

# PARTNERSHIP REPORT

UPDATE FOR THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST



**TREES  
FOR CITIES**

**2022-23**

# THANK YOU!

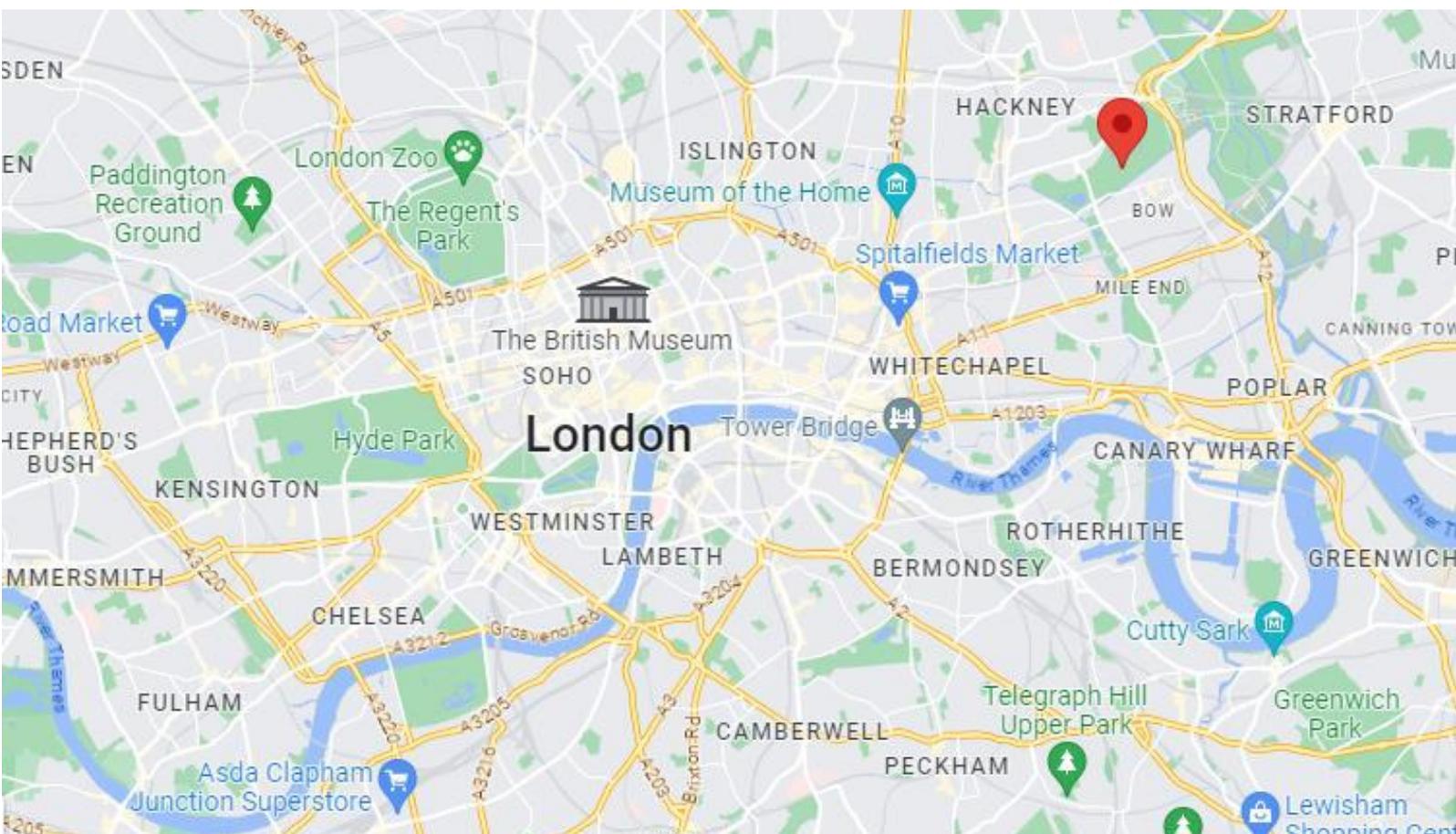
A huge thank you to **The Nineveh Charitable Trust** for your **donation of £3,000** in December 2022 towards our Community Tree Planting Project in Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets (2022-23 tree planting season).

