

## **Mersey Forest to benefit from 500-hectare tree planting plan**

21 December 2020

The Mersey Forest, which covers Warrington, Cheshire and Merseyside, will be one of 10 community forests across England planting more than 500 hectares of trees over the next five months in a push to help deliver the Government's tree planting targets.

Warrington is criss-crossed with some of the Mersey Forest's most important green corridors, such as the Manchester Ship Canal, River Mersey, Bridgewater Canal, and Transpennine Trail.

The new programme – Trees for Climate – will see trees planted in community forests that span the country from Yorkshire to Somerset.

When mature, the trees will eventually store more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of over 45,000 trans-Atlantic flights, and contribute to meeting the Government's net zero by 2050 target.

The project will reduce flood risk, increase sustainable UK grown timber, provide more places for nature and biodiversity to thrive and increase peoples' access to and enjoyment of woodland.

The funding will also create new jobs and secure existing ones within the forestry and environmental sector, helping to boost local economies as part of a green recovery.

In the next five months, The Mersey Forest Partnership is aiming to plant nearly 40 hectares of new woodland, with landowners encouraged to contact The Mersey Forest Team if they have land suitable for tree planting.

Paul Nolan, director of The Mersey Forest and the chair of England's Community Forests, said: "Our Trees for Climate programme will plant millions more trees around England's town and cities.

"They will target areas where they can make the greatest difference, in particular to local quality of life and levels of health and wellbeing.

"The national network of community forests has been working for over 25 years to bring nature closer to people and local communities and is perfectly placed to deliver real change on the ground."

Source: <https://www.warringtonguardian.co.uk/news/18954812.mersey-forest-benefit-500-hectare-tree-planting-plan/>