

Tree Strategy 2024- 2030

APPENDIX 1

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



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1.0 Foreword

To be added after the tree strategy has been formally adopted and approved by the council in 2024.



2.0 Introduction

The benefits of trees, woodlands, and green spaces are extensive. They combat the effects of climate change, increase biodiversity, provide habitats, boost the local economy, improve air quality, regulate temperature, preserve heritage

and historical value, and improve the health and well-being of local communities¹.

The broad range of benefits provided by trees offer nature-based solutions to the adversity of urban life. They boost local

natural capital and contribute to the wider climate change agenda, whilst ultimately, improving the lives of our residents



Water Attenuation



Climate Resilience



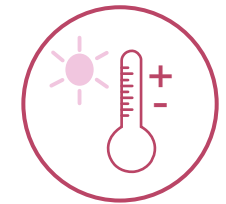
Water Quality



Aesthetics



Resource Efficiency



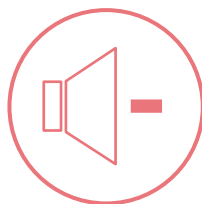
Temperature Regulation



Well-being and Amenity



Biodiversity



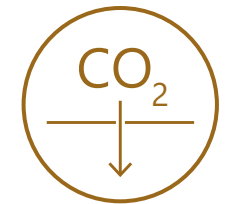
Noise Reduction



Air Quality



Economic Benefits



Carbon Sequestration and Storage

Figure 1. Benefits of trees

2.1 Introduction

Hammersmith & Fulham council (H&F) is responsible for over 27,000 trees located in parks, housing estates, tenanted properties, cemeteries, council owned schools and on the public highway. As the Local Planning Authority, the council also maintains authority over the statutory protection of trees and has a key influence of the planting of new trees in development on private land and the planting of new trees in development. There are estimated to be 45,000 trees on privately owned sites. To ensure that we manage and protect these trees to the highest standard, a strategic approach to tree management should be adopted. This view is supported by DEFRA's [England Tree Action Plan](#), the Mayor and the Forestry Commission's [London Tree and Woodland Framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance](#), the

Government's [25 Year Environmental Plan \(EIP\)](#), Biodiversity Net Gain legislation, and the Tree Councils' [Tree and Woodland Strategy Toolkit](#).

This vision for this strategy is informed by policies, evidence and data, and outlines a road map on how we aim to achieve it by 2030. This 5-year timeframe aligns with emerging policy and strategies such as the EIP 5-year review process, [H&F Climate and Ecology Strategy 2030](#), and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that is expected to be published in 2025. This allows us to adapt our actions and targets based on shared goals, whilst ensuring they remain specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, or SMART.

As our first tree strategy, we are focusing on developing a robust foundation of research and evidence whilst developing procedures that pave the way for a future of strategic tree management. Where this strategy sets aims for the future, it is designed to work alongside our tree policies²; documents that outline how we routinely manage our urban forest. This strategy demonstrates our commitment to our biodiversity duty, as outlined in the [Environment Act \(2021\)](#), and to pledges made in the [2022 Hammersmith and Fulham Labour Manifesto](#). Furthermore, it demonstrates our commitment to plant more trees, create more greenspaces, and continue to green the grey with the right tree, in the right place, at the right time in the right way.

3.0 Our Urban Forest

In preparation for this strategy, a borough-wide I-Tree Canopy survey was carried out. This concluded that the borough has a lower-than-average canopy cover of 14%, compared to the London average of 21%³. H&F commissioned a mapping project by Gentian, as well as a review of our own data. This research revealed that there are more than 27,000 council maintained and owned trees, and more than 45,000 privately owned trees. These trees contribute to recreational and environmental benefits, and have an estimated total value of £326 million, including a carbon storage value of £10 million and a temperature regulation value of £12 million⁴. The I-Tree Canopy survey concluded that canopy cover provided by our urban forest sequesters 1.62/5.94Kt of C/CO₂ annually and stores a total 40.66/149.07Kt of C/CO₂, with an annual value of £371,561 and a total value of £9,331,303. This is equivalent to the carbon emissions generated when powering more than 7000 homes for a year.

H&F maintained trees are managed using an asset management system which ensures that all inspections of, and works to, H&F maintained and owned trees are recorded. H&F recently

integrated carbon storage and the Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) value into this system. This demonstrates our commitment to Policy G7 section C of the London Plan (2021) and in time, will give us a monetary value for individual trees that will support our efforts to protect our urban forest.

