Tree and Woodland Plan

August 2022

Content

Introduction

The urban forest, which includes both public and privately owned trees, plays a key role in making cities habitable environments for people. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, filter air pollution and produce oxygen. They are also essential in helping to combat climate change and extreme weather events by providing shade, cooling the air and reducing the impact of heavy rainfall.

Trees and greenspaces also provide a range of social, cultural and health benefits. They can have a positive impact on people's physical and mental wellbeing. One example being that trees help to create a more attractive streetscape that encourages people to engage in active travel though cycling and walking. The importance of the urban forest and the services it provides is now widely recognised as essential to combat climate change and this plan has been developed to help promote, enhance and manage this critical resource.

Haringey's urban forest is made up of all the trees and woodlands in the borough including street trees, trees in parks and on housing estates. It also includes trees in private gardens and along linear transport routes. They range from individual ornamental or specimen trees in the city landscape to veteran trees in ancient woodlands

Aims

The Aims are taken from the overall Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.

Inclusion and Wellbeing: Providing inclusive parks and greenspaces that all communities in Haringey can benefit from so that usage and enjoyment of our parks and greenspaces reflects the communities living in Haringey and contributes to improved wellbeing.

Climate Change and Sustainability: Supporting the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency by reducing the carbon footprint of parks and greenspaces, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and helping educate everyone in Haringey about contributing toward saving the planet.

A Quality Service: Securing investment, improving standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes

Objectives

- Provide a document that details how Haringey aims to manage our trees and woodlands in a sustainable way
- Ensure Haringey's tree population is healthy, varied in age and diverse in species
- Increase tree canopy cover in Haringey, particularly in areas of deficiency, with the aim of having a minimum of 30% in each Council ward
- Secure greater levels of external funding and increase public sponsorship of new trees to address areas with low tree canopy cover
- Maintain tree canopy cover in wards with higher than 30%, by ensuring replacement trees are planted for those removed and new trees are planted through sponsorship
- Ensure that trees on private land have the best protection through the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), robust monitoring and enforcement of retained trees on development sites, compliance with existing legislation and the emerging local plan
- Improve our proactive tree maintenance programme to reduce the number of successful subsidence claims and allow for the retention of more trees

- Quantify the value and benefits that Haringey's expansive urban forest provides

The following table identifies the measures the Tree and Woodland Plan will contribute to the aims of the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.

Strategic Aim	Quality measure	Purpose
Inclusion and wellbeing	Increase tree canopy cover in areas of deficiency to 30%.	To ensure that more residents can benefit from the services they provide
Inclusion and wellbeing	Encourage greater resident participation in looking after trees, woodlands and helping with identifying areas for new tree planting and participating in projects in their local area.	To develop partnership working and strengthen community involvement
Climate change and sustainability	Seek additional funding to increase tree maintenance in areas where there is an increased risk of subsidence damage occurring.	To prevent damage occurring or reduce the severity of it and allow more trees to be retained
Climate change and sustainability	Draft new planning guidelines for the protection of trees and woodlands and seek enhanced tree cover in relation to new development in Haringey	To retain and enhance tree canopy cover across Haringey
Climate change and sustainability	Ensure a wider variety of tree species are planted to mitigate the predicted impact of climate change	To develop a more healthy and diverse tree population
Climate change and sustainability	Expand the amount of deadwood habitats retained in appropriate locations.	To increase biodiversity, especially for endangered or rare insects
A Quality Service	Increase the number of full time equivalent (FTE) officers in the Tree and Nature Conservation Team.	Staffing numbers as a measure to provide a better service for residents
A Quality Service	Ensure people have access to timely information on proposed tree works in the borough and the reasons for the works.	To develop an understanding Shows perceived quality of parks
A Quality Service	Ensure compliance with timelines set for responses to TPO tree work applications, Conservation Area notices and planning applications where trees are a consideration.	To ensure adequate consideration is given and more trees can be retained

Value of trees for people and places

The following table developed from the London Urban Forest Plan (Nov 2020) sets out the wide-ranging value and environmental services the trees in our urban forest deliver.

Climate change contributions	Countering climate change	Trees remove CO^2 to create a carbon sink
		Trees provide significant low carbon options for building and energy
	Tempering severe weather	The capacity of trees to attenuate heavy rains and floodwater slows run off and renders Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems more effective
	Monitoring temperatures	The ability of trees to evaporate water, reflect sunlight and provide shade combine to cut the 'urban heat island' effect
Environment advantages	Valuable aesthetic contributions	More attractive landscape - Eye sores hidden
		Greener more natural - Linking town to country
	Cutting soil erosion	Preserves the valuable soil resource and keeps carbon locked up
	Positive impact on water quality	Trees act as natural filters
	Contributing to wildlife	Increase in biodiversity as cities become more porous with extra links
		Brings wildlife closer to people
Economic dividends	Providing profitable by-products	Firewood - Compost/leaf litter mulch - Renewable fuel (via coppicing) - Timber - Fruit (community orchards)
	Reducing greenspace maintenance costs	Trees are much less maintenance intensive
	Contributing indirectly to local economies	People more productive - Job satisfaction increased - jobs created - Inward investment encouraged - Retail areas with trees perform better - Increased property values - Adds tourism and recreational revenue
Social benefits	Delivering a range of health benefits	Cleaner air means less asthma - Lower risk of skin cancer - Quicker patient recovery times - Reduced stress - Positive impact on mental health and wellbeing - Encourages exercise that can counteract heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes

	Assisting urban living	Improves buildings' energy efficiency and can help alleviate fuel poverty - Improved protection in winter - Increased pedestrian safety - Baffle's noise - Moderated micro-climate - Increased CO^2 absorption - Reduced crime levels
	Adding to social value	More harmonious environments - Heightened sense of pride in place - Greater community cohesion
	Offering spiritual support	Heightened self-esteem - Puts people in touch with nature and the seasons - Symptoms of anxiety, depression and insomnia alleviated
	Benefitting education	Concentration increases in 'natural' classrooms - Better learning outcomes

Haringey's policies and plans

Building a fairer, greener borough – Haringey Labour Manifesto 2022-26

Following the local elections in May 2022 the Council's ambition and priorities are based on putting residents at the heart of everything the Council does. For the remainder of 2022 and into 2023, the Council will work with residents to develop the Haringey Local Deal. The Haringey Local Deal will seek to empower communities to make change, putting local people at the forefront of decision-making. The Tree and Woodland Plan will support the delivery of the Haringey Local Deal and in turn the manifesto commitments.

Below we have included extracts from the Manifesto that the Tree and Woodland Plan will help to either directly deliver of support.

