



YOUR  
INFO  
PACK

# TREES FOR SCHOOLS



🌐 [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)  
🌐 [www.theariumleeds.co.uk](http://www.theariumleeds.co.uk)



## LEEDS CITY COUNCIL'S WOODLAND CREATION INITIATIVE

Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency in the city in 2019, with the ambition to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030. In line with this, we have committed to increase tree canopy across the city from 17% to 33%, an additional 9,000 hectares. This will offset carbon emissions, providing a better future for the planet and the future generations of Leeds.

We have a year-round offer for all Leeds schools:

1



**Autumn term:**  
Join our free seed collection workshops in one of our parks, or gather the seeds yourselves to be planted at The Arium.  
Pages 3, 4 and 5

2



**Winter:**  
Collect your free saplings from The Arium and plant them within your school.  
Pages 6, 7, 8 and 9

3



**Summer term:**  
A free tailor-made visit to the Arium for 2 hours, including an interactive walk and talk, educational activities and a play in the playground at the end.  
Pages 10 and 11

*Contributing towards your school's Climate Action plan.*



## THE ARIUM - GROWING OUR FUTURE

The Arium, the largest local authority plant nursery in the country plays a crucial role in the Woodland Creation initiative. The Arium sources and grows trees locally, both from seed sourced externally, and from local seed collections in our parks and woodlands across the city.



**7.1m**  
is the height of our greenhouse. This allows us to create a warm air pocket over the crops, increasing efficiency.

Each row contains 36 benches, each holding an average of **1800 plants**

There are a total of **576 mobile benches**

Zone 4

Zone 3

Zone 1

When full, zones 1 and 3 hold over **1 million plants**

Our production team can produce around **70,000** freshly potted seedlings per day.

**100%** of our irrigation water is collected from the roof.

**85%** is re-used after every watering. We can water a full zone (over half a million plants) in 90 minutes!

**19,000sqm** of glasshouse produces around 500 varieties annually.

Over the year, the whole nursery produces more than **4 million plants**

Our plastic trays and pots are **recycled** every year

Zone 2



# Autumn term

Your Autumn session will include a free 2-hour seed gathering workshop in one of Leeds' parks or green spaces, lead by our countryside rangers.

Approximately 30 children per session can channel their inner squirrels and gather tree seeds to be planted at the Arium, in sessions incorporating a series of games and activities to help reinforce learning along the way.



## SEED COLLECTION

You will receive our free 42 page education pack, jam packed with fun activities and info - an example is on the next page!



Learn about the journey of the seed, from dropping from trees to the ground to growing in the soil and becoming the towering trees we see in our local parks!



