



NORWICH
City Council

Norwich tree strategy

Foreword by Councillor Julie Brociek-Coulton

Adding great beauty and a sense of place, trees give character to our city's landscape. They enhance the structure and layout of it and many provide important landmarks. They offer a variety of form, texture, colour, size, shape and seasonal change, and they complement the built environment by providing screening, perspective, focal points and privacy.

Often greatly valued by the local community and visitors alike, all trees provide a filter for carbon emissions and helping to moderate global warming.

Trees make a significant contribution to biodiversity by providing a variety of habitats for a wide range of wildlife – a refuge for plants, insects, birds and mammals. For example, an oak tree may support up to 500 species of insects and other invertebrates.

Those in parks and gardens bring nature into the heart of the city. Streets planted with trees provide valuable wildlife 'corridors', connecting areas of open space. Urban trees like this help to create microclimates that are more pleasant and comfortable, providing shelter from wind, rain and the sun, while cooling air on hot days and slowing heat loss on cold nights.

They offer a sustainable, cost-effective way of managing storm water and reduce the risk of flash-flooding by trapping rain water on their leaves and slowing down run-off following heavy storms. This helps to reduce drainage costs, sewer overflows and other related damage.

Trees and woodlands can increase community pride, especially when that community is actively engaged through activities such as tree planting.

Norwich City Council is committed to managing and protecting the trees in the city it is responsible for. This strategy sets out how the council will do this over the coming years.



Section one

Tree strategy overview

Norwich's trees

The variety, number and quality of trees in Norwich make them a defining feature of the city. There are around 750,000 trees in the city, growing in a wide variety of locations including woods, parks, school grounds, hospitals, cemeteries, industrial and commercial areas, and streets. This means there are a number of landowners who are responsible for trees. For example, local authorities and other public organisations, church groups, private householders and businesses.

Everybody has an interest in developing a strategic approach to the management of trees.

Today, Norwich is the regional city of one of Britain's fastest growing regions, with an immediate urban population of 250,000. It is vital that we find an effective balance between the needs of a thriving city, and the welfare of our trees.

What is a tree strategy?

This strategy provides a framework for the management of all trees in the city.

It lists the key strengths and weakness of the present tree stock, and also provides a vision for the future, setting out how this can be achieved through activities in the action plan.

Why does Norwich need a tree strategy?

To ensure that trees remain a defining feature of the city there needs to be a long-term collective commitment from the many different landowners in Norwich who have a responsibility for trees, so we can continue to benefit from them.

A strategy that promotes and expresses that commitment and provides sound practical direction is therefore essential to achieve this goal.

A tree strategy will ensure:

- that all matters relating to the management of trees in Norwich are dealt with in a co-ordinated way
- that all matters relating to the management of trees in Norwich are dealt with in an accountable manner
- that good practice is set out to raise tree management standards
- improvements to the overall standard of tree care resulting in a healthier, more sustainable and safer tree stock
- that the environmental, economic and social benefits provided by trees is maximised
- greater community involvement in the management of trees.

Trees worldwide

The need for worldwide action to protect and conserve trees has been clear since 1992. Against a backdrop of deforestation, climate change and species decline, many world leaders involved with the United Nations met in Brazil in what is now known as the Rio Earth Summit. This summit moved environmental concerns onto the international agenda for the first time, with Article 4 of the Rio declaration, which sums up the central message, stating:

“In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection will constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. This means that international, national and local policy makers should reappraise their policies and practices to ensure that they are sustainable.”

Trees nationally

In response to the Rio initiative, the UK Government produced the Sustainable development – the UK strategy in 1994.

Looking after our trees is a significant part of this strategy. Since then central Government has released further policy documents actively encouraging the development of regional, district and local strategies for tree and woodland management.

Trees near you

Thinking globally, but acting locally is a key concept from the Rio summit. This should be achieved through local action plans, known as Local Agenda 21.

These local plans should be designed to encourage local authorities to work with communities in shaping their own future and is an attempt to empower communities and individuals in the decision-making process.

Producing this tree strategy shows that Norwich City Council is committed to these concepts.



Section two

Strengths, challenges and objectives

Key strengths

- Norwich has over 500 hectares of publicly accessible open space including parks, woodland and river valley habitats.
- There are around 750,000 individual trees in the city, which works out at six trees for every resident living in the city.
- An estimated 300,000 trees are managed by the council, including 11,000 planted in streets.
- Norwich has a wooded ridge, which runs along the 25 metre contour line of the city. This ridge is characteristic of Norwich and forms a stunning backdrop to many views from the city centre. The ridge was highlighted as being of major strategic importance in the council's local plan, adopted in 2004.
- Norwich already has a diversity of both native and exotic tree types which is important in terms of climate change.
- The high density of trees in the city helps to purify the air we breathe by trapping harmful dust and gaseous pollutants and providing large quantities of oxygen.
- English Nature has identified ancient woodland areas in Norwich as being over 500 years old.
- The council is acknowledged to have a good track record in protecting and providing advice for trees on private land.
- A team of four professionally qualified arboriculturalists are employed to manage and provide advice about trees in both private and public ownership.