Inclusion and wellbeing

Directly

- community gardening and tree planting on estates and trees
- co-produce designs for pocket parks, community gardens and street side verges

Support

- participatory budgeting to help the council set its spending priorities
- contribute to the development of the Young Voices Programme

Climate change and sustainability

Directly

- plant street trees until each ward reaches 30% canopy cover
- plant 10,000 new trees by 2030
- invest in sustainable drainage systems to reduce flooding
- work to create three brand new nature reserves by 2026 and introduce Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Support

- reduce and eliminate the use of single use plastics
- install green pollution barriers on schools on main roads

- explore green energy production in parks
- identify sites for local food growing can take place

Quality parks

Directly
- install more LED Parks lighting to keep people safe

Support
- apprenticeships
- SEND opportunities

Wider policy context

National strategies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the natural environment, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services of trees and woodlands, for example. Specifically, the NPPF provides for the protection of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodlands and veteran trees. It also requires planning decisions to contribute to conserving and enhancing the local environment.

The 25 Year Environment Plan 2018

This plan sets out the government's aims and objectives for improving the environment. A central tenet of the plan is to increase tree cover in the UK to meet a target of 12% tree cover by 2060. Protecting and planting trees and woodlands in and around towns and cities is a key objective because of the benefits of urban trees that are set out in 'Vision for a Resilient Urban Forest'.

2020 Environment Bill

The Bill will bring into UK law environmental protections and recovery putting the environment at the centre of policy making. It will make sure that we have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation. It includes details on enhancing our greenspaces and legally binding target to be set to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.

Regional strategies

The London Environment Strategy (GLA 2018)

This strategy sets out a number of ambitions in relation to trees and woodlands including the protection and management of the existing urban forest; increasing canopy cover by 10% from current levels, creating 200 hectares of species-rich woodland by 2050 and encouraging naturalistic approaches to flood water management and climate change adaptation.

It also commits to the preparation of an Urban Forest Plan to identify how this will be achieved, for example, through a major programme of tree planting; larger scale woodland creation projects in the Green Belt; improving the methods and data required to identify locations for tree planting and to monitor change in tree canopy cover; and to support and promote the work of the London Tree Officers Association, the Trees and Design Action Group and other partners.

The London Plan (GLA 2021)

The plan outlines the overarching need for green infrastructure within the city. London's network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced. The urban forest is an important element of London's green infrastructure and comprises all the trees in the urban realm, in both public and private spaces, along linear routes and waterways, and in amenity areas. The Mayor wants to increase tree canopy cover in London by 10 per cent by 2050. Trees should be designed into developments from the outset to maximise tree planting opportunities and optimise establishment and vigorous growth. The policy statement (G7) for trees and woodlands is below:-

A. London's urban forest and woodlands should be protected and maintained, and new trees and woodlands should be planted in appropriate locations in order to increase the extent of London's urban forest – the area of London under the canopy of trees.

B. In their Development Plans, boroughs should:

1. protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site.

2. identify opportunities for tree planting in strategic locations.

C. Development proposals should ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of value are retained. If planning permission is granted that necessitates the removal of trees there should be adequate replacement based on the existing value of the benefits of the trees removed, determined by, for example, i-tree or CAVAT or another appropriate valuation system. The planting of additional trees should generally be included in new developments – particularly large-canopied species which provide a wider range of benefits because of the larger surface area of their canopy.

Haringey's tree canopy cover

In 2018, the Greater London Authority (GLA) commissioned a project to create a detailed map of tree canopy cover across London, the canopy cover map is approximately 94% accurate.

Haringey measures almost 2,950 hectares and the GLA maps estimated that the canopy cover is 25.5%, which is higher than the London average of 21%.

Using the maps and resulting data identifies which parts of the borough have low existing tree cover and should be targeted for tree planting projects. However, we also recognise that we need to increase canopy cover across the whole borough, where suitable opportunities exist and where we have the funding to do so.

The table below shows the size of each ward in Haringey and its canopy cover. *(Please note these are the 19 wards pre-May 2022 and the canopy cover map will be updated for the final version of the Tree and Woodland Plan)*

Ward name	Hectares	Canopy cover %	Ward name	Hectares	Canopy cover %
Alexandra	261.4	31.9	Northumberland Park	188.8	16.4
Bounds Green	138.6	21.4	Seven Sisters	129.5	18.7
Bruce Grove	93.7	14.9	St. Ann's	109.4	18.7
Crouch End	144	32.9	Stroud Green	109.4	30.6
Fortis Green	199.1	32.7	Tottenham Green	135.9	17.2
Harringay	156.7	23.3	Tottenham Hale	191.2	22.8
Highgate	249.5	45.5	West Green	139.9	19.1
Hornsey	105.4	17.0	White Hart Lane	169.9	21.6
Muswell Hill	165.3	39.1	Woodside	149.7	16.2
Noel Park	122.6	13.8			

Predictably, Highgate has the highest tree canopy cover, and this is partly because the ward includes large open spaces such as Highgate wood, part of Queens wood and Highgate Golf Course, but also there are many large private gardens with trees. Muswell Hill has the second highest and Crouch End the third highest.

The Council has set out an ambition to continue planting trees until the average canopy cover in the borough reaches 30%. Based on the old 19 wards this means that a significant increase is required in 13 of those wards.

