



Urban Forestry Services Team

May 2025





Background

The City of Trees' Green Skills programme aims to diversify the sector, engaging people in forestry and environmental roles. Through training and partnerships, City of Trees empower individuals from non-traditional backgrounds to get involved in green jobs, building a skilled workforce to support nature recovery across Greater Manchester.

The programme aims to address the skills gap in the forestry sector and to encourage wider participation and increase awareness of the importance of urban woodland creation and management. City of Trees take a person-focused approach and work with individuals in the team to upskill them, whether to aid them further in their careers in the sector, or to benefit them in the wider world of employment.

We work with partner organisations and job and skill agencies across Greater Manchester to create opportunities for people with varying needs and backgrounds.



Urban Forestry Services Team

In early 2024, City of Trees launched its own contract team, now known as our Urban Forestry Services team. Working with job centres, housing providers and other local charities, City of Trees employed six new foresters, including a former volunteer who has since become an assistant crew manager.

The team travels to sites across Greater Manchester – from local authority land and parks, to private landowners on the fringes of the region – to plant trees that aren't suitable for Citizen Forester volunteering events. The team also maintains existing woodlands that we have planted, giving them the best chance to reach maturity.

The in-house team builds on City of Trees as a trusted delivery partner within Greater Manchester. Importantly, having an in-house team means there is far less reliance on using external contractors and keeps resources and skills within the city region.

Examples of work

Our Urban Forestry Services team planted over 30 standard (semi-mature) trees at seven fire stations across Greater Manchester over the course of two weeks in November 2024.

This involved carrying out checks for underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool, excavating large tree pits (approx 1.5m x 1.5m and 750mm depth), planting the tree and installing stakes, guards and strapping. Since its inception, the team have planted over 100 standards in parks and greenspaces across the region.

The Urban Forestry Services team have played an important role in City of Trees' largest woodland creation scheme to date at Greenbooth Reservoir in Rochdale. The project was delivered in partnership with the landowner, United Utilities, and the in-house team have been tasked with delivering the maintenance and establishment element of the project. Aftercare will be required for over 17,000 trees, planted across 21ha of the uplands.

This seasons work on-site has included; replacing damaged shelters, stakes, and dead trees, weeding, vegetation suppression, remedial works to damaged fencing and restocking.

To date, the team have planted over 24,000 sapling trees, working on more than 65 sites, some examples include:

- Working with the greenkeeper and club secretary at Great Lever Golf Club to establish small woodland plots alongside fairways and in underutilised areas of the course.
- Planting over 1,800 sapling trees at one of Bolton Council's flagship parks (Moss Bank),
- Working on private land, including upland farms, creating low density woodland and installing new, innovative tree guard solutions such as the Cactus Tree Guard, to protect against livestock damage.



Training the team have undertaken:

- All Terrain Vehicle
- Trailer towing
- Cable Avoidance Tool
- Fencing and gate installation: including post and rail, post and wire, gate and stile
- Introduction to woodland management
- Chainsaws – Maintenance, Crosscutting & Felling small trees up to 380mm (CS30 & CS31)
- Abrasive wheels safety awareness
- Brushcutters & trimmers
- Leaky dam installation (small)
- First Aid at Work

What we can offer:

The team is currently made up of six people: Crew Manager, Urban Forester and 4 x Urban Forestry Assistants. Equipment includes an all terrain vehicle and trailer, water bowser, chainsaws.

Services include:

- Tree planting: whips and standards
- Tree watering
- Tree felling (up to 380mm) and woodland maintenance
- Fencing & gate installation
- Brushcutting & vegetation clearance

Find out more

Please contact kevin@cityoftrees.org.uk to find out more.



"I have had the pleasure of working alongside City of Trees and their Urban Forestry Services team regarding various planting schemes within Bolton.

I have been very impressed with the product and delivery from the planning stage through to the planting days on site. The contracts team are always polite, cheery and get the job done efficiently."

**Brian Smith, Tree and Woodland Officer
Bolton Council**