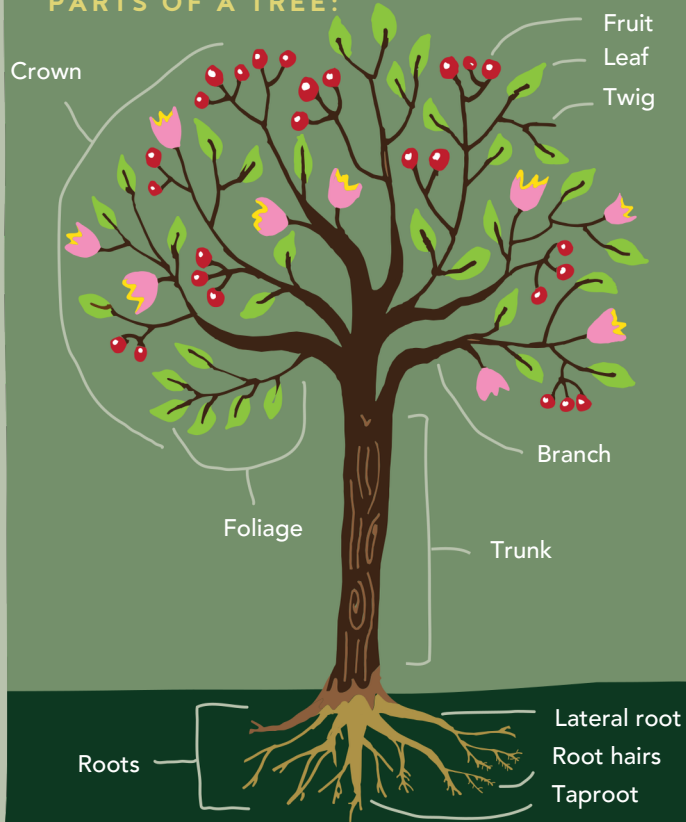


## ACTIVITY: BUILD A TREE!

### WHAT IS A TREE?

According to Colin Tudge's 'The Secret Life of Trees', a tree is 'a big plant with a stick up the middle', but obviously there is lots more to them than that! Each part of the tree, from the roots to the leaf tips, performs an important function.

### PARTS OF A TREE:



### AIM:

To show different parts of the tree



### LENGTH OF ACTIVITY:

10-15 minutes



### WHERE TO DO THE ACTIVITY:

An open space that is not too dirty!

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Nothing!

### STEP BY STEP:

- 1 Ask two strong children to stand back to back – they are the heartwood of the trunk and must stand tall and strong to support the tree.
- 2 At the foot of the tree a child must sit on the floor; this child is the taproot and must make slurping noises as they take up water from the ground.
- 3 Next, four or five children should stand around the heartwood with their hands stretched above their heads; they are the branches with the leaves which form the crown; the leaves are absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and soaking up the sunlight to make energy for the tree; they rustle and move in the wind.
- 4 Another four or five children stand around the tree; they are the living wood around the heartwood that bend and stand up, carrying water and nutrients to the rest of the tree.
- 5 The next layer is the bark; five or six children are required to protect the tree.
- 6 Any children left can lie on the floor with their arms and hair outstretched as the root network of the tree.



# SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

## Gather your own seeds

You don't have to take part in a workshop – you can gather seeds in your school grounds or local green space.

Throughout September and October, seed collection boxes will be provided in some of our local parks and partner sites. Children of all ages can get involved, and gather seeds to be planted at the Arium. There are boxes for each listed tree seed type, and locations for where seeds can be deposited. The boxes are kept at indoor locations within the various parks listed, with signs advertising the scheme and signposting their location. Only beech nuts, sweet chestnuts and acorns will be planted at this time.

### ACORN (OAK TREE SEED)



TREES  
FOR  
LEEDS

SEED COLLECTION BOX



For more  
information visit  
the Arium or  
Leeds City Council  
websites.



### Locations:

- |                                          |                                      |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Temple Newsam Cafe                     | 8 Tropical World Gift Shop           |
| 2 Gotts Manor Golf Club                  | 9 Kirkstall Abbey Gift Shop          |
| 3 The Arium                              | 10 White House Cafe, Otley<br>Chevin |
| 4. Three Cottages Cafe,<br>Meanwood Park | 11 TCV Hollybush Kirkstall           |
| 5. Farnley Hall Park                     | 12 Wetherby Town Hall                |
| 6. Middleton Park Visitor<br>Centre      | 13 Lotherton Hall                    |

# Winter at the ARIUM

LEEDS PARKS GARDEN CENTRE



Collect your choice of **50, 100** or **150+** free saplings from The Arium and plant them yourselves within your school, using our guidance provided on page 7.  
*Children do not need to attend this.*



The Woodland Creation team will carry out service checks within your school to ensure tree planting locations are suitable

We do not provide plastic tree guards as we move to become more sustainable.

## What we need from you:

Contact us on  
[woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk)  
to raise your interest and provide the following information:

- Your school address
- The precise location of where you wish the trees to be planted, using what3words
- Your preferred package, which can be selected on the following page.

# Tree packages

## Hedging



Make a natural screen or connect existing woodland to help wildlife stay on the move.

Species: Hawthorn, hazel, holly

## Wet woodland



These hardy species can tolerate exposed sites and help soak up wet and boggy areas.

Species: Downy birch, silver birch, goat willow, holly, hazel, hawthorn, alder

## Mini woodland



Plant a mini woodland to for the ultimate package to combat climate change.

Species: Silver birch, rowan, maple

## Ornamental trees



Enjoy beautiful blossoms in spring and bright berries in winter.

