A Tree for Everyone

Pre-Application Guidance and Resources

Introduction

This document offers a variety of resources and guidance to help you develop and execute your project. Please use the information provided below to support your project design and decisions, as well as to support your application. Depending on your project's specifics—such as the trees involved, location, aims, and outcomes—certain information and resources may be more beneficial for you and your project.

This is designed for projects less than 0.5ha on appropriate land. If you are interested in planting anything over this size, then please visit the South Yorkshire Woodland Partnership section page 5.

Contents

Free Tree Grants

Before applying to South Yorkshire's Community Foundation's (SYCF) and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's (SYMCA) "A Tree for Everyone" Fund, explore the different options of free tree grant programmes that are available. Review your options and select the grant that best suits your project.

1.Free Trees for Communities Scheme:

- **Overview:** This is an initiative from the South Yorkshire Mayor, Oliver Coppard providing packs of 50 free trees to community groups across South Yorkshire.
- **Who can apply:** Community groups in South Yorkshire.
- **What you get:** Packs of 50 native trees.
- **Current Status:** All trees for the current planting season (October 2024 - March 2025) have been allocated. However, you can register your interest now for trees to be allocated in the next planting season, starting in October 2025.
- **How to Apply:** You can find a form to register your interest on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority website. Click here to apply online: [Free Trees for Communities Scheme](#)

2. Doncaster's Free Tree Giveaway:

- **Overview:** City of Doncaster Council, in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Trees for Cities, has been offering free trees to residents.
- **Who can apply:** Residents in Doncaster.
- **What you get:** Free native UK trees (species vary).
- **Current Status:** The giveaway is currently open.
- **How to Apply:** Follow the link to the website to reserve your tree: Click here to apply online: [Doncaster's Free Tree Giveaway](#)

3. Woodland Trust Free Trees for Schools and Communities:

- **Overview:** The Woodland Trust offers free tree packs to schools and community groups across the UK to help them plant trees and connect with nature.
- **Who can apply:** Schools (including nurseries, primary, secondary, and special schools) and community groups (like resident associations, youth groups, and environmental organizations).
- **What you get:** Packs of native broadleaf trees suitable for different spaces and needs. They often have themes like "wildlife," "energy," or "year-round colour."
- **Current Status:** They have two application periods each year, for spring and autumn planting. Please check their website for the status of applications.
- **How to apply:** You can usually apply online through the Woodland Trust website. Click here to apply online: [Woodland Trust Free Trees for Schools and Communities](#)

4. The Tree Council Grants:

- **Overview:** The Tree Council actively supports community tree, hedgerow, and orchard projects that boost agricultural productivity and creating green spaces that promote physical and mental well-being. They have multiple different tree grants programmes: 'Branching out Fund,' Orchards for Schools,' Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund'.
- **Who can apply:** Community groups, schools, local authorities, and other organizations that are looking to plant trees and care for them. The specific eligibility can vary depending on the grant fund.
- **What you can get:** The amount of funding and what it covers can differ between their various grant programmes. They often support the cost of trees, planting materials, and maintenance.
- **Current Status:** The Tree Council has multiple different grants programmes. Please visit their website to check the status of their different funding programmes.

- **How to apply:** Guidance and how to apply is located within their website. Click here to apply online: [The Tree Council – Our Grants](#)

5. Sheffield Street Trees

- **Overview:** An exciting new partnership has been set up with the charity, Trees for Streets, who run the National Street Tree Sponsorship Scheme. The aim of this scheme is to connect communities with trees, the environment and their immediate neighbourhoods.
- **Who can apply:** Residents, community groups, local organizations. Trees for Streets offers residents the ability to select a planting location and check its suitability online. You may wish to fill a gap outside your house, or maybe outside a local school. You choose.
- **What you can get:** This could range from receiving trees, volunteer support and guidance for street tree projects.
- **Current Status:** Support is ongoing.
- **How to apply:** Information on how to get involved or apply is available here: https://sheffieldstreettreepartnership.org/

6. Sheffield Fruit Trees

- **Overview:** The Sheffield Fruit Trees project is a local social enterprise focused on growing and promoting fruit trees in Sheffield. They offer a range of services and opportunities for individuals and community groups to get involved in planting and enjoying locally grown fruit.
- **Who can apply:** Individuals can purchase fruit trees and related sundries from their nursery for their own gardens.
- **What you can get:** They work in collaboration with community groups and local organisations in and around Sheffield to plant fruit trees in public spaces. Orchard, advice, guidance, design and consultation
- **Current Status:** This project is ongoing. It developed as an offshoot of the Abundance urban fruit-harvesting project back in 2014 and have been operating independently since 2017.
- **How to apply**: Details on how to participate can be found here: https://sheffieldfruittrees.co.uk/about

