

Nature Towns and Cities

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Bringing nature home

Millions of people living in urban areas lack vital access to nature and green space. Nature

communities and partners to bring nature into every neighbourhood for all to enjoy.

Everyone feels the benefit when nature is part of our daily lives. Evidence shows it makes us healthier, happier, more connected and more resilient. But years of squeezed resources and competition for urban space has meant that nature, green spaces and parks have been neglected or lost from many places.

Urban communities are suffering the effects - few green spaces to play, relax or socialise and neighbourhoods that are too hot, with polluted air and more likely to flood. Recent data shows that 87% of urban households in England (over 56 million people) don't have access to green space within an average 5 minute walk from home.

[Get Nature Towns and Cities updates](#)



We're committed to enabling 100 UK towns and cities become better places to live and work, by putting nature and green space at the heart of their priorities and investment. Through supporting their progress, we want to benefit those communities currently missing out, so that by 2035:

- 5 million more people have easy access to nature and green space in their neighbourhoods
- 1 million more children can grow and play in greener streets and spaces very close to home

We are including every kind of green and blue space freely accessible to people and where nature lives, from street trees to community gardens, from urban woods to historic public



We're offering places a package of support including funding to build capacity and partnerships, peer networks to share learning and practical solutions, and schemes to attract new investment.

The scale and urgency of this challenge requires a strong coalition of partners and funders from across UK society, business and government. We will build that collective around ambitious shared goals, respecting different strengths and prioritising local needs.

How it will work

Achieving the ambitious, long lasting changes we all want to see for the UK is challenging but achievable if we work together. We're making it

The Network

Open to all, and free to be a member.
The Network will serve local government,

change. We want to build Nature Towns and Cities together, learning and developing as we go, responding to the help that places need.

Explore what Nature Towns and Cities will offer:

access to a programme of events and training, a library of resources, as well as tailored support. You'll be inspired and helped by your peers, sharing what works and able to tap into collective wisdom to solve problems.

[Join our series of network taster events online](#) this autumn and read on to find out more about the Network below.

Accreditation and assurance

Capacity-building grants

Apply for a grant

From now until 12 November, you can submit an Expression of Interest. Find out more on The National Lottery Heritage Fund website.

Our shared goals to enable a greener future for all

We'll support local authorities, community organisations and their partners to improve and grow networks of green space throughout their towns and cities. From tree-lined streets and community greens to heritage parks and canal paths.

We aim to support at least:

- 1,000 existing green or blue spaces improved for people, nature and heritage
- 1,000 street or pocket parks developed in neighbourhoods lacking green space
- 100 major new green spaces created from urban centres to their fringe

More people enjoying the outdoors

Communities taking the lead

Fairer places resilient to the climate crisis

Nature as part of the urban fabric

Thriving places to be proud of

Join the Network

This is an open invitation to join the Nature Towns and Cities Network.

We know that Nature Towns and Cities aligns with ambitions across the public, voluntary and private sectors. From local authorities to businesses, from community organisations to government departments, from charities to philanthropists. We all want to see greener, healthier, thriving communities in our towns and cities. It just makes sense.

Learn how the Network could help you:



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For local authorities and the public sector

and this programme helped us find new ways of approaching nature-based solutions for our communities and maximising nature's impact on our communities. We are now pioneers of Scotland's first Nature Network. With over 200 actions identified to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape in Edinburgh, we've seen tangible changes on the ground which are making a difference for both people and nature." (Linda Anglin, Edinburgh City Council)

As part of Nature Towns and Cities you'll connect to a network of peers working on similar challenges and sharing answers. You'll have access to the latest evidence, guidance and expertise to drive change and address the pressing challenges facing your area. From highways to health and social care to jobs and skills, it's a way to tap into best practice, and unlock the benefits of nature for your communities and place.

We'll support you to:

- Empower communities
- Build partnerships
- Write comprehensive green infrastructure and improvement plans
- Develop new operational and financial models
- Create an ambitious pipeline of costed projects
- Demonstrate your case for investment

[Sign up](#) to hear more about the Network when it launches.

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For voluntary and community organisations

Over the past few years, we've been working with the National Trust, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and BCP Council to enhance our parks; the impact we've been able to have working together has been huge, and we've been able to make sure our community's voice has been heard as part of that. We are excited by the opportunities we have to build on this work, bringing a true sense of community to our parks. Through our community cafes, growing spaces and volunteering opportunities, we can bring people and nature together." (John Hanson, The Parks Foundation, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole)

When we bring nature into the heart of our communities, towns and cities, the benefits are shared by everyone. Every tree, plant, community garden and open space leads to enhanced health and wellbeing, stronger community spirit, and greater resilience for the future. Community and voluntary organisations are vital partners, bringing irreplaceable local knowledge and willpower.

Nature Towns and Cities is here to connect you to a national network of like minds pursuing their own opportunities. We will provide access to evidence, expertise and best practice. And we will help communities unlock the benefits of nature in every aspect of civic life.

We'll support you to:

- Attract investment into your communities
- Build productive partnerships
- Influence policy and delivery in your area
- Develop organisational resilience

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Sign up to hear more

Sign up for email updates about Nature Towns and Cities. We will share news and upcoming events, and you'll be the first to know when the full programme launches in 2025.

Read our [privacy policy](#).

Email Address (Required)

Register

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