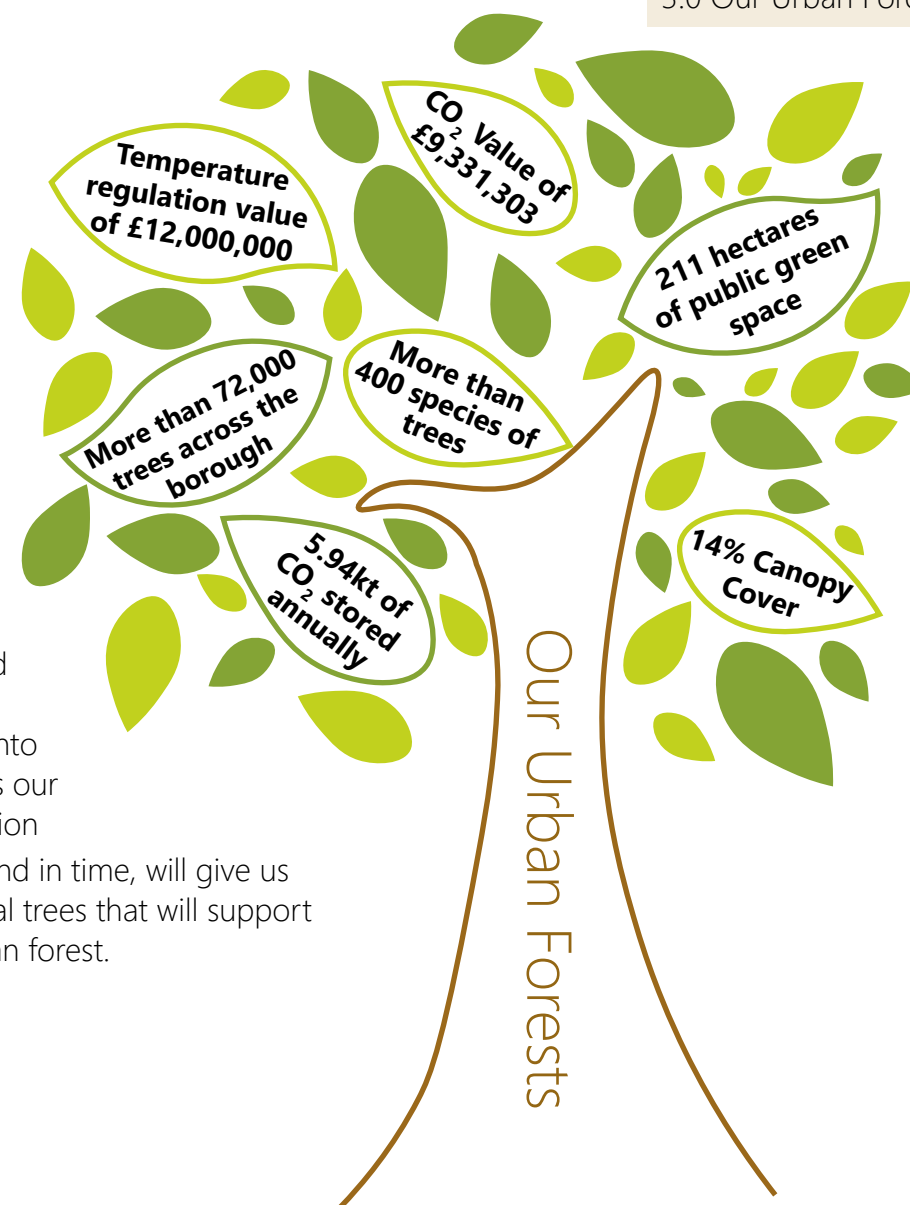
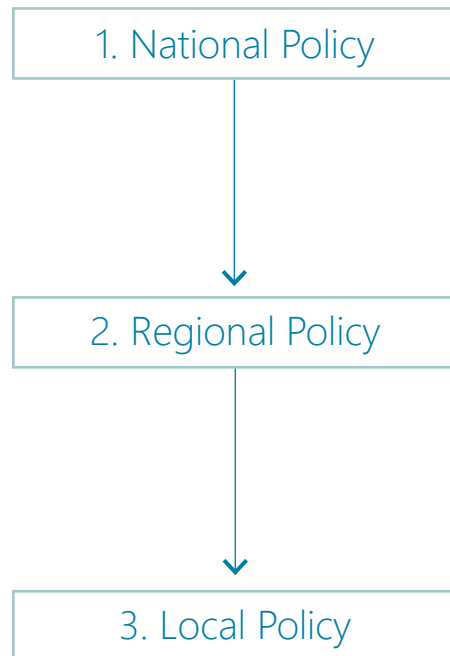


Figure 2. The value of H&F's Urban Forest

4.0 Our Policies and Strategies

The way in which H&F manages its tree assets, or those afforded statutory protection, is governed by national and local policy. This section outlines the policy drivers that inform this strategy.



1. National Policy

- The National Planning Policy Framework⁴ (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2023) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
- The framework is a guideline for the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.
- Under the title 'Achieving sustainable development' and 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change' the document outlines the role for trees in meeting these challenges.

2. Regional Policy

- The London Plan⁵ (GLA, 2021) produced by the Greater London Authority promotes economic development and wealth creation, social development, and improvements to the environment.

- Greening and trees are part of several policies in the London Plan such as policy G1 Green Infrastructure, policy G5 Urban G7 Trees & Woodlands and policy G8 Public Realm which highlights the importance of protecting London's urban forests and woodlands.

3. Local Policy

- The Hammersmith and Fulham Local Plan⁶ is used to help shape the future of the borough and to determine individual planning applications and deliver development.
- Local Plan Policy OS5 is specific to greening the borough. In relation to trees it seeks to prevent removal of existing trees and provision of new trees on development sites; adding to the greening of streets and the public realm; and making Tree Preservation Orders where justified in the interests of amenity.

4.1 Other Policies and Strategies

In addition to key policy drivers, the council has several strategies that whilst they are not focused directly on trees, have shared targets and themes. These include the Climate and Ecological Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan, and the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

H&F 2030 Climate and Ecology Strategy⁸

- The strategy sets out plans to tackle the combined threat of the climate and ecological emergency. Trees are essential to delivering on two of the strategy's five challenges, Ecology and Adapting to Climate Change.
- Key shared objectives include better understanding our biodiversity, improving our greenspaces and 'greening the grey'.
- Further guidance is offered in the Climate Change SPD¹¹.

H&F Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)⁹

- The AQAP requires arboricultural and greening policies which are promoted in the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs);
- These include the council to phase tree pruning on certain roads; for the council to increase tree, hedge and grass planting on council-owned land; and for the council to seek ways of maintaining mature tree cover when planning for new development.

H&F Parks and Open Space Strategy¹⁰

- This strategy promotes the importance of improving and enhancing green spaces.
- Six of the visions relate to trees, protect existing open space; providing open spaces, play spaces and access to local biodiversity; creating safe, attractive and accessible spaces for all; improving the standard of management and maintenance; actively involving the community in their local open spaces; and increasing participation in open spaces.

4.2 Tree Policies

The tree strategy sets out aims for the strategic management of our urban forest in the future, our tree policies outline why and how H&F council practices routine tree management. These include policies for tree management on highways, parks, and housing sites, as well as information on the management of trees on private land.