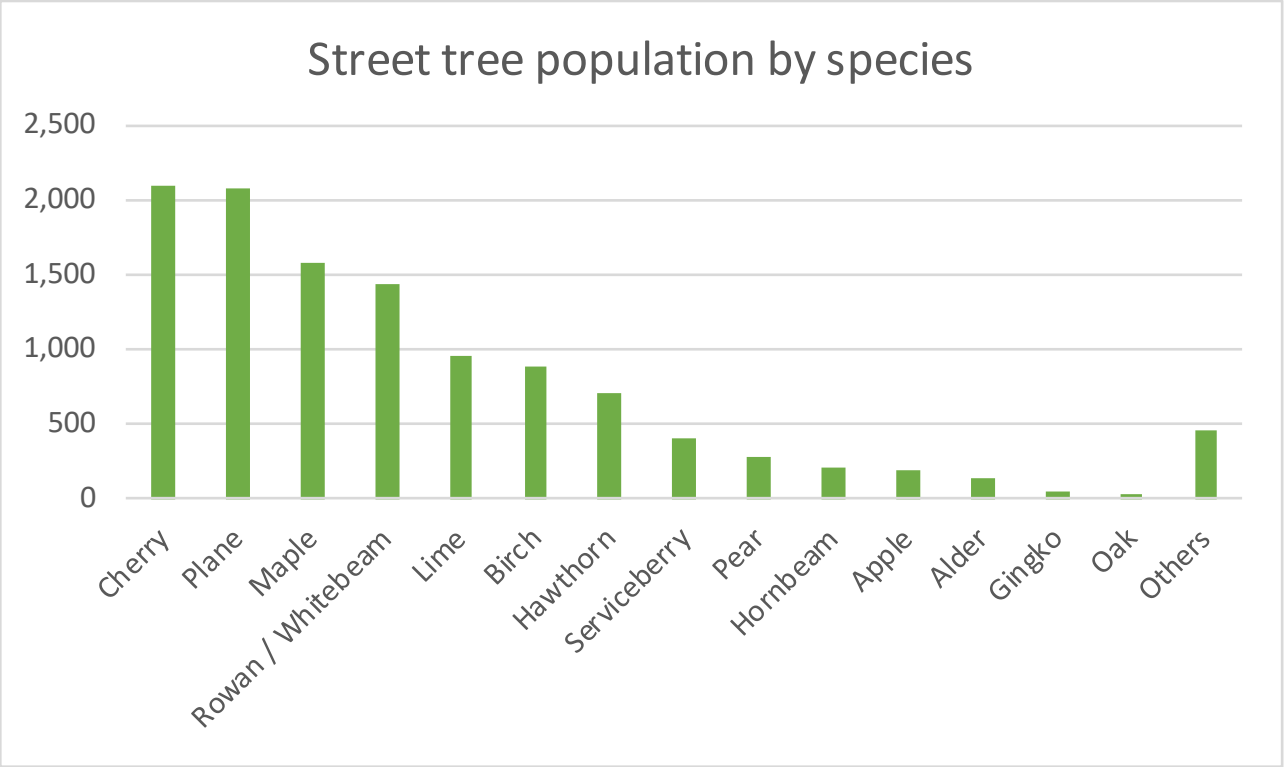
Haringey's tree population

There are approximately 11,500 street trees in Haringey, 9,000 in parks and greenspaces and 8,000 in housing sites. We estimate there are at least another 5-6,000 in woodlands, schools and nature conservation sites that are not currently recorded.

The oldest tree on public land in Haringey is probably the veteran Oak tree in Bruce Castle Park, which is thought to be around 500 years old. Other notable trees include an Oriental plane on the Turner Avenue housing estate, a weeping Beech tree in Priory Park and the Seven Sisters Hornbeam trees, which were re-planted in 1996, but have a historical significance dating back to 1617.

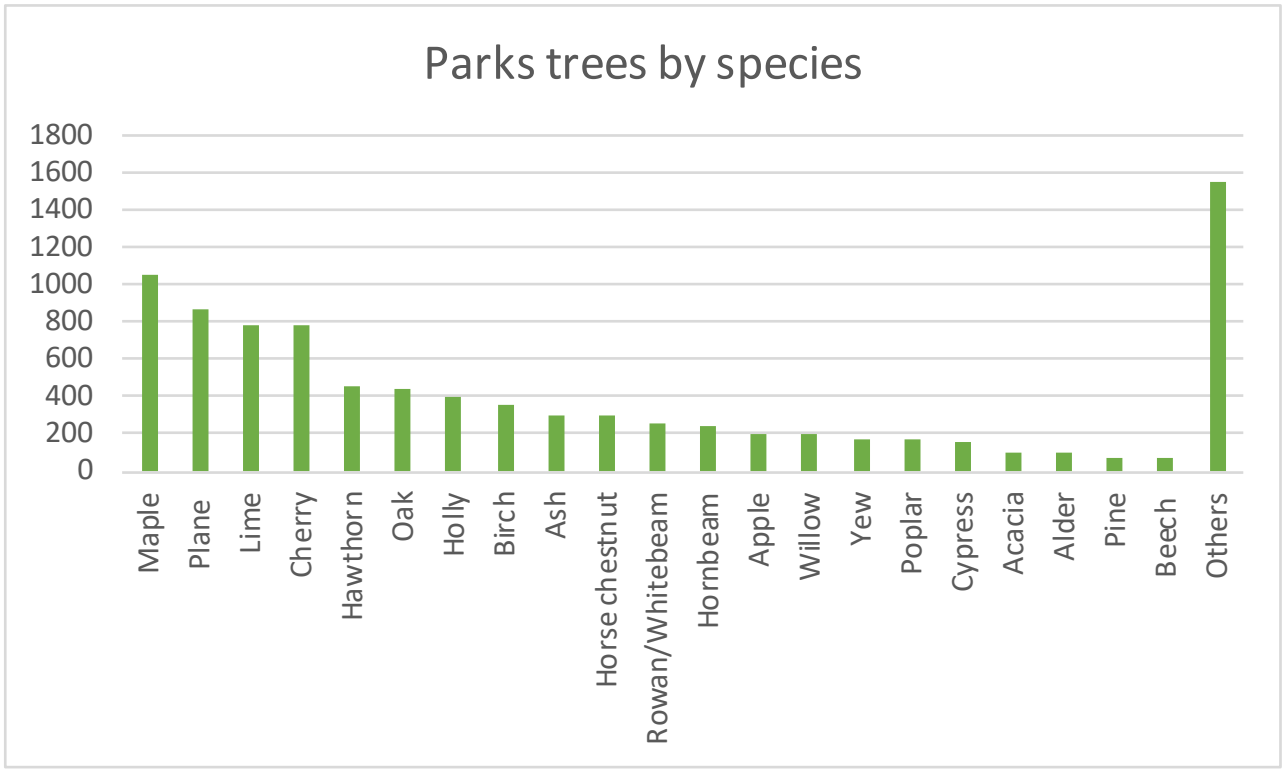
Street trees are an integral and often historical component of the urban landscape and as such are valued by local residents. Many of the oldest and largest street trees are London Plane and Lime, planted during the Victorian era, they are predominantly managed by regular pollarding. The remaining street trees can be classified as ornamental species which have a shorter lifespan and include Cherry, Rowan and Birch. There are also some trees, which can reach a larger mature size, have a longer lifespan, and include Maple and Hornbeam. In recent years, trees with a smaller mature size have been planted and include Serviceberry, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Pear and Apple.

The most common street tree in Haringey is Cherry, followed by London plane, Maple and Rowan/Whitebeam, which we have listed together as there are many hybrids between them.



Haringey's Open Space and Biodiversity Study in 2014 identified 533 hectares of parks, recreation grounds and open spaces, some of which are managed by other organisations. Many of these sites are of significant arboricultural importance as they contain some of the

largest and oldest trees in the Borough. The vast majority of which have the space to grow to their full crown size, without the need for periodic crown reduction works, like those in streets. Within parks and open spaces, the most common tree species are Maple followed by London plane, Lime and Cherry.



