TREES FOR CITIES FOREST ROAD COMMUNITY WOODLAND

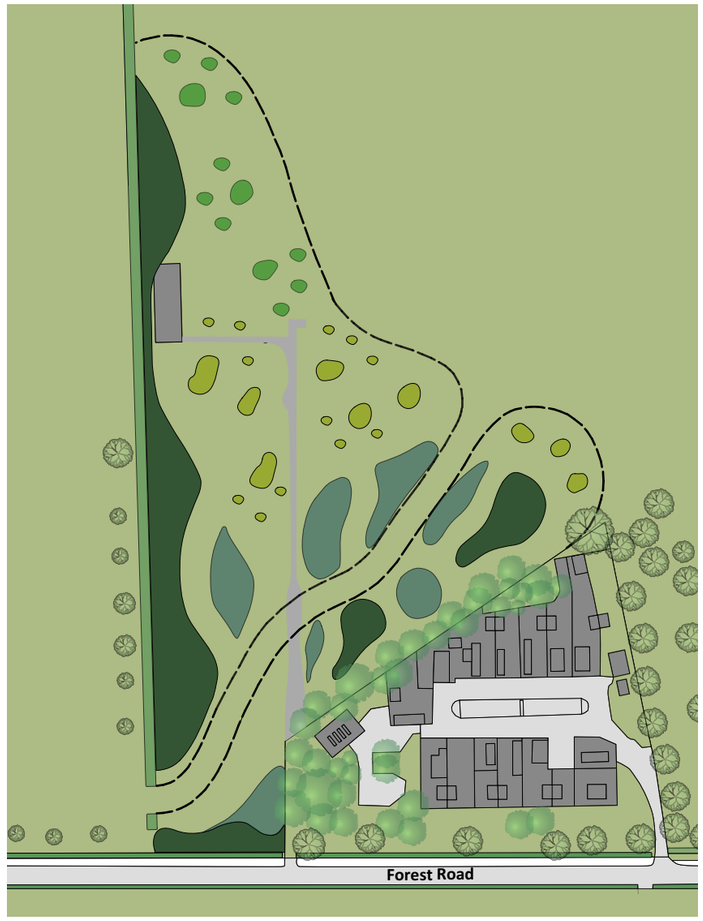
SUPPORTED BY MAYOR OF LONDON

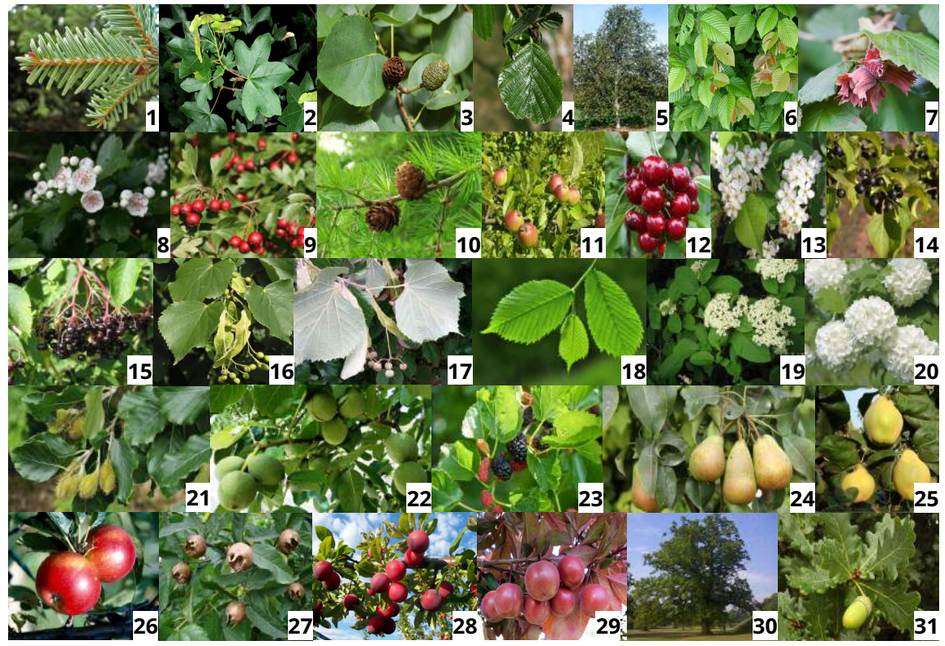
Trees for Cities is working in partnership with the London Borough of Redbridge and Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure to create a vibrant woodland area in Forest Road Extension. We will plant 15,000 trees on amenity grassland in the south-west fringe of Forest Road Extension, which will include edible fruits and nuts for local people to forage, a future timber crop and a much-needed habitat for the local fauna and flora.
The design has been developed with the aim of creating a woodland for social and environmental benefits. The diversity of the woodland will provide a high quality natural space while providing a habitat for local wildlife, ensuring that the woodland will flourish for future generations to enjoy.
The proposed planting area will create natural weaving paths through the woodland. It will include shady areas to enjoy and allow other areas for biodiversity to flourish.

