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NTA's Tree Replanting/ Landscaping Programme and FAQs

January 2026

National Transport Authority approach to tree replacement and landscaping programme

National Transport Authority's (NTA) approach to tree replacement is to plant more trees than it removes over the duration of the Scheme, in a considered and integrated manner to enhance aesthetics and biodiversity.

A variety of new tree species and sizes appropriate for their location are to be planted in urban tree pit systems to allow for protection of the soil structure and allow for good root development.

Wherever possible, we will seek to reuse materials from felled trees to benefit the community through community gardens, community groups, schools and towards the development of a Biodiversity Garden in the local area. Feedback from the public continues to be welcomed through formal consultation channels.

Our commitment to landscaping and green spaces

The intention for the implementation of landscape works is that when a given phase of the scheme is ready, the landscape works will be implemented, subject to any seasonal constraints for different varieties of trees and plants. This will ensure that we're investing in a greener Dublin along the Schemes as soon as we're able to, as the construction programme allows.

A baseline change could be, for example, that a tree died between the date the initial survey was undertaken and accordingly a new tree will then be planted to replace it.

Implementation of landscape works will be delivered in a phased approach following on from the civil works delivered by the contractor.

Why some trees have been identified for removal

Trees have been identified for removal only where necessary to facilitate essential infrastructure upgrades, such as road widening, improved pedestrian crossings, and the installation of cycle lanes and bus corridors.

Review and re-design of the initial alignment and extent of proposals through sensitive areas has reduced the loss of high-quality trees. Despite best efforts to retain mature and significant trees, some impacts are unavoidable due to spatial constraints and safety requirements.

Each tree removal decision was informed by a detailed Arboriculture Impact Assessment, carried out in accordance with The Arborist's Report. This assessment considered tree health, location, and potential conflicts with the proposed design. In total, 179 trees and 1,262m^2 of woodland/groups of trees are estimated to be affected.

However, these losses are being addressed through a comprehensive mitigation and replanting strategy, resulting in a net increase of over 30% new street trees and 500m^2 of native woodland/whip planting across the scheme.

We're already working on the next generation of trees

As we all know, trees take time to grow, which is why we're engaging with our suppliers to ensure the trees of tomorrow are already beginning their journey. The approved tree supplier, Temple Nurseries, has provided a Certificate of Provenance Declaration Form for all trees, plants and seeds. Where native plant and tree species are specified, subject to availability, plants shall have been grown in Ireland from seed of Irish origin. We will continue to engage with our suppliers to ensure the next generation of trees along the Schemes are ready for replanting when the time comes.

How we select the tree species

A combination of standard to semi-mature trees are proposed as they provide immediate and long-term benefits compared with young saplings. Because semi-mature trees already have established trunks, branches, and root systems, they provide instant visual impact, creating shade, structure, and greenery that can transform a landscape. They also stabilise soil and ecosystems more quickly, supporting biodiversity sooner than saplings can.

Their advanced root development makes them more resilient to harsh weather, pests, and competition, and they typically require less protection and maintenance in their early years. In urban projects, semi-mature trees can also increase property value and improve environmental performance—for example, by offering immediate carbon absorption and temperature regulation—while reducing the waiting time for a fully developed canopy.

Fun fact – tree growth rates

The tree species, sizes, and spacing shown are examples of the design intent. Final choices will depend on availability and detailed ground investigations.

- Fast-growing trees (alder, silver birch, Norway maple, London plane, Chanticleer pear, upright cherries) add 45–70 cm of canopy per year.
- Medium-growing trees (field and red maples, hornbeam, Turkish hazel, rowan, white spruce) grow steadily at 25–45 cm per year.
- Slow-growing trees (ginkgo, oaks—holm oak closer to medium) grow less than 25–35 cm per year but provide long life and valuable habitat.

Site preferences and resilience:

- Alder thrives in wet, low-fertility soils.
- Holm oak withstands wind and salt.
- Turkish hazel is tough in drought and urban conditions.
- London plane and maples tolerate urban environments.
- Red maple prefers moist ground.
- Hawthorn, cherries, and pear trees bloom in spring.
- Sweet gum and maples provide strong autumn colour.
- Quercus robur ‘Fastigiata’ (Common Oak) grows upright, making it suitable for narrow spaces.

Table 13.1: Proposed Tree Species

Species - Scientific Name	Common Names in English - Irish	Metres (of tree when fully grown)
Acer campestre	Field maple	12/14
Acer campestre	Field maple	8/10
Acer platanoides	Norway maple	14/16
Acer rubrum	Red maple	14/16
Aesculus x carnea	Red horse chestnut	12/14
Alnus glutinosa	Common alder	14/16, 12/14
Betula pendula	Silver birch / Beith gheal	14/16
Corylus colurna	Turkish Hazel	20-25
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	18-20
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree	8-20
Picea glauca	White spruce	2.5-3
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	12-14
Crataegus laevigata	Paul’s Scarlet (Midland hawthorn)	12-14
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan / Cáorthann ‘Sheerwater Seedling’	18-20
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan / Cáorthann	12-14
Prunus ‘Sunset boulevard’	Flowering cherry tree ‘Sunset Boulevard’	18-20
Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’	Flowering cherry tree	14-16
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum ‘Levis’	14-16
Platanus x hispanica	London plane	14-16
Platanus x hispanica	London plane	30-35
Quercus Ilex	Holm Oak	18-20
Quercus robur	Fastigiate common oak	18-20
Quercus robur	Common Oak	10-12, 14-16, 18-20

Proposed replanting timeline

Ideally trees will be planted in the autumn when stored energy is sequestered into roots, transpiration rates are drastically lower, and soil temperatures are still relatively warm. This increases the likelihood of roots growing into surrounding soil profile and lowers the chances of wilt. Root-balled trees can typically be planted any time of year, as long as the root system is kept moist to avoid wilting, and watered outside of freezing temperatures to avoid frost damage.

