



**Trees for Cities**

**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Ealing recreation ground set to have a new community orchard**

**50 new fruit trees will be planted to encourage biodiversity and provide a valuable community resource**

Trees for Cities is working in partnership with Ealing Council and the Mayor of London to create a community orchard in the Wood End Wireless Station recreation ground in Northolt, for the benefit of wildlife and for the visiting public to enjoy.

The orchard will consist of 45 mixed variety apple trees and 5 crabapple trees, providing edible fruits for people to forage, supplying plentiful fruit for animals and birds and creating a beautiful, peaceful and inspiring green space for residents.

Trees for Cities is holding a community tree planting event at the recreation ground on Saturday 12th March. People of all ages are welcome to come down to help plant the fruit 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 23 years. People of all ages love to plant a tree; it is great exercise, great fun, and makes such a difference to community spaces.

**Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Ealing Council cabinet member for transport, environment and leisure, said:** "There is already a great community spirit in the area so we know this new orchard will be well looked after and grow bigger as the years go by. The new orchard offers local residents a space to enjoy with their family and friends, pick fruits and will attract new wildlife to the area.

This project is kindly supported by Bloomberg, Timberland and the Mayor of London.

**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 £10,000 in this exciting new orchard the local community will have a beautiful green space for decades to come."

### **Notes to Editors**

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**Trees for Cities** has undertaken other activities in Ealing, including a Urban Food Forest in Southall planting 20,000 trees early this year and previously in Northolt, planting 10,000 trees; 2 Edible Playgrounds have been

created at Lady Margaret Primary School and Berrymede Junior School, which will excite and teach children about growing and eating healthy food. All our projects aim to support and improve the green infrastructure in the borough.

**Trees for Cities (TfC)** is the only independent charity working on a global scale focussed entirely on planting urban trees, providing volunteering opportunities to bring local people together and inspiring children to grow and eat good food. Originally established in 1993 as Trees for London, demand for our services has grown and we now plant trees in 28 cities across the UK and overseas.

Since our inception we have engaged over 75,000 people to plant 575,000 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))

**Ealing council** has six top priorities: making the borough prosperous, healthier, safer, cleaner, fairer and accessible.

**Timberland** is a global leader in the design, manufacturing and marketing of premium footwear, apparel and accessories for the outdoor lifestyle. Best known for the original yellow boot introduced in 1973, Timberland today outfits consumers from toe-to-head, with versatile collections that reflect the brand's rich heritage of craftsmanship, function and style. Timberland markets lifestyle products under the Timberland® and Timberland Boot Company® brands, and industrial footwear and workwear under the Timberland PRO® brand. Its products are sold throughout the world in leading department and specialty stores as well as company-owned retail locations and online. Timberland's dedication to making quality products is matched by an unwavering commitment to environmental and social responsibility – to make things better for its products, the outdoors, and communities around the globe. To learn more about Timberland, a brand of VF Corporation (NYSE: VFC), please visit [timberland.com](http://timberland.com) or follow us along the modern trail @timberland.

### **Mayor of London**

The Mayor has led a number of initiatives that aim to increase the number of trees in London. These include: The Mayor's Street Tree Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Forestry Commission saw 20,000 street trees planted across the capital.

RE:LEAF - a partnership campaign led by the Mayor to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more trees.

The London Tree and Woodland Community Grant Scheme (CGS) supports projects that promote or protect trees and woodlands and engage local communities.

The Mayor's Big Green Fund is investing £3 million into improving 11 areas of London. This funding is being used to create high quality open spaces connecting town centers, public transport hubs, employment and residential areas with parks, open spaces and the Thames.

The Pocket Parks programme has provided £2m of funding to create 100 pocket parks - small areas of inviting public space for all people to enjoy, providing relief from the hustle and bustle of the city.

[www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands)



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