



## Immediate Release

### **New trees and rain garden for Ruskin Park**

Planting 20 new trees and creating a rain garden to help alleviate flooding and restore the legacy of trees in Ruskin Park

Ruskin Park has been identified as a high flood risk area and the number of trees in the park are in decline, suffering from old age and disease. Trees for Cities is working with the Friends of Ruskin Park and Lambeth Council on a flood alleviation plan for Ruskin Park, using tree planting and rain gardens as a sustainable approach to mitigate flooding whilst ensuring there are trees in the park for future generations to enjoy.

Trees for Cities is working in partnership with Lambeth Council and will plant ten trees around the playing field boundary to begin replacement of dead and dying mature ash and horse chestnut trees. Ten standard trees will also be planted inside the park corner adjacent to Finsen Road and by the entrance on Ferndene Road. They will be a mix of species to ensure resilience to tree pests and disease and will help alleviate flooding in these high flood risk areas.

Trees for Cities will also transform the area by the public toilet block into a beautiful rain garden. Like a riverbed, rain gardens are shallow depressions with absorbent, yet free-draining soil planted with ferns, grasses and perennials that can withstand temporary flooding. The rain garden will be perfectly positioned to naturally channel and retain substantial downhill run off from Ferndene Road.

“The Friends of Ruskin Park want to keep our park looking great and revitalise it for the future. Tree planting is urgently needed to ensure the park has plentiful and healthy trees for now and future generations” – **David Whyte, Chair of the Friends of Ruskin Park.**

Trees for Cities is holding a community tree planting event at Ruskin Park on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, where people of all ages are welcome to come down to help plant the trees and join in the family fun.

**David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities said:** “ There is no denying the importance of trees to our urban environment. Protecting and replacing our trees, which act as a natural flood defence, is increasingly essential. In a recent ground breaking survey, it was calculated that the surface area of trees within Greater London can help intercept over 3 million cubic metres of storm water each year, this is the equivalent of 1365 Olympic swimming pools”

This project is kindly supported by the Mayor of London, as a funder through the London Tree and Woodland Community Grant Scheme. The London Tree & Woodland Grant Scheme is part of the Mayor’s campaign to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more trees. It also aims to protect London's woodlands and associated wildlife and make London a greener, more attractive city.

**Matthew Pencharz, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy said,** “The Mayor has prioritised delivering over 100,000 new trees in the capital over the last eight years, and by investing £5,000 in planting trees in Ruskin Park, the local community will have a beautiful green space for decades to come”.



**Trees for Cities**

This project has been kindly supported by Lambeth Council, Mayor London, Finnis Scott Foundation, John Spedan Lewis Foundation and the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.

**Notes to Editors**

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**Trees for Cities** is the only independent charity working on a global scale focussed entirely on planting urban trees and providing volunteering opportunities to bring local people together. Originally established in 1993 as Trees for London, demand for our services has grown and we now plant trees in 25 cities across the UK and overseas.

Since our inception we have engaged over 70,000 people to plant 570,000 trees focussing on health, food security, environmental protection, and providing opportunities for education and learning through our Edible Playground and Urban Forest programmes.

Our vision to plant trees in cities is global. However, we know the importance of a local focus – we empower and work with local people to strengthen their community. We are a game-changing, ambitious organisation which sets the standard for urban tree planting worldwide. ([www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org))

**London Tree and Woodland Community Grant Scheme**

The London Tree & Woodland Grant Scheme is part of a campaign led by The Mayor of London to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more trees. The Mayor also wants to protect London's woodlands and associated wildlife and make London a greener, more attractive city.

**Lambeth Council [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)**

“The Finnis Scott Foundation [www.finnis-scott-foundation.org.uk/](http://www.finnis-scott-foundation.org.uk/) is a charity that supports horticulture and plant sciences; fine art; and art history”

**The John Spedan Lewis Foundation** was set up in 1964 at the instigation of Partners (employees) to commemorate the life and particular interests of John Spedan Lewis, the founder of the Partnership. The Foundation is an independent registered charity administered by five Trustees who meet twice a year, usually June and November. Applications for funding are considered in the categories of horticulture, ornithology, entomology, environmental education and conservation, with preference given to small projects with an educational content. The size of donations range from approximately £500 to £7,000. In addition, the Foundation funds a small number of PhD research projects on specific topics chosen by the Trustees. The Trustees also select the universities and research institutes they wish to support. Regrettably, unsolicited applications for PhD funding from individuals, universities or research institutes are not considered. Further information about the Foundation can be obtained by emailing [JSLF@johnlewis.co.uk](mailto:JSLF@johnlewis.co.uk) or from the Foundation's Charity Commission web page ([www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)).

**Metropolitan Public Gardens Association**

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



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