- People are passionate about trees.
- Norwich City Council is committed to improving the management of trees in the city.
- The last major wooded area to be planted out was the ten acre Charter Wood in Bowthorpe, in 1994.

Key challenges

- Managing a tree stock larger than any comparable city in the east of England.
- Managing the estimated 60,000 trees on council owned housing land, of which 20,000 are estimated to be in tenant's gardens.
- Producing a properly developed database of trees in the city for trees on both private and public land on which management decisions can be made.
- A lack of detailed information about the condition and age of the tree stock has made it difficult to develop sound management plans for council owned trees.
- Managing the threat that trees pose to biodiversity by growing and encroaching on other natural habitats such as heath and marshland.
- Effectively using staff to consult and engage with local communities about the future management of Norwich's tree stock.
- Changing the age profile of the trees in Norwich. From survey work undertaken we know the council's highway tree stock is ageing, with around 65% of all trees either in maturity or decline.

- People are passionate about trees however, public perception differs greatly from those who see trees as a nuisance to those who would preserve trees at all costs.
- Cities are a harsh environment in which to establish new trees. Trees tend to be less healthy and shorter lived than those growing in rural environments.
- Changes in climate, and the need to increase the biodiversity of the tree stock.
- To ensure whenever it is appropriate that in granting planning permission for any development that proper provision is made to protect or plant trees.

Vision

That the city of Norwich is recognised as a model of good practice, for the inclusive and sustainable way it manages its tree stock.

Strategic objectives

The council has four key objectives in producing this strategy:

- A: To enhance the city's natural environment.
- B: To achieve a better co-ordinated approach to the management of the Norwich tree stock.
- C: To improve the overall standard of tree care and create a healthier, safer tree population.
- D: To inform and involve local people.

Section three

Measuring performance

A five-year action plan will drive the strategy. Key targets have been developed for the period from 2006-2010. These targets have been developed to deliver on the four key strategic objectives. The strategy will be judged against this action plan, which will be reviewed annually.

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
To enhance the city's natural environment	Continuing to expand the council's programme of tree planting	Planting 450 trees each year in streets and other public owned land	Arboricultural officers	Replacement planting has been undertaken in the highway, housing areas, parks, open spaces and churchyards. 2006-07 192 trees were planted 2007-08 600 trees were planted 2008-09 514 trees were planted 2009-10 449 tree are being planted
		Planting 500 small trees each year in new or established woodland areas	Arboricultural officers	In 2006-07 a planting scheme at Sloughbottom Park created a new woodland comprising 1200 new trees. 470 native small trees have been planted 2007-08 at Marston Lane Allotments, Ives Road, Sycamore Crescent Woods and Stan Peterson Wood. In 2008-09 at Bunkers Hill we planted 600 new trees with the help of local schools.
	Increasing the biodiversity of the tree stock	5% of all trees planted will be rare and unusual trees where appropriate	Arboricultural officers	Five unusual oak trees have been planted at Eaton Park including a cork oak and a shingle oak. Cercis 'Forest Pansy' have been planted in various housing common areas. Hanker chief tree has been planted at St Stephens Churchyard. The Kew oak has been planted at St Marys churchyard. Oriental plane trees have been planted along Daniels Road.

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
To enhance the city's natural environment (continued)	Increasing the biodiversity of the tree stock (continued)	5% of all trees planted will be rare and unusual trees where appropriate (continued)	Arboricultural officers (continued)	At Branksome Road the 'Augustine Henry' lime has been planted along the highway. Several specimen trees have been planted at Chapelfield Gardens. Two Wollemi pines have been planted at sheltered housing schemes.
	Creating suitable conditions to encourage wildlife in the city	Producing advice notes on bird and bat box construction by Dec 2006	Planning officers	RSPB, British Trust for Ornithology and the Bat Conservation Trust all produce leaflets, any enquiries are redirected to these organisations.
	Identifying and classifying ancient woodlands to comply with Planning Policy Guidance note 9 Nature Conservation (PPG9)	Classifying Lion Wood, Thorpe, during 2006 and identifying other possible locations for consideration by Dec 2007	Planning officers	Natural England surveyed and carried out an inventory all of Norfolk's ancient woodland and Lion Wood was confirmed as the only ancient woodland in the city. Information on the inventory can be found online.
	Actively manage the council's stock of veteran trees	Survey and identify the location of veteran trees by Dec 2008	Arboricultural officers	We have gathered information on the locations of the known veteran trees in Norwich. Others will be located whilst carrying out the cyclical maintenance and will be plotted on the corporate GIS system.
	Expanding the total area of urban woodland in appropriate locations	Developing proposals for one new woodland site during 2007	Arboricultural officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stan Peterson Woods 2007-08 • Sloughbottom Park wooded edge We are currently negotiating and developing corporate guidance notes on the S106 agreements so that when new development takes place we have procedures and quantities in place.
		Identifying further potential woodland sites up to 2010	Arboricultural officers	S106 guidelines to be implemented when appropriate.