Your feedback made the difference

Prior to the planning application, multiple Public Consultations and scheme presentations took place with community groups. Stakeholders and statutory bodies including Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council and the Office of Public Works have been consulted through the design process. Feedback from the community post planning has also been acted upon specifically through the Ballyfermot area.

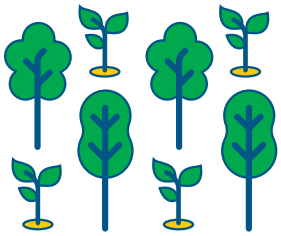
Tree Replacement Strategy

A Brief Overview

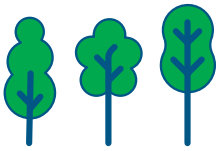
Early Project Planning
seek to avoid or minimise impacts

Our Approach to Tree Replacement
plant more trees than we remove
in a considered and integrated manner

Repurpose the felled trees sustainably to benefit the wider community



Main project delivery
progressive replacement –
plant more trees than we remove



Rationale for species of tree selection
a combination of standard to semi-mature trees will provide immediate and long-term benefits

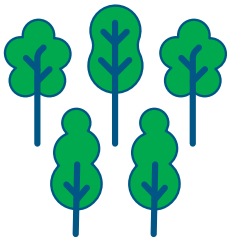
Rationale for use of mature trees
already grown/fully established

Why is vegetation removal needed?
in accordance with planning approval to facilitate essential infrastructural works

How the decision is made to remove trees?
A detailed Arboriculture Impact Assessment was conducted

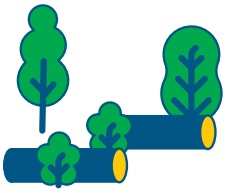
The NTA tries NOT to remove trees wherever possible to minimise environmental impacts

Timeline for replanting
Q3 2026



How many trees will be replanted?
Total replanting area
504m^2 of woodland

Tree supplier
Temple Nurseries, Approved with Certificate of Provenance Declaration Form



Larger felled trees will be repurposed for the following

Local Community Groups and Projects

Biodiversity Garden

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Q: Will the NTA be replacing all trees removed as part of the project?

While some tree loss is unavoidable, a robust replanting strategy has been developed. The scheme will result in a net increase of 354 semi-mature trees and 504m^2 of woodland area, ensuring long-term environmental benefits and alignment with the Dublin City Tree Strategy.

Q: Why is vegetation removal needed?

Vegetation removal is necessary to facilitate key infrastructure upgrades such as widened footpaths, cycle lanes, and improved public transport corridors. Despite best efforts to protect mature and significant trees, 179 trees and 1,262m^2 of woodland are estimated to be impacted. These losses have been addressed through targeted mitigation and replanting.

Q: What is the process for deciding if a tree needs to be removed?

A detailed Arboriculture Impact Assessment was carried out in line with BS5837:2012 standards. This included a tree survey, impact analysis, and mitigation planning. Only trees with a stem diameter over 75mm at 1.5m above ground level were considered, and removal decisions were made based on safety, infrastructure needs, and ecological value.

Q: How will the contractor work safely to minimise damage to live trees particularly during excavation works?

The contractor will take every effort to ensure the appropriate safety protocols are in place prior to undertaking any excavation works by first conducting a feasibility study, measuring the exact distances between the site area/live works and nearby trees and safely cordoning off and securing the area(s) to prevent unnecessary breaking of branches and damage to surrounding trees etc.
The contractor will ensure up to date records and measurements are kept and will be updated in real time as works progress.

Q: Does the NTA try to avoid removing trees wherever possible?

Yes. The design has been refined in multiple locations, including Grattan Crescent, Ballyfermot Road, and Emmet Road, specifically to retain mature trees. In some cases, cycle tracks have been locally narrowed to avoid tree removal. Tree retention is a key priority throughout the design process.

Q: Why hasn't the NTA planted more trees in some locations?

Tree planting is guided by site-specific constraints such as underground services, safety requirements, and available space. In areas where full-sized trees cannot be accommodated, native whip planting and enhanced tree pits are used to support biodiversity and soil health.

Q: How will the newly planted and existing trees be adequately maintained?

For the first two years, the contractor will establish a regular watering/weeding planting regime to ensure the trees and vegetation are adequately watered and weeded before handing over to the local authority for ongoing maintenance.

Q: How were residents invited to have their say?

Residents were invited to participate in several public consultations, including the Non-Statutory Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route (EPR) in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Feedback from these sessions directly influenced design changes, including tree retention and improved pedestrian access.

Q: How does the project ensure community benefit from tree-related works?

Larger felled trees will be repurposed to benefit the local community, including the creation of biodiversity gardens or donated to local community groups such as community gardens and local schools, ensuring sustainable reuse and community benefit. Ongoing feedback is welcomed through formal consultation channels.

Q: How will these newly planted trees positively impact the local environment?

As a direct result of the ongoing improvement in tree planting standards, the newly planted trees will likely flourish more and ultimately provide more benefits than what is being removed. In the past, street trees were planted in more-confined conditions where they never reached their potential.

Q: When will the replacement trees be delivered?

Replacement planting will be carried out during the construction phase, timed to align with seasonal planting windows and coordinated with other infrastructure works. This ensures optimal establishment and long-term success of the new trees.