

Tree donations



What did we do?

We donated over 750 trees to households, schools, and community groups.

Who did we involve?

We worked with community groups including Grange Gardens, Birchgrove Women's Institute, St Fagans Museum, and Hafod Housing, schools, and households to donate trees across Cardiff.

How and why did we do it?

In our first year of the project we wanted to provide more opportunities to increase tree planting across Cardiff beyond what we were able to deliver through our initial planting programme. This included a pilot to donate trees to local households.

We were approached by different community groups to donate trees for their sites including 7 semi-mature Acers for St Fagans Museum, 2 semi-mature "Tai-Haku" Cherries for Llwynfedw Gardens, 20 spiky native saplings for Grange Gardens to protect their new sustainable drainage features, and over 150 native hedgerow and other saplings for the Hollybush Estate community gardens and the Huggard Centre.

We will be developing a form for community groups to request trees next season, this will enable us to gather the necessary information about potential tree planting sites and streamline the process for groups.

We piloted a tree giveaway open to all households within Cardiff who could apply for up to 5 saplings for their gardens. We asked people for basic information about their garden, provided advice on tree species, and ensured a commitment from recipients to care for the trees and participate in further monitoring. Most collections were from our tree nursery at Forest Farm Country Park, but we also worked with the Place Rangers at Grange Gardens to host a giveaway day at this local hub, enabling more households to collect trees locally. From this pilot we donated around 450 trees to households.

We also worked with Hafod Social Housing to explore the feasibility of donating trees for tenants' gardens. This aspect will require further work to ensure the sustainability of planting trees where residential tenancies may change but we hope to launch donation schemes with social housing providers in future seasons.

We will be running the scheme for households again next season with several collection hubs around the city to enable more households to participate (particularly those without access to private transport).



Grange Gardens, Grangetown tree giveaway pilot (30.03.22)

What do we hope to achieve?

By working with households, community groups, and schools we aim to increase our tree planting beyond what we could deliver through our organised tree planting events alone.

By encouraging households to plant trees in their gardens, we will be closer to reaching our overall targets for canopy expansion across Cardiff, particularly in dense urban areas with fewer opportunities for large park planting. These trees in gardens will provide direct benefits to residents in terms of air quality, reducing urban heat island effect, connecting people with the changing seasons, and encouraging birds and other wildlife to visit.

By donating trees to experienced community groups we are able to further empower communities to design and conserve their local greenspaces and we can provide further support for those newer, less experienced groups.

By providing a range of support from simple tree donations to more intensive assistance surveying, design and planting trees, we hope to reach as many groups and individuals as possible so that everyone has the opportunity to help plant and care for trees in Cardiff.

"Thank you for the 2 Guelder Rose I collected yesterday. Very healthy plants. The birds will love these" – participant in tree giveaway

"Many thanks for the rowan and Gelder rose I picked up today." – participant in tree giveaway

"Thank you; what a great idea... we'd love a couple of trees for our small garden." – participant in tree giveaway