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
<p>To enhance the city's natural environment (continued)</p>	<p>Link the tree strategy to the council's biodiversity action plan</p>	<p>Incorporate actions identified in this strategy into the revised biodiversity action plan</p>	<p>Natural areas officer</p>	<p>Lowland heath Linked to the work we are carrying out with the natural areas officer, the heath wardens and the Mousehold Heath Conservators to remove invasive trees and woody weeds from former heath land to encourage low growth heather habitat in line with the Mousehold Heath management plan.</p> <p>Wet woodland We are establishing or introduce coppice management where appropriate, for example next to properties and restoring native species where ornamentals have been introduced, this has been completed in a number of areas including the wooded area at the rear of Horsford Street and wet woodland areas in Lakenham, off Copper Lane.</p> <p>We are also recording wet woodland areas on corporate GIS database to protect and develop them.</p> <p>Investigating new planting sites for the Native Black Poplar.</p>

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
To achieve a better co-ordinated approach to the management of the Norwich tree stock	Establishing a computerised database of the council's tree stock	Database of all highway and churchyard trees by Dec 2008	Arboricultural officers	We are expecting to capture the main highways trees in 2009-10 surveys. At time of writing 4500 trees have been captured on the corporate database of trees.
		Database of all trees in parks and the cemeteries by Dec 2009	Arboricultural officers	We have captured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wensum Park • Castle Green Park • Harford Park • Sewell Park • Eaton Park • Chapelfield Gardens We are aiming to capture the remaining parks and cemetery trees in 2010-11 surveys.
		Database of all housing trees by Dec 2010	Arboricultural officers	We are now aiming to capture a quarter of housing common trees in 2011-12 surveys.
		Database of all trees in woodlands and tree belts by Dec 2011, and review annually	Arboricultural officers	Woodland and natural areas are now captured on the GIS system as areas, information on individual trees will be captured in cyclical surveys.
	Delivering a new supplementary planning document for trees associated with new developments	Adoption by the council by October 2006	Tree protection officer	Adopted in 2007 www.norwich.gov.uk/intranet_docs/A-Z/Planning%20Policy/Adopted/SPD/Trees_and_Development_SPD_Adopted.pdf
	Reviewing Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)	Completing a review of existing information held on TPOs by March 2007	Tree protection officer	TPO review is delayed until new regulations come out. Desk top study to commence in 2010 to identify extent of task in regard to how many need reviewing and prioritising them in terms of relative urgency. Review proper will begin with a pilot sample in order to identify possible timescales and resources needed.

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
To improve the overall standard of tree care, creating a healthier, safer tree population	Contribute to a rolling programme of management plans for:	<p>Publication of a new Mousehold Heath management plan by March 2007</p> <p>Both cemeteries (Rosary and Earlam) by Dec 2009</p>	<p>Natural areas officer</p> <p>Arboricultural officers/principals green spaces officer/cemetery manager</p>	<p>Management plan has been adopted and is now being delivered.</p> <p>Management plans for the cemeteries have not been started, without accurate data capture or client leadership it is extremely difficult to collate the information for meaningful management plans. The capture of individual trees will start in 2010-11.</p>
	Fulfilling the council's duty of care by ensuring that risk to people and property is at an acceptable level	<p>From April 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two woodlands each year • Three churchyards each year • One public housing estate each year • Two sheltered housing sites 	<p>Arboricultural officers/principals green spaces officer/natural areas officer</p>	<p>Management plans are drawn up as and when the client is prioritising the area.</p> <p>Bunkers Hill management plan will be complete 2010.</p> <p>Jenny Lind Park and Chapelfield Gardens management plans are in the process of being drawn up.</p>
		Inspecting and where necessary dealing with any management issues on main roads annually	Arboricultural officers	This has been successfully carried out as planned on our annual cycle of maintenance.
	Inspecting and where necessary dealing with any management issues for all other trees every four years	Arboricultural officers	This has been successfully carried out as planned on our annual cycle of maintenance.	
		Ensuring 70% of all maintenance carried out is because of a proactive inspection system rather than complaint by April 2008	Arboricultural officers	<p>2006-07</p> <p>Reactive spend £256,000 (approx 46%)</p> <p>Proactive spend £303,000 (approx 54%)</p>

