

# Waltham Forest CityTrees:

Improving air quality through biotechnology and urban greening

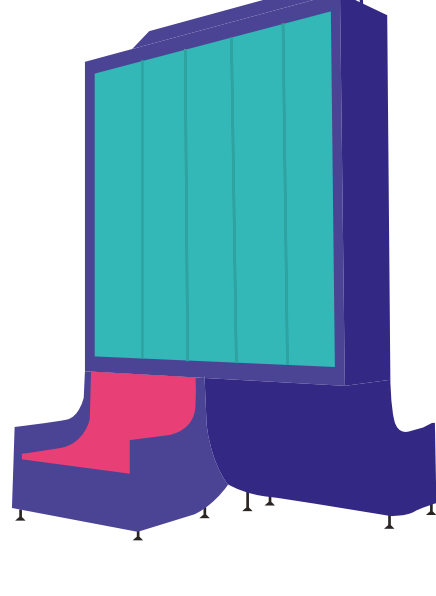


One of two City Trees installed in Leytonstone. Picture credit: [ianVists.co.uk](#)

The [London Borough of Waltham Forest](#) installed two permanent CityTrees in Leytonstone to improve local air quality, as part of their match funding contribution to [Cross River Partnership's \(CRP\) Healthy Streets Everyday](#) programme. Waltham Forest's project, collaborating with [Evergen](#) and [Green City Solutions](#), has been part of their commitment to tackling the climate emergency and improving local air quality.

The two CityTrees are located on some of the most polluted areas and roads in the borough; one is located at a bus station directly outside Leytonstone Station next to the A12, which has the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide in the borough. The other CityTree can be found at the busy intersection of Leytonstone High Road, Leytonstone Road, Cann Hall Road, Crownfield Road.

## What is a CityTree?



The CityTrees, created by Green City Solutions, are the first permanent installations of their kind in London. CityTrees are freestanding, outdoor air cleaning systems that use plants and mosses to absorb harmful pollutants, such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide.

The solar-powered structures have been fitted with self-sustaining and automatic irrigation systems, through plant sensors, and seating for the local community to use and enjoy as part of a Healthy Street. CityTrees have been [seen in cities around the world](#), such as Berlin, Paris, and Oslo, including a temporary CityTree installation in London's West End.



**Waltham Forest Council has been tackling climate change for over a decade. Installing two CityTrees is one of the many measures we are taking to improve air quality in the borough.**

**Councillor Clyde Loakes  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment,  
London Borough of Waltham Forest**



CityTree at Leytonstone underground station. Picture credit: [ianVists.co.uk](#)



**We are pleased to have installed two city trees in Leytonstone as part of the fight against poor air quality, helping to tackle climate change and reduce exposure to toxic air.**

**Alan Urquhart  
Air Quality Officer,  
London Borough of Waltham Forest**



## The Impact



London's first permanent installation using biotechnology pollution filters



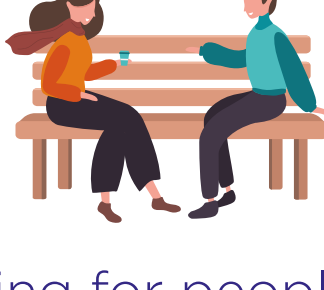
The biotechnology filters use living plants and mosses to capture and remove pollutants



The project gives the pollution reduction benefits equivalent to planting

**275**

urban trees



Seating for people to stop and rest, with one CityTree located adjacent to a bus stop



The second CityTree in Leytonstone. Picture credit: [ianVists.co.uk](#)

## What is the Healthy Streets Everyday Programme?

CRP's [Healthy Streets Everyday Programme](#) is a 3-year cross-sector project that is funded by the Mayor's Air Quality Fund. The project aims to empower boroughs, businesses and communities across London to deliver pedestrian-priority healthy streets, increase walking rates and reduce emissions and exposure to toxic air pollution.

The programme is also helping to supplement London's COVID response by creating streets that can accommodate and encourage increases in sustainable and active travel, and that are pleasant, safe places that all Londoners' can safely enjoy.

**For more information please visit CRP's [Healthy Streets Everyday webpage](#).**



## Project Partners

Cross River Partnership is proud to be working with the following Local Authorities and other partners.

