

Greenwood

Community Forest



Forest Plan 2025 - 2050 Summary

2025 - 2050



Supported by




**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Greenwood is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest. It is a rich mosaic of land uses and wildlife habitats set in **246** square miles (896 square kilometres) stretching from Nottingham in the south, to the countryside beyond Mansfield in the north and to the river Trent in the east. It presently covers **41%** of Nottinghamshire and over a million people live within or close to it.



Credit: Gary Sipson




Greenwood is hosted and supported by Nottinghamshire County Council and collaborates with a wide range of partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors, along with local communities, to plant trees and improve our natural environment.

Trees and woodland ecosystems are an important part of our landscape and our local identity. They contribute significantly to leisure and tourism, health and wellbeing, economic prosperity, nature recovery and environmental resilience.


Our mission is to maintain and expand a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a healthy and resilient environment for people and wildlife to live in and benefit from.

The Greenwood Community Forest Vision is ‘A thriving landscape, rich in trees and woodlands, benefiting people, nature and the planet’



Greenwood is a part of a network of 15 Community Forest across England. Each Community Forest has a Forest Plan which describes the proposals for developing that Forest over the next 25 years. This Forest Plan, which updates the previous version published in 2000, builds on Greenwood’s long-term experience and impact since being established in 1991, working with local communities, partner organisations and groups to plant over 3.4 million trees and establish over 1,900 hectares of new woodland habitats.

Over the past five years the Trees for Climate programme, part of the national, Government-led, Nature for Climate fund delivered by England’s Community Forests, has enabled Greenwood to establish over 570 hectares of new woodland habitats in Nottinghamshire, increasing the many benefits they provide and bringing substantial investment into the local economy.



Whilst many of the reasons for forming Greenwood remain relevant today, significant changes in the physical, social, environmental and political landscape provide new challenges and new opportunities, requiring an updated strategy.

The Greenwood area has been reviewed and a decision has been made to expand it, placing Sherwood Forest at its heart and extending towards the east to include the large urban area of Newark- on-Trent, bringing the many benefits to a larger part of the county and to more people.

Our tree and woodland planting, along with the management of existing habitats, is guided by robust data, opportunity mapping and ‘on the ground’ knowledge, and managed in accordance with best practice, in line with the principles set out in the UK Forestry Standard.

The aspirations of the Forest Plan align with local, regional and national strategies, and advocate for collaborative working to maximise expertise, resources and impact. The Plan is a call to action, marking the start of an exciting new chapter for Greenwood Community Forest.

Summary of impact (1991-2024)

3,404,299
trees planted



367
school projects with
4,400 pupils involved



1,939
hectares
woodland
established



270
community tree planting
projects, **9,200** people
involved, more than
21,000 trees planted

