

TDAG Online Seminar Series 2025

Registration will be available four weeks ahead of each seminar



**Working in collaboration
for better places**

TDAG Online Seminar Series Hosted on Zoom

We will provide full details of each seminar as part of a rolling programme

Designing and delivering resilience for today and tomorrow? Start with the trees

Resilience relates to more than climate resilience. We need environmental, economic and social resilience to the multiple challenges that we find ourselves facing. Trees can make a remarkable contribution to many aspects of resilience, as well as the need for us to help trees to be resilient themselves. The seminars for 2025, reflecting suggestions from TDAG members, will explore different aspects of designing and delivering resilience and the contribution that trees can make.

Seminar One (See Past Events)

Trees for human resilience and wellbeing

25th February, 3-5pm GMT

Seminar Two (See Past Events)

Healthy Trees, Healthy Places, Healthy People – why we need more canopy cover, tree equity and planting success

5th March, 2.30-3.15pm GMT

In person at Futurebuild Placemaking Impact Stage, Futurebuild, ExCel, London

Seminar Three (See Past Events)

Resilience through canopy cover

3rd April, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Four

Resilience through planning for trees

13th May, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Five

Resilience to tree pests and diseases

10th June, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Six

Working together for resilient streets – the retrofit challenge of integrating green, grey and blue infrastructure

8th July, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Seven

Creating tree resilience in response to changing weather patterns

11th September, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Eight

How education in schools can encourage resilience for urban treescapes

8th October, 2-4pm BST

Seminar Nine

Growing a resilient research base

4th November, 2-4pm GMT

Seminar Ten

Resilience through BNG? What have we learned – a two-year review

4th December, 2-4pm GMT

Date
25th February

Time
3-5pm GMT

Registration
Zoom

This session was prompted by the inspirational evidence backed guidance developed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority on *The Health Benefits of Urban Trees*. What this guidance provides in one place is that each topic area relating to trees and health is backed by a reference to evidence-based research. This makes it a valuable tool for those who are trying to win the case for why investment in trees can deliver vital, cost saving benefits for improving community health. We will also hear about positive actions for trees and health in The Mersey Forest working with partners in the north of England. Join our seminar and put your questions to our expert speakers.

Agenda

Chair: Dr Suzanne Bartington, Clinical Associate Professor in Environmental Health, University of Birmingham

Updating the health benefits of urban trees – guidance by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Dr Kathy Wolf, Research Social Scientist, Affiliate of College of Built Environments University of Washington

Sharon Lam, Intermediate Research Scientist, Ecosystem and Climate Science, Watershed Planning and Ecosystem Science | Development and Engineering Services, TRCA

Assessing the benefits – lessons from The Mersey Forest

Gareth Howatson, Natural Health Service Co-ordinator, The Mersey Forest

Dr Hannah Burnett, Postdoctoral Research Associate working within the GroundsWell Consortium

Partners: Institute of Chartered Foresters, Town and Country Planning Association

Please note: We will keep the meeting open for 15 minutes after the session ends at 5pm if anyone attending wants to discuss wider TDAG business

Healthy Trees, Healthy Places, Healthy People – why we need more canopy cover, tree equity and planting success

Date
5th March
In person at
Futurebuild
Placemaking
Impact Stage,
Futurebuild,
ExCel, London

Time
2.30-3.15pm GMT

Registration
Futurebuild

Attending is free

It is well recognised that nature-based solutions have a major role to play in response to the twin emergencies of climate change impacts and biodiversity loss. The need to restore nature and increase biodiversity is vital in both rural and urban areas with the latter gaining added benefits for both place and human health and wellbeing. Trees are a cornerstone of cross-sector solutions, contributing to climate resilience, biodiversity enhancement, public health, urban planning, and community wellbeing.

Therefore we need to ensure that trees are equally distributed, that we have the levels of canopy cover required and, above all, that the additional trees that we plant become established and live the trans-generational lives that they can and should do. This session will explore these three issues in more detail, inviting the audience to participate with their questions and comments.