## Background to the project

Trees for Cities worked with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to establish this project at **Victoria Park** (Grove Road, Bow, London, E3 5TB), to increase tree canopy cover, support wildlife biodiversity and help combat noise and air pollution.

We planned to plant 106 standard trees (trees about 3 meters high with a 94% chance of survival) across the park over the 2022-23 planting season. The project adds to canopy cover in the borough, complementing the Council's Tree Management Plan 2020-2025 and the London Environment Strategy aim to increase tree canopy cover across London by 10% by 2050. It also linked with the Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan which sets out a goal to increase tree planting on Council owned land and in parks. The project was designed to support local biodiversity while respecting the legacy and continuing use of the park.

Victoria Park is London oldest public park and central in the local residents' life as a site for formal and informal sport events, festivals, community events, etc ... The park spans across the wards of Bow West and Bow East, and across neighbourhoods which are among the 20-40% most deprived in the country based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. While the ward of Bow West has an average canopy cover of 26.6%, above the London average of 21%, Bow East lags behind that with an average canopy cover of 17.09%.



Trees for cities has carried out previous projects in Tower Hamlets which have been embraced by the local community. This project aims to provide opportunities for members of the local community to help out and get involved in planting additional trees in their area. Our community tree planting days are a mean for the local residents to directly take part in the greening of their neighbourhoods.

## Planning the project

In order to plan and deliver the community event planting, we worked with Tower Hamlets Council and carried out the following activities in the lead up to March 2023:

- Desk-based site analysis
- Site visits
- Utility services checks
- Community consultation (both carried out by Trees for Cities, and contributing to the council's consultation with the local 'Friends Of' groups)
- Landscape design for the sites
- Tree species selection (ecological considerations)
- Ordering the trees from local nurseries
- Planning and preparing for the Community tree planting event
- Engaging the local school in the project and delivering a workshop with pupils
- Promoting the community activities (via posters, flyers, website, e-newsletter and social media)



**VICTORIA PARK  
TREE PLANTING DAY**

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2023**  
**10AM - 3 PM @ VICTORIA PARK**

Volunteer with Trees for Cities for a day of tree planting to help create a long-lasting green space for all the community!

**+ FREE HOT LUNCH & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

**SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE**

**SIGN UP: [WWW.TREESFORCITIES.ORG/VICTORIA-PARK](http://WWW.TREESFORCITIES.ORG/VICTORIA-PARK)**  
Or contact our Community Engagement Coordinator at [johnk@treesforcities.org](mailto:johnk@treesforcities.org)



**WHO ARE TREES FOR CITIES?**

We are the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

**WHY SHOULD WE PLANT MORE TREES IN CITIES?**

Urban trees bring many benefits to our towns and cities such as releasing oxygen, keeping the air clean and mitigating the effects already felt by the climate crisis. They create shade, shelter and habitats for wildlife and create beautiful, tranquil spaces for everyone to enjoy.

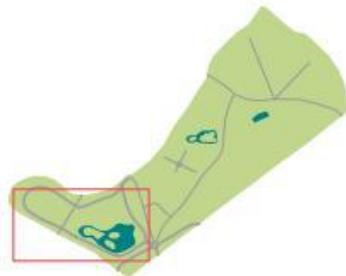
 @treesforcities  [www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org)