All our tree management and operations are governed by guiding legislation and standards including the [Highways Act \(1980\)](#), [Town and Country Planning Act \(1990\)](#), [Wildlife Act \(1981\)](#) and British Standards, BS3998:2010, BS3998:2012, and BS8545:2014 and informed by the Common Sense Risk Management of Trees by the [National Tree Safety Group](#).

Our core policies include:

1. Tree replacement

We commit to replacing any council owned trees that we remove assuming the location is viable, based on the principle of planting the right tree in the right place.

2. Tree inspection

We inspect all our trees every three years, in-line with our cyclical inspection regime.

3. Tree pruning and pollards

We prune our pollarded trees every three years, in-line with London Tree Officers Association Risk Limitation Strategy (LTOA).

Please refer to our full [Tree Policy](#) and our FAQ for more details on routine tree management policies.

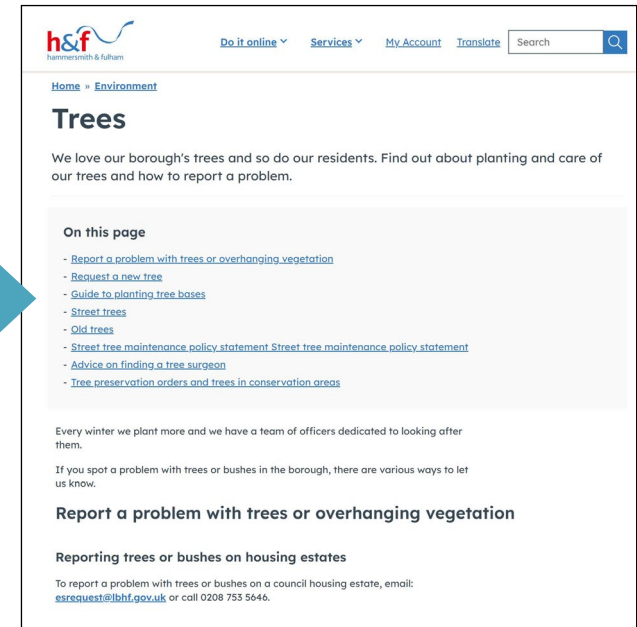
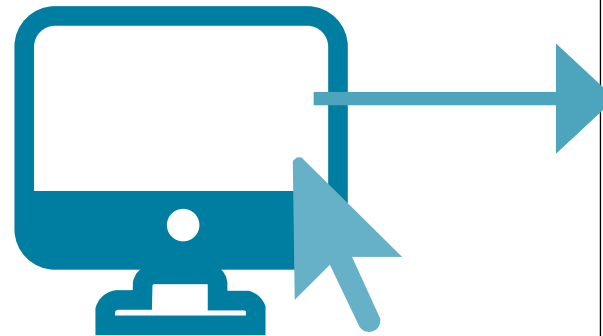


Figure 3. H&F tree policies available on the Council website

5.0 The Vision

5.1 Vision

At H&F we see a future that is green and sustainable. Our vision is to work closely with our stakeholders to improve the green infrastructure in our borough, preserving and expanding our urban forest for the benefit of all, and to contribute to becoming the greenest borough.

This is a long term goal, however, the development of a tree strategy provides a road map to achieve specific objectives on a 5 year timeline designed to improve the lives of our communities whilst paving the way for a greener future.

Objective 1



Increasing canopy cover

Objective 2



Preserving and improving our trees

Objective 3



Working with residents and stakeholders

5.2 The Vision Explained



Figure 4. Vision to action plan diagram.

[The Natural Capital Account](#) (NCA) reported that in 2017 that LBHF had some of the least publicly accessible greenspaces in London. Similarly, an I-Tree Canopy study concluded the canopy cover in LBHF is below the London average. The vision for this strategy will drive us to address this and deliver our obligations under the [Environment Act](#) (2021) to uphold our biodiversity duty, the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act](#) (2006) (s40: duty to conserve biodiversity) and to target aims outlined in The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023; ‘to leave

our environment in a better condition than when inherited it’, the first revision of the Governments 25-year Environment Plan.

The need for planned and integrated green infrastructure management is outlined in Chapter 8 of the London Plan 2021 and The Preparing Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies SPG. This planned approach is also outlined in the [UN’s Sustainable Development Goals](#) 11, 13 and 15, demonstrating the global agenda and how strategic management at a local level can be

the most effective way to contribute to regional and national environmental targets, and to rise to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency.

6.0 Delivering the Vision

From a service review and research into how to meet our vision for trees in H&F, three objectives have been identified. In this chapter the three objectives are discussed in detail.

6.1 Objective 1



Increasing canopy cover from 14% - 16.5% by 2030

The Environment Improvement Plan 2030, upheld by the Environment Act (2021), sets targets to achieve England-wide canopy cover average of 16.5% by 2050. However, to achieve our vision, we have set the aim to increase our canopy cover from 14% to 16.5% by 2030, to align closer with the London average tree canopy cover of 21% (18% inner London – 21% outer London) and the long-term aim to achieve 23% by 2050.

Through data analysis, we know we must plant at least 195 new trees per year over the next 5 years to reach our target. To achieve this, we have identified four key areas to focus on. We must map opportunities for planting new trees, we must maximise our use of external funding opportunities and we need to plant whips, hedge rows and 'tiny forests' to contribute to future canopy cover gains.



