



**Trees for Cities**

# Annual Report **2016-17**





Working with local communities, volunteers and partners, we create and revitalise urban green spaces to improve the lives of people living in towns and cities. Since 1993, we have engaged over **80,000 people** to **plant 770,000 urban trees** and **build 50 Edible Playgrounds**.

## A message from our Chief Executive

**It's been a remarkable and record-setting year for Trees for Cities, which couldn't have been achieved without the generosity and hard work of our supporters. We planted more trees and created more Edible Playgrounds across the UK than ever before, and engaged record numbers of local volunteers with projects in their communities.**

Taking many forms, our partnerships lie at the core of everything we do and achieve. Through our partnerships we work with communities who help us design, deliver and maintain

projects; with councils who support and advocate our cause; with institutions and individuals who generously fund our work; and with businesses who share our ambition to create greener and move liveable cities.

The threats to our trees and green spaces continue to escalate. We are seeing increasingly adverse effects on parks, woodlands and street trees from cuts to local authority budgets. To protect these vital spaces – the hearts and lungs of our cities – for future generations, there is a mounting need for us to do more.

Your support is already contributing to this goal and



helping us to continue bringing the urban environment from the niche into the mainstream.

An enormous thank you, as ever, to all our supporters, volunteers, trustees and staff members.

**David Elliott,**  
**Chief Executive**

## What we achieved in 2016-17



**86,000**  
**urban trees**  
planted across  
10 UK cities  
and 5 cities in  
East Africa

**We engaged**  
**9,800**  
**volunteers**  
to plant trees  
and improve  
their local  
green space

**11**  
**Edible**  
**Playgrounds**  
built in London,  
Liverpool and  
Sheffield

**We enabled**  
**6,755**  
**school**  
**children**  
to grow, eat  
and learn about  
healthy food



# Our impact

## Cooling and cleaning the air

Trees remove pollutants from the air and cool us by providing shade, and through evapotranspiration from their leaves. This is particularly important in our cities, where pollution levels are higher and the 'urban heat island effect' increases temperatures by up to 7°C.

## Community

We engaged thousands of volunteers to create and improve green spaces in their local area. As well as making new friends and meeting their neighbours, participants learnt how to care for these urban oases for future generations.

## Supporting urban wildlife

Wildlife populations are becoming increasingly fragmented, with 60% of UK species now in decline. More trees and green spaces across cities can help sustain wildlife by providing food and habitats in urban areas.

## Edible urban food

We created 18 community orchards and 5 urban woodland habitats to allow communities to forage fruits and nuts, and 11 Edible Playgrounds for children to grow and harvest vegetables.

## Reduce flood risk

A single mature, leafy tree can absorb up to 450 litres of water per day. This can help to reduce the stress on storm water drains and mitigate flood risk in urban areas. Trees also improve soil quality and prevent erosion, so more water is held in the ground.

## Connecting children with nature

In the UK, 74% of children spend less than 60 minutes playing outside each day. We engaged over 11,000 children from inner city schools to plant trees and grow their own food. These projects gave them the chance to get active, connect with nature and learn new skills outside the classroom, bringing the national curriculum to life.

## Health and well-being

Volunteers helped us create a sensory garden and courtyard garden in the grounds of The Maudsley Hospital in South London. The local community and hospital service users can use these tranquil, green spaces for therapeutic activities and rest and relaxation in this busy urban area.

## Our highlights



### 10 'dream' Edible Playgrounds for urban schools

With two years' support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery – Dream Fund, we have built 10 Edible Playgrounds in Manchester, Liverpool, London and Reading. Working with Chefs Adopt a School and School Food Matters, we got 2,130 children growing fruits and vegetables in school and cooking with the ingredients in lessons. Participating schools said the programme “provided everything they needed” to develop a healthy food culture. On average, they rated the programme 9 out of 10.

### Increasing woodland connectivity in Leeds

In the last 10 years we have planted over 50,000 trees with Leeds City Council, including urban woodland habitats, community orchards and street trees. This year we planted a third area of urban woodland, building on previous projects in 2013 and 2015, to create a woodland belt connecting the mature Halton Moor and Bell Woods.

This will be of great benefit to local wildlife, such as pipistrelle bats, great-spotted woodpeckers and roe deer.



### Sustainable livelihoods in East Africa

Our partnership with Bloomberg began in 2002. In the last 10 years we have planted over 200,000 trees and engaged almost 1,000 Bloomberg staff with greening projects across the globe. This year, they supported the planting of 31,887 trees across five East African cities, providing opportunities for over 4,500 local volunteers and school children.



### Greening Ealing

Our three-year partnership with Ealing Council has enabled us to take a strategic approach towards tree planting and creating high quality green spaces throughout the borough. This year, we created a community orchard and an edible urban woodland habitat of 20,000 sapling trees, with help from nearly 500 volunteers. We also launched London's first borough-wide i-Tree survey, which will estimate the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by Ealing's trees.