### Tree Planting Plan (106 trees):



trees planted 2022-23:  
 38  
 plant next year

Photo:	Grid ref.:	Direction:
P21	TQ 3583 8237	S
P22	TQ 3583 8136	SW
P23	TQ 3583 7457	W
P24	TQ 3583 7356	N
P25	TQ 3583 7258	SW
P26	TQ 3583 7663	NW
P27	TQ 3583 6862	S
P28	TQ 3583 6461	W
P29	TQ 3583 4851	NE
P30	TQ 3583 4253	NE
P31	TQ 3583 3854	N
P32	TQ 3583 4060	N
P33	TQ 3583 3566	W
P34	TQ 3583 3262	W
P35	TQ 3583 2958	SW
P36	TQ 3583 2157	NW
P37	TQ 3583 2461	E
P38	TQ 3583 2463	SE



#### Victoria Park total trees planted 22-23: 100

- 60 mixed - broadleaf and evergreen
- 39 London Plane
- 1 feature tree
- plant next year

Revision:	Notes:	Date:
A	first issue	16/01/23
B	as planted	20/03/23

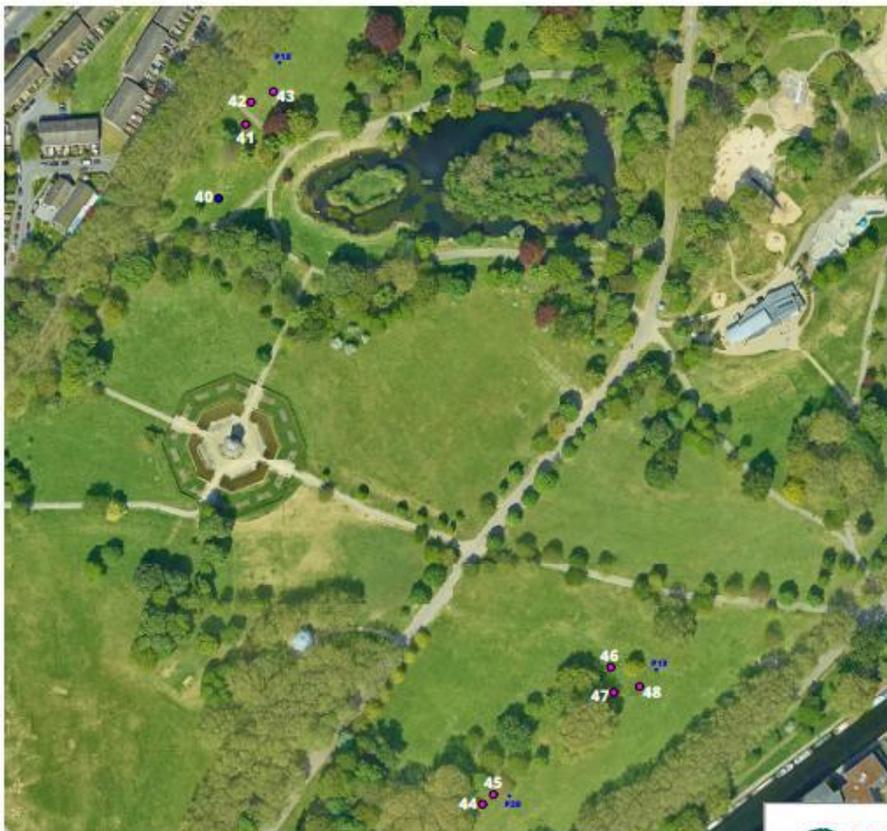
Project Contact Lodge  
Kewington Park  
Kewington Park Place  
London  
SE11 6AS  
Tel: 0207 880 0856  
Email: info@treesforcities.org

**Project:** Victoria Park

**Drawing title:** General Arrangement 1

**Scale & Sheet size:** 1:2000 @ A3

**Drawing number:** UF053/01 **Rev. B** **Date:** 18/08/2022



trees planted 2022-23:  
 8  
 1 feature tree

Photo:	Grid ref.:	Direction:
P18	TQ 3684 0704	SW
P19	TQ 3683 2872	W
P20	TQ 3683 2065	W