a. Opportunity mapping



b. Funding



c. Legacy planting



d. Private land

6.1.1 Opportunity Mapping

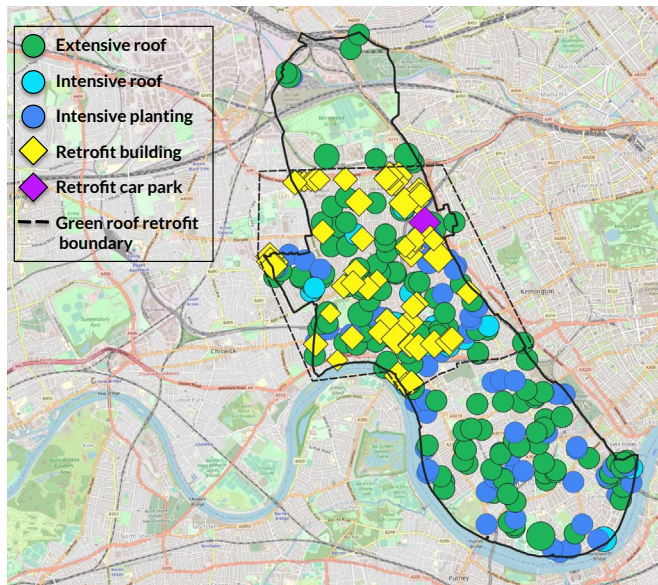


Figure 5. Greenroof opportunity mapping by Gentian

Research base

In 2022, Gentian conducted an opportunity mapping exercise for green roof and retrofitting opportunities in H&F. We want to build on this to map opportunities for tree planting. Using the Woodland Trust's Tree Equity UK map to ensure areas are prioritised equitably.

[Tree Equity Score](#)



Increasing canopy cover from 14% - 16.5% by 2030



a. Opportunity mapping



b. Funding



c. Legacy planting



d. Private land

There is limited space for large scale tree planting in an urban setting, therefore we need to identify all the constraints and opportunities to plant trees and to programme these into proactive planting schemes. This will ensure that areas such as soft verges or parks that are suitable for planting are done so proactively, vacant tree pits are utilised and land-use changes (i.e. build-outs, planters etc.) are considered when no easy wins are present.

Undertake borough-wide opportunity mapping

Develop a process to identify planting opportunities and record them in order of viability with a view to plant them. This includes locating vacant pits and grass verges and land use changes such as highway build-outs. Prioritise these in terms of maximising benefits and environmental equality, whilst ensuring pavements and paths are fully accessible.

Develop a borough wide trial tree pit programme

Develop a programme for systematically and proactively assessing streets for new trees through trial pits and encouraging residents to plant in open tree pits.

Implement an annual tree planting quota of at least 195 standard trees

Implement the target of planting at least 195 standards per year to achieve a 2.5% canopy cover increase by 2030.

6.1.2 Funding

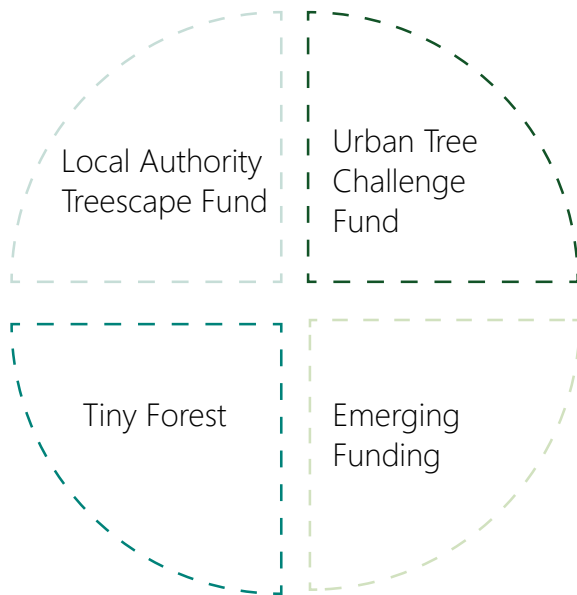


Figure 6. Examples of available funding.

Research base

Multiple funding opportunities have been made available to local authorities from central government.

Although these are subject to change, H&F has already been successful in multiple funding bids, including planting three Tiny Forests and planting multiple using UTCF funding.



Increasing canopy cover from 14% - 16.5% by 2030

- 
 a. Opportunity mapping
- 
b. Funding
- 
 c. Legacy planting
- 
 d. Private land



Securing funding is required to achieve the objectives of the strategy. In the current financial climate this will be difficult, however through being proactive in securing external funding, improving the way we work with residents and businesses, and joint working between council departments, residents, and local businesses, we can increase the funding available to help us realise our vision.



Tree donation programme

Establish a tree donation programme to subsidise and support planting through community donations and involvement. This may include third party organizations such as Trees for Streets, Woodland Trust or may be developed internally.

External funding working group

Formalise a working group dedicated to maximising external funding acquisition to best make use grants and external support. Funding sources will include government grants, social value, biodiversity net gain credits and donations from corporate groups such as the Climate Alliance. It will also include funding through the planning process such as S106/CIL.

Develop collaboration with local businesses through the Climate Alliance

Offering donation opportunities for local businesses to help deliver shared green targets.

6.1.3 Legacy Planting



Figure 7. Legacy Planting.

Research base

London's first ever Tiny Forest was planted in White City in partnership with Earth Watch Europe. The forest consists of 600 trees and shrubs and will join a future collective of more than 3000 Tiny forests around the world.

[Tiny Forest in Hammersmith Park](#)



Increasing canopy cover from 14% - 16.5% by 2030



a. Opportunity mapping



b. Funding



c. Legacy planting



d. Private land



Whilst we aim to increase our canopy cover over the next 5 years through the planting of standard sized trees, we recognise that any saplings, whips, and tiny forests we plant today will contribute to canopy cover in the future.

Whilst delivering on planting to create a legacy of increasing canopy cover, we must also ensure survival rates are high.



Plant 5 tiny forests

Ensure we plant at least 1 tiny forest per year until 2030 to realise long-term canopy cover increases.

Develop a whip management plan

Ensure tiny forests, tree give-aways and other whip planting projects are mapped so they can be managed, and their survival rates improved.

Create new green corridors and hedgerows

Plant 100 additional whips per year to build connectivity through green corridors and contribute to long-term canopy cover and biodiversity.