Key issues and challenges

Climate change

Climate change is the biggest long-term threat faced by our natural environment and ecosystems, and therefore our own life support systems. We are already seeing signs of long-term changes in weather patterns and an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts, fires, floods and storms, which all have an impact on trees and woodlands.

Both Haringey and The Mayor of London declared a 'Climate Emergency' in 2019, in response to the growing threat to our health, our planet and our children and grandchildren's future. It is now widely acknowledged that urgent action is required to mitigate the scale and nature of the ecological crisis impacted by climate change. Making radical changes to our lifestyles (travel, energy consumption, diet) and the way we use land and resources is essential, if we are to avoid dangerous climate breakdown and a devastating loss of nature.

It is also predicted that the impact of climate change on clay soils will lead to an increased risk of subsidence to buildings, which could lead to more claims against trees in London and specifically Haringey, where the underlying soils is predominantly London clay.

Carbon sequestration

Trees and woodlands can play an important role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis which locks up (sequesters) carbon in the trunk,

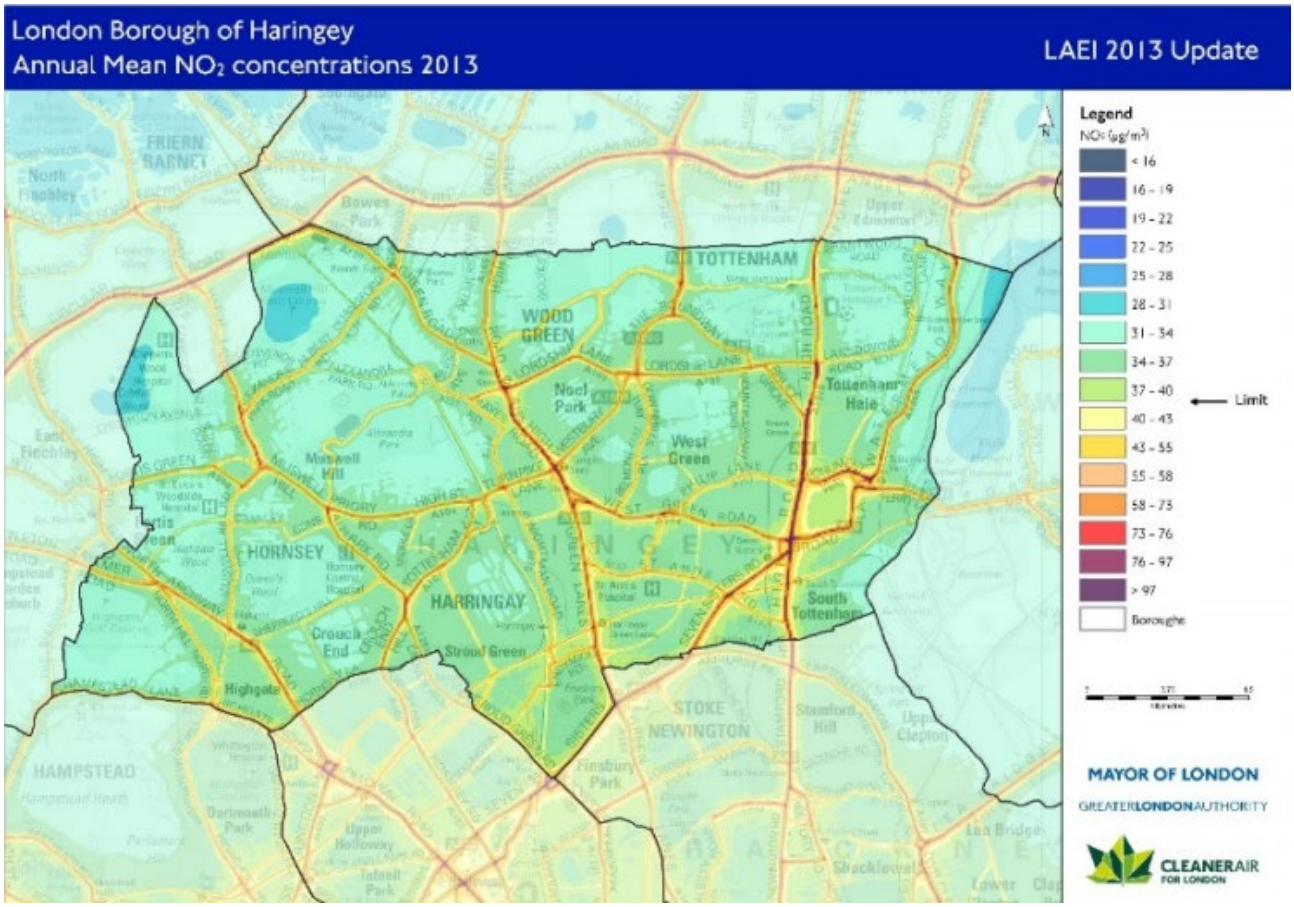
branches, leaves, roots and also in the underlying soil. Although their removal and decay eventually releases carbon back into the atmosphere, there is a net increase in carbon sequestered if the urban forest is managed sustainably with more trees reaching maturity than being lost to natural decline or felling. Ensuring the protection of London's existing mature woodland and trees means that over 2.3M tonnes of carbon remains locked up.

Air quality

Poor air quality can cause serious health problems and reduce the quality of life for all of us. Its impact is most severely felt by children, whose lungs are developing, older people whose lung functioning may be in decline and those with existing heart and lung conditions. In addition, people living in areas near major roads, which are often some of the most deprived parts of Haringey are exposed to particularly high levels of pollution.

Trees play a part in mitigating air pollution, especially by intercepting particulate matter, which remains in the canopy until being washed away by rainfall. However, the main value of green infrastructure for urban air quality is not its ability to remove pollutants, but its ability to control their flow or distribution. Trees and other vegetation can assist in dispersing pollutants away from the source and help provide cleaner surrounding air. A vegetation barrier (such as a tree) can halve the levels of pollutants just behind the barrier.

The London i-Tree Eco study estimated that the capital's 8 million trees remove an estimated 2,000 tonnes of pollution from the air each year, equivalent to 13% of PM10 particulates, which are fine particles that can be drawn into respiratory airways where they may adversely affect a person's health. Trees also remove 14% of Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) emitted by road transport. Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) concentrations are measured annually to identify areas that have concentrations 1.13 higher than the European Limit Value. The worst affected areas in Haringey are along the major road network such as Archway Road, Wood Green and Tottenham High Roads, Green Lanes and Seven Sisters Road. New trees have been planted in these areas during the last 10 years, but more are needed to have a greater impact.



