

Trees and Woods Strategy

The Vision:

“To double the canopy cover of West Northamptonshire to 20% with suitable and well managed trees and woodland”.

West Northamptonshire has a below UK average canopy cover. This ambitious vision sets a target to double the cover by 2045.

How we will do this:

How we will achieve this is set out in the five themes of the strategy.

Theme 1 Plant and Protect

- Planting new trees and woods across the district in our towns, villages and rural areas.
- Doing this carefully to ensure we enhance the local landscape, benefit our communities and wildlife.
- Carefully selecting the species and their mix to have a diverse and resilient tree population, protected from some of the worst effects of climate change and diseases.

Theme 2 Restore and Protect

- Manage our existing trees and woods to maximise their many benefits and meet our obligations.
- Protecting our most important trees.
- This will give the opportunity to review and revise our current practices to ensure we meet current expectations.

Theme 3 Collaborate and Co-ordinate

- To achieve the vision we need to work together.
- We will work closely with our Parish and Town Council’s identifying planting opportunities and guiding responsible tree care.
- Co-ordinating the WNC’s management of its own trees.

Theme 4 Delivery and Funding

- Work proactively to ensure we can maximise external funding opportunities as and when they become available.
- Introduce methods to ensure suitable and sufficient replacement trees are planted when existing ones have to be removed.
- Use current funding in the most effective ways to achieve our vision and meet our obligations. Identify any savings or shortfalls.

Theme 5 Recording and Reporting

- We will report annually on the progress noting our successes and ongoing challenges.
- Review and revise our practices to learn, improve and share best practice.
- Full review and revision of the strategy in year five.

The full detail can be found within the strategy and its appendices.