

Why we plant trees, bushes and hedges.



We are planting trees to make Hackney Parks better places for wildlife.

- Insects, including ladybirds, greenfly and butterflies, feed on leaves of trees and bushes and the plants which grow under them.
- Birds roost and shelter in trees and bushes, and some birds nest in trees.
- Birds eat the insects which eat the leaves of trees and plants.

We are planting trees to make Hackney Parks better places to walk and cycle.



© Mike Trier

- Road traffic makes many areas of Hackney Parks noisy and smelly. Trees and bushes cut down the noise and, as they grow taller, make our parks quieter places to walk.

- Trees and bushes reduce air pollution: leaves absorb carbon dioxide and create oxygen, reducing the smell and dangers to health from the traffic.



- Trees create shade and so give people somewhere shady to sit when it is hot.
- Trees and bushes and the wildlife they support mean there will be more to see – birds, butterflies,

ladybirds, the changing colour of the leaves, and the flowers which will grow under the trees and bushes.

- More people will enjoy being in Hackney Parks, and feel safer to walk, run, cycle and play games.
- Trees and bushes planted are field maple, ash, hazel, oak, hawthorn, hornbeam, dogwood, and privet. Young trees find it easier to get established than older trees.

PLANTING TREES IN HACKNEY PARKS



Photos © Anne Woollett



Tree-planting in December 2004.

To grow, trees and shrubs need:

- water, oxygen and nutrients, which they get from the earth through their roots;
- light and carbon dioxide, which they get from the air through their leaves.
- Water, oxygen and nutrients travel up and down the trunks of trees. Many trees die because their bark is damaged by dogs or strimmers.



To help young trees grow:

- We plant them in the winter when they have lost their leaves and are less active (dormant). This gives them time for their roots to spread before their leaves grow in the spring.
- We treat their roots gently and try to keep them damp to stop their tiny hairs, which absorb water and nutrients, from getting damaged.
- We dig a hole that is big enough so we can spread their roots out.
- We press down the soil to ensure good contact between the roots and the earth so the roots can start to absorb water and nutrients and start to grow.
- We put mulch (wood chip) round the tree. This helps to hold water in the soil. It also slows down the growth of grass and other plants which compete with the young tree for water and nutrients.
- We allow the grass to grow between the trees and along hedges so people do not destroy them accidentally by walking over them.

Prepared by Anne Woollett & Mike Trier.
For information about trees and hedges in Hackney see www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

For tree planting in Hackney, contact:
Hackney Marsh User Group:
0208 985 1256 or a.woollett@btinternet.com
or Tree Musketeers:
020 8985 5008 or TM@km181855.demon.co.uk