Modelled map of annual mean NO2 concentrations (from the LAEI 2013)

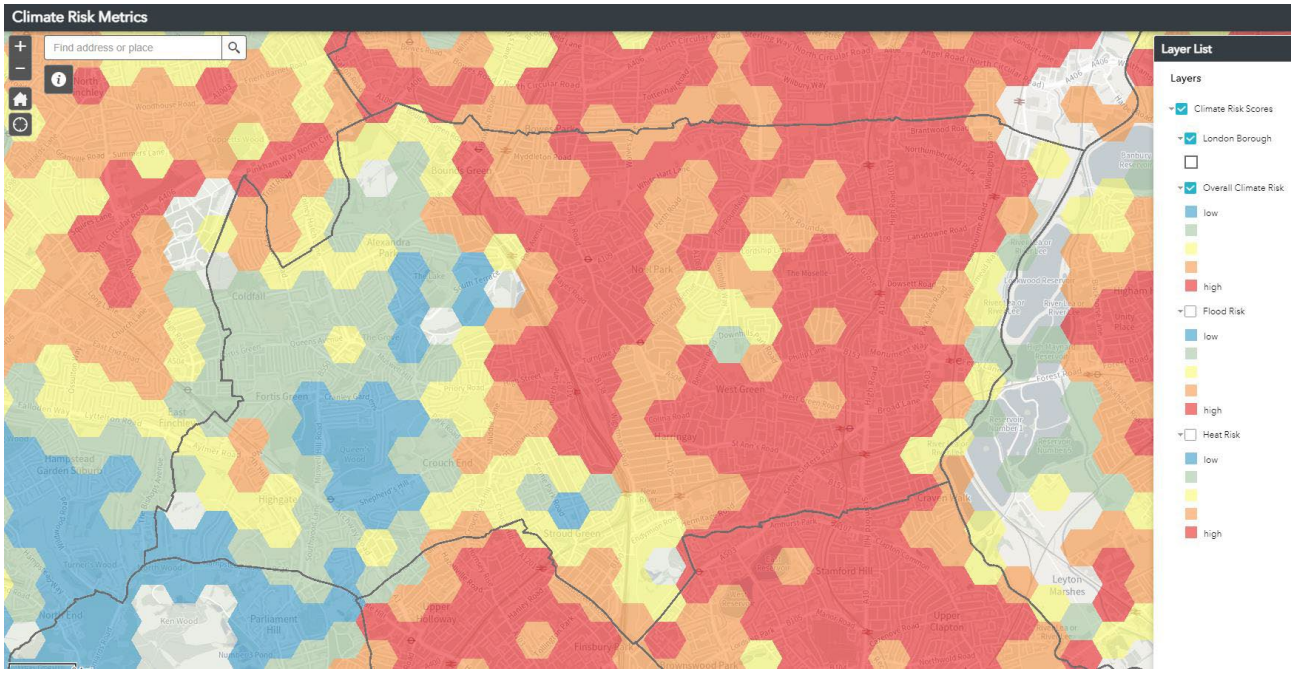
Temperature

In cities, the climate is significantly warmer than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. This is caused by a range of factors including urban surfaces which absorb and radiate heat and heat generated by buildings, transportation, and lighting.

The UHI effect can have negative impacts on human health, ranging from general discomfort to exhaustion, respiratory problems, and heat stroke. There is concern because as our climate changes it is expected that the UHI effect will increase in severity due to rising temperatures.

Trees and green spaces help us reduce the UHI effect as they have been shown to reduce temperatures close to them by providing shade and through transpiration, where water evaporates from aerial parts of trees and plants. Trees in cities can cool the air by 2°C to 8°C, which also reduces air conditioning costs.

The Haringey Climate Risk Map shows those parts of the borough most at risk from the impacts of climate change. There is an uncanny relationship with those areas with the lowest tree canopy cover in the borough.



Flooding

The interception of rainfall by trees has a significant impact on reducing localised flooding by slowing the flow of water into our drainage systems. Larger canopy trees are of greatest benefit. Incidents of flooding can be further alleviated by including engineered SuDS (Sustainable Underground Drainage Systems) into parks and open spaces and new highway planting schemes. Existing mature tree pits also have the potential to be reconfigured to increase the water holding capacity of root zones. SuDS also reduce the pressure on the underground drainage systems and natural water features, like rivers.

Subsidence

The underlying soil in Haringey is predominantly London Clay, which shrinks when moisture is lost and swells when moisture is absorbed. The drying out and re-wetting of the soil occurs throughout the year as reflected in changes in temperature and the amount of rainfall. Structures built on shrinkable clay can sometimes be subject to movement during this process. Often the amounts are so small and they go unnoticed. However, the location of trees and other significant vegetation can exacerbate the drying of the soil by extracting moisture through their roots. This can have an impact on the part of a structure closest to it, causing it to move in contrast to the rest of the building. This differential movement causes visible cracks to appear. The cracks open in late summer and close again in winter as reflected by the moisture content of the soil.

During the summer months, water uptake by trees and other vegetation is at its highest, but rainfall may be at its lowest and this can result in the soil drying out. During the winter months, plants become dormant and levels of rainfall usually increase and allow the soil to become re-hydrated. However, in some instances the amount of water extracted is more than is absorbed from annual rainfall, therefore, the soil never has the opportunity to become totally re-hydrated and it develops a permanent desiccation. At this point, the cracks will not

completely close and to remediate the damage to the building, repair works may be necessary.

The Council acknowledges that trees under its ownership may be implicated in causing subsidence damage to adjacent structures. To mitigate this, we have for many years had in place a systematic maintenance programme for all street trees and those that have been identified as a potential risk. Occasionally, proactive tree management does not prevent subsidence damage occurring and it may be necessary to remove a tree.

In 2008, the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) published the third edition of their Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims. This is widely recognised as current best practice for managing tree related subsidence claims. We are seeking to sign up to the Risk Limitation Strategy and manage claims in line with its recommendations, but there may be instances where claims will also be managed on an individual basis. Further details on how we mange tree root claims can be found in Appendix 4

Pests, diseases and biosecurity

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the identification of new pests and diseases that impact trees. All were previously evident in Europe and have now found their way to the UK. They threaten some of our most commonly found tree species such as Oaks, Ash, Horse chestnut and London plane. The loss of such trees can have a devastating impact as they are large canopy trees, which provide greater benefits and are often very prominent features in the city landscape.

