Bristol City Council

Tree Planting Report 2025-26

Growing Bristol's tree canopy across parks, streets and communities

One Tree Per Child Bristol

treebristol
Planting trees in our city

Bristol City Council

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Growing Bristol's tree canopy across parks, streets and communities

At a glance, 2025–26 highlights



6,710 trees
planted across Bristol



14.3 hectares
net canopy gain
(26.6 hectares added,
12.3 hectares lost)



5,484 volunteer
hours contributed



70 volunteer sessions
delivered

1. Introduction

During winter 2025–26, Bristol City Council planted 6,710 trees across the city, contributing an estimated 26.6 hectares of future tree canopy.

Our tree planting is delivered through two core programmes:

One Tree Per Child (OTPC) establishes smaller trees and woodland and engaging schools and communities.

TreeBristol plants larger, individual (specimen) trees in streets, parks and public spaces.

The council's tree planting programmes are contributing to Bristol's target of 20% tree canopy by 2040. In 2023, Bristol's tree canopy was 18.2%. See **Bristol's Tree and Woodland Strategy.**

2. One Tree Per Child (OTPC), Bristol

Programme overview

One Tree Per Child began in 2015 with the aim of planting one tree for every primary school-aged child in Bristol. To date, **over 119,000 trees have been planted**, and each year we are planting at least 5,000 trees.

2025-26 planting summary

Total planted: **6,096 trees**

Including:



8 new woodlands and 2 school woodlands, including 1 **Tiny Forest** (3,497 trees)



5 community orchards (148 fruit trees)



2 hedgerows (239 metres, 1,196 trees)



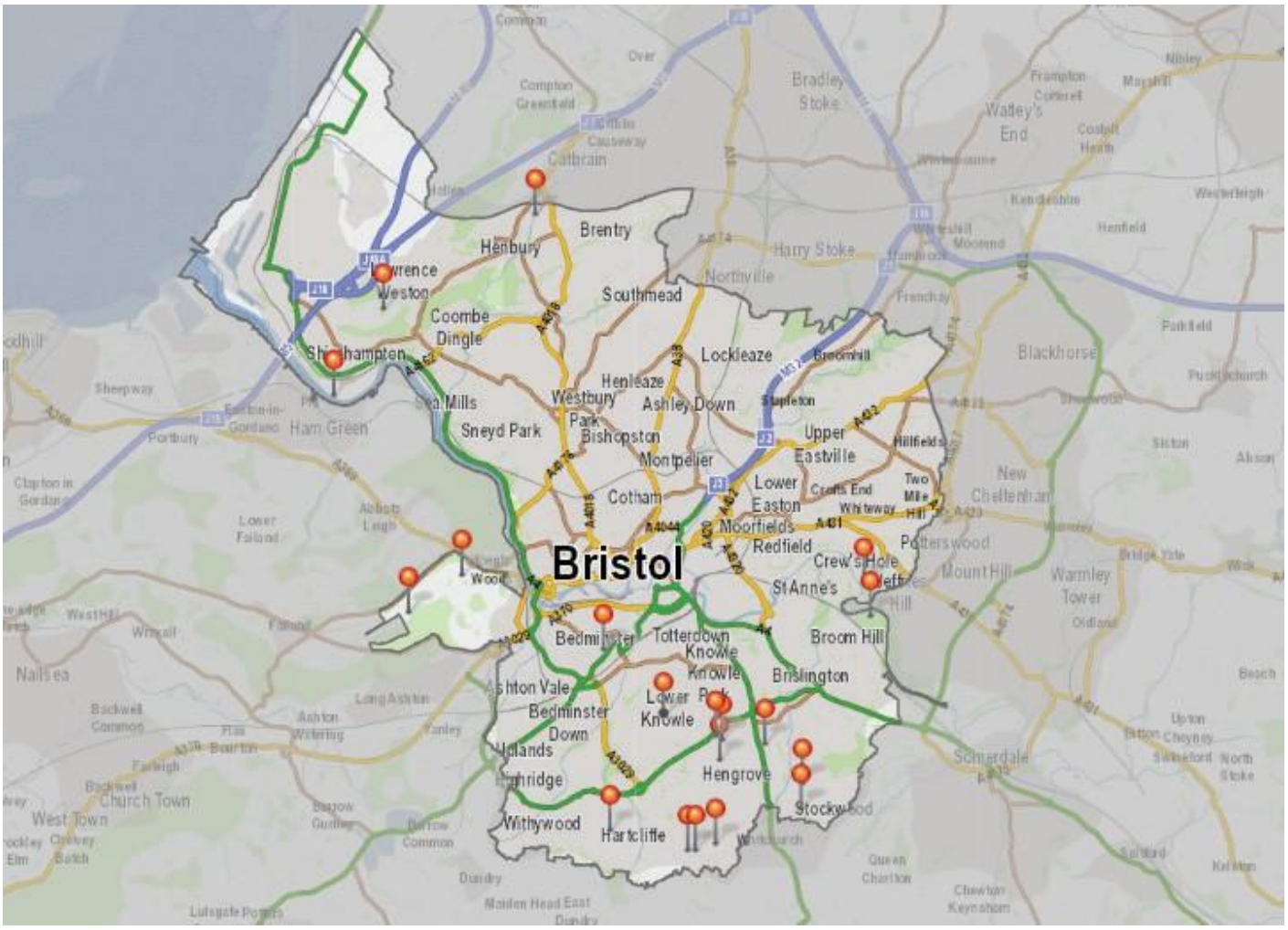
700 trees planted for ash dieback mitigation

555 trees replaced due to drought or vandalism (not included in 25-26 tree planting total).