Revision:	Notes:	Date:
A	first issue	16/01/23
B	as planted	20/03/23

Project Contact Lodge  
Kewington Park  
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SE11 6AS  
Tel: 0207 880 0856  
Email: info@treesforcities.org

**Project:** Victoria Park

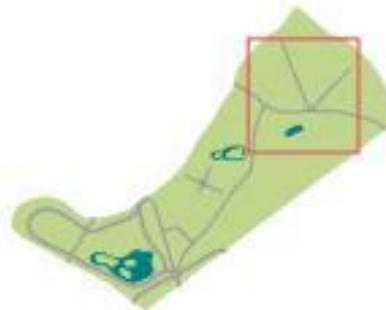
**Drawing title:** General Arrangement 2

**Scale & Sheet size:** 1:2000 @ A3

**Drawing number:** UF053/02 **Rev. B** **Date:** 18/08/2022



<u>Photo:</u>	<u>Grid ref:</u>	<u>Direction:</u>
P1	TQ 3684 7605	NE
P2	TQ 3684 7107	NE
P3	TQ 3684 7213	S
P4	TQ 3684 7318	SW
P5	TQ 3684 7423	N
P6	TQ 3684 7329	SE
P7	TQ 3684 7329	NW
P8	TQ 3684 7037	SE
P9	TQ 3684 7038	NW
P10	TQ 3684 5949	W
P11	TQ 3684 4552	E
P12	TQ 3684 4249	NW
P13	TQ 3684 3442	NE
P14	TQ 3684 3442	SW
P15	TQ 3684 2835	NE
P16	TQ 3684 5226	N
P17	TQ 3684 6025	S


**trees planted 2022-23:**

- 14
- 39 London Plane
- plant next year

Revision:	Notes:	Date:
A	first issue	16/01/23
B	as planted	20/03/23

	Project: <b>Victoria Park</b> Drawing title: <b>General Arrangement 3</b>	
	Project Contact: <b>London</b> Eastington Park & Plaza London SE11 6JL Tel: 0207 800 0952 Email: info@treesforcities.org	
Scale & Sheet size: <b>1:2000 @ A3</b> 		
Drawing number: <b>UF053/03</b> Rev. <b>B</b> Date: <b>18/06/2022</b>		

## Delivering the Tree planting at Victoria Park

Using the donation kindly made by **The Nineveh Charitable Trust**, we delivered tree planting activities at **Victoria Park** and surrounding in three locations between 20<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The main community tree planting event occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

We have successfully planted 106 “heavy standard” trees (about 2-3m high) through the project:

No. Trees	Tree species (Latin name)	Tree species (common name)
5	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Hop hornbeam
4	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree
3	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Indian Bean Tree
5	<i>Juglans regia</i>	English walnut
1	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn redwood
2	<i>Paulonia tomentosa</i>	Foxglove tree
1	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
8	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotts pine
5	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple
2	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple
3	<i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Emerald Queen'	Norway maple 'Emerald Green'
4	<i>Corylus collurna</i>	Turkish Hazel
2	<i>Celtis australis</i>	European hackberry
3	<i>Fagus sylvatica Asplenifolia</i>	Fern Leaf beech
1	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar cedar
8	<i>Prunus</i> : 'Sunset boulevard', 'tai aku', <i>prunus avium</i> , <i>prunus yedoensis</i>	Flowering cherry
2	<i>Morus nigra</i>	Mulberry
3	<i>Ulmus</i> 'New Horizon'	Elm 'New Horizon'
44	<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane

## Impact & post-project legacy

Through this project, we engaged, involved and supported **276 people** (217 adults and 59 children) in urban tree planting in their local area via the public tree planting day on 25<sup>th</sup> February. In addition we lead five corporate volunteering sessions and seven schools workshops at Lauriston School, Phoenix College, the Promise Arnhem Wharf Primary School, the Promise Mowlam Primary School, the Promise Canary Wharf