### Turning old phone booths into street trees

New World Payphones own around 1,700 payphones across the UK. They are removing these units and replacing up to half of them with new state-of-the-art phone kiosks. Together, we will plant one new street tree for each upgraded kiosk. So far, 165 have been planted and we aim to double this number by the end of next planting season.

# Our growth

## £34,006 Individuals

This year we engaged more individuals than ever before, from fundraisers and challenge eventers to volunteers and donors, resulting in this income increasing by 30%.

## £46,006 Other

We received £46,006 from other sources, including £15,000 from the Landfill Tax Communities Fund.

## £254,050 Local government and schools

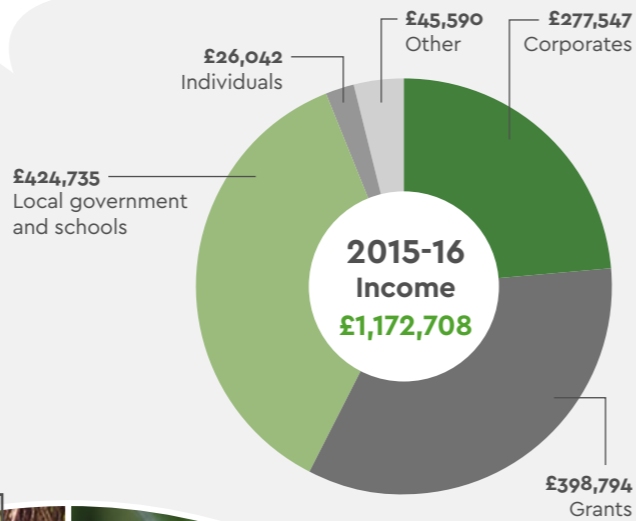
This includes funding from our Edible Playgrounds schools, local authorities in London and the Greater London Authority.

## £488,245 Grants

We have a strong track record of raising funds through grants income and again it has provided us with around a quarter of our funding. This includes an award of £125,000 from players of the People's Postcode Lottery for our UK Edible Playgrounds programme.



Our investment in corporate partnerships has been rewarded with corporate income more than doubling since 2015-16. This success has been achieved by retaining and building on our relationships with current partners, and having Clear Channel (New World Payphones) and Mothercare join us as valued new partners.



## £678,335 Corporates

## £61,678

### International planting

Bloomberg continues to be the biggest supporter of our international planting programme, enabling us to reach more cities worldwide. Expenditure on project delivery has remained consistent, successfully planting 31,887 trees across five East African cities this year.



## £485,875

### Edible Playgrounds

By investing more funds into our Edible Playgrounds programme we built a total of 11 new playgrounds in urban schools around the UK, engaging a record number of children and teachers in growing their own fruits and vegetables.

Auditors: Russell New Ltd, The Courtyard, Shoreham Rd, Upper Beeding, Steyning, W. Sussex, BN44 3TN. These summarised accounts have been extracted from the full audited accounts. To obtain a complete copy please contact Trees for Cities' Finance Director, Andrew Collins at [andrew@treesforcities.org](mailto:andrew@treesforcities.org) or on 020 7820 4425.

## £131,668

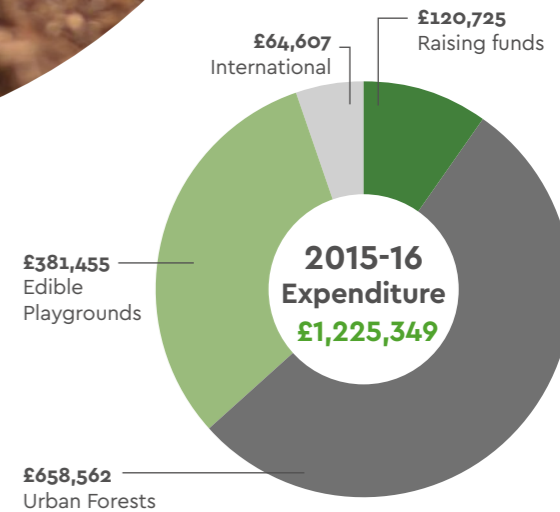
### Raising funds

Our busy fundraising teams have developed exciting new ways for businesses and individuals to engage with our cause, meaning £5 was raised for every £1 invested.

## £768,240

### Urban Forests

We increased our investment in our Urban Forests programme and delivered more projects in locations across the UK than ever before. This includes creating urban woodland habitats, community orchards, two well-being gardens at The Maudsley Hospital and planting 165 street trees.





# Our plans

**1** Engage local communities and individuals to plant even more urban trees.

**2** Unveil a new look for Trees for Cities, as part of our exciting Brand Refresh Project.

**3** Move forward with our Impact Project to discover and share the difference we are making to urban communities.

**4** Grow our international work to green more cities worldwide.



**5** Inspire the next generation with our Edible Playground programme.



**6** Innovate with our carbon offsetting and corporate volunteering programmes, to achieve wider reach from the ground up.

