure** – address gaps in provision and ensure quality outdoor and adventurous environments.
4. **Foster Cross-Sector Collaboration** – integrate efforts across public, private, voluntary sectors and neighbourhoods.
5. **Promote Sustainable & Active Travel** – support walking, cycling and green transport to reach outdoor opportunities.

## Action Plans

Five targeted plans support delivery over ten years:

- **10-Year Delivery Roadmap**
- **Active Parks Action Plan**
- **Locality Facility & Activity Investment Plan**
- **Education Action Plan**
- **Young People's Action Plan**

These plans provide **roadmaps for implementation**, investment prioritisation, and community engagement.

## Governance & Delivery

A **Strategy Board** (including council officers, partner organisations, education, leisure and community representatives) will guide implementation. Manchester City Council will oversee governance with broad stakeholder engagement. The Strategy will be **published as a live, public-facing document** and reviewed annually to ensure progress and responsiveness to community needs.

## Aims & Outcomes

The OLOAA Strategy aims to:

- Embed outdoor learning into community life
- Reduce inequality in access to outdoor opportunities
- Contribute to better **health, wellbeing, education, social cohesion, and life skills**
- Influence future **investment, planning and open space policies** (including the Local Plan)
- Strengthen Manchester's position as a city that champions inclusive outdoor engagement at all ages.