OTPC typically plants smaller trees called 'whips', allowing efficient large-scale planting.

OFFICIAL

One Tree Per Child planting sites 2025-26


Bristol
Brentry
Henbury
Southmead
Coombe Dingle
Lockleaze
Henleaze
Westbury Park
Ashley Down
Sneyd Park
Bishopston
Montpelier
Cotham
Upper Eastville
Lower Easton
Moorfields
Redfield
Crew's Hole
St Anne's
Bedminster
Totterdown
Knowle
Broom Hill
Brislington
Ashton Vale
Bedminster Down
Lower Knowle
Hengrove
Stockwood
Withywood
Hartcliffe
Bradley Stoke
Stoke Gifford
Filton
Patchway
Cribbs Causeway
Almondsbury
Thornbury
Yate
Chipping Sodbury
Kingswood
Hanham
Keynsham
Bath
Portishead
Clevedon
Nailsea
Backwell
Long Ashton
Ashton Watering
Yanley
Barrow Gurney
Barrow Common
Dundry
Maiden Head East
Lulsgate Bottom
Queen Charlton
Chewton Keynsham
Somerdale
Mount Hill
Warmley Tower
New Cheltenham
Blackhorse
Fishponds
Staple Hill
Mangotsfield
Downend
Frenchay
Harry Stoke
Northville
Henfield
Coalpit Heath
Frampton Cotterell
Winterbourne
Iron Acton
Wickwar
Tytherington
Alveston
Olveston
Tockington
Easter Compton
Compton Greenfield
Over
Pilning
Severn Beach
Redwick
Portbury
Ham Green
Sheepway
Shirehampton
Sea Mills
Avonmouth
Lawrence Weston
Kingsweston
Clapton in Gordano
Abbots Leigh
Leigh Woods
Wraxall
Failand
Wick
Pucklechurch
Siston
Alison
Bridge Yate
Oldland
Beach
Upton Cheyney
Swineford
North Stoke
Bitton
Kelston
Saltford
Keynsham
Chewton Keynsham
Lower Failand
Wraxall

Volunteer Programme

From April 2025 to March 2026:



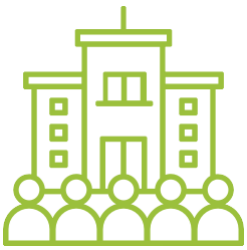
70 volunteer sessions delivered

- 30 planting days
- 31 maintenance sessions
- 9 woodland thinning days



Volunteer contribution:

- 5,484 volunteer hours total
- ~900 hours contributed by Lead Volunteers
- ~2,500 hours contributed by schools and children



Corporate engagement:

- Volunteers from 41 businesses participated
- 1,700+ corporate volunteer hours delivered

Our volunteer sessions include planting and caring for newly planted trees and the management of maturing woodland. Volunteers removed damaged, diseased or competing trees to allow the woodland to flourish as a wildlife habitat.

We also worked with **Your Park Bristol and Bath** to offer volunteering opportunities for businesses and corporate volunteers.

We would like to say a big thank you to those volunteers who came out and helped OTPC during the 2025-26 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.

Partnerships

OTPC works with a wide range of partners, including:

- Bristol Tree Forum
- Forest of Avon Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Your Park Bristol and Bath
- Local schools and community groups.

Funding 2025-26

Funding source	Amount (£)
Trees for Climate (DEFRA grant)	£36,138
Woodland Trust	£610
Total	**£36,748**

3. TreeBristol Programme

2025–26 planting summary

1,169 standard-sized trees planted, including 650 trees responding to ash dieback

79 replacement trees planted
(not included in total)

TreeBristol focuses on planting larger trees in streets and parks, providing immediate visual and environmental benefits.

TreeBristol tree planting examples:

Park tree



Street tree



Tree Sponsorship

We are pleased to say that **69 trees** were sponsored through our collaboration with [Trees for Streets](). Trees have been planted in streets and parks across the city. Thank you to everyone who gave their support. Tree planting locations are available for sponsorship for planting this coming winter.

