Bristol City Council
Tree Planting Report 2024-25

During winter 2024 – 2025, Bristol City Council planted **6,465 trees**, adding **15.3 hectares**[1] of tree canopy through our One Tree Per Child, Bristol (OTPC) and TreeBristol planting programmes.

One Tree Per Child began in 2015 with the aim of planting one tree for every primary school aged child in the city. We have now planted[2] over 113,000 trees and continue to plant at least 5,000 trees per year – one for each child starting primary school each year.

TreeBristol began in 2005 to plant standard sized trees in streets, parks and green spaces across Bristol, and now includes our tree sponsorship programme.

Our tree planting programmes are funded through a variety of sources, including private and corporate sponsorship, planning obligations, grants, and direct support from organisations.

We are very grateful for the many people who have given their time to plant trees and help care for them.

[1] projected canopy - see method below.
[2] includes trees gifted and planted by others.

One Tree Per Child, Bristol 2024-25

This section describes the trees planted by OTPC, including our volunteer and education programmes.

OTPC planted:

5,683 trees in total (0.8 hectares projected tree canopy)[4], including:

2 woodlands in Bristol's parks and greenspace and 1 school woodland (0.4 hectares, 915 trees).

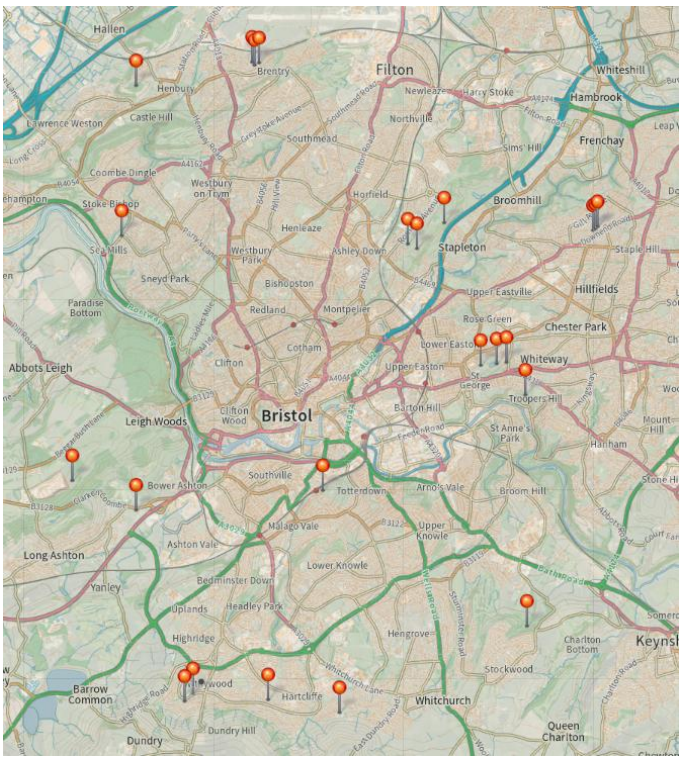
8 community orchards and 1 school orchard (0.2 hectares, 53 fruit trees)

12 hedgerows (1,179 metres, 4,715 trees, 0.2 hectares).

200 trees replaced due to drought or vandalism (not included in final tree planting figures).

OTPC typically plants smaller trees called 'whips', which are quicker and easier to plant.

2024-25 One Tree Per Child planting sites:



One Tree Per Child project examples:

Hedgerow planted at Ashton Court Estate

Community orchard at St. George's Park

Woodland planted at Lockleaze Open Space

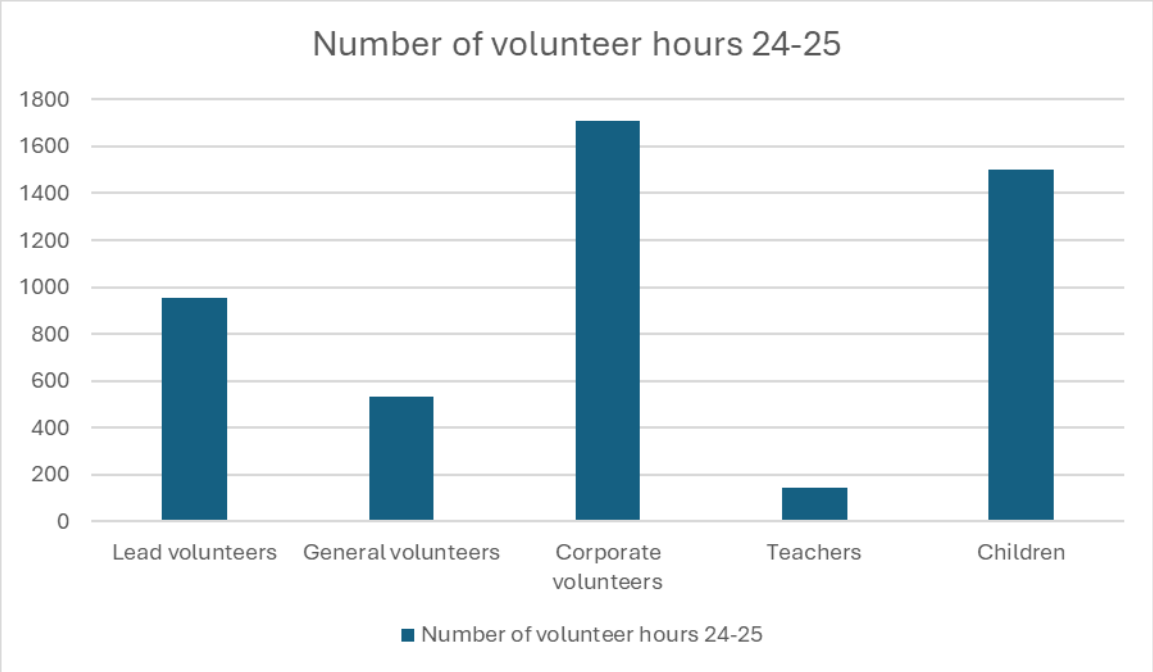
Thinning at Napier Miles and Fernhill Fields