Local authorities are sent regular updates from the Forestry Commission and we also receive advice and management recommendations from the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA). The LTOA (2014) issued a mission statement that recommended proactive management to protect the tree stock throughout London. It outlines the key pests and diseases which could significantly impact important tree species in the city and details what actions are necessary to manage the risk. Our existing planned inspection programme will help to identify pests and diseases ensuring that appropriate measures can be taken to limit their impact.

Tree work contractors and tree nurseries who supply Haringey must all abide by Biosecurity policies to help prevent the unnecessary spread of pests and diseases. For contractors, this means the sterilisation of tools in accordance to BS:3998/2010 *Tree Work – Recommendations* (BSI, 2010). For nurseries, it means ensuring trees are grown in the UK disease free and any imported stock are kept for a minimum of one year within the UK before sale.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the term used to describe all life on Earth, in all its variety. In natural habitats, there is a multitude of living things interacting, both large and minutely small. The greater the range and number of these plant, fungi, microbe and animal species, the healthier an area's ecosystem is. This is because a more robust and complex habitat can provide the different conditions to suit the special needs of a greater range of species.

Biodiversity allows us to live healthy and happy lives; it provides us with food directly or through pollination, medical discoveries, and ecosystem services. The latter includes

everything from cleaning water and absorbing chemicals, which wetlands do, to providing oxygen for us to breathe. Biodiversity also provides aesthetic and cultural value to our lives and has been shown to be good for our mental and physical wellbeing.

Haringey contains a wide variety of habitats including; ancient woodlands, rivers, marshes, allotments and many different parks and open spaces. The protection of these habitats is of the utmost importance in order to safeguard the existing wildlife and also provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity. The range of different flora and fauna found within an urban environment can have a positive impact on our quality of life by providing contact with the natural world. Biodiversity increases the value of a site for educational and recreational activities.

Trees and woodlands are essential for biodiversity. Native Oaks support 423 different insect species and 324 lichens, Willows support up to 450 different insects and 160 lichens. The value of individual trees for wildlife also depends on its age and condition, with different species often being dependent upon trees at different times in its lifecycle.

Dead and decaying wood is an important habitat within trees and woodlands. Decaying wood supports up to 1,700 species, which is approximately 6% of total British fauna, with 40% of these species being endangered or nationally scarce. It is important to have a wide range of dead and decaying wood from different tree species, retained both in the tree and on the ground as large individual branches and as smaller branches put into habitat piles or loggeries. We will aim to retain dead and decaying wood where it is safe to do so, and this will principally be in woodlands and parks sites and this may include dead and decaying tree trunks and stumps.

Trees in parks, housing estates and on streets are also of value for biodiversity, where there are a greater variety in both native tree species and ornamental trees which are also beneficial. Trees are often crucial parts of green corridors linking different sites and key to reducing the effects of fragmentation on biodiversity.

Woodlands

Woodlands in the UK are home to a wealth of wildlife, and ancient woodlands in particular support more species than any other land-based habitat in the UK and they are home to more threatened species than any other. Centuries of undisturbed soils, mature native trees and accumulated dead and decaying wood have created the perfect environment for communities of fungi, insects, birds and mammals, some of which are only found in ancient woodlands.

Haringey contains four ancient woodlands; Queens wood, Coldfall wood, Bluebell wood and Highgate wood (which is managed by the City of London).

Haringey managed sites and others of ecological interest are protected and managed in accordance with their respective management plans and the borough Biodiversity Action Plan. Tree works in woodlands and conservation sites are predominantly carried out to mitigate actionable nuisances and potential risks to site users. We are engaged with external partners such as the Woodland Trust and other experts to draft new management plans for these sites to put things in place to ensure their long-term protection. Council officers also work closely with 'Friends' groups and volunteers under the guidance of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), to coordinate works such as coppicing and the clearance of invasive species.

Tree inspection and maintenance policy

Having a planned inspection and maintenance programme is the most appropriate method to maintain trees in a healthy condition. It also reduces the risk of tree failure, nuisance to residents and is more effective in managing complaints.

Currently all street trees and those on housing sites are subject to a planned inspection regime. Street trees will be inspected on a three to four yearly cycle, dependent on species, location and risk of tree root damage. Trees managed on a three yearly cycle are predominantly London plane and Lime trees growing in close proximity to buildings and have historically been managed as pollards. They are also usually in areas pre-disposed to subsidence damage. Trees in parks and open spaces will be inspected within a three yearly cyclical programme, with trees on housing estates inspected every four years.

In light of the recommendations in the court case *Witley Parish Council v Cavanagh 2018*, we will be reviewing our tree inspection regimes in high-risk zones (i.e. along public roads and where there is a high risk of serious harm to life or damage to property). It is proposed to increase it to at least every 2 years and ideally every 18 months when the trees are in and out of leaf.

Reactive works are carried out to manage risks to the public, they include felling dead trees, removing hazardous branches, clearing obstructions to sightlines and infrastructure and pruning tree roots to prevent trip hazards. They also include initial works in relation to any new insurance claims. Reactive works are carried out in response to enquiries from other Council Services, residents or where officers have identified them when travelling in the borough.

The type of pruning works undertaken depends on the trees' location and its species. Minimal works will be carried out in order to sufficiently manage the tree. This may often only involve removing the lower branches to increase clearance for pedestrians and vehicle traffic and/or cutting back the branches from adjacent buildings. A reduction of the height of a tree is usually carried out for managing the potential risk of subsidence damage or where the tree has been managed by crown reduction historically.

The Council will try to avoid removing a tree or undertaking unnecessary pruning works where there is no good arboricultural reason. However, it may be necessary to remove a healthy tree in certain circumstances, for example if one has caused extensive damage to a footway and no engineering solutions exist to repair the damage and allow the tree to be retained. If tree removals are proposed, local resident's and ward councillors will be notified in advance and given the reasons why. The Council will mitigate the loss of tree cover by ensuring replacement trees are planted. The number of replacements trees will be in relation to the environmental value of the existing canopy cover that will be lost. Further details on our maintenance policy can be found in Appendix 1.

The Council has an emergency plan for severe weather conditions and has Arboricultural Officers on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for any other tree related emergencies. Any calls from the public or the emergency services are recorded, and then passed direct to an Arboricultural Officer. They will aim to attend site within 1 hour and make an assessment of what works are necessary.