6.1.4 Private Land

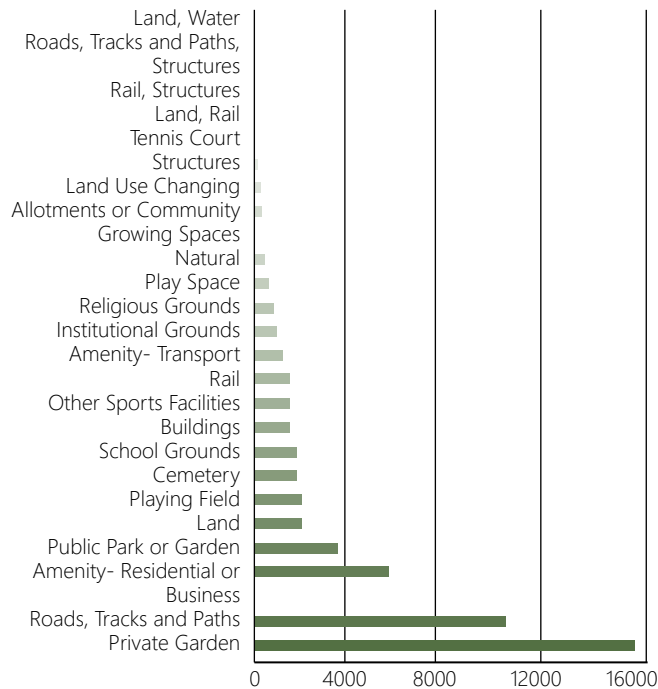


Figure 8. Tree count per land use bar graph.

Research base

In 2023, Gentian, a software platform carried out several assessments for H&F to provide insights on existing green infrastructure. These included:

- A survey of green roofs and retrofit opportunities for green roofs.
- Tree count analysis of the borough.
- Survey of green space on private land.



Increasing canopy cover from 14% - 16.5% by 2030



a. Opportunity mapping



b. Funding



c. Legacy planting



d. Private land

A significant proportion of our urban forest is on private land. This includes but is not limited to the corridors created by transport links, privately owned green space, brownfield sites and residential gardens. Similarly, we share boundaries with neighbouring boroughs and third parties. We see this as an opportunity to collaborate with such organizations, authorities, and landowners to achieve shared biodiversity recovery objectives.

Develop working relationships with private landowners

Develop a plan to improve collaboration with private landowners such as Transport for London (TfL), National Rail (NR), local businesses, landowners and adjacent Local Authorities (LA) to achieve strategy objectives on private land.

Annual tree/whip giveaway

Maintain and promote our annual tree giveaway, pairing it with educational workshops to encourage planting on private land and increasing awareness.

I-Tree Eco report

Expand on ecosystem service data to include borough wide data to inform strategy targets.

6.2 Objective 2



Preserving and improving our trees

Whilst we aim to add to our urban forest, we must also ensure we preserve our existing urban forest, so that it can be resilient to invasive species, adapt to the changing climatic condition, and regeneration of our borough.

To do this, we must adhere to the best management practice of our trees and update our policies and practices to reflect this. We must also ensure that those regenerating parts of borough also do this.

In addition, we must ensure that we plant the correct species that not only improve local biodiversity but can survive in the adverse urban conditions that we experience, such as extreme heat, drought, and flooding.



a. Increasing biodiversity



b. Development opportunities



c. Developing policy



d. Training

6.2.1 Increasing Biodiversity

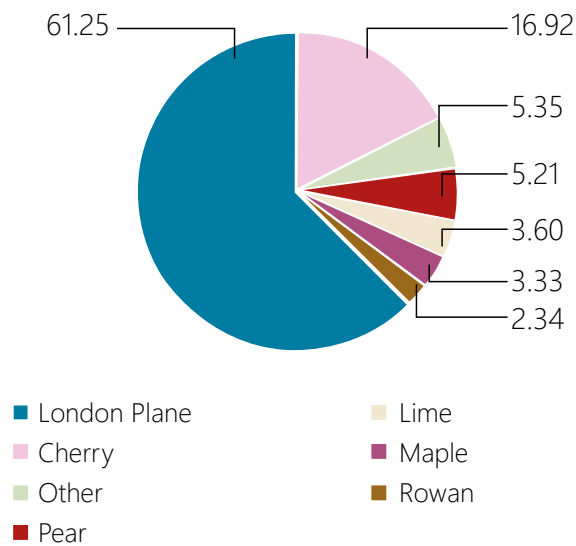


Figure 9. Percentage of species among H&F managed trees.

Research base

Assessment of H&F data determined the taxonomic diversity of council owned trees. It concluded that our urban forest is dominated by 12%, 24% and 40% of a particular species, genus and family, exceeding recommendations outlined in the 10% rule of 10%, 20% and 30% taxonomic diversity.

[Trees for urban planting](#)



Preserving and improving our trees



a. Increasing biodiversity



b. Development opportunities



c. Developing policy



d. Training

We recognise the significance of trees in achieving the goals shared by the Climate and Ecology Strategy, the Air Quality Plan and wider biodiversity targets. Through strategic, collaborative and an operational approach, we can protect, preserve, and improve our tree stock to improve local biodiversity and wildlife, and build climate resilience as part of our biodiversity duty.

Develop a replacement tree standard

We aim to develop a tree replacement standard that moves away from like-for-like replacement and towards maximum compensation for trees lost through development. This will align closer to with the requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain.

Develop mapping for biosecurity and monitor annually

We aim to develop our mapping of biosecurity hazards and pair this with internal and external educational sessions to increase awareness of potential hazards.

Develop a species selection matrix

This decision-making matrix will inform species selection that best considers climate resilience and biodiversity, with help from tools such as the Forest Research's climate-matching tool. We will also look to establish greater age and species diversity by monitoring these metrics and adjusting practices accordingly.