Species: Cherry blossom, dogwood, hawthorn, rowan

## Wild harvest



Grow an array of fruits and nuts, which can be used for jam making, or just enjoy them as they are.

Species: Crab apple, hazel, blackthorn, elder, dog rose, rowan

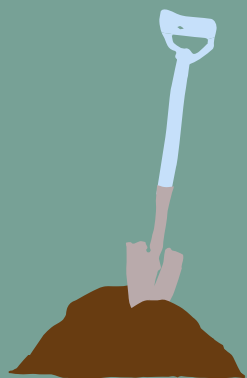
## Wildlife



Establish food and shelter for wildlife and create a living legacy for future generations.

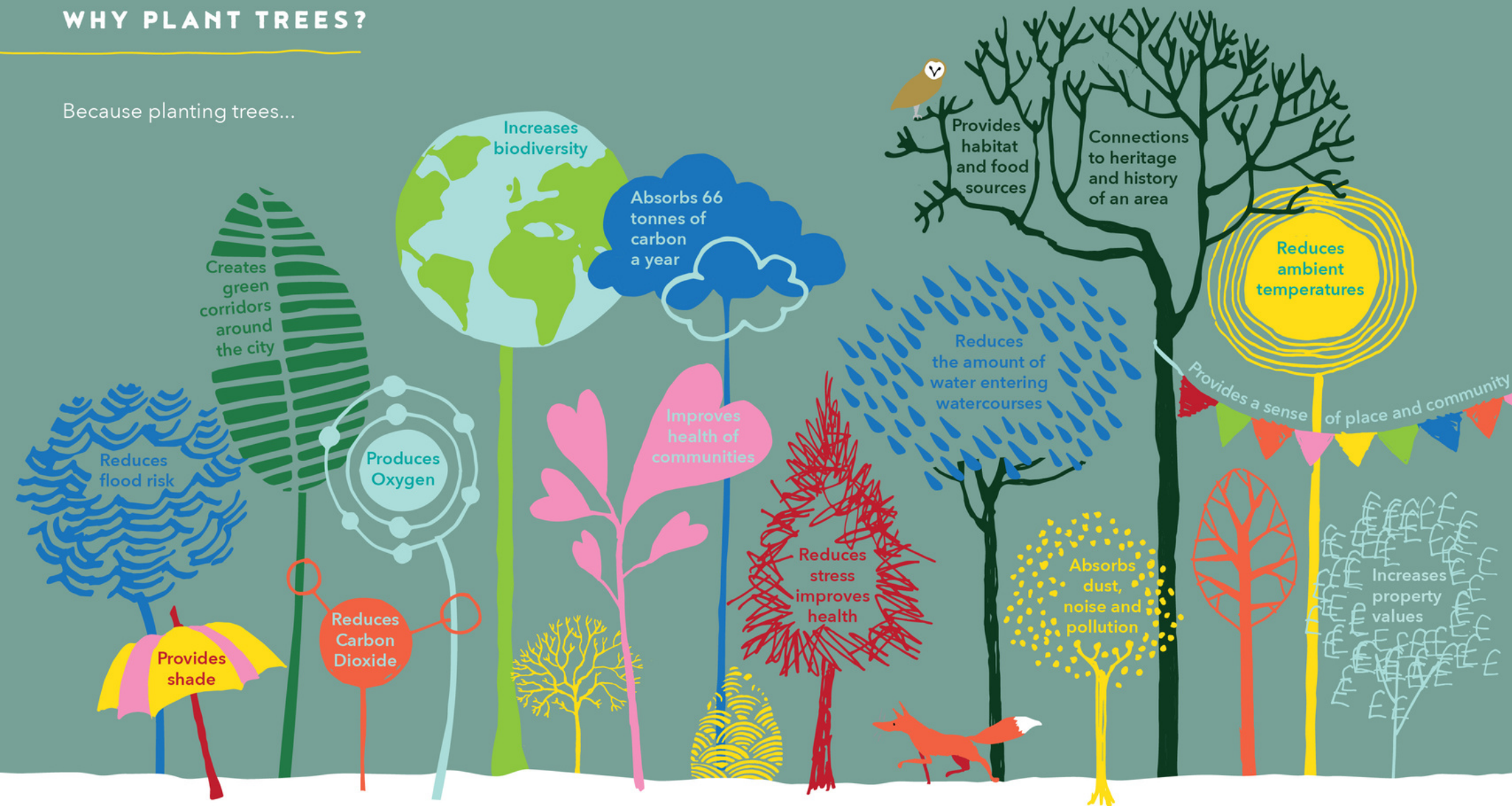
Species: Hawthorn, rowan, hazel, silver birch, common oak

Hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and dog rose are spikey.



