

2015 London Tree & Woodland Awards

Winner of the Mayors Street Tree Programme 2008-15 Award: Trees for Cities



Trees for Cities receiving their award at City Hall in May 2015. From left to right: Sharon Johnson, Roger Evans (Deputy Mayor of London), Ian Gambles (Director of Forestry Commission England) and Celia Hammond.

This award is given for a tree planting project between 2008 and 2015 that improves the street scene and is valued by local residents and businesses.

The award panel noted the far reaching impact that the community engagement was able to achieve. They planted nearly 2,000 trees and shared the benefits of street tree planting to over 5,400 local residents and children in a third of London's most economically and environmentally deprived areas.

Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive at Trees for Cities said “We are thrilled to receive this award in recognition of our seven-year programme of street tree planting across the capital, and the work we have put into engaging local people in their neighbourhood environment. London street trees face an uncertain future, and we are proud to be planting a legacy of trees for future generations.”

Introduction to the project

Between 2008 and 2015, Trees for Cities worked in partnership with 11 local authorities to plant nearly 2,000 street trees in Bexley, Brent, Havering, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton and Tower Hamlets.

Our model of street tree planting engages and involves local people through consultation on species and planting locations, provision of information, and advice on how to care for the trees on their street. We engaged over 5,400 local residents, sharing with them the many benefits of street trees for health and well-being, as well as the aesthetic improvements that street trees bring to our capital city. Our model creates local ownership for the street trees helping to connect Londoners to their street and mobilise community volunteers to care for urban trees.



Project Activities

Throughout the programme, Trees for Cities managed over 30 street tree planting projects and all associated activities, from community consultation and species selection through to tree planting alongside celebratory community planting events. Crucially, we maintain our street trees for 3 years with fortnightly visits to water, prune and provide the care required to ensure that the trees become

independent in the landscape. After three years, responsibility is handed back to the landowner partner for ongoing tree care through their maintenance programme.

We spray our tree stakes so that our trees are visible and prominent, and tie an information tag with a 'Love Trees Hotline' phone number, giving permission for local people to call us directly for advice if they are concerned about a damaged or distressed tree, or to find out more about watering (which was particularly useful during the 2012 hose pipe ban).

Trees for Cities used the Mayor of London grant funds and contributions from the landowners to leverage over £156,000 of match funding from businesses, notably through a corporate partnership with Kia Motors UK and Thames Water. This ensured good value for money for all partners and helped to raise the profile of street trees in London.

Project Outcomes

Our model of community engagement has helped us achieve a 91% success rate by the time we hand the trees back to the landowner, three years after planting.

Trees for Cities' street tree programme (2008-15) has increased tree cover, particularly by focusing our planting towards areas of low tree density. This often correlates with high population density, bringing a multitude of benefits to Londoners including a better street scene environment in which to live, work and play. We have received some great feedback from local residents.

"My garden is tiny; I would love to see trees on the street."

"We need cheering up and trees do that."

Further information:

- [RE:LEAF Partnership](#)
- [Forestry Commission London](#)
- Trees for Cities www.treesforcities.org

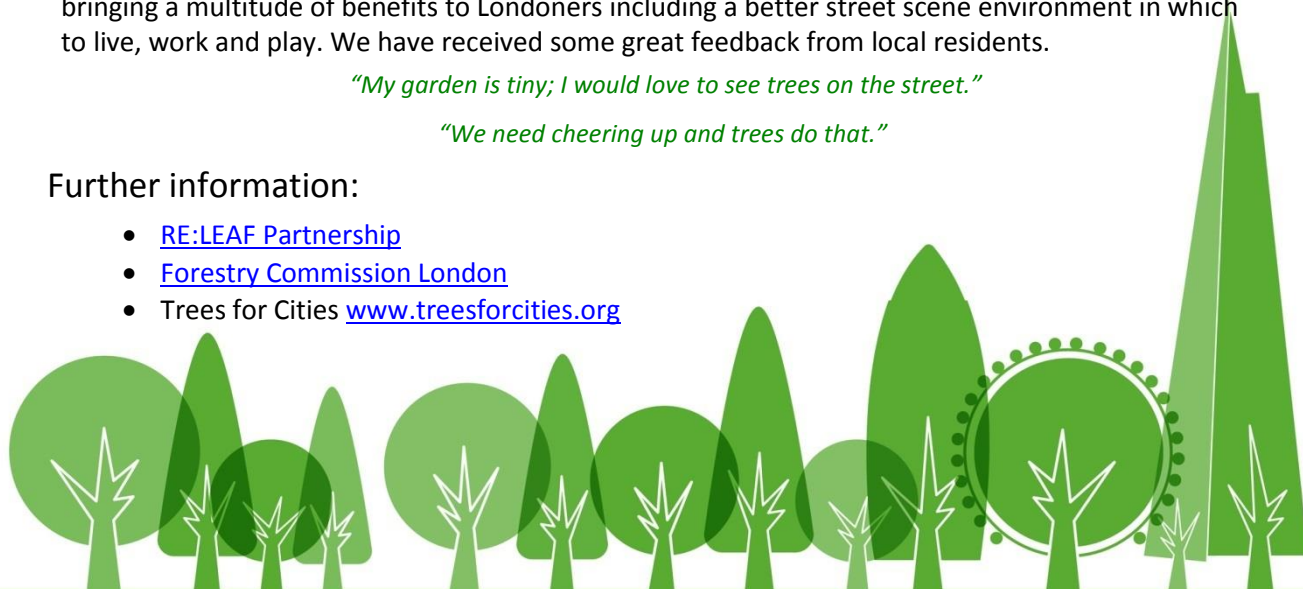
Case Study: Silvertown Street Trees

During 2012-15, Trees for Cities worked in partnership with the London Borough of Newham to plant 120 street trees in this industrial pocket of London. The project has transformed the street scene, providing colour, seasonal interest and shade.



"We are proud to be working with Trees for Cities to transform the borough's streets. Their tree planting projects in Newham have helped to improve Newham's landscape and have involved local people in helping to further shape their community."

Councillor Ian Corbett, Mayoral Adviser for Environment and Leisure



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