Funding 2025-26

Funder	Number of trees	Amount (£)
Trees for Climate (DEFRA grant)	260	£71,007
Ash dieback canopy recovery programme: Trees for Climate (DEFRA grant)	325	£88,758
Ash dieback canopy recovery programme: BCC capital	325	£88,758
Section 106 – devolved	82	£45,125
Section 106 - non-devolved	19	£10,463
Trees for Streets (public / business sponsorship)	69	£16,650
BCC highways and engineering schemes	35	£26,424
Miscellaneous	54	£6,918
Total	**1,169**	**£283,096**

4. Ash Dieback and Canopy Recovery

Ash dieback is a fungal disease affecting ash trees across the UK. Infected trees can become unsafe due to weakening structure.

Bristol City Council uses a risk-based approach to deal with infected trees:

- Removing unsafe branches
- Felling severely affected trees
- Retaining potentially resistant ash trees where possible

For more information, see here.

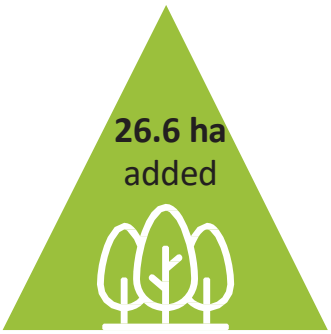
Tree planting and canopy recovery:

- A three-year planting programme is increasing tree canopy overall, despite losses to ash dieback
- 650 trees planted in 2025-26, in parks, green space and highway grass verges
- 1,600 additional trees to be planted over the next two years

For more information, see here.

5. Tree Canopy Change (2025-26)

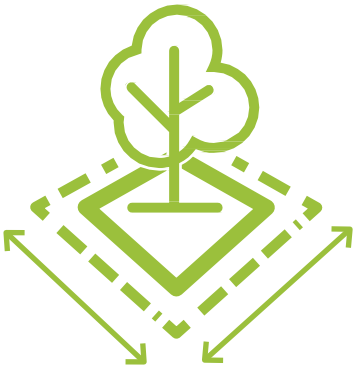
Canopy contribution:



26.6 hectares canopy added (projected from 6,710 trees planted)



12.3 hectares canopy lost (from 1,314 trees felled)



Net gain: 14.3 hectares

The net canopy gain contributes toward Bristol's 20% canopy cover target set out in the **Bristol Tree and Woodland Strategy**.

6. Environmental Commitments

- Trees sourced from UK nurseries
- Biodegradable tree guards and materials used
- FSC-certified stakes (Forest Stewardship Council)
- Low-impact nursery operations at Blaise Plant Nursery:
  - Solar energy
  - Borehole water
  - Electric vehicles
  - No peat use

7. Tree Canopy Projection Method

Tree canopy is estimated as the projected crown area when the trees are mature. The approach varies by planting type:

Woodland / hedgerow planting

- Canopy assumed to equal planted area

Individual trees

- Canopy estimated from expected mature crown diameter

For woodland and hedgerows, it is assumed that overall canopy contribution will be the same size as the area planted. For example, if 2,500 trees are planted as a woodland at 2 x 2 metre spacing, the total canopy contribution for 2,500 trees is 1 hectare or 10,000 m^2 (edge effect discounted). In a **Tiny Woodland** trees are planted closer together.

When planting individual trees, we need a different approach to estimate 'canopy contribution', as each tree has the potential to spread and grow. Canopy can be estimated by assuming 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 Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG).

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.

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 m² by size category	No. of trees planted	Projected tree canopy gain m²
Woodland	4.0*	3,497	11,800
Hedgerow	1.5	1,196	1,900
Woodland replacement (ash dieback mitigation)	4.0	700	2,800
Very small	9.6	18	173
Small	44.2	344	15,205
Medium	122.7	283	34,724
Large	240.5	431	103,655.5
Very Large	397.6	241	95,822
TOTAL		**6,701**	**266,079m²** **26.6ha**

* Tiny Forest planted at closer spacing.

Trees felled canopy loss

Projected tree size category	Projected tree canopy m² by size category	No. of trees planted	Projected tree canopy loss m²
In woodland, where no canopy loss and replanting not required	n/a	410	0
In woodland where canopy loss and replanting required	n/a	232	2,800
Very small	9.6	0	0
Small	44.2	177	7,823
Medium	122.7	108	13,252
Large	240.5	347	83,453
Very Large	397.6	40	15,904
TOTAL		**1,314**	**123,232m²** **12.3ha**

In 2025-26 the council felled 1,314 trees, resulting in the loss of 12.3 ha of tree 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.

Of the total number of trees felled, 642 trees were in woodland including infected ash trees. Canopy loss in woodland has only been calculated where the gaps created required replanting, otherwise existing natural regeneration and growth of other trees will quicky replace the canopy.

To calculate canopy loss, the felled trees were allocated to a 'maximum tree size' category. This was adjusted in some circumstances, for example when felling infected elm trees which mostly were small trees, despite elm having the potential to grow to be a large tree.

8. Notes and Limitations

- Canopy figures are projections based on mature tree size
- Assumes trees survive to maturity and reach full growth
- Some felling data may be incomplete (e.g. storm damage)
- Canopy figures do not account for the canopy growth of existing trees
- Bristol's tree canopy is measured every three years and in 2023 was 18.2%