7. Trees for Cities – urban, schools, street trees

- **Overview:** Trees for Cities is a national charity working to plant trees in urban areas, including schools and along streets. Their projects aim to green cities, improve air quality, enhance biodiversity, and engage communities in tree planting and care.
- **Who can apply:** Schools, community groups, local authorities, and other organizations in urban areas across the UK can often apply for their support for tree planting projects.
- **What you can get:** Trees for Cities can provide funding, trees, planting expertise, volunteer support, and educational resources for tree planting initiatives. The specific support can vary depending on the project and available funding.
- **Current Status:** You can find information on their current projects and funding opportunities on the Trees for Cities website.

- **How to apply:** Guidance on how to apply for their support is available on the Trees for Cities website: https://treesforcities.org/

8. International Tree Foundation - grants to registered groups

- **Overview:** The International Tree Foundation (ITF) supports community-led tree planting and forest conservation projects both in the UK and internationally. They focus on empowering local communities to protect and restore their natural environments.
- **Who can apply:** Registered community groups and organizations with a focus on tree planting and forest conservation can apply for grants. Specific eligibility criteria are outlined on their website.
- **What you can get:** ITF provides financial grants to support project costs, which can include tree saplings, planting materials, training, and project management. The amount of funding varies depending on the project.
- **Current Status:** Information on their current grant programmes and application windows can be found on the International Tree Foundation website.
- **How to apply:** Details on their grant application process and guidelines are available on the International Tree Foundation website: https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/

9. Kids Plant Trees

- **Overview:** Kids Plant Trees is an organization focused on engaging children and young people in tree planting activities. They aim to educate the next generation about the importance of trees and environmental conservation through hands-on experiences.
- **Who can apply:** Schools, youth groups, and other organizations working with children and young people may be able to partner with Kids Plant Trees for tree planting projects.
- **What you can get:** They can provide resources, saplings, educational materials, and potentially support for organizing tree planting events for children.
- **Current Status:** You can find information about their current programmes and how to get involved on the Kids Plant Trees website.
- **How to apply:** Details on how to collaborate with them or access their resources are likely available on the Kids Plant Trees website here: https://www.kidsplanttrees.org/

Expertise

If you're unsure how to start your project or need expert help, you can use the funding to hire professionals and conduct needed surveys for your project. Look at some of the resources below for expert advice.

1. South Yorkshire Woodland Partnership – Project Support & Design

- **Overview:** This partnership provides free help to landowners in South Yorkshire who want to create woodlands.

- **What they offer:** They can provide advice, support with grant applications, woodland design, and help with the regulatory processes for landowners in South Yorkshire . They can also help you find funding that may cover up to 100% of the costs and provide maintenance payments. Some of the services that they provide are listed below:
  - Land assessment visits
  - Bespoke woodland design
  - Help with grants and paperwork
  - Support with tree establishment
- **Find out More:** Follow the link to the website to find their expertise: Click here: [South Yorkshire Woodland Partnership - Free help for landowners](#)

2. Woodland Trust – Small & Large project planting advice

- **Overview:** The Woodland Trust provides a simple guidance plan on different tree planting element .
- **What they offer:** They offer guidance on multiple different aspects of carrying out your tree planting project. See the different pages linked below:
  - Click here: [Where to plant](#)
  - Click here: [Which species to plant](#)
  - Click here: [How to plant a tree](#)
  - Click here: [How to care for your tree](#)
- Find out More: Follow the link to the website to find their expertise: Click here: [Woodland Trust – Tree Planting Advice](#)

3. The Wildlife Trust - How to plant a tree

- **Overview:** The Wildlife Trust provides a helpful guide on how to plant a tree.
- **What they offer:** They offer guidance on multiple different aspects of carrying out your tree planting project. See the different pages linked below:
  - Picking the correct species for the location
  - Planning your planting
  - How to plant the tree
  - Looking after your tree
- **Find out More:** Follow the link to the website to out more. Click here: [The Wildlife Trust - How to plant a tree](#)

4. The Orchard Project – Guide and Advice on Community Orchards

- **Overview:** The Orchard Project provides multiple resources and guidance from start to finish on how to develop a community orchard and support it in thriving.
- **What they offer:** They offer guidance on from starting a community orchard, grant funding and involving the community within the project. Examples of current guidance on their website includes:
  - Community mapping
  - Involving the community
  - Grant Fundraising
  - Orchard restoration
  - Benefits of community orchards.
  - Contamination issues

- o Planning and designing
- o Orchards by season
- **Find out More:** Follow the link to the website to out more. Click here: [The Orchard Project – Guide and Advice](#)

Choosing your species of tree(s)

To help you consider which species of tree to plant, several websites offer valuable support and information. These resources can guide you in selecting trees that will thrive in your local climate and soil conditions, as well as benefit the local wildlife and environment.