College, the Promise Seven Mills Primary School. Here are some quotes from our volunteers attending the community planting day or corporate volunteering sessions:

*“Fabulous. I walk through the park everyday so I can say hello to my tree on the way”.*

*“Trees for Cities staff was great and very helpful. The whole thing was well organised. Would definitely do it again, thank you!”*

*“I had an amazing day out in the nature despite the weather. Thanks x”*

From asking event attendees/volunteers to complete before and after surveys, we have evidence that the project has achieved the following outcomes for the children and adults we supported:

- People have improved everyday access to higher quality urban greenspace, and increased ability to access and engage with London’s Urban Forest
- People have gained experience in planting and protecting urban trees
- People are energised to take action to plant, protect and promote urban trees
- People have improved knowledge and skills in planting and protecting urban trees
- People have increased confidence in planting and protecting urban trees
- People have increased connectedness to nature
- People have an increased sense of ownership of their local area
- People have an increased understanding and appreciation of planting and protecting urban trees

Now the trees have been planted, Trees for Cities’ Urban Forest Team will be responsible for watering and maintaining the trees for the next three years, after which we will hand responsibility of the trees over to **London Borough of Tower Hamlets** to look after long term.



**A huge thank you! to The  
Nineveh Charitable Trust  
for supporting this  
project!**



Planting trees in Victoria Park, February '23



# Trees for Cities - general update

Trees for Cities' mission is **to improve people's lives by planting trees in towns and cities**. We are the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalizing forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

Our organisational goal is **to create healthy, accessible, functional and resilient urban forests created for today and future generations**. At Trees for Cities, we to enable and inspire a new generation of individuals and communities who are both resourced and motivated to plant, protect and promote urban trees. We do this by working closely with landowners, partners and funders to deliver transformational change in towns and cities – inspiring the next generation by greening schools, sharing ideas and knowledge and running inclusive community tree planting events across the UK.

We are still collating data on the number of trees planted, projects delivered and beneficiaries supported for the 2022-23 planting season just ended, but **in 2021-22, our organisation-wide achievements included:**

- Planting 27,397 trees in **London** across 11 woodland, estate and park projects
- Planting almost 184,092 trees, in 35 towns and cities **across the UK**, including in a number of '**forgotten places**' in some of the UK's most environmentally- and economically-deprived coastal towns and cities
- Planting 54,654 trees internationally in **Rwanda** and **Kenya** as well as the delivery of three school-based organic gardens in Kenya
- Delivering 25 **Edible Playgrounds** in schools in Bradford, Cardiff, Leicester, Liverpool and London. Four **Planting Healthy Air** projects were delivered.
- Fully launching the "**Trees for Streets**" online street tree sponsorship platform. Eight councils used the platform in 2021-22 with around 500 street trees sponsored as well as 230 funded through the grant
- **Engaging** 21,410 people in London, the UK and internationally through our urban forests programme. We also engaged 24,380 pupils and 2,364 staff members in schools and launched an online **Community Hub**.



## New strategy, new CEO!

In February 2023, Trees for Cities announced that **Kate Sheldon** has been appointed as our new CEO. Kate takes on the role from former CEO David Elliott who is leaving the charity after seven years, and will be stepping up from her current role as Deputy CEO and Director of Development.

Kate originally joined the charity as Capital Woodlands Project Officer and over 19 years has played a pivotal role in shaping the values, mission and expansion of the organisation into the UK's leading urban tree planting charity.



Talking about her appointment, Kate Sheldon said:

*“I joined Trees for Cities in 2004 and am immensely proud of the charity's achievements to date; it is an honour and privilege to lead the organisation going forward. We will continue to collaborate widely across different sectors, offering nature-based solutions for businesses, creating opportunities that inspire young people to pursue green jobs, and designing more trees into our everyday lives”.*



In summer 2022, we also launched our **new organisational strategy 2022-2025** sets out how it is the "Turn of Trees" to play a significant and leading role in the collective effort to help tackle these global crises. As an urban charity, Trees for Cities has the wonderful ability to galvanise communities, persuading people to care and empowering them to take action in their neighbourhoods.

