



# North Area Committee Cambridge Canopy Project - update

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*Senior Arboricultural Officer*

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# Cambridge Canopy Project

- *An urban forestry initiative*
- Aiming to increase tree canopy cover in the city by 2%
  - Growing from 17% to 19% by the 2050's.



# What is urban forestry ?

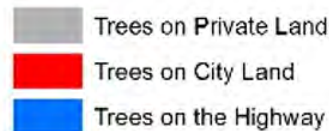


Castle Hill Car Park

# Cambridge's Urban Forest

- Total tree canopy cover = **17.1%**
- Total tree population = **335,884\***
- Tree ownership:
  - Cambridge City Council: **16.3%**
  - Cambridgeshire County Council (Highways): **9.6%**
  - Private: **74.1%**

\* all trees & shrubs over 1.2m high







Crowland Way

# What is tree canopy cover?

# i-Tree Eco Cambridge



Help us to unlock the value of Cambridge's trees and green spaces



## Valuing Cambridge's trees





# Growing our Urban Forest



- From **17%** to **19%** tree canopy cover
- To achieve this, **16,000** additional trees are needed
- **2,000** nursery raised 'standard' sized trees will be planted on public open spaces

# Free Trees schemes

- 1,500 trees to be given away through this resident's engagement scheme



**CLAIM YOUR FREE TREE**

**Neighborhood Canopy campaign**

Trees are important as they provide shade in the summer, clean pollutants from our air, lessen the impacts of noise pollution, help to fight climate change, and even add value to our properties. As part of the Cambridge Canopy Project's Neighbourhood Canopy Campaign, we would like to offer you a free tree to plant in your garden to help increase tree canopy cover in your area.

Cambridge City Council has 500 trees – mostly fruiting varieties – to giveaway to residents of the Whitehill estate. To read more about the scheme, and to register to claim your tree, scan the QR code below **before 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**Scan this code to register for your free tree.**

**You will need this code when you register**  
**EFW416**

Read more about Cambridge City Council's Neighbourhood Canopy Campaign here:  
[www.cambridge.gov.uk/TBC](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/TBC)

**Interreg** **2 Seas Mers Zeeën**  
Erasmus+ Digital Twinning Project

**NATURE SMART CITIES**  
ACROSS THE 2 SEAS



# Communications, engagement & outreach

**Cambridge Canopy Project**  
1,013 Tweets

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE**  
Go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)  
**STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES**



**Cambridge Canopy Project**  
@CamCanopyProj

@CamCitCo urban forestry initiative. P  
@Interreg2Seas. Green infrastructure s

📍 Cambridge, England 🌐 [cambridgecanopyproject.org](https://cambridgecanopyproject.org)  
📅 Joined January 2020

656 Following 621 Followers

**I am a** \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUPERHERO**

- ✓ I fight climate change
- ✓ I clean your air
- ✓ I keep you cool
- ✓ I protect your homes
- ✓ I shelter you (and our wildlife)
- ✓ I make you happy
- ✓ I save you money

**I filter \_\_\_\_\_ kg OF AIR POLLUTION A YEAR**

**HELP US MANAGE THE CITY'S TREES**  
As part of the Cambridge Canopy Project

Are you a new or important person living in Cambridge? It is as easy as you like a free tree to plant in your garden! Cambridge City Council's **Free Trees for New Arrivals** scheme can provide you a tree to commemorate your new arrival and help to grow our urban forest. Get in touch to find out more.

Would you like to get your hands dirty and show our urban forest some love? If the answer is YES, join the **Cambridge Tree Volunteers** who help to plant trees in our parks, carry out young tree maintenance, and help with watering and data collection. If you would like to get involved, contact us to find out more.

If you know of a tree (or group of trees) that is important to a local area and it makes it more attractive, provides essential benefits to the community or is of historical or cultural significance, you can request a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to Protect A Tree. Get involved and let us know!

As a living, growing thing, trees sometimes need a little help to keep them in the condition and to keep our streets and open spaces safe. Every now and then we will carry out maintenance on our trees (e.g. pruning for safety and improved visibility, or removal of deadwood). If you would like to see how we look after our trees, or have any questions, get in touch!



**PROJECT AIM, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOME**

**AIM:**  
To help the City adapt to a changing climate by cultivating a resilient urban forest with increased tree canopy cover (17% rising to 19%) by the 2050's

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Plant 2,000 trees on council-owned land
- Enhance protection & management of the current tree stock
- Engage & encourage residents & private landowners to plant trees
- Develop tools to help us assess tree canopy cover & manage the urban forest better
- Develop guidance to support tree planting & of Cambridge's urban forest
- Conduct an ecosystem service valuation study
- Roll-out a citizen engagement scheme to help us manage our trees & collect data

**OUTCOME:**  
Mitigate against the urban heat island effect & climate change related flooding



The Cambridge Canopy Project is our pilot project for the Interreg 2 Seas [Nature Smart Cities](#) across the 2 Seas project.