## £10,000 and above

- |   |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| American Forests & Alcoa Foundation Partnership for Trees | Heathrow Community Fund           | Social Investment Business                     |
| Big Lottery Fund – Awards for All                         | Holy Name Catholic Primary School | South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust |
| Big Lottery Fund – Celebrate                              | Investec Bank plc                 | Southborough Primary School                    |
| Blair Peach Primary School                                | London Borough of Ealing          | St George's Residents Association              |
| Bloomberg LP  | Manorfield Primary School         | St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary School   |
| City Bridge Trust   | Marner Primary School             | Tesco Bags of Help                             |
| Clear Channel UK  | Monksdown Primary School          | The Charity of William Hobbayne                |
| Dulverton Trust   | Mothercare UK Ltd                 | The Morrisons Foundation                       |
| EastendHomes  | People's Postcode Lottery         | The Romeera Foundation                         |
| Evening Standard  | PwC UK                            | The Woodland Trust                             |
| Garfield Weston Foundation                                | Riverside Bridge School           | Timberland and The King Baudouin Foundation    |
| Go Ape  | RSM                               |  |
| Greater London Authority                                  | Sawdays Canopy and Stars          |  |

## Supporters and partners

We are hugely grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their generosity. It is their support that enables us to revitalise urban areas and enhance the lives of the people that live in them.

## £500 – £9,999

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1000heads                                | Fudco – UrbanVeda   | Origins (Estee Lauder Cosmetics)       | The Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust        |
| Alcoa Foundation                         | Goose Island Brewery                                      | Park Communications Ltd                | The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust         |
| Bank of Montreal UK                      | Green Tomato Cars   | Patrick Smulders                       | The Ernest Cook Trust                       |
| Battersea Power Station Foundation       | Harrison Catering   | PDP London – Architects                | The Facet Trust                             |
| Berrymede Junior School                  | Heathrow Airport  | Peter Bennison at PM                   | The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association |
| BNP Paribas                              | HEJ Coffee  | Bennison Heating Ltd                   | The Nineveh Charitable Trust                |
| BPR Group Europe                         | Iris Software Group                                       | Rose Line Productions Ltd              | The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity        |
| Brewin Dolphin                           | Jon H   | Rotherfield Primary School             | The Tanner Trust                            |
| Capel Manor College                      | J Reginald Corah Foundation Fund                          | Salesforce                             | Tideway                                     |
| Carbon Smart                             | Kenshoo   | Sir George Martin Trust                | TransPennine Express                        |
| Charities Advisory Trust                 | London Underground  | Southern Road Primary School           | Travers Smith LLP                           |
| Credit Suisse                            | Asset Performance: Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly Lines | St Giles School                        | Urban Village Homes                         |
| Cubitt Town Junior School                | Microsoft Corporation                                     | Stamford Hill Primary School           | Viridian Nutrition                          |
| Derwent London plc                       | Midasplayer.com   | Stanhope Primary School                | Vision Redbridge                            |
| Design Portfolio                         | Mr David Pike   | Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust | W.F. Southall Trust                         |
| Duncan Martin                            | Mr Scott Searle   | Sunovian Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd    | Western Riverside Environmental Fund        |
| Elizabeth Doty                           | Mulberry Primary School                                   | TD Bank                                | Wingas UK                                   |
| Elmwood Junior School                    | Nozstock Festival   | The Bulldog Trust – Prinsep Fund       | Wooldridge Demolition                       |
| Endurance Speciality Holdings            | Oasis Academy Don Valley                                  |  |   |
| Food Growing Schools: London Partnership | Open Gate Trust   |  |   |

# HELP US PLANT 1 MILLION TREES BY 2020

We empower people to create and revitalise green spaces on their doorstep, bringing impactful changes to their community. This might mean planting trees to clean the air or inspiring kids to grow their own food in an Edible Playground.

Together we've planted over 770,000 urban trees; with your support we can reach 1 million trees by 2020.

**[www.treesforcities.org/  
get-involved](http://www.treesforcities.org/get-involved)**

If you would like to find out more about our work, don't hesitate to get in touch.



## TREES FOR CITIES

Prince Consort Lodge, Kennington Park,  
Kennington Park Place, London SE11 4AS

T 020 7587 1320

F 020 7793 9042

E [info@treesforcities.org](mailto:info@treesforcities.org)

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

**[www.edibleplaygrounds.org](http://www.edibleplaygrounds.org)**

Registered charity no: 1032154

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## TRUSTEES

Graham Simmonds  
James Bevan  
Janine Hawkins  
Chris Harper  
Matthew Pettigrew  
(to 12 July 2016)

Steve Saunders  
(to 25 May 2016)

Glenn Elliott  
(to 20 June 2016)

Selena Gray  
(from 03 January 2017)

## PATRONS

Leslie Bacon  
Melvin Benn  
Dame Hilary Blume  
Jeremy Collier  
Chris Collins  
Leo Hambro  
Alistair McGowan  
Jamie Oliver  
Lord Rogers of  
Riverside  
Jon Snow  
Sophie Warre

## FOUNDERS

Julian Blake  
Jane Bruton  
Jake Kempston  
Belinda Winder