

AINA CASE STUDY

HEALTH, WELLBEING, RECREATION AND SPORT

Canalside community garden in Burnley



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The canal embankment in Burnley has been improved with an £85,000 community garden

Local partnership creates a new green space by 'the straight mile'

A piece of land alongside Burnley's high canal embankment, which was at one time home to a rope factory, has been transformed into a £85,000 community garden by the Canalside Community Association, working with partners from the Canal and River Trust, Lancashire County Council and Burnley Borough Council.

The Ropewalk Community Garden opened in November 2012 and was designed as a pleasant green space where locals and visitors can relax by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The area has been transformed with the repair of boundary walls, new steps, a disabled access ramp and new tables and benches. Bespoke railings and decorative planting have also been provided.

The Canalside Community Association received welcome support from local residents and a time-line mosaic and plaques on the planters were designed by young people during workshops led by a local community arts company. The Association said: "The Ropewalk garden has transformed an underused stretch of grassland into a great space for locals to enjoy, as well as benefiting passing boaters and walkers who want to stop for a picnic lunch. The project is an outstanding example of the community and agencies working together to create a garden that has heritage and community at its heart."

Work to create the garden was carried out with help from employees at Veolia and staff from the Canal & River Trust. Funding was raised through grants from BIG Lottery Community Spaces, the Veolia Environmental Trust (via the Landfill Communities Fund) and Lancashire County Council. The garden will be maintained by local volunteers with support from Burnley Borough Council.

Burnley embankment is often called 'the straight mile' and is widely regarded as one of the wonders of the waterways.