80km
hedgerows
planted or
restored



13,000
people from
local communities
involved in health and
wellbeing projects

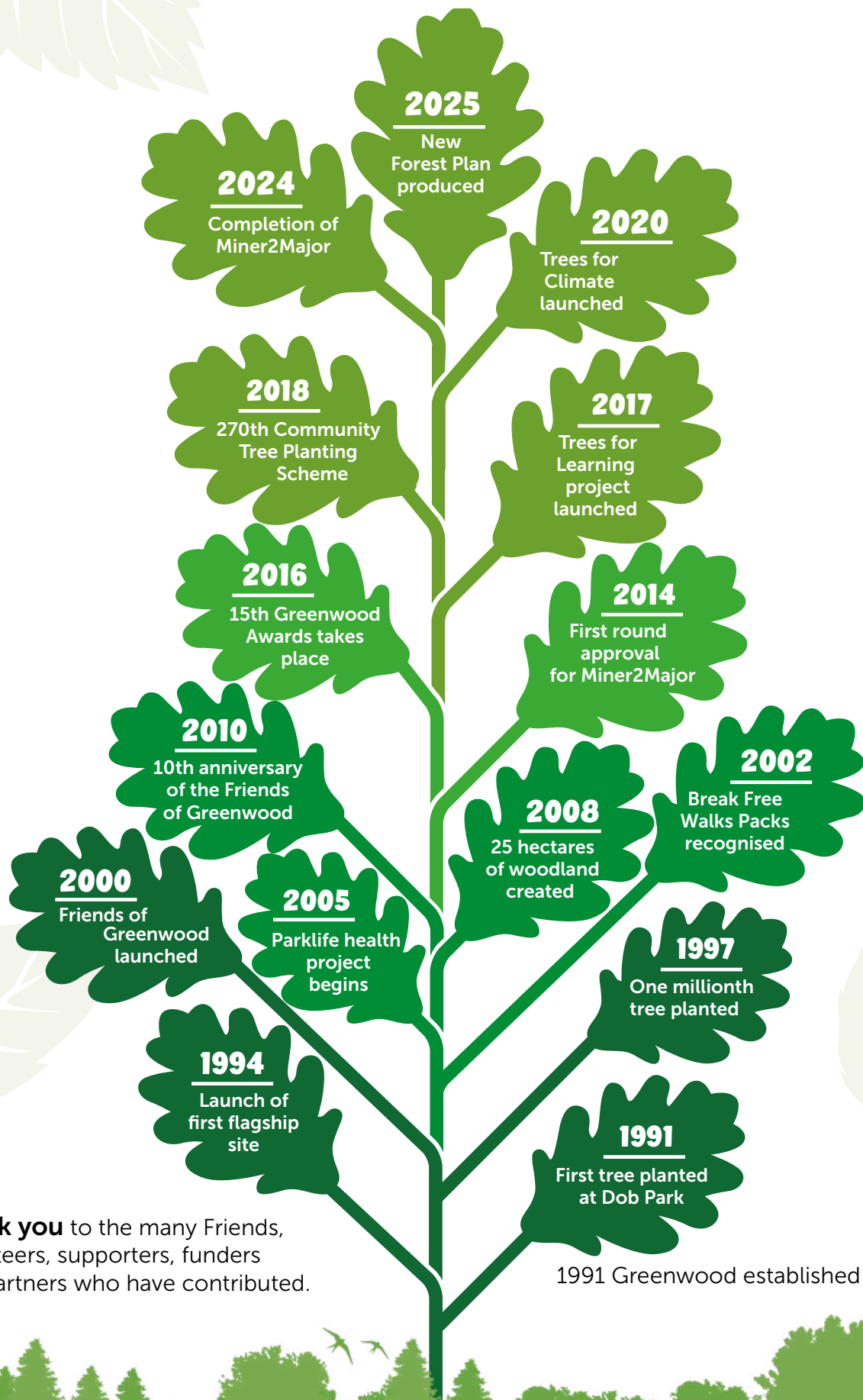


Greenwood area map

This map shows the location of Greenwood Community Forest within Nottinghamshire



Growing the Greenwood Community Forest



Thank you to the many Friends, volunteers, supporters, funders and partners who have contributed.

1991 Greenwood established

2025 - The third Greenwood Community Forest Plan is published, setting out the strategic direction for the Community Forest up to 2050.

2024 - Completion of the Miner2Major 'Trees and Hedges' project, collaborating with landowners and local communities to plant 20 heritage trees, 2.85 km of hedgerow, 120 hedgerow trees and organising 28 community tree planting projects.

2020 - Greenwood begins delivery of the Trees for Climate programme, part of the national, Government-led, Nature for Climate fund delivered by England's Community Forests. Since 2020 over 590 hectares of new woodland has been planted.

2018 - Greenwood's Community Tree Planting Grant scheme supports its 270th project. In all 9,200 residents have planted 21,000 trees with schools and groups

2017 - Greenwood joined fellow Community Forests to deliver the Defra funded 'Trees for Learning' project. Working with 74 schools, 4,490 trees have been planted in schools and green spaces in Nottinghamshire by 3,270 children and helpers.