Resources

The Councils Tree Service will consist of a manager, a Senior Arboricultural Officer, a Planning Arboricultural Officer and two Arboricultural Officers. We will aim to provide a professional and reliable service to residents, members and other council services, by ensuring that all advice and recommendations are given in a clear and consistent manner and are in accordance with council policies and industry guidance. Our main duties are to:

- manage inspections and surveys of the boroughs trees
- develop and maintain the computerised tree management system (so we have an accurate database which includes, location, species, age, size and maintenance history)
- plan and monitor all planned and reactive tree works
- plan and manage a borough wide tree planting programme
- deal with public enquiries and complaints on tree related matters to
    - provide professional advice to other council services and ward members
    - assist planning officers in reviewing and determining planning applications, where trees are a consideration
    - review and determine all applications and notifications for proposed works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or those located in a Conservation Area
    - assess the suitability of trees for new TPOs

Working with external partners

We want to ensure that trees in Haringey get the appropriate protection and the management we aspire to is supported not only by residents, but also external organisations. We already have partnerships in place with Trees for Streets and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and are currently working on projects with the Woodland Trust, Treeconomics, and consultants who are experts in managing ancient trees and soil science. We will also seek other partnerships that can assist us with our plans to expand Haringey's urban forest and its future management.

Tree planting policy

We recognise that an increase in tree planting across the borough is necessary to help mitigate the impact of climate change and increase the wide range of benefits they provide. Trees are one of the only assets whose value increases as they mature, therefore expanding the existing tree population while also having a long-lasting positive effect on resident's health and wellbeing.

Priority for new tree planting will be given to areas with existing low canopy cover, along main transport routes and where pollution levels are high.

Haringey has adopted the principal of planting the 'right tree in the right place', which is identified in in the Urban Tree Manual (Forestry Commission 2020). The successful establishment of urban trees requires a series of informed decisions, from the careful selection of appropriate tree species and planting location, to maintaining young trees and protecting them from biosecurity threats. It should also reduce future nuisance issues and unnecessary maintenance costs.

The risk of subsidence damage to buildings has resulted in a reduction in the planting of larger forest type species, which have a high water demand, in most streets. The Council does, however, recognise that large trees make a greater contribution in terms of environmental benefits and they will be considered for planting in appropriate locations such as in parks and open spaces, along transport corridors and in areas where the risk of subsidence is low.

We have also increased the level of aftercare for new trees, which will help more of them survive and become independent in the landscape. We would like to encourage residents to play a part in the establishment of new trees. In a recent project on the Ferry Lane housing estate, residents took on 'ownership' of the new trees and assisted the Council with watering and monitoring them. We would like to expand this across the borough for other planting projects by encouraging participation during the pre-planting consultation period.

Funding

Between 2008 and 2016, we had a budget and secured additional external funding, which allowed us to have a planned approach to planting new and replacement trees in streets, parks and housing sites. During this period, 3,921 new street trees were planted. In the same period, 1,716 were removed, the vast majority of which were dead, dying or had become potentially hazardous. Between 2017 and 2019, funding for tree planting was significantly reduced and fewer new and replacement trees were planted.

In 2020, we received a grant via the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (Defra/GLA) and we planted 497 new street trees during the 20/21 and 21/22 planting seasons. These were in the nine council wards with less than 20% existing tree canopy cover. A new capital grant will help to support the tree sponsorship scheme and allow the expansion of tree planting in areas of deficiency; however, additional funding will be necessary to meet the Councils ambition to plant 10,000 new trees before 2030.

Tree sponsorship scheme

In 2021, we launched a new tree sponsorship scheme with an external partner, Trees for Streets. Trees for Streets is a collaboration between Trees for Cities, and the local social innovator, Start with Local. The scheme provides an online platform, where Haringey residents can request trees be planted in their local area. The scheme has improved the marketing and engagement required to encourage a greater number of people to sponsor trees and assist with their aftercare. In the first year after the launch, we planted 145 sponsored trees.

Community engagement

For many years, we have given prior notice when trees are being felled and when planned works are scheduled. However, we wish to improve how we communicate with residents, resident associations and other voluntary groups, such as Friends of Parks groups. We recognise the growing interest and strength of feeling of resident wishing to protect and improve their local environment and want to be informed when changes are planned, especially regarding trees and natural places.

It is essential that local people feel engaged, and their views are considered. We will seek to provide the necessary information in a timely manner, on why decisions are made when trees are being removed, when significant works are planned and when new trees are proposed for planting, we will ensure that we use all the means that are now available to us through social media to actively communicate. We will also carry out site visits to meet with residents, and 'Friends of Parks' groups to discuss works and clearly explain why we believe they are necessary. See appendix 3 for details on prior notice for tree works.

Valuing Haringey's urban forest

Haringey's Tree Officers and volunteers took part in the London wide i-Tree project that was completed in 2014. The London urban forest assessment was one of the largest scale i-Tree projects completed to date with over 700 plots surveyed throughout inner and outer London. The study highlighted the essential role that green infrastructure plays in providing ecosystem services that make London a vibrant place to live, visit and work.

Here are a few of the ecosystem services and values provided by the approximate 8.4 million trees in London's urban forest:

- 2.4 million tonnes of carbon stored valued at £146.9 million
- 77,000 tonnes of carbon sequestered annually valued at £4.79 million per year
- 2241 tonnes of pollution removed annually valued at £126.1 million per year
- 3.5 million cubic meters of avoided storm water runoff valued at £2.8 million per year
- £260,600.0 per year of energy savings attributed to trees in relation to buildings

We believe it may be beneficial to carry out another survey specific to Haringey to provide data on the services and values that green infrastructure provide in the borough. We will investigate this proposal further in the first five years of the plan.

Action plan

An Action Plan has been prepared to support the tree and woodland plan. It sets out what we hope to achieve between 2022 and 2036. It identifies the actions necessary to meet the key objectives and build on the recent improvements in the management and enhancement of the Borough's tree population. Successful implementation of the Tree and Woodland Plan will involve co-operation across Council services. Some of the key actions include;

- increase tree planting across the borough, with the aim to plant at least 10,000 new trees by 2030
- develop an Urban Forest planting plan to achieve at least 30% canopy cover in all wards where this is possible
- review signing up to the Joint Mitigation Protocol (JMP) for managing tree root claims.
- review the current tree maintenance programme to determine if an increased pruning regime will result in a reduction in tree root claims and greater tree retention
- create new areas of woodland, including mini-forests and expand our hedge network.
- carry out an evaluation of Haringey's urban forest to determine its value in terms of the environmental benefits that are provided
- review and update information on tree management procedures on Council website, to include an interactive digital map of Council trees

- seek to establish a Tree Forum, where residents groups and other organisations can meet to discuss important issues and seek to cooperate on joint initiatives

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Tree management policies

Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken where:

- trees are perceived to be too large
- there is a perceived risk that subsidence damage may occur in the future
- satellite dish TV reception is interrupted
- sunlight may be blocked from reaching properties or gardens
- seasonal or naturally occurring events happen, e.g. falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, bird droppings, pollen allergies
- insects or other non-hazardous wildlife are present
- views are obscured
- it is proposed to install a vehicle crossover (except in extenuating circumstances)

The Council will undertake tree works to fulfil its legal obligations to ensure the safety of the public and properties.