Agenda

Chair: Jim Smith, Urban Forestry Advisor, Forestry Commission

Why we need increased urban tree canopy cover

Deanne Brettle, PhD candidate, University of Birmingham

Tree equity – what it is and the benefits it delivers

Caroline Campbell, Urban Project Officer, The Woodland Trust

Tree planting success – what the research shows

Martin Gammie, Managing Director, Consulting with Trees

You can also visit the TDAG stand at Futurebuild – C64 in the Placemaking area

Date
3rd April

Time
2-4pm BST

Registration
Zoom

Trees are part of nature-based solutions (NbS) to deliver mitigation and adaptation to climate change while simultaneously providing benefits to biodiversity and people. This raises some key questions:

- Do we know where our trees are and, importantly, where they are not?
- How can we measure actual changes in the urban forest over time?
- How can we model future changes at different scales and over different time spans?

Urban Tree Canopy Cover (UTCC) assessment is one tool that can be used alongside ground-truthed data and tree inventory data – species, age, health – to help answer these questions. It is a method of quantifying how much of a given area is covered by the leaves, branches, and stems of trees and is usually expressed as a percentage. UTCC values and targets have become increasingly embedded in both planning policies and strategies in relation to the built environment, resulting in calls for canopy cover assessments for new development sites to include careful projections of the size of individual trees over 10-, 20-, 30-years.

But there is no standardised method to do this. Why? Because it is really difficult as trees are individual, living beings that grow in response to their surroundings.

In this seminar we'll discuss the positives and negatives of the approaches to determine present and future canopy cover.

Agenda

Chair: **John Rose**, Senior Urban Forest Consultant, TreeCo₂nomics

Theory:

An overview of the TDAG First Steps guides

Deanne Brettle, PhD candidate, University of Birmingham and lead author

A strategic approach to canopy cover – First Steps Part 1

Hannah Walker, Urban Forest Research Scientist, Forest Research

How accurately can we predict canopy cover projects?

What are the uncertainties and how much does accuracy matter?

– First Steps Part 2

Luke Fay, Managing Director, Treework Environmental Practice

Delivering in practice and its impact

Chris Leyland, Tree Officer, Oxford City Council

James Gregory, Tree Officer, Cornwall Council

Partners: Arboricultural Association,

Institute of Chartered Foresters, Landscape Institute,

Urban Design Group

Please note: We will keep the meeting open for 15 minutes after the session ends at 4pm if anyone attending wants to discuss wider TDAG business

Date
13th May

Time
2-4pm BST

Registration
Zoom

Do we need adopted tree strategies or urban forest plans so that planners can ensure that trees and green infrastructure are prioritised in development decisions? Would this provide developers with a level playing field and enable them to incorporate the costs of trees and green infrastructure from the outset? Should tree officers be in planning departments to enable greater cross-sector collaboration? How do we ensure enforcement of trees in planning permissions? How do we ensure that the necessary aftercare and monitoring is carried out in terms of both financial support and clear responsibilities? This seminar seeks to answer some of these questions.

Agenda

Chair: **Jane Findlay**, Founding Director, FIRA and Past-President Landscape Institute

Speakers:

Resilient treescapes need resilient, adopted tree strategies – a review

Eugene McGee, University of Birmingham

Resilient treescapes need tree officers to be at the heart of planning and asset management

Dale Mortimer, Chair, London Tree Officers Association and Tree Service Manager, LB Ealing

An holistic approach for trees encompassing planning, asset management, strategy, and engagement

Joanna Davies, Arboricultural Officer, Cambridge City Council

Clear planning requirements enable developers to cost and implement resilient trees and green infrastructure

Lee Heykoop, Manager – Landscape, Master Developer and Design Team, Homes England

Partners: Arboricultural Association, Institution of Highway Engineers, Landscape Institute, Town and Country Planning Association, Urban Design Group

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Date
10th June

Time
2-4pm BST

Registration
Zoom

Our treescapes face the dual challenge of increasing pests and diseases and climatic change. Increasing globalisation of tree markets and global travel means that there is greater potential for non-native diseases and pathogens to reach the UK. Climatic change is also changing the prevalence of pests and diseases within supplier markets and can provide opportunities for new pests and pathogens to become established within new areas of the UK. This seminar will review what the government, suppliers, and all those working with trees can do to build resilience to pests and pathogens under our changing climate.