2016 - Volunteers attend the 15th Greenwood Community Awards celebration. Since 2000 volunteers and others have nominated 248 individuals and 84 groups for awards leading to 195 Greenwood Awards presented

2014 - Greenwood plays a major role in preparing the first round bid for the Miner2Major project leading to £3.7m National Lottery Heritage Funding funding being secured in 2018

2010 - 10th anniversary of the Friends of Greenwood. 120 volunteers gather to celebrate the Community Forum's milestone

2008 - Nottinghamshire Landscape Challenge Scheme creates 25 hectares of woodland to improve the wildlife value and landscape appeal of the A614 corridor

2005 - Launch of the 3-year Parklife project involving 13,000 people in 167 activities to improve health and fitness

2002 - Break Free Greenwood Walks 2 is launched and receives the Heart of England Tourism Board's "Tourism for All" Gold Award

2000 - Inaugural meeting of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to enable volunteers to share skills and knowledge. Over 250 volunteers from 58 groups have attended Forum meetings since then

1997 - One millionth tree is planted in Greenwood

1994 - First Greenwood flagship site is opened at Brierley Forest Park, Huthwaite

1991 - The first tree is planted at Dob Park by Paddy Tipping MP. Since then partners have planted over 2 million trees creating over 1300 ha of new woodland



Our vision:

A thriving landscape, rich in trees and woodlands, that benefits people, nature and the planet

Our mission:

Maintain and expand a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a healthy and resilient environment for people and wildlife to live in and benefit from



To deliver this vision we will:

- 1 Increase tree and woodland cover and improve habitat connectivity for wildlife** by working with partner organisations and local communities, taking need, opportunity and other land uses into account.
- 2 Manage and protect existing trees, woodlands and green spaces** to improve ecological health and resilience, and their ability to mitigate the impacts of impacts of changing climate conditions.
- 3 Encourage greater public participation** in the creation, management and use of woodlands and green spaces, fostering a deeper relationship with nature and the many benefits it provides.
- 4 Promote the benefits of trees, woodlands and green spaces** for people, nature, and the planet, to increase engagement, learning and volunteering opportunities, celebrate achievements and demonstrate impact.
- 5 Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Community Forest** by enhancing its profile, emphasising its significance and value, and fostering increased participation, collaborative partnerships, and investment.



Benefits of trees

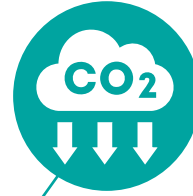
Produce fruit and nut crops



Produce timber and other wood products



Capture and store carbon



Improve our mental health and wellbeing



Provide recreational and employment opportunities



Improve air quality



Provide shade and cooling



Reduce flood risk



Improve soil quality and reduce erosion



Provide habitats and food for wildlife



Improve biodiversity



Add to the beauty and aesthetic of landscapes

Objectives by 2050

1. Increasing tree, woodland and hedgerow cover

Offer advice, support and financial assistance to enable Greenwood partners, landowners and communities to increase tree canopy cover across the community forest area from 17.9% to at least 20%.

How:

- Establish a minimum of 2,000 hectares of new woodland by 2050
- Plant 250 medium-size individual trees in urban areas by 2050
- Plant or restore 100km of hedgerow by 2050

2. Improving the quality of trees, woodlands and green spaces

Offer advice, support and financial assistance to landowners with the aim of seeing at least 70% of woodland habitats in the community forest area under sustainable management by 2050.

How:

- Ensure that all new woodland habitats established by Greenwood, or through Greenwood funding, are sustainably managed.
- Work with Greenwood Community Forest partners to ensure that all trees and woodland habitats owned and managed by them are under sustainable management.
- Offer advice, support and funding opportunities to private landowners to encourage and enable sustainable management of woodland.

3. Engagement, participation and collaboration

Create a culture of collaborative and inclusive ownership of the community forest and delivery of the Forest Plan, maintaining its relevance and sustainability for multiple generations.