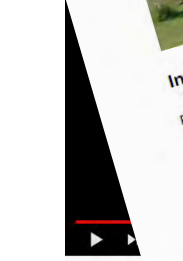
# Communications, engagement & outreach

## Canopy p

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The Cambridge  
issues a 'call  
residents

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FEATURE  
by Matthew Long



## The benefits of tree cover

The Cambridge Canopy Project seeks to increase tree canopy cover across the city of Cambridge, particularly in areas of deprivation where the greatest level of benefits will be realised.

**L**ockdown restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic forced many of us to stay within the confines of our homes for months. Some of us have houses with private gardens, some with shared gardens, and some with balconies. Others, however, have no access to outside spaces connected to their properties at all. For those

of us with limited or no access to the outdoors, public open spaces are an essential asset, providing the opportunity to escape the four walls within which they reside. Increasingly, this was realised during lockdown, with greater numbers of people using parks and greens, and interacting with green spaces in new ways. Such reliance

on public open spaces places a lens in front of their quality, as not all spaces are made equal. The multifaceted benefits we receive from being exposed to natural spaces and features continues to be studied and better understood. But the links to increased physical and mental wellbeing are clear. However, the current crisis has highlighted that barriers



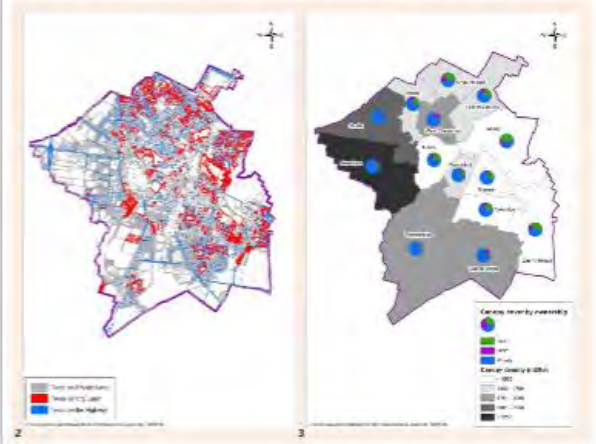
FEATURE

**2 Distribution of Cambridge's urban forest by ownership type (MNE Survey)**  
Cambridge's urban forest is owned by a mix of public and private owners. The MNE Survey found that 50% of the urban forest is owned by the public, 30% by private owners, and 20% by other owners.

exist preventing some parts of society benefitting equally from these assets. In Cambridge, UK, there are numerous parks and other green open spaces for the public to access and enjoy. Modelling of visitor numbers, based on data from the 'Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment' (MENE) survey, shows that Cambridge's green spaces receive 2.7 million visits annually. The total annual benefits received from these visits is valued at £157 million, - £36 million of which is realised in mental health benefits - underlining the crucial role they provide. However, even in Cambridge, there is disparity in the level of access residents have to green spaces and features. Using tree canopy cover as a metric, it is possible to observe these differences. Average tree canopy cover across the city is 17%, varying across wards depending on the age of the respective part of the city, and other pressures such as infrastructure.

The greatest canopy cover is found in Newnham (22.6%), and the lowest in the Cherry Hinton (12.8%) and Abbey (12.9%) wards. The unequal distribution of trees and green spaces across the city will impact residents in different ways. Citizens residing in more affluent areas with private gardens are likely to be less dependent on public open spaces or tree lined streets when compared to residents in more deprived areas with limited or no access to gardens or outside space. In areas of deprivation, residents will not benefit from the stress relief, alleviation of depression, nor reduction in crime that trees provide. Very often, it is these in the most deprived areas that benefit from these provisions the most.<sup>1</sup> Yet it is the most affluent parts of Cambridge that are, in fact, most well catered for in terms of tree canopy cover. Every neighbourhood in Newnham ward is classified as being amongst the 20% least deprived in the

country. In contrast, using Abbey ward as an indicative example, of its six neighbourhoods, two are in the 20% most deprived in the country, and one in each of the 30%, 40%, and 50% most deprived categories.<sup>2</sup> Research has confirmed this, identifying a positive correlation between tree canopy cover and deprivation in Cambridge, and this pattern has been observed across the UK.<sup>3</sup> The 2019 MENE survey found that the two most deprived sections of society, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, had the greatest disagreement with the following statement: 'Local green spaces are within easy walking distance'.<sup>4</sup> This disparity in access to green spaces can be referred to as 'tree inequality' or the 'nature gap'.<sup>5</sup> To address it, we must strive for landscape justice.<sup>6</sup> The Cambridge Canopy Project - a Cambridge City Council initiative under the Interreg 2 Seas programme's 'Nature Smart