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
<p>To improve the overall standard of tree care, creating a healthier, safer tree population (continued)</p>	<p>Fulfilling the council's duty of care by ensuring that risk to people and property is at an acceptable level (continued)</p>	<p>Ensuring 70% of all maintenance carried out is because of a proactive inspection system rather than complaint by April 2008 (continued)</p>	<p>Arboricultural officers (continued)</p>	<p>2007-08 Reactive spend £228,000 (approx 36%) Proactive spend £399,000 (approx 63%) Budgets spent on proactive maintenance is getting higher – levels of comino enquiries are slowly reducing making more money available for proactive spend. Strategy to raise the proactive spend percentage higher will be 1. reducing further the amounts of enquiries coming to the department and 2. achieving the surveying goals above.</p>
<p>To inform and involve local people</p>	<p>Reviewing and updating information about the council's policies and procedures regarding trees on the council's website Produce leaflets and information on the council's website promoting the benefits and importance of trees and different habitats, and setting out best practice</p>	<p>Updating website with strategy documents by Dec 2006 Delivery by April 2008</p>	<p>Communications Communications</p>	<p>The Norwich City Council trees web page is currently under construction. We have successfully arranged the Jessopp Road report to be made available online for residents. Full review of our web page is due to be completed by the end of 2010. We have produced planting leaflets and have had success with distributing them as the trees are planted. This has led to a greater sense of ownership and has reduced the amounts of vandalism in places. We have also produced a general Trees of Norwich leaflet that explains our service and the benefits of the urban forest.</p>

Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
To inform and involve local people (continued)	Working in partnership with local communities and Friends groups	<p>The leading of at least two guided themed walks each year</p> <p>Organising three community workdays each year.</p>	<p>Arboricultural officers/BTCV/ Norwich Fringe Project</p> <p>Arboricultural officers/BTCV/ Norwich Fringe Project/ community manager</p>	<p>Not completed.</p> <p>The guided walks are to be developed at Eaton Park and city centre tree trail.</p> <p>Sloughbottom Park planting event 2006</p> <p>Stan Peterson wood Mar 2008</p> <p>Bunkers Hill Feb 2009, three local schools are helping us to plant over 600 trees in Bunkers Hill with the help of BTCV, the Fringe Project and Norwich City Council.</p> <p>Sloughbottom Park 2009, Brownies helped us to plant over 600 trees.</p> <p>Ipswich Road 2010, Eaton Rise residents association have helped to re-establish the hedgerow.</p> <p>Further community days could be organised by linking our work days with green spaces events or other community groups.</p>
	Actively promoting National Tree Week	Organise two community based activities to coincide with National Tree Week	Arboricultural officers	<p>November 2008 – Eaton Park, we planted five unusual oak trees in Eaton Park.</p> <p>November 2009 – Sloughbottom Park, Brownies planting day</p> <p>November 2009 – presentations at two schools in Bowthorpe to promote trees in cities.</p> <p>Officers are currently developing the tree trail in Chapelfield Gardens and the city centre, due to be complete 2010.</p>
	Establish a voluntary tree warden scheme	Set up a trial project before March 2008	Arboricultural officers	This has not been completed. Aiming to launch May 2010.

Why have a tree strategy?

Nick Eden, director of the Arboricultural Association – an organisation that aims ‘to advance the science of arboriculture for the public benefit’ – explains why it is important for Norwich to develop a tree strategy.

“Trees. Almost everyone has something to say about them. Perhaps more than ever before we recognise how essential they are to our survival.

But what a challenge: living things as big as houses that can’t be moved.

They can’t speak. They are sensitive to their environment. They have the potential to outlive us – and the potential to be a source of trouble.

A strategy such as this attempts to recognise the complex technical, scientific and human issues that arise when trees and people inhabit the same area. It provides a framework for managing these issues and this huge living resource to bring about the best possible solutions for all.”

Contact details

If you have a query about council owned trees please contact our arboricultural officers.

If you have a query about privately owned trees please contact our tree protection officer.

Norwich City Council

City Hall
St Peters Street
Norwich
NR2 1NH
t: 0344 980 3333
f: 01603 213000
e: info@norwich.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:

The Tree Council
www.treecouncil.org.uk
t: 020 7407 9992

Arboricultural Association

www.trees.org.uk
t: 01242 522152

The Royal Horticultural Society

www.rhs.org.uk
t: 0845 260 5000



Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.



If you would like this information in another language or format such as large print or audio cassette please phone 0344 980 3333 or email info@norwich.gov.uk

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