

# Guide Bridge memorial garden

[Making rail a great experience] – a social performance case study

## The project

The Friends of Guide Bridge group is made up of local community volunteers who work with Network Rail to improve Guide Bridge station in Manchester and its surrounding areas. When the Friends of Guide Bridge approached Network Rail to discuss using the overgrown and under-utilised land adjacent to the station, the community rail team came together to help create a community garden. Staff at Network Rail, Northern and Carillion used volunteer leave to clear the land and lay the foundations, ready for the Friends of Guide Bridge to create three wild flower gardens and two planting troughs for fruit and vegetables. Also included in the project is an area designated for Rail Safety training, which will be used to engage local schools.



## The key benefits delivered

**Benefit to society:** The Friends of Guide Bridge have a long-term, strategic approach to improving the local community and including Network Rail in these plans ensures smooth delivery and positive relationships at every stage of the work. The garden is not only a visually pleasing experience for all passers-by, but the addition of the fruit and vegetable garden allows them to engage with local schools to educate young people on wildlife, health and wellbeing, and the natural environment as well as safe use of the railway.

**Benefit to the business:** Using volunteer leave for the benefit of local communities has a positive impact on staff morale and improves relationships within teams. This project also built excellent relationships between industry partners as the train operating company and tier one supplier worked to create a positive experience for every rail passenger and visitor at Guide Bridge station.

## Lessons learned

- It is important to have just one safety brief, rather than creating one for each partner, to ensure a clear and consistent message to the entire group.
- Ensuring the area to be developed is inspected prior to work being started is an essential lesson learnt. For example, the land should be cat-scanned and checked for sharps.

## Who to contact for more information

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