Agenda

Chair: Tony Kirkham MBE, author and former Head of the Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services, The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and TDAG Patron

The impact of weather and climate on pests and diseases
Debbie Hemming, Scientific Manager of Vegetation-Climate Interactions Team, the Met Office

Where we are, where things are going, what the government is doing
Lisa Smith, Head of Tree Health Policy & Plant Health Evidence & Analysis, Defra

The nursery industry - how they are protecting biosecurity?
Adam Dunnett, Director, Hillier

The Landscape Institute's Biosecurity Toolkit - from research to practice
Ben Brace, Senior Landscape Architect, Pad Landscapes
Harry Watkins, Director of the St Andrews Botanic Garden

**Partners: Arboricultural Association,
Institute of Chartered Foresters, Landscape Institute**

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Working together for resilient streets – the retrofit challenge of integrating green, grey and blue infrastructure

Date
8th July

Time
2-4pm BST

Registration
Zoom

Research evidence clearly outlines the multiple benefits of urban trees including street trees across the social, environmental and economic spectrum. The physical benefits include reducing urban heat, contributing to surface water management, creating better environments for active travel and placemaking generally.

But, in order to achieve these outcomes we need integrated collaboration across the board from those who pay to those who benefit and this includes recognising trees as part of our critical urban infrastructure to be integrated with underground services – this is particularly challenging in retrofit situations – general street elements such as lighting; designing both for the location and with aftercare and low maintenance in mind; implementing effectively using the right skills; delivering within budgets and ensuring that ongoing maintenance is undertaken. How do we deal with the challenges? What does success look like? We have a National Design Guide and a National Model Design Code – do we need a National Underground Design Guide? This seminar will explore these issues and offers some case studies to demonstrate what success looks like.

Agenda

Chair: Holger Kessler, Senior Stakeholder Manager, AtkinsRéalis

Let's start with the underground – where are the services?

Carsten Roesndorf, Strategic Product Manager – National Underground Asset Register, Ordnance Survey

Finding space for trees in congested urban environments

Speaker TBC

Case Studies:

How to integrate trees, sustainable drainage and utilities for better placemaking

Zac Tudor, Director for Place Resilience, Arup

Finding the funding

Adam Boucher, Operations Lead – Green Recovery, Mansfield Sustainable Flooding Resilience, Severn Trent Water

Partners: Institution of Highway Engineers, Landscape Institute, Street Work, Urban Design Group

Please note: We will keep the meeting open for 15 minutes after the session ends at 4pm if anyone attending wants to discuss wider TDAG business

Date
11th September

TBC

Agenda

Time
2-4pm BST

TBC

Registration
Zoom

How education in schools can encourage resilience for urban treescapes

Date
8th October

Time
2-4pm BST

Registration
[Zoom](#)

20 years ago Richard Louv published a seminal book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder*. Of course the evidence shows that we all need nature...and nature needs us particularly in the UK which, as we are regularly reminded, is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. 'Nature needs us' only in as much as we need to respect it and enable it so that we increase real biodiversity and nature restoration. We are all responsible – looking after nature is not “someone else’s job”. The current older generations haven’t done too well on that front, but younger people are keen to act as demonstrated by Teach the Future, the student led climate and ecological education campaign, with an ambition to rewild 30% of school grounds. So ‘education’ is a key tool in nature recovery and education can be gained in many ways not just in the classroom but through community actions for tree planting, by the buildings and landscapes in which people learn. This seminar explores ideas that are being put into practice and why the right education today will help ensure benefits for nature tomorrow.

Agenda

Chair: Dr Paul Vare, Chair of Trustees for The National Association for Environmental Education (NAEE) and Senior Lecturer, Research and Development, University of Gloucester

What the research shows us when children engage with trees and nature – the role of childhood experience of trees and other biodiversity in promoting pro-nature attitudes and behaviours
Dr Bethan Stagg, Social Scientist, Forest Research

Creating schools that celebrate nature will encourage interest in nature: our biophilic schools
Crawford Wright, Head of Architecture and Design, Department for Education
Meaghan Kombol, Lead Sustainability Design Advisor for Green Infrastructure, Department for Education

Why we need to include nature along with climate change as mandatory in the school curriculum
Freddie Emms, Campaign Organiser, Teach the Future

Working with schools to plant and care for trees as the largest and longest living element in nature – how individuals can make a difference
Russell Horsey, Director and Urban Forestry Consultant, Goetre Villa Ltd

Partners: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Institute of Chartered Foresters, Landscape Institute

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