6.2.2 Development Opportunities

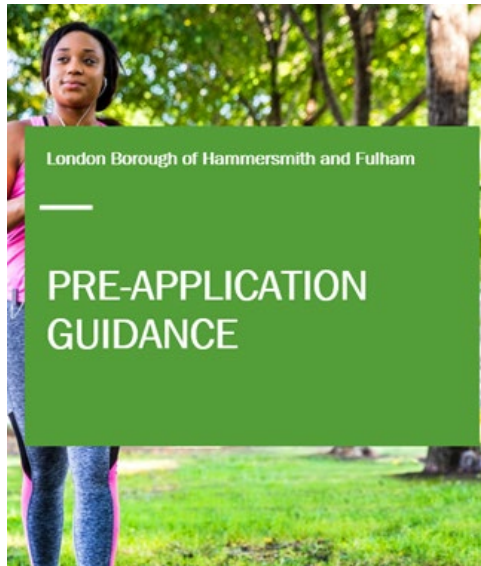


Figure 10. Front cover of the pre application guidance for developers.

Research base

Biodiversity Net Gain mandates at least 10% net gain of biodiversity on new developments that meet site criteria. Further guidance on this and UGF can be found in the LBHF Climate Change SPD.

[Biodiversity net gain- guidance for developers](#)
[H&F Climate change SPD](#)



Preserving and improving our trees



a. Increasing biodiversity



b. Development opportunities



c. Developing policy



d. Training

With emerging policies such as Biodiversity Net Gain, we recognise that it's important that our green infrastructure is improved and not degraded by development. Planning policy is our primary tool to protect and preserve privately owned trees. By developing internal procedures, we hope to improve our ability to protect trees and influence tree management in a way that best supports our objectives.

Develop trees in planning procedures

We will aim to review all major planning applications and applications that would have an adverse impact on trees with amenity value in order to maximise tree retention and new tree planting opportunities.

Requirement for on-going maintenance plans and use planning tools to improve green infrastructure on developments.

We will explore ways to require on-going maintenance plans for trees as part of planning applications and use planning mechanisms such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to maximise urban greening.

Improve and define pre-application guidance on arboricultural matters

Design pre-application guidance in the form of best management practice FAQ's, toolkits, and drop-in sessions and assist in mapping opportunities for new tree planting on major development schemes and regeneration sites.

6.2.3 Developing Policy

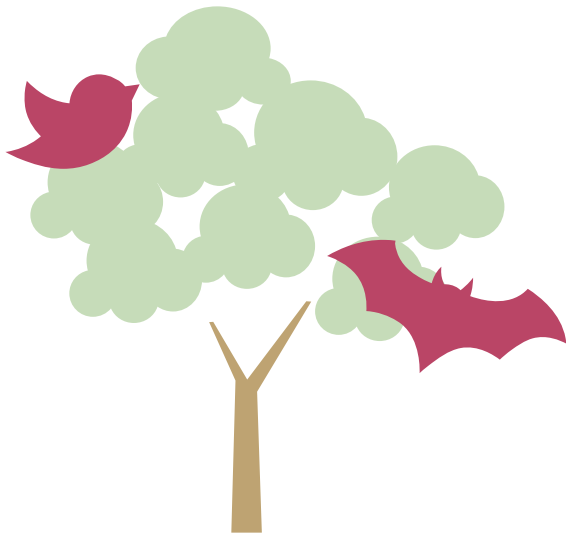


Figure 11. Produce a veteran tree policy in line with NPPF

Research base

The NPPF suggests that all development plans should protect and enhance biodiversity and that veteran trees should be protected and planning applications that present any significant degradation should be refused.

[NPPF 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment](#)



Preserving and improving our trees



a. Increasing biodiversity



b. Development opportunities



c. Developing policy



d. Training

By developing policies in-line with current legislation, such as the protection of veteran trees in the NPPF, we aim to establish policies to inform management that protects our veteran trees, improves carbon storage in the borough and moves towards greater tree retention.

Annual Policy review

Update, review and revise all internal policies annually to ensure best alignment with broader agenda.

Produce a waste management policy for tree waste

Develop a strategy that utilises, minimises, and recycles waste arising from arboricultural operations.

Produce a Veteran Tree Policy

Develop a policy that improves the management of our ancient and/or veteran trees in line with the NPPF.

Replacement tree policy

Inspect all our replacement planting to ensure the tree planting and tree pits exceed standards, using permeable materials or open tree pits for community planting. We will consider all technical solutions when planting and aim to get planting right the first time, with right tree and right place, ensuring survival and reducing future issues with footway accessibility around mature trees and roots.

6.2.4 Training

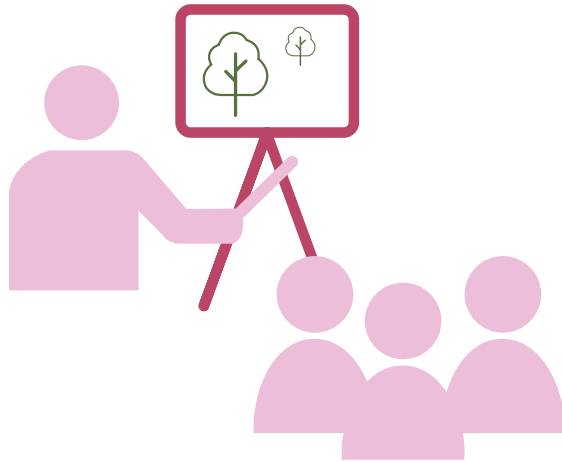


Figure 12. Training programme for wider officers and contractors.

Research base

We want to ensure that all our technical officers are trained in-line with current industry standards such as BS3998:2010, BS5837; 2010 and BS8545:2014.

[Standardisation Guidance](#)



Preserving and improving our trees



a. Increasing biodiversity



b. Development opportunities



c. Developing policy



d. Training



Continuous training of arboricultural officers is essential in ensuring best practice in tree management. In addition to arboricultural officers, providing basic arboricultural training to officers who inspect our streets, parks and housing estates and council contractors that work around our trees will ensure that more issues are identified and raised with the arboricultural officers.