## WHY PLANT TREES?

Because planting trees...



# How to plant bare-root trees

## Step one

Before planting, soak saplings overnight but not for over 24 hours.

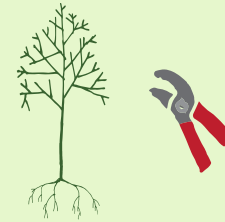


Dig a hole the same depth of the root length.



## Step two

Prune damaged or weakened roots and branches before planting.



Set sapling within the hole, and separate the roots.

## Step three

Plant at the same depth as the level grown in the nursery.

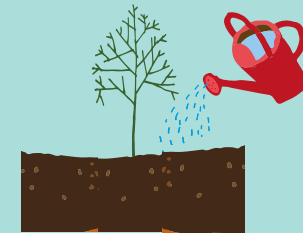


Fill with soil and ensure roots are covered.



## Step four

Water thoroughly and tap firm.



Ensure there is 1.5m spacing between each sapling.

# Summer at



LEEDS PARKS GARDEN CENTRE

Your morning or afternoon trip will begin with joining our enthusiastic staff outside in June or July for an interactive walk and talk. They will explain how over 10,000 seeds are planted per hour, using impressive high-tech machinery. All seeds are then watered using filtered rain water, stored in our giant tanks.



Once the seeds are planted, they need three years to grow into saplings before they're ready to be planted in our parks and green spaces.



Our 19,000 sqm glasshouse is about the size of

**3 football pitches!**



the aRIUM  
LEEDS PARKS NURSERY

# Summer at the ARIUM

LEEDS PARKS GARDEN CENTRE

Our experienced staff will lead on a variety of educational games for KS1-2 outside, including:



Bug hunting



Tree species identification through leaf printings and bark rubbings



Educational games, some of which are detailed in your education pack

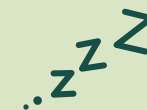
Followed by time to enjoy the Arium outdoor adventure playground, with sections for all ages and capabilities.



All children will receive a token which will entitle them to a free juice on their next visit



Your saplings are growing over summer, but will be ready for collection and planting from November when they are snoozing.



# FAQs

## How do we book a session or tree collection?

Schools can express interest by emailing [woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:woodlandcreation@leeds.gov.uk) with their school address, number of children, preferred tree package, and planting location using what3words.

## How big are the trees?

The trees are no more than 1m in height, which is why they're classed as saplings aka 'whips'.

## Who's responsible for the maintenance?

The schools are responsible for the future maintenance of all planted areas.

## Are the tree species provided native?

Yes, we only plant native species.

## Can we request less than 50 trees?

We provide a minimum of 50 trees as this is the amount we receive in a pack. If you have a surplus, feel free to plant these on private land with the landowner's permission if you can't fit them on the school's land.

# FAQs

**How much spacing is recommended between the trees?**

We recommend 1.5m spacing if planting woodlands, or for hedging we would recommend 5 saplings per linear metre.

**How often do the trees need to be watered?**

Newly planted trees need watering 2-3 times per week in the first two years of their lives. Please note this may not apply during a wet winter.

**Can we participate in just one term's activity, or do we need to do all three?**

As long as you take part in the winter activity of collecting and planting trees within your school grounds, schools can choose to participate in any or all of the other seasonal activities. You can also attend seed collection workshops separately - email [countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk).

**Is there a cost involved in any part of the programme?**

No, all activities, saplings, and educational resources are provided free of charge.

**What happens if the weather is bad on the day of our visit?**

It's best to contact the Woodland Creation team to discuss rescheduling or alternative arrangements.