

Oxfordshire Garden Tree Giveway 2024





GTG Background

The Oxfordshire 2024 Garden Tree Giveaway (GTG) is a fun, engaging and impactful scheme, distributing free garden trees across the county through the wonderful network of volunteer community action groups, parish councils, local garden centres and food banks in Oxfordshire.

Supported by International Tree Foundation and Community Action Groups Oxfordshire, this will be the third year of the scheme. Building on the success of the Giveaway in 2022 and 2023, we are fundraising to expand the project in 2024 to reach more parts of the county, focussing on deprived areas where tree cover is lowest.

We will distribute 5000 trees to over 3000 households in Oxfordshire and also continue to develop a model that can be adapted elsewhere in the country.



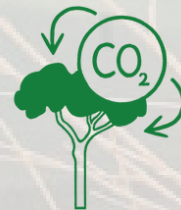
The Aims of Garden Tree Giveaway



Giveaway 5000 free garden trees to over 3000 Oxfordshire residents to plant in their gardens



Enhance community well-being and cohesion by improving green spaces and fostering a sense of ownership and belonging among residents



Enhance Oxfordshire's environment by increasing tree cover to combat climate change and promote local biodiversity



Address urban environmental inequality by prioritising tree distribution in underserved neighbourhoods with limited access to green infrastructure



Promote environmental stewardship through public awareness raising around tree planting and aftercare via the Garden Tree Guide and further ITF communications



Develop outreach strategies to raise awareness about the GTG through social media, local newspapers, community events, and partnerships with district, town, and parish councils and local businesses



Encourage more people to join the Trees Collaborate Network

How it Works

Gifting 5000 trees to 3000 households across Oxfordshire & Beyond

800 trees per district - of which 600 trees gifted via distributors and 200 gifted via foodbanks

Summer: Choosing a tree

People can choose up to 2 trees from a selection of 10 native species suitable for gardens - we've developed a 'Garden Tree Guide' to help them choose.

October: Further information

Applicants will hear more details from us on collecting their tree.

November/December: Receiving a tree

25 local distributors have been recruited from across the county and together with selected local garden centres and food banks, and with support from parish councils, local charities, libraries and local businesses, they will arrange collection days in November and December when people receive their tree and tree guides.





**“I think what you’re doing is marvellous, we all
need to plant more trees”
Garden Tree Recipient, East Oxford 2023**

The Garden Tree Giveaway has so many positive impacts on nature and communities alike. The trained distributors meet hundreds of people in their local area who are wanting to find out more about trees and nature and are they able to support those individuals and the aims of the scheme.

Each action in itself is small, but collectively the scheme increases tree cover in Oxfordshire and the benefits that go with that (habitat for nature; carbon storage; shade and cooling; health and wellbeing).

The focus this year will be on reaching the most deprived urban areas in the county; these are areas where tree cover and access to green space are lowest. Target areas have been identified with the support of community leaders in conjunction with Oxford University mapping and research reports (see references below). The scheme will work through local distributors, food banks and community larders to reach those most in need.

- 1) Lamont, R. A., & Hinson, C. (2024). A narrative review of reviews of nature exposure and human health and well-being in the UK. NEER030. Natural England.
- 2) Crockatt M., Burrow C., Gent J., Hirons M., McDermott C., Rowe R., Smith A. 2024. Oxfordshire’s greenspace-deprived neighbourhoods; Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery, University of Oxford.

Oxfordshire is fortunate in having a strong network of environmental groups working to restore and enhance trees and nature. The GTG is founded in partnership and brings together many of these groups to support the wider collective effort that is nature recovery and community. As in previous years, ITF will work together with CAG to plan, fundraise and deliver the project, which will directly support over 30 community groups across Oxfordshire.

Through the partnership, the GTG fosters community engagement and environmental education. By empowering residents with the knowledge and resources needed to nurture their trees, people feel ownership for the trees and local green spaces, and engage in meaningful conversations about environmental stewardship with their local action groups. Central to this effort is the training given to distributors, ITF's Garden Tree Guide, which provides comprehensive information on tree selection, planting techniques and seasonal care, and ongoing support via ITF's newsletter.



“This is so exciting! I’ve never planted a tree before”
Garden Tree Recipient, 2023

Garden Tree Giveaway Locations

Districts and Towns

Oxford

- East Oxford
- Marston
- Headington
- Rose Hill
- Iffley
- Blackbird Leys Food Bank
- Barton Community Larder

South Oxfordshire

- Berrinsfield Food Bank
- Berrinsfield SOHA
- Didcot
- Henley
- Horspath
- Sonning Common
- Thame and Sharing Life Community Larder, Thame
- Wallingford
- Watlington
- Wheatley

West Oxfordshire

- Burford
- Carterton and Carterton Food Bank
- Charlbury
- Chipping Norton
- Eynsham
- Stonesfield
- Witney and Witney Food Bank
- Woodstock
- Wychwoods

Cherwell

- Banbury and Banbury Food Bank
- Bicester and Bicester Food Bank
- Kidlington

Vale of White Horse

- Abingdon
- Faringdon
- Wantage and Wantage Food Bank
- East Hendred Community Larder

Buckinghamshire

- North Marston
- Padbury

How You Can Help

Ways to donate and become an official partner

The total cost of the running the Garden Tree Giveaway in each district is £2704

What is included in the cost?

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- 800 tree saplings
 - 800 copies of the Garden Tree Guide
 - Publicity, distribution, training materials, and volunteer transport
 - ITF and CAG staff costs (these are kept to a minimum)
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We are very grateful for any donations towards the Garden Tree Giveaway. Thank you.

For contributions over £500 we will host a logo on the GTG webpage (<https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/garden-tree-giveaway>) and in our social media promotion.

For more information on how to donate please contact lucy@internationaltreefoundation.org.uk

Oxford Mail

Didcot Library to host redistribution event for 3,000 trees

29th November 2023



BANBURY Guardian

Hundreds enhance gardens thanks to Banbury's big garden tree giveaway