History
The Great Forest of Essex once spread across the whole of the county. Nearby Hainult County Park and Havering County Park are some of the only fragments left of this once vast forest. The site of the new woodland in Forest Road Extension sits within the ancient boundary of The Great Forest of Essex. Being near London, the Great Forest of Essex was always a working forest. Although the forest was officially under the ownership of the Crown, the common man had rights to work it for woodfuel, pasture grazing and feeding swine on beechmast and acorns. The most prevalent forest industry within the forest during the 18th and 19th centuries was charcoal burning for industries such as iron smelting, gunpowder making and hop drying.
During the early 19th century Britain saw a surge in the use of coal and the subsequent reduction in the use of charcoal. Now that the forest was no longer needed as a source of fuel it was seen as wasteland. Gradually over the centuries, the forest was chipped away by housing and farmland. In 1851 the Disafforestation act was passed which was the beginning of the end of the Great Essex Forest and the land we shall now be replanting, was cleared for industry.

Woodland health
With an ever-changing climate and the increasing spread of pests and diseases, we cannot rely solely on a small selection of tree species. When planting trees we have to consider species diversity, as this can help our woods and forests to adapt to changing environmental conditions and reduce the impact of pests and diseases on the tree population.
The surrounding large woodlands of Hainult Country Park and Havering Country Park are incredible ancient oak forests, as such we shall not plant oaks within this new woodland, but allow natural regeneration of oaks within the open spaces between the planted tree copses. Vital missing species shall be planted, such as but not limited to, lime, *Tilia cordata,* apple, *Malus sp* and walnut, *Juglans sp.*

Biodiversity
Diversifying the woodland species mix shall not only create resilience but create environmental niches for a larger range of animals and insects. The woodland's myriad of tree species shall create a source of food for many different animals. The fruit shall feed mammals, birds and insects and the increase in insects shall feed the fragile bat population. For example, the small leaved lime, *Tilia cordata,* used to cover most of Britain until it was cut down around 7000 years ago, and then cooler summers held back natural regeneration, is a particularly valuable source of food for many insects. Moths eat their leaves, aphids drink their nectar; which in turn creates a source of food for the many species that enjoy eating aphids. Perhaps most importantly, limes are considered one of the most valuable sources of nectar for honeybees.





Area A
1. *Abies alba* - Silver fir
2. *Acer campestre* - Field maple
3. *Alnus cordata* - Italian alder
4. *Alnus glutinosa* - Common alder
5. *Betula pendula* - Silver birch
6. *Carpinus betulus* - Hornbeam
7. *Corylus avellana* - Hazel
8. *Crataegus laevigata* - Woodland hawthorn
9. *Crataegus monogyna* - Hawthorn
10. *Larix decidua* - European larch
11. *Malus sylvestris* - Crab apple
12. *Prunus avium* - Wild cherry
13. *Prunus padus* - Bird cherry
14. *Rhamnus cathartica* - Common buckthorn
15. *Sambucus nigra* - Elder
16. *Tilia cordata* - Small leaved lime
17. *Tilia tomentosa* - Silver lime
18. *Ulmus spp* - Elm
19. *Viburnum lantana* - Wayfaring tree
20. *Viburnum opulus* - Guelder rose

Area B
3. *Alnus cordata* - Italian alder
7. *Corylus avellana* - Hazel
21. *Fagus sylvatica* - Beech
22. *Juglans regia* - Common walnut
11. *Malus sylvestris* - Crab apple
23. *Morus nigra* - Black mulberry
24. *Pyrus communis* - Common pear

Area C
2. *Acer campestre* - Field maple
9. *Crataegus monogyna* - Hawthorn
25. *Cydonia oblonga* - Quince
26. *Malus domestica* - Apple tree
11. *Malus sylvestris* - Crab apple
27. *Mespilus germanica* - Medlar
23. *Morus nigra* - Black mulberry
12. *Prunus avium* - Wild cherry
28. *Prunus domestica* - Common plum
29. *Prunus domestica subsp insititia* - Damson
13. *Prunus padus* - Bird cherry
24. *Pyrus communis* - Common pear
15. *Sambucus nigra* - Elder

Area D
30. *Quercus petraea* - Sessile oak
31. *Quercus robur* - English oak

Key
- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- Area D
- Short grass area
- Existing tree
- Existing shrub
- Existing hedge

Public Use
The woodland has been designed with public use as the main objective in mind. All aspects of it shall be of use to the public, if not directly through foraging and timber use then indirectly from environmental benefits, such as water retention and creating the air we breathe.
The larger areas of the woodland shall be mainly for biodiversity but the species it consists of shall also be an excellent source of timber in later years. The area's history of forest industry shall be harked back to with the choice of species within the main parts of the woodland. Hornbeam, hazel and alder make up the large majority of this part of the woodland and are historically significant species for industries in Britain.
Large areas of fruit and nut trees shall be planted to provide an annual source of food for humans and animals alike. Fruit and nut woodlands shall be planted to mimic the ancient fruit and nut forests. The historical natural range of fruit and nut trees and groups of fruit trees shall be planted on the fringes of the woodland to take full advantage of the sun. Most fruit trees thrive with a lot of sunlight. Planting them in small clusters, and out in the open, shall allow them to soak up all of the sunlight they need and bring the public a bountiful supply of food.
As people move around the pockets of trees, natural paths shall form. The areas that are not used will allow for the natural regeneration of trees, which in their own time shall grow to be woodlands. The grouped planting of these fruit trees shall create havens for wildlife while humans will be able to harvest the fruit in around four years' time. This is an orchard for both humans and biodiversity.

Drawing: Forest Road Community Woodland
Scale: 1:2250 @ A3
Date: 24/10/2018