



**TREES
FOR CITIES**

EALING COUNCIL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2016-19

IMPACT REPORT - YEAR 2 (2017/18)



INTRODUCTION

Building on the momentum of a successful first year, Trees for Cities and Ealing Council entered into the second year of the partnership in a strong position having already identified three projects; Horsenden Hill, Racecourse Estate, and i-Tree Eco. This longer lead-in time provided an opportunity not only to secure larger, multi-year funds, but also provided more time to consult and engage the community with the activities going on in their areas.

This year (2017/18) has been another hugely successful year in which Trees for Cities has piloted the first cluster

approach and i-Tree projects, which have both been well received among the local community and council staff.

This report provides a detailed summary of the projects delivered under the strategic partnership in 2017/18, the impact they've had on the local environment and community, as well as a financial breakdown, detailed learnings from the year, and a set of potential projects for the upcoming year.

In addition to this, a summary of all other projects (delivered outside the partnership funding) is given.

SUMMARY



13,600
TREES



3
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS



1,228
VOLUNTEERS



17
CORPORATE
VOLUNTEER DAYS



9
COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIONS



IMPACT

2017/18 has been an incredibly successful year for the partnership. Trees for Cities has delivered the first London Borough i-Tree, piloted the first cluster approach project, and planted almost 10,000 trees with >1,000 volunteers.

The i-Tree Eco project holds international significance, with the findings shared at the National Tree Officers Conference in Birmingham, the European Forum on Urban Forestry in Helsinki, and plans for talks at more Urban Forestry conferences in Vancouver, Mantova, the Netherl-

ands, Germany and London. This has propelled Ealing Council to new audiences and has been instrumental in raising the profile of Ealing's trees.

The i-Tree findings are being used to draft Ealing's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). The UFMP provides a detailed framework for the proactive management, protection, and growth of Ealing's urban forest and will describe a shared vision for the future of Ealing's trees to inspire and engage residents, business owners, elected officials, and community organisations.



2017/18 LEARNINGS

Trees for Cities has recently undertaken a woodland creation monitoring project in which we surveyed 15 woodlands planted by different organisations across London within the last 30 years. The review found that the ecological quality of the surveyed woodlands varied significantly with the strongest determining factors appearing to be management techniques employed and management continuity.

In response to this, Trees for Cities is developing a woodland

management programme that we hope will support Park Rangers manage their existing woodland. Activities include copse thinning by removing branches and brash to ensure healthy development of trees and using the off-cuts to create dead hedges.

This has been trialled as a Corporate Volunteer Opportunity (CVO) which greatly improved the site visibility and accessibility (see photo above). We aim to offer woodland management as CVO opportunities under the strategic partnership this year.



2018/19 POTENTIAL

In addition to the woodland management opportunities currently in development, Trees for Cities has pulled together a plan of potential projects to be delivered in the third year of the strategic partnership.

Firstly, Trees for Cities has been working closely with the community at Racecourse Estate to take forward the multi-year programme of tree planting and greening across the site. 'Fruit trees', 'community gardens', 'seating', 'play areas' and 'food growing' have been the most

common suggestions from residents. Trees for Cities would love to incorporate these into project plans for 2018/19 where possible and appropriate.

Furthermore, The Mayor has set aside part of their Greener City Fund towards a mass tree planting weekend in December 2018. Building on the success of woodland creation in Ealing over recent years and to celebrate our partnership, we'd love to deliver a whip planting project as part of this high profile event.

PROJECT 1: HORSENDEN HILL

COMMUNITY WOODLAND PROJECT "WHITTLERS WOOD"



The aim of this project was to develop Horsenden Hill into a self-sustaining woodland habitat, both socially and financially.

The local community has been involved in the woodland creation from start to finish. Over 800 volunteers participated in the creation of the new woodland during numerous planting sessions held by Trees for Cities, including planting workshops with local schools, two large community planting days as well as corporate

volunteering opportunities. We had a fantastic volunteer turnout at our two community planting days; **390** adults and **200** children attended, of which **379** were from the local community.

Across the different events, **9,500** whips comprised of a variety of beautiful species were planted, which includes an 'edible' woodland area as well as a 'working' woodland area for the use of sensitive timber cropping in the future.

In total, we led **8** local school workshops with Horsenden Hill Primary, Edward Betham Primay, Selbourne Primary School, Wood End Academy and St George's Primary School. A total of **206** children and **47** adults (teachers /support staff) were involved in the school planting workshops.

