



Roding Valley Meadow set to have a new Orchard

Trees for Cities (an independent UK charity planting urban trees, inspiring children to grow and eat good food and providing volunteering opportunities to bring local people together) in partnership with Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure will be creating an orchard of 30 mixed variety fruit trees in the Roding Valley Meadow for the benefit of wildlife and for the visiting public to enjoy.

The fruit trees will help to encourage a new wildlife habitat, provide edible berries and fruits for people to forage and will be used as a teaching resource for local primary schools; for children to understand where food comes from and to understand seasonality.

Trees for Cities is holding a community tree planting event at Roding Valley on Saturday 23rd January 2016. People of all ages are welcome to come down to help plant trees and join in the family fun! To keep everyone entertained on the day, there will be arts and crafts activities for children and refreshments provided. Tools and gloves will also be provided and attendees are advised to wear suitable shoes and outdoor clothing.

David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities said: “Orchards are in decline and under enormous threat from land development. Approximately 60% of orchards have been lost since the 1950s. We are delighted to help address this issue by planting a new orchard. The orchard will greatly improve the site for the local community and wildlife and provide food harvesting opportunities for members of the public and local schools”.

Trees for Cities has engaged communities to plant trees in cities for 22 years. People of all ages love to plant a tree; it is great exercise, great fun, and makes such a difference to community spaces.

Trees for Cities is working in partnership with Vision RCL and the project has kindly been supported by The Veolia Environmental Trust, who have awarded a grant of £11,500 through the Landfill Communities Fund, Essex & Suffolk Water’s ‘Branch Out’ fund who kindly donated £8000, the Mayor of London’s London Tree and Woodland Community Grants Scheme who awarded a grant of £10,000 and the Environment Development Reserve contributed by the London Borough of Redbridge, who gave £15,000 towards the project.

Councillor Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council, said, “In Redbridge we are incredibly proud of our green spaces and our six Green Flag parks. As such we are very pleased that Roding Valley will become home to a brand new orchard which will have benefits for wildlife, the environment and local people.

“I encourage everyone to show their civic pride, don some gloves and get planting on 23 January”

The Executive Director of The Veolia Environmental Trust, Paul Taylor, said, “It is great to hear that this exciting project is getting underway soon. The planting event sounds like it will be great fun and I hope everyone who gets involved has a great time. I look forward to hearing about how the new orchard is taking shape over the coming months.”

Notes to Editors

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Trees for Cities (TfC) 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)

Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure– Vision RCL manages a wide range of cultural, sport and leisure facilities and services in partnership with the London Borough of Redbridge. These facilities and services include the Borough's libraries, heritage, sport & leisure facilities, parks & open spaces, grounds maintenance, halls hire and events.

Working alongside the Trust's management team, the organisation is overseen by a Board of Director Trustees made up of community representatives and local Councillors.

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.

About Northumbrian Water Group

Northumbrian Water Group contains the following companies and divisions:

Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) provides water and sewerage services in the north east of England under the brand name Northumbrian Water and water services in the south east under the brand name Essex & Suffolk Water. It serves 2.7 million people in the north with water and sewerage services and 1.8 million people in the south with water services. Branch Out projects in 2014 received £72,003 and this helped our partners bring in additional funds in excess of £960,000 to drive forward a number of different environmentally focused events and projects.

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling Landfill Operators (LOs) to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies (EBs). EBs use this funding for a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites. LOs are able to claim a credit (currently 5.7%) against their landfill tax liability for 90% of the contributions they make.

Since its inception in 1996, over £1.3bn billion has been spent on more than 51,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit www.entrust.org.uk or see [HMRC's general guide to Landfill Tax](#).

The Veolia Environmental Trust has been supporting community and environmental projects through the Landfill Communities Fund for 18 years. Since we were established in 1997, Veolia has supported us by contributions of over £65 million to 2003 projects. We have helped fund a diverse range of projects, including the repair of woodland footpaths, the renovation of community halls and the installation of playgrounds and play areas. For more information, or to find out how to apply for funding, visit our website www.veoliatrust.org.

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