One Tree Per Child Volunteer Programme

From April 2024 to the end of March 2025, a total of 70 volunteer sessions were held, including 33 tree planting days, 28 tree maintenance days – where volunteers return to look after trees planted in previous years, and 9 thinning days. In total, volunteers attending OTPC lead sessions accounted for 4,850 volunteer hours in 2024-25. Lead Volunteers carried out almost 1,000 volunteer hours throughout the year, with general volunteer making up just over 500 hours, teachers and children had a combined total of just under 1,700 hours.

This was the first season where woodland thinning was added to the volunteer programme. The volunteer team removed any dead, dying or diseased trees and coppiced species such as hazel and lime. Over time, this will allow more space for the remaining woodland trees to grow and increase biodiversity, especially on the woodland floor.

OTPC continued to work with Your Park Bristol and Bath to deliver corporate volunteer opportunities, providing a valuable volunteering opportunity to business organisations. Corporate volunteers were involved in 24 of our 33 planting projects, with 13 businesses taking part (37 businesses throughout the year), totalling over 1,700 corporate volunteer hours.



We would like to say a big thank you to those volunteers who came out and helped OTPC during the 2024-25 season, especially our Lead Volunteers who come on a weekly basis in all weathers and provide such important support, not only to the project but to the staff as well.

We are grateful to the support from the following organisations:

Bristol Tree Forum, the Forest of Avon Trust, DEFRA, Woodland Trust, Environment Agency, Trees for Cities, Your Park Bristol and Bath, Really Wild Lockleaze, Brentry Primary School, Avon Riding Centre and community groups from St. George's Park and Troopers Hill Fields.

One Tree Per Child Education Programme

Our OTPC education programme supported 358 primary school aged children from two primary schools to plant and care for trees in their local communities. We planted standard trees, an orchard, hedgerow and a new woodland in a primary school in Brentry.

One Tree Per Child Fundraising

We are grateful for the financial support from the following providers:

Funding source	Amount (£)
Trees for Climate (DEFRA grant)	£18,964
Environment Agency	£14,379
Woodland Trust	£610
Really Wild Lockleaze	£605
Total	**£34,558**

TreeBristol 2024-25

During 2024-25 our TreeBristol programme planted **782** standard sized trees across most electoral wards across Bristol and replaced 129 trees from previous years. See table at end of the report.

TreeBristol plants larger, standard, sized trees in streets and green spaces across the city. These larger trees have an immediate impact and are robust enough to survive in spaces like streets. Trees may be planted as a replacement for a lost tree or in new locations.

We are happy to report that **98 trees** were sponsored and planted in streets and parks across the city, through our collaboration with Trees for Streets. Thank you to everyone who made this commitment and provided funds.

TreeBristol tree planting example:

Park tree

Street tree

TreeBristol Funding

TreeBristol is grateful for the financial support from the following organisations, grants and private sponsors. Where possible, funds support long term maintenance of these trees.

Funding source	Trees planted	Amount (£)
Trees for Streets sponsorship	98	£26,210
Section 106 devolved planning obligations	62	£69,427
Section 106 non-devolved Avonmouth	61	£177, 484
Trees for Climate (DEFRA grant)	404	£135,971
Ash dieback Replacement Project (Highways funded)	25	£26,894
Environment Agency	35	£6,289
City Design / Engineering Design	58	£35,271
Ashley Down Railway Station Project	24	£24,662
Miscellaneous special events	15	£1,947
Total	**782**	**£504,155**