1. Royal Horticultural Society (RHS):
- The RHS website has a wealth of information on trees and shrubs native to Britain.
- You can find guides on planting trees, including step-by-step advice to ensure your chosen species gets the best start. See their [How to plant a tree](#) guide.
- They also offer advice on [tree planting](#), covering various aspects from choosing the right tree to aftercare.

2. The National Wildlife Trust:
- This website emphasizes the importance of planting native trees to support local insects and animals.
- They provide advice on choosing the right tree for your garden and a step-by-step guide on [how to plant a tree](#).

3. Woodland Trust:
- The Woodland Trust offers a comprehensive guide to 31 native tree species, including their soil preferences, average height, and unique qualities.
- Their "[Choose Your Tree](#)" section helps you select species based on your needs, such as attracting wildlife, creating a wild harvest, or providing year-round colour.

4. Forest Research:
- This is the research agency of the Forestry Commission in the UK.
- Their website has a "[Tree species database](#)" with information on over 60 tree species, including those widely grown in British forests and those that could play an increasing role in the future.

5. Local Wildlife Trusts:
- Your local wildlife trust will either be Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, or Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and can provide specific advice on tree species that are native and well-suited to the local environment.
- They may have information on local woodland habitats and the tree species that thrive there.
  - o Click here: [Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust](#)
  - o Click here: [Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#)

Project Design Considerations

By exploring these resources and considering these specific factors related to designing and what to consider in your project, you can identify tree species that will not only thrive in but also contribute to a more sustainable and resilient local environment and food system. What considerations you prioritise depends on what you want to do and achieve though your project – use the information below to help you when designing your project.

Eligibility criteria

Do they meet it? If not can SYCF/ SYFAB assist in helping you comply or match you up with another organisation.

Permission to plant

Have you spoken to the landowner and secured permission to plant in the suggested planting location? If this isn't secured and proof supplied as part of the application process, the application will not be considered.

Is there already a planting plan in place?

This may be the case if you are planning to plant on local authority land. It may also be part of another document like management plan. This may include a survey with advice on what should be planted. If this is the case, some of the planning steps may already be decided. If it is local authority land, please speak to the LA ranger, tree officer or parks team.

Other funding sources

Have you researched other funding sources for provision of trees or other project costs. You may be able to ringfence A Tree For Everyone Grant Funding for the project development by sourcing trees from somewhere else. Also, the panel will give consideration to projects that have other match funding sources.

Choose the right species of tree(s):

When enhancing habitats with trees, it's especially important to choose the right species. Different trees offer different benefits to the ecosystem. For example, some trees provide better food or shelter for certain animals, while others are better at improving soil quality or preventing erosion. Choosing the right trees ensures the habitat is as healthy and beneficial as possible. **See the section above, Choosing Your Right Species of Tree**

Ensure you have a sufficient volunteer base

Depending on the species and the number of trees, planting can require a lot of hands – If you require more support consider reaching out to local community groups/ schools or recruiting online or in your local neighbourhood.

Equipment

The grant covers the cost of necessary equipment for planting and maintenance. However, have you considered different free or low-cost equipment hire?

- **Sheffield Community Toolbank:** (https://sheffieldtoolbank.myturn.com/) Based in Burngreave, Sheffield, this toolbank offers low-cost hire of DIY and gardening tools (hand tools, small power tools, electric gardening tools) to the public. A small daily charge and a refundable deposit apply.
- **Borrow It - Brightbox (Sheffield):** (https://brightbox.org.uk/borrow-it/) A tool hire library in Sheffield where members can borrow various items, including gardening tools, for home projects. Membership fees apply. Collection and return are in Sheffield.
- **Get Doncaster Moving - Borrow tools or equipment:** (https://getdoncastermoving.org/borrow-tools-or-equipment) Offers free tool and equipment borrowing for Doncaster Green Space Network members for use on their specified sites within Doncaster. Requires membership and advance booking, with collection and return in Balby.
- **Community Gardens and Allotments:** Some community gardens or allotment sites may have shared tools available for their members or volunteers. Contact local community gardens in South Yorkshire to inquire.