With 80% of the UK population now living in towns and cities, Kate will spearhead the next phase of our organisation's ambitious three-year strategy, which puts nature-based solutions at the core of tackling the climate crisis, breaking down barriers to nature in some of the most deprived urban areas of the UK. In 2021-22 alone, Trees for Cities engaged 21,410 people to plant 266,794 urban trees and deliver 60 school projects connecting kids with nature. Kate says:

*“We are uniquely placed to mobilise people in cities - across the UK and overseas - to plant and care for their trees. We stand out from the crowd in our ability to engage people of all ages and abilities and to establish trees in places that need them most. Planting trees plants hope for the future! My hope is that future generations will grow up in the towns and cities of tomorrow among the thriving, nature-rich urban forests that we must plant today.”*

We thank former CEO David for his years of service to Trees for Cities, wish Kate the best of luck with her new appointment - we know she will provide ambitious and strong leadership for the future!

## London “Urban Forest” projects

In the 2022-23 tree planting season, we delivered tree planting and community engagement projects at the following housing estates, parks and open spaces across London:

- Racecourse Estate (Ealing)
- Weavers Fields (Tower Hamlets)
- Bethnal Green Gardens (Tower Hamlets)
- Redbridge Recreation Ground (Redbridge)
- Goodmayes Park (Redbridge)
- Philpots Farm Open Space (Hillingdon)
- Rosedale Park (Hillingdon)
- Roding Valley Park (Redbridge)
- **Victoria Park (Tower Hamlets)**
- Cranmer Green (Merton)
- Horsenden Hill (Ealing)
- Holmescroft Open Space (Bexley)
- Stonefield Park (Hillingdon)

We also continued our delivery of our London Youth Panel, Ealing Tree Festival, and the “Language of Nature” engagement projects – inspiring the next generation to plant and protect urban trees and making our work as inclusive and engaging as possible.





**PLANTING DAY  
REGISTRATION  
THIS WAY →**



## UK “Urban Forest” projects

During 2022-23, we also funded and delivered tree planting and community engagement projects in towns and cities across the UK, including in:

- Brighton & Hove
- Great Yarmouth
- Hull
- Portsmouth
- Ramsgate
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Bradford
- Bexhill-on-Sea
- Bellshill (Glasgow)
- Ramsgate





## Bexhill-on-Sea

One of our highlights was work at **Bexhill-on-Sea** this planting season, so here's an update with some quotes from our staff and volunteers! Shout out to the Bexhill team for their hard work!

*"With 86 'standard' sized trees and over 1500 tree whips planted over the last few months, we finished in Bexhill with a superb few days at Sidley Rec and Southlands. Big up to everyone at Trees for Cities who has helped shape and support the project at any point along the way. I'm sure you'll all be greeted with smiling faces and nods of approval if you're ever in Bexhill with a Trees for Cities logo on show."*

- Dan Snell, Trees for Cities' Engagement Coordinator

Some quotes from volunteers:

*"Lovely to meet you and the team today. What a nice chilled out bunch you all are."*

*"Loved the bunting set up and loved the day- thanks so much- it was a beautiful atmosphere. You are all brilliant x"*

*"You and your team have been fantastic in engaging with the community in Rother. It's lovely to see that this was the priority in the project, it has brought huge social value, social engagement and learning. It could have just been 'planting some trees' however it's been so much more than that - focus on wellbeing, connections, and appreciation of the local area/learning and laughter."*

- Alice (Rother Voluntary Action, Bexhill-on-Sea)

 **TREES  
FOR CITIES**



# Trees for Climate Action

In 2022 we were awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver a new 3-year project in Bradford and Glasgow called “**Trees for Climate Action**”. Led by Trees for Cities in partnership with the Field Studies Council, the project will support **20,000 young people** (up to age 30) in tree-related activities, building their knowledge, confidence and skills in urban greening, whilst mobilising young people to take positive action against climate change.