How:

- Involve at least 2,000 people annually in the growth, maintenance and enjoyment of the community forest.
- Make the Greenwood partnership broader and more inclusive in terms of direct membership and those who advise and support its work.
- Embed structures that provide opportunities for the active participation of young people in the community forest.

Our three core themes of People, Nature and Planet:

People



Trees and woodland habitats are an important part of our landscape and local identity. They make valuable contributions to people's leisure, health and wellbeing, and economic prosperity.

We will draw on Greenwood's strong roots of engaging with local communities, groups and organisations to maximise these benefits.

- Plant trees where people live, work and enjoy leisure time, reflecting need and inequality.
- Celebrate the benefits of trees, woodlands and wider green spaces, running activities to engage and grow participation.
- Provide educational and hands-on learning experiences for all ages, promoting a deeper understanding, appreciation and connection to nature.
- Support volunteer groups, volunteering and volunteer training.
- Improve health and wellbeing by promoting regular interaction with natural environments.
- Involve communities in the design, planting and management of new trees and woodlands, and enable and support community planting schemes.
- Work with partners to identify skills shortages, promote forestry-related careers and create employment opportunities.

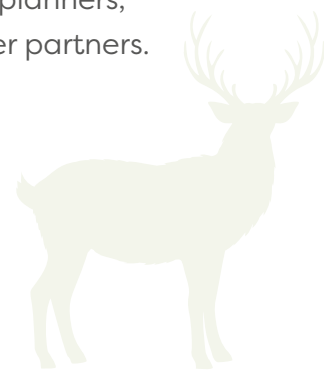


Nature

Nature is in crisis due to the loss and decline of suitable habitats, pollution and, leading to an increasing loss of biodiversity.

We will work to protect and restore habitats to enable species survival and maintain ecological balance, essential for nature and for human wellbeing.

- Improve, expand and connect habitats across the community forest area and adjoining landscapes.
- Use an evidence-based approach to plant trees and woodland in areas of greatest benefit, integrating with other habitats and land uses, using the principle of 'right tree, in the right place, for the right reason'.
- Work with landowners and managers to improve the biodiversity of existing woodlands through active management.
- Safeguard areas of ecological significance and establish new opportunities for nature conservation.
- Protect ancient and veteran trees and create the right conditions for them to thrive, recognising their ecological, cultural and historical value.
- Manage existing woodlands in line with the principles set out in the UK Forestry Standard with the aim of improving species, structural, and genetic diversity, increasing resilience, and supporting biodiversity.
- Integrate trees into nature recovery and green infrastructure planning, working with developers, planners, highways teams and other partners.



Planet

Changes in environmental conditions impact our lives, with unpredictable weather events becoming more commonplace, disrupting food and water supplies and damaging ecosystems.

We will harness the positive impacts trees and woodlands make by absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing air pollution, providing shade and supporting biodiversity.

- Plant more trees in neighbourhoods and the wider countryside, increasing tree canopy coverage across the community forest area.
- Support landowners and managers in the active management of existing trees and woodland.
- Raise awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change and the role trees and woodlands have in mitigating them.
- Aim to use local suppliers, reduce waste and conserve resources, promoting a circular economy and strengthening both business and community resilience.
- Deliver and support initiatives that enhance local markets for timber, improve food security and support agroforestry practices.
- Contribute towards local and national action for reducing carbon emissions and meeting carbon neutral targets, including the Net Zero 2025 requirement
- Increase ecosystem resilience by supporting and responding to research aimed at understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change.



In delivering our vision we will apply these broad principles



Engage and involve local communities, addressing inequalities and growing local action



Work as a broad-based partnership, to maximise involvement, expertise, skills and resources



Prioritise tree and woodland establishment in areas of greatest benefit and need, making best use of resources



Plant the right tree in the right place for the right reason, considering other natural habitats and land use priorities



Manage existing trees and woodlands in accordance with best practice



Adopt an evidence-led approach, monitor delivery against targets, report on impact and celebrate achievements

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