Pruning works will be undertaken where:

- there is an actionable nuisance to built structures, (e.g. branches are in physical contact with walls, windows and gutters)
- highways infrastructure (e.g. road signs, streetlights, etc) and sightlines for vehicles and pedestrians are obscured
- previous maintenance regimes have determined that future works are of the same specification for that specimen, e.g. pollarding, crown reduction
- hazardous pests and diseases are evident (e.g. Brown Tail Moth)

Trees will usually be removed where:

- they are dead or visibly in decline (except in woodlands and other open spaces where they pose little risk to the public)
- an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or any other defect that would lead to the tree failing (see comments in brackets above)
- evidence has been provided that they are a contributing factor in causing subsidence damage and proactive tree management has had no effect
- they are causing significant damage to the public highway and engineering solutions are not feasible to allow retention

In 2020, the London Tree Officers Association) published a position statement setting out some of the reasons why London boroughs remove trees as part of good urban tree management.

Permission to remove trees to allow for new vehicle crossovers will not be granted except in extenuating circumstances or there a good arboricultural reason to do so. On the rare occasions where permission is granted, all costs for tree removal works and the planting of replacement trees will be borne by the applicant.

The installation of new CCTV cameras must take into consideration existing trees to prevent requests for unnecessary pruning works or the removal of trees to improve desired sightlines.

Appendix 2 – Tree planting policy

The Council will aim to plant replacement trees for all those that are removed from streets, parks and housing sites. If we are not able to re-plant in the exact same location, we will identify an alternative site in the vicinity of where tree(s) are removed.

We will also seek to identify new locations for trees, where they will offer greater value, such as areas where existing canopy cover levels are low, along main transport routes and where pollution levels are high.

We will work with colleagues in Highways to identify opportunities to allow for new trees to be planted and mature trees to be given more protection as part of new footway projects, SuDS, new parklets and other projects.

We will work to identify and create new mini forests and expand our hedge network within parks and greenspaces.

We will aim to include at least a three-year aftercare programme for all tree planting projects except where residents have committed to assisting with watering and monitoring new trees.

We will aim to plant a wide range of tree species, including both native and ornamental trees, especially those that will tolerate droughts and other impacts of climate change.

We will aim to plant large canopy trees where the space permits and where the risk of tree root damage is minimised.

We will seek to encourage greater public involvement in tree planting projects, especially when planting in parks and open spaces and the aftercare of street trees.

Appendix 3 - Community engagement policy

Public information on tree works

We will always give prior notice for the following works:

- felling trees that appear healthy with a trunk diameter of over 7.5cm
- pruning works that may appear contentious to the Council
- new and replacement tree planting

We will not usually give notice for the following works:

- felling of dead trees or those in imminent danger of failing
- felling small trees that appear healthy with a trunk diameter of less than 7.5cm

Timescales for notice will vary according to the type of work, including whether it is urgent and the local significance of the tree. Notification will consist of a variety of methods, including emailing known resident associations, local neighbourhood forums and 'friends' groups. We will also erect notices to trees and send letters to adjacent properties. We will also email ward members when planned tree works and/or tree removals are scheduled within their ward.

The minimum standards for notice will be the following:

- a notice will be attached to a tree scheduled for removal at least thirty days before work start
- emails will be sent to known resident associations and ward members at least thirty days before any scheduled tree removals
- letters will be delivered to 10 properties either side of the tree and the 20 properties opposite

Appendix 4 – Managing subsidence related claims

The LTOA Risk Limitation Strategy recommends that:

Publicly owned trees:

- Local Authorities instigate a regime of cyclical pruning of council owned trees in areas predisposed to building movement, where this is appropriate.
- Local Authorities provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated claims directed at council owned trees.
- Local Authorities instigate a regime of selective removal and replacement of street tree stock in areas predisposed to building movement, where this is appropriate.

Privately owned trees:

- Local Authorities provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated Conservation Area notifications and Tree Preservation Order applications.
- Local Authorities review all unsettled claims providing dedicated resources to challenge all unwarranted claims base on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence or where in the case of preserved trees, The Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 can provide relief from the claim.

All trees:

- Local Authorities challenge unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence.

Making Subsidence claims

The onus is on the owner of a property to prove a tree is an effective cause of subsidence damage to their property. Currently, the Council will usually require the following evidence as a minimum to investigate a claim against one of its trees;

- An engineer's report detailing damage to building (location, nature, BRE category, crack monitoring, drainage survey)
- Plan and profile of foundations
- Site plan indicating location of structure in relation to trees and other vegetation in the vicinity
- Arboricultural report
- Results of soil investigation tests confirming profile, moisture content, plasticity index, desiccation and tree root identification

Appendix 5 – reference documents

- London Urban Forest Plan (2020)
  https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/londonurbanforestplan_final.pdf

- The Local Plan and Development Management Policies (DMP 2017)
  https://www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-development-management-dpd

- Air Quality Action Plan (2019-2024)
  https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/haringey_final_aqap_2019-24_signed.pdf

- Parks Strategy (2022-36)

- Biodiversity Action Plan (2022-36)

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
  https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework

- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (UK Government 2018)
  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan

- 'Our Vision for a Resilient Urban Forest', Urban Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee (FWAC) Network (2016)
  https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700389/urban-forest-final-v4.pdf

- The London Environment Strategy (GLA 2018)
  https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf

- The London Plan (GLA 2021)
  https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf

- London-i-Tree-Report
  https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/7885/London-i-Tree-Report.pdf

- GLA Canopy Cover Map
  https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/tree-canopy-cover-map

- Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims, London Tree Officers Association (2008) https://www.ltoa.org.uk/documents-1/risk-limitation-strategy-for-tree-root-claims/126-the-risk-limitation-strategy-for-tree-root-claims/file

- Biosecurity position statement, London Tree Officers Association (2017)
  https://www.ltoa.org.uk/docs/LTOA_Biosecurity_position_statement.pdf

- Why local authorities remove trees a part of good urban tree management, London Tree Officers Association (2020)
  https://www.ltoa.org.uk/docs/Why_Local%20Authorities_fell_trees.pdf

  - Urban Tree Manual (Forestry Commission 2020)
    https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/5318/7111_FC_Urban_Tree_Manual_V15.pdf