Climate change is a source of considerable concern amongst young people, who have been disproportionately hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling with feelings of isolation and anxiety about their own future. *Trees for Climate Action* will bring together young people with older people that they would not naturally meet during their everyday lives, who can share knowledge, skills and life experiences.

*Trees for Climate Action* seeks to engage, involve, inspire, upskill and professionalise young people, building confidence to forge new careers in the environmental sector. All experiences will support young people to become more employable and self-confident and will increase local capacity.

By targeting young people in socioeconomically deprived areas with low job prospects or opportunities, we will be investing in young people’s future and offering them skills and training that could be turned into a stable career option in the future. By training trainers, we will add long term capacity to Glasgow and Bradford by enabling high quality training for community and professional audiences.

Direct environmental action will have positive benefits for young people’s health and well-being through enhanced confidence and self-esteem, and young people have enhanced career prospects, particularly within the tree sector.

We will encourage community groups to get involved through existing tree planting initiatives in both regions including **Tree for Every Child** and White Rose Forest in Bradford and the **Clyde Climate Forest** in Glasgow City Region.



# Schools Programme

In 2022, as well as our new 3-year Organisational Strategy, “The Turn of Trees”, we also launched our new **Trees For Schools Strategy 2022-2025**, focusing on our programme of work inspiring the next generation to plant, protect and promote urban trees.

The school strategy provides a synopsis of the problems and challenges facing schools and their pupils, what we have learned from our past and where we have got to in the present, the policy and research context that we work within, and the key players that we work with, through or around.

School playgrounds offer an **ideal opportunity** for children to connect with nature in an everyday safe accessible space. We know that many urban children today are living increasingly indoor and inactive lives and that this has serious public health impacts. Shockingly, in 2016 it was reported that 75% of children spent less time outside than prison inmates; since then the Covid19 lockdowns have increased concern over children’s physical health and wellbeing. School playgrounds offer an outdoor space we can guarantee all children in a school community will have access to.

Our award-winning **‘Trees for Schools’ programme** aims to transform urban school grounds into leafy green oases for both children today and for future generations. We specialise in innovative design, high-quality planting and landscaping, and inclusive engagement of the school community.

Working in partnership with children and schools, we create **“Healthy Playgrounds”**; urban playgrounds which are reimagined and redesigned, with the introduction of trees, forest gardens, food-growing, outside classrooms, woodland play areas and wildlife habitats. Tarmac playgrounds are transformed into bespoke-designed natural green environments that are adapted to the changing climate; enabling creative education and connecting children to nature, and supporting their mental health and wellbeing. Using our innovative and holistic approach, we also deliver fun and engaging sessions with children on the importance of trees and the natural environment.

**During 2022-23**, we delivered “Edible Playgrounds”, “Healthy Playgrounds”, and “Planting Healthy Air” projects across the UK, enabling and inspiring thousands of children to grow their own food, plant trees in their own gardens and community spaces, and learn the environmental and social benefits of urban trees.







**Our achievements are only possible thanks to the dedicated support of our staff, trustees, volunteers, partners, funders, and everyone else who helps us on our mission to make our towns and cities better and healthier places for people and nature.**

**Thank You!**





**Trees for Cities is the only independent charity working on a national and international scale focused entirely on planting urban trees and providing training and volunteering opportunities to bring local people together.**

**Since our inception we have engaged over 80,000 volunteers to plant over 800,000 trees focusing on health, environmental protection, and providing opportunities for education and learning through our UK-wide Urban Forest programme.**

**THANK YOU to The Nineveh Charitable Trust for supporting our charity!**