They would spend 5 minutes to complete the survey (the link is below). Unless of this, we would also like to know the public to map the city's trees to help us to improve the city.

nda Ness  
air until 16:00  
Glenn Jones

SALES ABOUT

st: Cambridge Canopy

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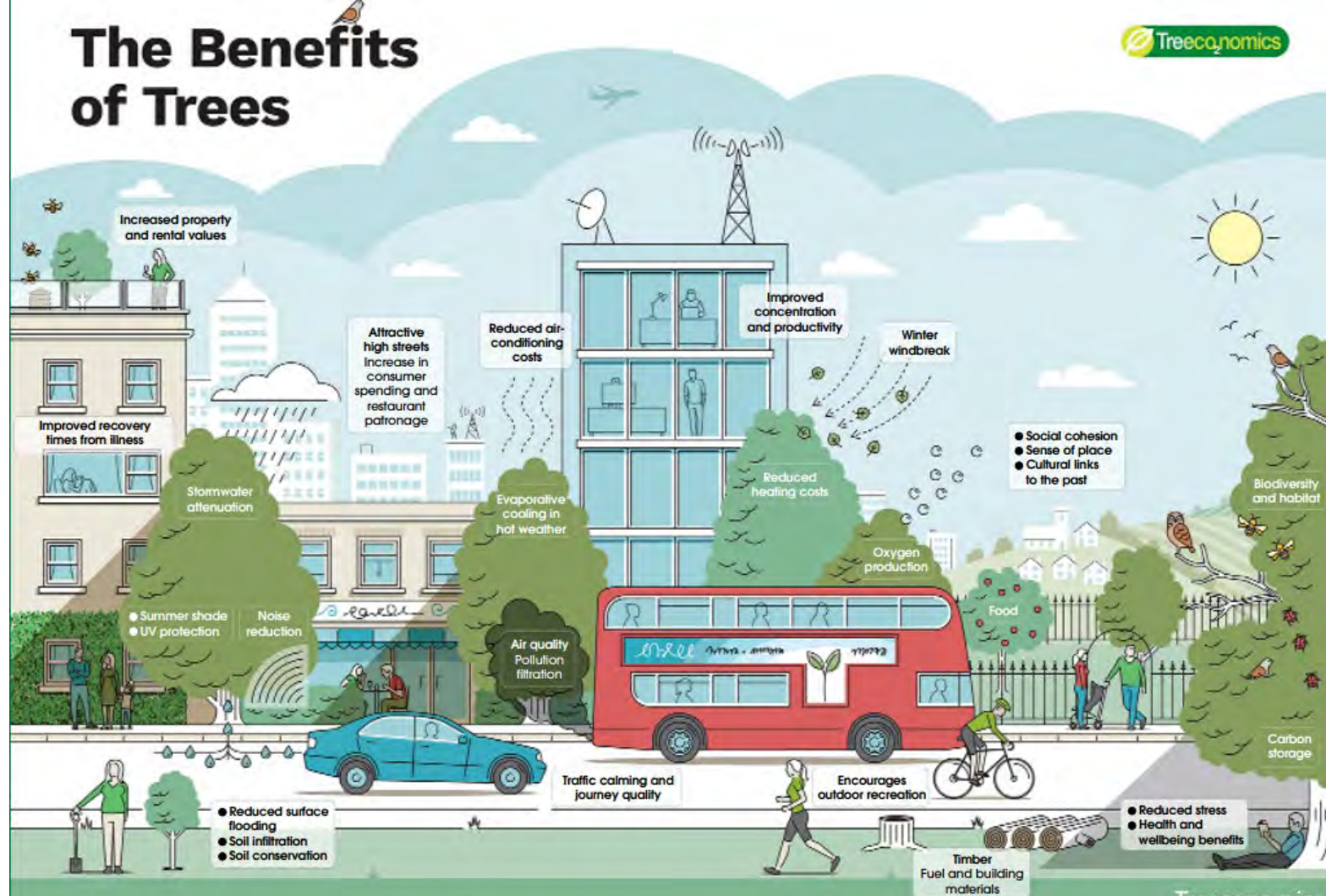
For the Cambridge Canopy Project, visit [www.cambridgecanopyproject.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecanopyproject.org.uk) or call 01223 353 353. The project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project. The project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project. The project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project.

We want you to get planting! The Cambridge Canopy Project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project. The project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project. The project is a joint venture between Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Canopy Project.

ATURE SMART CITIES  
ACROSS THE 2 SEAS



# The Benefits of Trees





# Thank you for listening



[twitter.com/CamCanopyProj](https://twitter.com/CamCanopyProj)

For more information visit:

[www.cambridge.gov.uk/cambridge-canopy-project](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/cambridge-canopy-project)

[www.naturesmartcities.eu](http://www.naturesmartcities.eu)

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