The woodland's new name, 'Whittler's Wood', has been selected through a public vote, where over 50 suggestions were put forward by the planting volunteers.

We hope the success of this project will be recognised under the 'Community Woodland Award' of the Forestry Commission's 'London Tree and Woodland Awards' in which it has been nominated.

Horsenden Hill will soon be listed on the new London Wood Enterprise Network (LWEN), which is being launched

"I'M SO IMPRESSED BY THE TFC TEAM. THE PROFESSIONALISM, COMPETENCE AND ENTHUSIASM FROM THE WHOLE TEAM TODAY AND THROUGHOUT, FROM THE EARLY STAGES WITH BID WRITING, THROUGH TO THE PLANTING DESIGN, AND DELIVERY OF VOLUNTEER SESSIONS, COMMUNITY LIAISON AND PLANTING DAY LOGISTICS, THE WORK OF TFC STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING."

- Jon Staples, Park Ranger

by the Forestry Commission and Lantern across the capital. LWEN will connect local people and organisation to encourage more use of London timber through working woodlands across the city. As part of the initiative, several factsheets are being created to showcase best practice across the sector, where a case study of Horsenden Hill will be featured.

Click [here](#) for the Ealing Times project coverage



843

VOLUNTEERS



2

PLANTING DAYS



9,500

TREES



3

**COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIONS**



YOU CAN SEE MORE GREAT PHOTOS [HERE](#)
OR WATCH A SHORT VIDEO OF THE DAY [HERE](#)



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FEEDBACK

Trees for Cities gather feedback from our volunteers wherever possible to continue to develop and improve our days. We received **50** feedback forms from the Horsenden Hill volunteers:

92% rated their experience as **'Excellent'**

88% rated the organisation of the day as **'Excellent'**

100% said they would recommend volunteering with Trees for Cities

When we asked volunteers what the best thing about planting trees is, they said:

“ Meeting people from such diverse backgrounds - so inclusive!”

"The after feeling you get. It was very rewarding and fulfilling. Definitely will come back again. Thanks very much for everything. First time - enjoyed thoroughly!”

“ Fun for all, our first time and definitely not our last time”

"New life and hope - essential for the future (beautiful too!) Very well organised event. Organisers brilliant and knowledgeable - a day very well spent.”

PROJECT 2: RACECOURSE ESTATE

COMMUNITY PLANTING



This project kick-started our 3-year programme of greening and tree planting work on the estate. Over the next 2 years, we will deliver a range of tree planting and greening projects across the estate in a holistic and interconnected way to have the greatest and most sustainable social and environmental impact.

This project has allowed us to engage a large number of residents on the estate and served as a platform for consultation to turn people's ideas into projects for subsequent years.

Prior to the project, local residents expressed the need for improved green spaces across the estate to enhance the environment and create a more welcoming and beautiful neighbourhood overall. As highlighted by Ealing's Tree Strategy (2013-2018), the local area suffers from deficiency in accessing the borough's district parks, thus local improvements must be made to enhance local green spaces.

Our family-friendly community planting day was planned for

Saturday 25th of March. Unfortunately adverse weather conditions meant the planting day had to be cancelled at the last minute. This was very disappointing, especially as the planting was being delivered late in the season meaning we were unable to coordinate another planting event. However we still managed to engage over **200** volunteers by running **8** different planting workshops with teenagers and children from the local Brentside High School and Petts Hill Primary. A total of **193** pupils and **20** teachers/support staff were engaged in the planting of **11** trees across their estate.

The remaining trees have since been planted by Trees for Cities staff across grass verges throughout the estate, creating green corridors between existing green spaces and community hubs such as Northolt Park, Northolt Leisure Centre, Northolt Girl Guides Hut, and Pett's Hill Primary. Research has shown that trees near streets can encourage

walking (The Built Environment and Public Health, 2012) and multiple studies have demonstrated their help in reducing road traffic speeds. Most of the trees are edible fruit and nut varieties, to encourage residents to forage for free, healthy and tasty food on their doorstep.

In place of the planting event, Trees for Cities were delighted to host a family fun day on the estate on Saturday 5th May. There were lots of fun activities, including a face painter, giant bubbles, local ukulele band, arts and crafts, a seed sowing stall and refreshments. More than **45** children and **30** adults came together for a fun day out on the bank holiday weekend to meet their neighbours and strengthen communal ties, whilst also allowing them to have a real stake in designing the future of the estate's green spaces. There was a lot of positivity about the trees that went in this year.