- **The Conservation Foundation - Tools Shed:** (https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/2192-2/) This project collects and refurbishes old garden tools, then donates them to community gardening projects and schools. While not direct hire, it could be a source of free tools for community groups. Contact them to see if your group qualifies.
- **Local Libraries:** Some libraries are starting to host "Libraries of Things" which may include basic gardening tools. Check with your local libraries in South Yorkshire (e.g., Sheffield Libraries: https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries-archives/our-libraries).
- **Doncaster Green Space Network:** (https://getdoncastermoving.org/doncaster-green-space-network) Consider joining this network to potentially access their tool borrowing scheme and connect with other community groups. *However, for smaller projects consider community tool hire initiatives – local libraries and community groups in your area may offer free or subsidised tool hire.*

General Tree Care:

Consider these general tree care resources to support the design, implementation, and maintenance of your project.

- **The Morton Arboretum:** (https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/tree-plant-care/plant-care-resources/) Offers a wide range of "how-to" advice, including watering, mulching, fertilizing, and general care for different tree types.
- **Hillier Trees:** (https://trees.hillier.co.uk/useful-resources/aftercare-maintenance/) Provides guidance on tree aftercare and maintenance, covering watering, tree ties, fertilizing, mulching, and weeding.
- **Woodland Trust:** (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/) Offers advice on caring for trees, including weeding, watering, checking tree guards, and pruning.
- **Davey Tree:** (https://blog.davey.com/what-do-trees-need-to-be-healthy-tree-care-information/) Provides tips on planting, watering, mulching, fertilizing, pruning, and booking tree checkups.
- **The Tree Council:** (https://treecouncil.org.uk/grants-and-guidance/guidance-hub/) Offers various resources and guidance on tree care, including planting, managing, and monitoring trees.
- **TreesAreGood (ISA - International Society of Arboriculture):** (https://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner) Provides basic tree care information and brochures on topics like planting, mulching, insect and disease problems, and mature tree care.
- **STIHL:** (https://www.stihl.co.uk/en/garden-ideas-and-advice/garden-maintenance/tree-care) Offers tree care tips and information on the right tools for the job.

Edible Yields:

Focus on trees that produce fruits (apples, pears, plums, cherries, berries), nuts (hazelnuts, walnuts), or other edible parts. Consider heritage varieties known to thrive locally.

- **Plants For A Future:** (https://pfaf.org/user/Default.aspx) - This website has an extensive database of plants with edible and other useful properties, including detailed information on growing conditions, yields, and uses. You can search for fruit and nut trees suitable for the UK climate.
- **Agroforestry Research Trust - Plant Database:** (https://www.agroforestry.co.uk/plant-database/) - Explore their plant database for trees and shrubs that provide food and other benefits in agroforestry systems relevant to the UK.

Support for Pollinators:

Choose trees that provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects, which are essential to produce many food crops. Examples include fruit trees in blossom, willow, and hawthorn.

- **RHS - Plants for Pollinators:** (https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/for-pollinators) - The RHS provides lists of plants, including trees, that are beneficial for attracting bees and other pollinating insects.
- **The Wildlife Trusts - Gardening for Wildlife:** (https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening) - This section offers advice on how to make your garden, including tree choices, more wildlife-friendly, with a focus on supporting pollinators.

Soil Health Improvement:

Some trees can improve soil structure, fertility, and water retention, benefiting overall agricultural productivity in the long term. Nitrogen-fixing trees can be particularly valuable.

- **Organic Research Centre - Agroforestry:** (https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/research/agroforestry/) - Learn about how integrating trees can improve soil health in agricultural systems.
- **Forest Research - Soil Sustainability:** (https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/soil-sustainability/) - Explore research on how trees and forests impact soil health and function.

Carbon Sequestration:

Trees play a vital role in absorbing carbon dioxide, contributing to climate stability, which has implications for long-term food security.

- **Woodland Trust - Climate Change:** (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-climate-change/climate-change/) - Understand the role of trees in carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change.
- **Forest Research - Carbon and Woodlands:** (https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/carbon/carbon-woodlands/) - Explore research on the carbon storage potential of different tree species and woodland types in the UK.

Local Climate Resilience:

Select tree species that are resilient to the expected future climate in the planting area, including potential changes in temperature and rainfall patterns.

- **Adaptation and Resilience in UK Forestry (Forest Research):** (https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/climate-change/adaptation-and-resilience/) - Learn about the challenges of climate change for UK forests and strategies for building resilience, which can inform your tree choices.
- Search for broader climate projections for the Yorkshire and Humber region from organizations like the UK Climate Projections (UKCP) at https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/ukcp/index. This will give you an idea of potential future climate conditions to consider when selecting tree species.