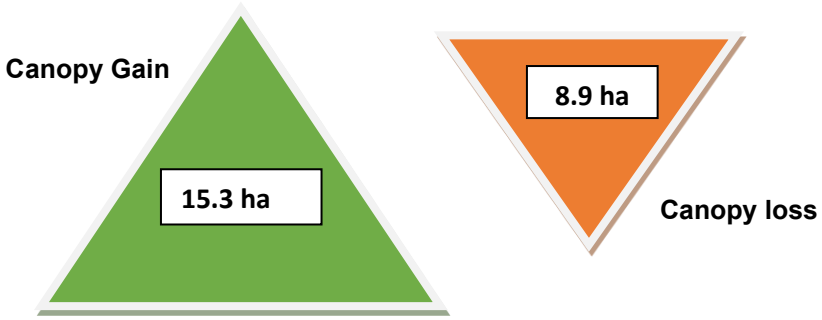
Our Environmental Commitments

We source the majority of our trees from UK tree nurseries. All tree guards, mulch mats and planting pegs are biodegradable. We use tree watering bags for larger trees which store water and deliver it more efficiently to the tree. Our tree stakes are Forest Stewardship Council certified. Trees are managed through Blaise Plant Nursery where electricity is generated by solar, water is provided by a borehole, on-site vehicles are electric powered, and no peat is used.

Tree Canopy (addition and loss) within Bristol City Council estate

Tree canopy contribution data included in this report is a projection based on the assumed size of trees when mature – see method below. Tree canopy loss is based assigned crown size category at time of felling.

2024-25 projected tree canopy contribution (OTPC and TreeBristol programmes combined)



During 2024-25, Bristol City Council planted 6,465 trees, projected to add **15.3 hectares** of tree canopy.

During the 2024-25, Bristol City Council felled 409 trees resulting in the loss of **8.9 hectares** canopy. Trees are felled for a variety of reasons – mostly for health and safety, where diseased or damaged trees have reached the end of their life and replacement planting is the best course of action.

The net projected canopy **added** during 2024-25 within the Bristol City Council estate is **6.4 hectares.**

Tree Canopy Projection Method

Tree canopy has been defined as the area occupied by a tree crown taking a 'birds-eye view'.

Trees planted across OTPC and Tree Bristol fall into three main categories: woodland, hedgerow and individual or 'specimen' trees.

For woodland and hedgerows, it is assumed that their overall canopy will be the same size as the boundary of the area planted. For example, if 2,500 trees are planted 2 x 2 metre spacing, the total area is 1 hectare (1 ha = 10,000 m^2)

When planting individual trees, we need a different approach to estimate 'canopy contribution', as each tree has the potential to spread and grow. For such trees, canopy can be estimated by assuming their crown diameter when mature. As data to project tree canopy is limited, an estimated canopy diameter for a range of species was taken using information from the Royal Horticultural Society. The figure for canopy diameter at maturity is derived from data for the potential spread of each species. The age at which the tree will reach this size differs by species but generally ranges from 50 to 100 years.

Each species was categorised from 'very small' to 'very large', and the area was calculated using the midpoint of the canopy diameter in each range. The resulting area (see table below) was multiplied by the number of individual trees planted allocated to the projected size category.

Classification of tree species according to their canopy diameter at maturity:

Projected Tree Size	Projected Crown Diameter	Projected Tree Canopy Area (m^2)
Very small	<5m	9.6
Small	≥5<10m	44.2
Medium	≥10<15m	122.7
Large	≥15<20m	240.5
Very Large	≥20m	397.6

Trees planted canopy added (projection)

Projected tree size category	Projected tree canopy m^2 by size category	No. of trees planted	Projected tree canopy gain m^2
Woodland	NA	915	3,600
Hedgerow	NA	4,715	2,400
Very small	9.6	2	19.2
Small	44.2	214	9,458.8

Medium	122.7	216	26,503.2
Large	240.5	310	74,555
Very Large	397.6	93	36,976.8
	TOTAL	**6,465**	**153,513 m²**
			15.35 ha

Trees felled canopy loss

Projected tree size category	Projected tree canopy m² by size category	No. of trees felled	Projected tree canopy loss m²
Very small	9.6	0	0
Small	44.2	26	1,149.2
Medium	122.7	98	12,024.6
Large	240.5	238	57,239.0
Very Large	397.6	47	18,687.2
	TOTAL	**409**	**89,100 m²**
			8.91 ha

In 2024-25 the council felled 409 trees. The loss in canopy has been calculated at around 8.91 hectares. This data is subject to errors in that some trees felled by the council may not be recorded in our database. To calculate canopy loss in a similar way to canopy projections, the felled trees were allocated to a 'tree size' category – giving a sum per category that was multiplied by the canopy area for that category.

Comments

This analysis demonstrates the stark difference between planting woodlands and hedgerows compared with planting individual trees where the goal is to maximise tree canopy. Although the numbers of trees in a hedge or wood may be high, the overall canopy area is limited to the planting area.

Given that the canopy projection for specimen trees represents potential size in ideal conditions and does not factor in the failure of any of these trees, it is likely to be an over-estimate, as such this projected data is an indication of canopy added – to be confirmed by ongoing monitoring.

This report does not record the percentage change in tree canopy from growth within the population of trees managed by the council. It is expected that this change will be picked up in periodic monitoring in the change in tree canopy (from new planting, growth of existing trees and woodland due to losses).