Quarterly training meeting with arboricultural team and a strategy focus group

Meeting to discuss current training needs and evaluating key performance indicators of the tree strategy to ensure the strategy is realised.

Training programme for wider officers

Basic training provided inter-departmentally by the arboricultural team. Topics such as basic tree inspections, pest and diseases and good management practices.

Training for contractors

Basic arboricultural training for council contractors working in our streets, parks, and housing estates. Internal procedural training for arboricultural contractors pairing this with increase ecological literacy training.

6.3 Objective 3



Working with residents and partners

Residents, communities, and businesses are key stakeholders in meeting our vision. The urban forest not only provides environmental benefits, but also significant economic and social benefits, therefore we believe it's vital that we continue to foster partnerships with all our stakeholders, and that we build new relationships can benefit our urban forest.

We see communication with all stakeholders as a key element of this strategy. To ensure we deliver on all three objectives we must be more transparent and accountable, informing residents and communities of what we are doing and why. Through improved communication and education on trees, we want to create a service to our communities that raises the importance of our trees and environment.



a. Improving communication



b. Education



c. Community projects



d. Community engagement

6.3.1 Improving Communication

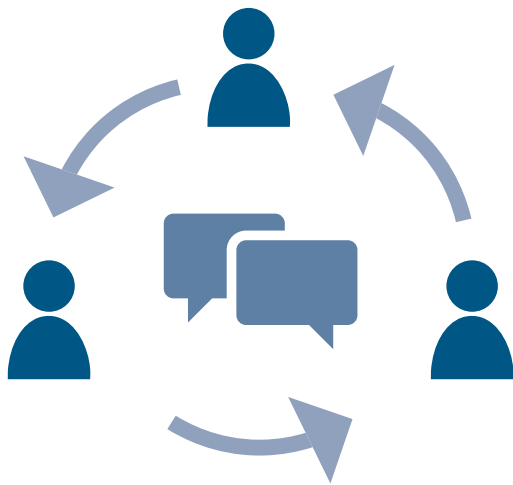


Figure 13. Improving communications

Research base

We want to build on existing GIS tools such as the GLAs ward prioritisation map, and our own data to offer greater accessibility to information for resident and to inform our objectives.

[Tree canopy cover prioritisation tool](#)



Working with residents and partners



a. Improving communication



By improving our communications, we hope to keep our residents and stakeholders better informed of our service performance, management updates and key events. We also hope to open lines of communication so we can better understand the needs of our residents and deliver a better service that ultimately improves the quality of life of our residents.



b. Education



c. Community projects



d. Community engagement

Website information

Update website with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, report on strategy progress, showcase events and projects, and information on our current and planned works.

Annual resident survey

Conduct an annual survey to collect feedback on our progress.

Guidance for private landowners

Produce a best management practice guide including rights, responsibilities, and legal information for private landowners.

Improve online GIS mapping on statutory protections

Update records to online system to include all TPO's (Tree Preservation Order) and Conservation Areas.

6.3.2 Education

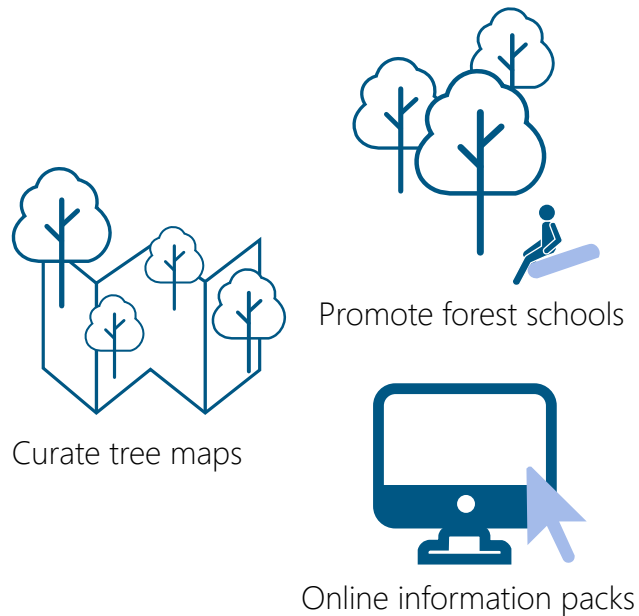


Figure 14. Diagram of education interventions.

Research base

We currently have two magnificent trees on the 'Great Trees of London' list published by Trees for Cities. We want to celebrate these and others by producing curated maps.

[Trees for cities](#)



Working with residents and partners



a. Improving communication



b. Education



c. Community projects



d. Community engagement



We hope that by providing and supporting educational opportunities, we can teach our communities about the wide range of benefits provided by trees and can embed environmentalism into our neighbourhoods. We believe that through increasing awareness we can maximise the benefits and services trees offer to the community and ultimately result in a healthier urban forest.



Promote forest schools

Allocate resources to improving accessibility to forest schools such as active promotion and a formalised booking system.

Curated tree maps

Design public facing mapping that show cases our trees and their benefits, educating stakeholders on the benefits they offer.

Online information packs, events, and resources.

Online information packs on a variety of tree related subjects, resources and events including on-line Q&A sessions.

6.3.3 Community Projects



Figure 15. H&F local climate and ecological project.

Research base

The Tree Council support a network of Tree Wardens nationwide. We want to create a Tree Warden Network in H&F.

[Become a tree warden](#)



Working with residents and partners



a. Improving communication



b. Education



c. Community projects



d. Community engagement

We recognise the value of citizen led projects. We want to support existing community schemes and aid the design and delivery of new projects. By allocating resources to this we hope to offer stakeholders the tools they need to be successful and maximise the potential benefits to all.

Tree Watering Project

Work with communities to provide support for tree watering and promote tree 'adoption'.

Establish Tree champion/warden scheme

Formalise a warden scheme with support from the Tree Council.

Tenants and resident association project design sessions

Facilitate design of community tree projects and allocate a resource for this.