Ecological Connectivity:

Ecological connectivity means how easily plants, animals, and natural processes can move and flow across a landscape.

- Information on ecological networks is often found on local authority websites (search "[Your Local Council Name] ecological network") or through organizations like **Natural England** (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england) by searching for "green corridors" or "ecological networks."

Flooding:

If the project aims to prevent flooding, advice should be sought on how this can be incorporated into the project design. Please see the Environment Agency website for further information.

- Woodland Trust: Click here - [Can woods and trees reduce flooding?](#)

Habitat Creation and Enhancement:

Considering habitat creation and enhancement is an investment in a healthier planet for both wildlife and people. The creation and enhancement of habitats are critical endeavours, offering a multitude of benefits that extend far beyond the simple preservation of green spaces. These efforts actively work to boost biodiversity, strengthen entire ecosystems, and help wildlife populations thrive.

- **Woodland Trust - Creating New Woodland:** https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/create/
- **RSPB - How to create a wildlife garden:** https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/how-to-create-a-wildlife-garden/ (Includes tree considerations)
- **Woodland Trust - Native Trees and Wildlife:** (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/native-trees/) - Discover how native trees support a wide range of wildlife, contributing to biodiversity.
- **Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust:** (https://www.wildsheffield.com/) - Your local wildlife trust will have specific information on habitats and the importance of native trees for local wildlife.
- **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust:** https://www.ywt.org.uk/

Engaging with your Community

Tree planting can be a great activity to engage the wider community, such as young kids, students, and eager volunteers. It's also important to have community engagement as part of any habitat project, including the design and implementation. This helps ensure the project meets the community's needs, fosters a sense of ownership, and increases the likelihood of long-term success.

Here's a simple breakdown of how your small community group can do this at each stage:

Phase 1: Design - Dreaming and Planning Together
Early Ideas - Let's Talk!

- **Community Gatherings:** Host informal drop-in sessions at a local spot (community centre, park, library). Offer tea and coffee and simply ask people what they'd like to see or what problems they think need solving.
- **Simple Surveys:** Create short, easy-to-understand surveys (online or paper-based) with clear, open-ended questions about needs and ideas. Think "What would make our community better?"
- **Suggestion Box:** Place a brightly coloured suggestion box in a visible location where people can anonymously share their thoughts.
- **"Share Your Vision" Board:** Put up a large board with sticky notes and pens at a community event. Ask people to write or draw their ideas related to the project's theme.

Developing the Plan - What Do You Think?

- **Present Draft Ideas:** Once you have some initial ideas, share them in a simple format (posters, short presentations, a basic webpage).

- Feedback Sessions: Organize follow-up meetings specifically to discuss the draft ideas. Ask clear questions like "What do you like about this?" and "What could be improved?"
- Small Group Discussions: Break into smaller groups during meetings to allow more people to share their opinions comfortably.
- Visual Aids: Use pictures, sketches, and simple mock-ups to help people understand the proposed designs.

Phase 2: Implementation - Let's Get It Done Together!
Getting Started - Here's What's Happening:

- Clear Communication: Use newsletters, local notice boards, and social media (if you have it) to announce when and where the work will be happening. Keep the language simple and avoid jargon.
- "Project Updates" Corner: Dedicate a space in a community building or on your website for regular, easy-to-understand updates (photos, short summaries).
- Volunteer Opportunities: Clearly outline how people can get involved (e.g., planting, painting, helping with setup). Make it easy for people to sign up.

During the Work - Staying Connected:

- On-site Engagement: If the work is happening in a public space, be visible and approachable. Answer questions and chat with people who pass by.
- "Progress Photos": Regularly share photos of the project's progress on your communication channels. People love to see things taking shape!
- "Meet the Team" Events: If appropriate, host short informal gatherings at the project site to introduce the volunteers and answer questions.

- Almost There! - The Final Stretch:
  - Sneak Peeks: Share previews of the finished project. This builds excitement and anticipation.
  - Call for Final Input: If there are any finishing touches or decisions to be made, ask for community input one last time through a quick poll or informal chat.

Phase 3: After Completion - Celebrating and Looking Ahead
The Big Reveal! - Let's Celebrate:

- Community Celebration: Organize a simple event to officially launch the completed project. This could be a picnic, a small gathering with refreshments, or a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Thank You's: Publicly thank everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and support.

Looking Forward - How's It Working?

- Gather Feedback: After the project is complete, ask for feedback on how it's working and if there are any unexpected issues. This could be through a short follow-up survey or informal conversations.
- Ongoing Communication: Keep the community updated on any maintenance or future developments related to the project.

This document is designed as a guide for other information sources.

It is not a comprehensive source.