>280

LOCALS ENGAGED



8

SCHOOL
PLANTING WORKSHOPS



61

TREES



6

COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIONS





PROJECT 3: EALING I-TREE ECO

STRATEGIC PROJECT



[WWW.EALINGITREE.ONLINE](http://www.ealingitree.online)

Trees for Cities and Ealing Council partnered with Treeconomics, Forest Research, the Greater London Authority, Forestry Commission and Arup to deliver a robust, holistic i-Tree project that will inform the tree management and planting objectives in Ealing's next strategy.

The steering group developed a three-tiered approach to ensure sufficient detail was gathered. This is the first time a tri-method approach has been applied to a London borough, which has presented both benefits and

limitations, which together are being used to inform and substantiate the Council's future strategic approaches to tree protection, resilience, biosecurity, maintenance and planting.

Key findings from the report are brought to life through the interactive site:

www.ealingitree.online

Treeconomics and Ealing's Tree Service Manager have worked closely to pull together a skeleton Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) that outlines a set of

potential objectives, targets, KPIs and actions for achieving them. Trees for Cities hope that, with some additional funding, this work can be continued to produce a full UFMP ready for implementation in 2019/20.

This project has raised the profile of trees in the borough and inspired other local authorities to take a more informed approach to urban forest management. This would not have been possible without our fantastic team of **45** volunteers who teamed up with arboricultural professionals and spent 2-4 days surveying plots over June - July.

To drum up public intrigue and interest in i-Tree, Trees for Cities tagged the trees along the approach to Ealing Broadway station with fun greetings and facts to inspire and inform the public. The public were invited to take a photo with them from 5th-11th March to learn what our city trees give back, and to

be in with the chance of winning a prize **#iValueTrees**. **17** people got involved in the campaign and three winners were chosen.

"A GREAT CAMPAIGN TO SHOW HOW VALUABLE OUR TREES ARE TO US. #IVALUETREES" - Julian Bell

The project method and findings have been widely communicated across local, regional and international networks e.g. London Live News, Ealing Times, and industry newsletters such as the Green Infrastructure Partnership and Trees and Design Action Group.

The project has also been presented at the National Tree Officers Conference in Birmingham and the European Forum on Urban Forestry in Helsinki. We also hope to share the findings at Urban Forestry conferences in Vancouver, Mantova, the Netherlands, Germany and London.

Read more on our **website**.



45

VOLUNTEERS



2

TRAINING DAYS



358

TREES SURVEYED



215

PLOTS ACCESSED

PROJECTS DELIVERED OUTSIDE THE PARTNERSHIP

In addition to the Strategic Partnership with Ealing Council, Trees for Cities has been working hard to plant additional trees across the borough.

Other Trees for Cities projects delivered across Ealing in 2017/18 include...

GROVE FARM

WOODLAND CREATION



Trees for Cities' carbon offsetting project at Grove Farm, in Greenford, Ealing has created new pockets of woodland. A total of **4015** whips were planted to increase diversity, resilience, longevity and quantity to the current woodland at Grove Farm.

As the site is currently used by walkers and dog walkers, the planting design accounted for existing public footpaths to ensure there was minimum disruption to current recreational activities. A mixture of species

were selected for this site at request of the Park Ranger. They include Common Alder, Paper Birch, Silver Birch, Downy Birch and Wild Cherry. They have good carbon sequestration capabilities, blend well with the natural surroundings and are a mix of rare and interesting species, some of which have been largely lost from UK woodlands. The variety of trees planted will ensure the resilience of the woodland and minimize the effect of pests and disease.

STREET TREES

NEIGHBOURHOOD TREE PLANTING



In the 2017/18 planting season, Trees for Cities planted an additional **24** street trees across Western Road, Montague Way, Dagmar Road and Regina Road.

We held three planting workshops with three different schools including Featherston Primary School, Clifton Primary School, and Greenfields Nursery. In total these workshops engaged **54** pupils and **6** teachers, all of which had a chance to get stuck into an aspect of the planting (putting the tree in the pit, laying mulch,

caging the tree etc.). Each of the workshops were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils.

A mixture of species were planted, as approved by the Tree Officer; small leaved lime, hornbeam, cherry, plane, maple, maidenhair, sweetgum, pride of India, and pear. Trees for Cities will water and maintain these trees through their critical establishment period (3 years) before handing over responsibility to the council.



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