Support independent community groups

Support the existing work of community groups such as the Tree Keepers of the Tiny Forest projects and engage closer with groups such as Friends of Groups, Resident and Tenant Associations, embedding coproduction in tree works and projects.

6.3.4 Community Engagement



Figure 16. Local primary school children helping with the Tiny Forests project.

Research base

An I-Tree Eco study provides depth of understanding in terms of the ecosystem services our urban forest provides. It offers the opportunity for residents to collect data and play an active role in research and development.

[i-Tree Eco](#)



Working with residents and partners



a. Improving communication



b. Education



c. Community projects



d. Community engagement



We want to offer events, opportunities, and direct points of contact to engage the community. We want to improve accessibility and ensure environmental equity. This provides a chance for all involved to communicate closely, share our urban green space, and learn from each other. We want to conduct annual surveys to hear more voices and to action more of the views of our residents.



Annual meet and greet

Offering opportunities to meet and greet relevant council officers so we can listen and learn directly from our stakeholders.

Tree and Ecology walk and talks

Offering seasonal walk and talks to explore our urban forest with relevant council officers

Citizen led tree surveys

We want to invite residents to take part in our next I-Tree Eco study and offer other opportunities to get involved in researching our urban forest.

Annual stakeholder survey to inform our development

Conducting annual surveys to listen to and action the opinions of our residents and inform our Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

7.0 Action Plan

Our action plan outlines how we intend to put into place the actions proposed that move us towards our vision. The action plan follows a framework of action, cost, benefit, timescale, responsibility, and review. By doing this we systemize our means of achieving specific and measurable outcomes whilst remaining realistic and accountable. The action plan can be seen in Appendix 1.



Figure 17. Action Plan process

8.0 Review, Development and Monitoring

We commit to reviewing our progress annually with regular check-ins with key stakeholders. To aid this we have developed Key Performance Indicators to evaluate our performance. We also recognise that with emerging policies such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and our Climate Adaptation Strategy, we will need to continue development to ensure our targets are appropriate.

Our KPI for objective 1 is a measure of our canopy cover. We currently have 14% canopy cover. Through the course of the delivery of this strategy we aim to achieve 16.5%, based on targets set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan 2025.

Our KPI for objective 2 is a measure of taxonomic diversity based on Santamours 10% rule that no urban forest should consist of more than 10%

of a single species, more than 20% of a single genus and more than 30% of one family. (Trees for Urban Planting: Diversity Uniformity and Common Sense).

Our KPI for objective 3 is a survey of community perspectives on engagement. We currently hold no data on this. Through the course of the delivery of the strategy we aim to have at least 60-70% positive feedback in results.

8.1 Performance Monitoring Levels

Key Performance Indicator	Performance Level				Priority	Annual assessment
	Poor	Moderate	Good	Optimal		
1. Canopy Cover (%)	<13.5%	13.5- 16.5%	16.5- 18%	18%>	Medium	0.5% increase
2. Urban Forest Health Species, Genus, Family diversity (%)	> 20%/ 30% / 40%	> 10%/ 20%/ 30%	10%/ 20%/ 30%	<10%/ 20%/ 30%	High	Diversity improvement identified through diversity assessment
3. Community and Stakeholder Engagement Community survey (Positive feedback %)	0% (No data held)	50%- 60%	60%- 70%	70%>	High	Community engagement and perception survey designed by Forest Research and adapted for H&F

Table 1. Performance monitoring levels

9.0 Terms and Abbreviations

Terms

Term	Description
Canopy cover	A measure of the percent of an area that is covered by trees.
Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees (CAVAT)	a method of assessment that produces a monetary value for individual trees based on their amenity value.
Climate and Ecology Strategy	Document outlining the Councils plans to address the Climate and Ecology Emergency.
Climate Adaption Strategy	Document in progress outlining the councils plan to adapt the effects of climate change.
Ecosystem services	The direct or indirect benefits that ecosystems offer humans.
Family	A principal taxonomic category that ranks above genus and below order.
Genus	A principle taxonomic category that ranks above the species and below family.
Species	A principle taxonomic category that ranks below family.
H&F Local Plan	The Council's plan for the future development of the area. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two.
London Plan	A document outlining the Mayor of London's plan for the future development of London.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.

Term	Description
Pollard	Pollarding is the heavy pruning of a tree at a certain height above ground level, removing all the of the crown but sometimes leaving some framework branches, typically in species resilient to this way of management.
Sapling	A young tree implied to be self-sown, often referring to young trees smaller than a seedling.
Standard tree	A tree with a single stem with clear trunk at least 1.8m (6ft) is referred to as a Standard.
Taxonomic diversity	Variety of family, genus, and species of trees
Tiny forest	A dense, fast-growing native forest based on an established forest management method.
Tree Policy	Document outlining how the Council deliver routine management method.
Tree Strategy	Document outlining the Councils aims for their treescape and how they intend to achieve them.
Veteran or ancient tree	A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.
Whip	Young tree for out-planting consisting of a centre leader with few or no side branches, perhaps 1.0m tall.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term	Description
EIP	Environmental Improvement Plan	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan. It builds on the vision with a new plan setting out how the Government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework	The revised National Planning Policy Framework sets out government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan	H&F’s plan that outlines urgent actions to improve air quality, protect local nature and help local people live healthier lives.
NCA	Natural Capital Account	A document published by the Mayor of London outlining the economic value of health benefits that Londoners get from the capital’s public parks and green spaces.
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Document in development by Natural England. It will identify, map and prioritise local actions to create bigger, better and more connected natural places that benefit people, wildlife and the economy.
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain	A mandated process to increase the overall biodiversity value of a project or development.
GIS	Geographic Information System	A system for storing and manipulating geographical information on computer.
UGF	Urban Greening Factor	A planning tool to improve the provision of green Infrastructure, particularly in urban areas.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	Detailed advice or guidance in relation to policies in an adopted Local Plan.
TPO	Tree Preservation Order	A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity.