

# MAYOR OF LONDON



## GREEN CAPITAL GRANTS

HELPING MAKE LONDON A NATIONAL PARK CITY

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# 1. Introduction

The Green Capital grants are part of the Mayor's Greener City Fund. This guide explains the aims of the grant scheme, the type of projects we are looking for and how to submit an Expression of Interest. It is a supplement to the [Greener City Fund prospectus](#) published in August 2017.

## Greener City Fund

The Mayor has committed **£9m** to create and improve green spaces and encourage tree planting and management in London. The Greener City Fund includes three parts:

- **Green Capital: £3m** of funding will support strategic green space improvements with multiple environmental benefits. For example, river restoration in parks, which could provide flood water storage, new habitats for wildlife and improved space for play. We'll also be working with City Hall's Regeneration team to fund environmental improvements through Good Growth Fund projects. This could include greening high streets or creating new links to green spaces.
- **London's urban forest:** City Hall is working with partner organisations, boroughs, Londoners and businesses on projects to help plant and look after trees in London. The Mayor has allocated **£3m** of funds. This will help create new woodlands, pilot new approaches to supporting tree planting in public space, improve data about London's trees and support London-wide projects.
- **Community Tree Planting and Green Space Grants:** The Mayor has committed **£3m** to help Londoners plant trees and make our city greener. The first round of community grants will be awarded by the end of 2017. There will be a map of funded projects on our website. Grant funded projects involve community groups, charities, schools, boroughs and businesses in planting trees, and improving green space across London.

*"I want my Greener City Fund to be a catalyst for change across our city so that Londoners, from all walks of life and every background, can reap the benefits of living in a truly green city."*

Sadiq Khan  
**Mayor of London**

The [Greener City Fund prospectus](#) has more detail on the Community Tree Planting and Green Space Grants. Updated information on applying for the next round of Community Grants will be available in spring 2018.

## 2. Strategic context

London is already a green city. Earlier assessments of London's green spaces have shown that about 47 per cent of London is green space. This includes parks and amenity space; the countryside and farmland in London's green belt; nature reserves; rivers; allotments and private gardens. About 20 per cent of London is covered by trees, mostly as integral parts of the city's green spaces. It also includes trees in streets and other urban areas.

As London grows, its public spaces must work harder. Well-designed green spaces should offer a range of uses and benefits that support the needs of a growing population. Yet there are many parts of London, especially in densely populated or deprived areas, where Londoners lack green space or have little tree cover. Greening these areas can provide many benefits. These include improving health and wellbeing; providing space for recreation and cultural activities; adapting to climate change; and creating habitat for wildlife.

A City for All Londoners set out the Mayor's plans to improve London. The city must develop to accommodate more people, jobs and activity. It must also adapt to the increasing threats from climate change. As such, it is vital both for the health and wellbeing of Londoners and for London's economy to protect and enhance the environment.

The Mayor has already started an ambitious programme to improve air quality. He has also set out a wider range of environmental aims in the draft London Environment Strategy. The Mayor will protect and improve London's green spaces and natural environment by:

- making more than half of London's area green by 2050
- increasing tree cover by 10 per cent
- conserving and enhancing wildlife and natural habitats
- promoting and valuing London's green space as a 'green infrastructure' (see below)

### What is green infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is the network of green (including street trees and green roofs) and blue spaces (like rivers and canals). It is planned, designed and managed to:

- promote healthier living
- lessen the impacts of climate change
- improve air quality and water quality
- encourage walking and cycling
- store carbon
- enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience



London's green spaces are essential. This green infrastructure offers both economic and social as well as environmental benefits. As such, it should be properly funded.

### **Making London a National Park City**

The Mayor has ambitious plans to make London the first National Park City working with partners across business and the public sector. This will help promote his policies, proposals and projects on green infrastructure and give them a common identity. It is also how he'll engage Londoners and raise awareness about natural environment issues. The aim is to help Londoners make more use of the city's great outdoors. It will also encourage them to help green London, whether by gardening for wildlife, volunteering to plant trees, or installing green roofs.

The Mayor's National Park City programme will include:

- updating London Plan policies to protect green space and encourage greening of the urban environment, for example through green roofs
- support for boroughs and other land managers to help identify and promote the full economic value of London's green infrastructure. This will help build the case for essential investment and maintenance funding
- feeding into initiatives such as TfL's [Healthy Streets](#) to ensure that the full potential of greening to improve street space is realised
- looking for opportunities in projects led by City Hall's Housing and Land, and Regeneration teams to include green infrastructure. This will be vital in major regeneration programmes in London's opportunity areas and housing zones
- a package of funding and advice – the Greener City Fund - to help boroughs, local communities, and environmental organisations run projects that plant more trees and improve London's green spaces

The Mayor also offers other funds to help improve public space in London. These include the [Good Growth Fund](#), which offers £66m capital funding as well as expert regeneration advice, design support and knowledge sharing opportunities. Another is the [Liveable Neighbourhoods programme](#), £220m of Transport for London funding for boroughs to improve transport, town centres and public space. Both funds will help to improve air quality by encouraging cycling and walking. They will also support regeneration and renewal of high streets and town centres.



### CASE STUDY: Wildlife

#### Woodberry Wetlands

London Wildlife Trust created an urban wetland oasis of reed-fringed ponds. It is rich in wildlife and opens up a space which had been closed to the public for over 100 years. The nearby Woodberry Downs housing estate was also regenerated with new green routes and sustainable drainage systems linking with the wetlands. Residents now have valuable opportunities to enjoy nature.

Find out more:

[www.woodberrywetlands.org.uk/](http://www.woodberrywetlands.org.uk/)

Photo credit: Don Lewis



### CASE STUDY: Park

#### Burgess Park

This project remodelled the landform, footpaths and spaces of this once rundown park in south London. It is now safer and has a range of flexible spaces for different uses from large events to quiet contemplation. New facilities include a national standard BMX track, outdoor gyms, play areas, gardens, diverse habitats including wetlands and community food growing space.

Find out more:

[www.buildingcentre.co.uk/project/burgess-park](http://www.buildingcentre.co.uk/project/burgess-park)

## 3. Green Capital grants

We want outstanding projects which will bring multiple environmental and social benefits. The case studies presented here give some ideas of the sort of projects we hope to support.

### Grants available

The Green Capital grants will be between £250,000 and £500,000. The total fund available through this process is **£2m**. It will support at least four major projects. All the grant funding is capital funding.

This is a single funding round. The deadline for expressions of interest is **19 February 2018**. Specialist support may be available to help successful bidders develop their full application. See section 4 for key project dates.

### Aims of the Green Capital grants

London has many world-class parks and green spaces. It also has other green spaces or public areas with less environmental, ecological or social value. Investing in these spaces to create green infrastructure can bring many benefits. This includes reducing flooding risk, increasing biodiversity, improving walking and cycling and boosting public health.

The Green Capital grants aim to support model green infrastructure projects that clearly show how they contribute to the following:

- promote healthier living
- lessen the impacts of climate change
- improve air quality and water quality
- encourage walking and cycling
- store carbon
- enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience

We're also looking for large scale projects that contribute to the delivery of the [All London Green Grid](#). We will consider clusters of spaces and linked projects provided there is a coherent programme that will bring clear results.

Applicants should refer to evidence to show how their project will address social and environmental challenges, such as air pollution, health or flooding. A list of useful datasets is included in Appendix 1.

We encourage applicants to consider the [Natural Capital Account for Public Green Space in London](#) which includes natural capital accounts for each borough. This will help identify where improvements in green infrastructure might provide most value. These maps provide a rough snapshot of information so projects do not have to target areas they identify. However, you may wish to refer to this data.

Projects should result in big changes 'on the ground'. These must be **completed by December 2019**.



## Who can apply

Green Capital grants are open to public and third-sector organisations. This includes London boroughs, sub-regional partnerships, community groups, social enterprises and environmental charities within London. Project sites must be publicly-accessible. They must demonstrate major public benefit and evidence of local support.

We welcome proposals from partnerships which build on the strengths of different organisations to deliver a holistic project, including collaboration with private sector partners but a clear lead organisation must be identified that is able to take overall responsibility for the delivery and management of the project.

Individuals cannot apply as a lead applicant. The lead organisation for your project must be legally constituted and able to enter into a contract.

If you're unsure whether your organisation is eligible to apply, please email us at [greenercity@london.gov.uk](mailto:greenercity@london.gov.uk) for further advice. Please put 'Green Capital' in the subject line of your email.

## How to apply

Your project must meet the application requirements set out below. Please see section 4 for key dates and details of support with your application.

The project application process is split into two stages:

### Stage 1: Expression of Interest

[Complete an Expression of Interest form](#), using the form available on our website. Completed forms and supporting documents must be emailed to [greenercity@london.gov.uk](mailto:greenercity@london.gov.uk) by **5pm on 19 February 2018**.

Your Expression of Interest will be assessed by an expert panel who will review your proposal against the criteria set out below.

We will write to inform you if your project has been categorised as suitable to move to Stage 2 - Full Application, and we will contact you to discuss next steps.

### Stage 2: Full application and project pitch

At stage 2 of the application process, we will ask you to give more detail on your project. You must also agree an approach to measuring outcomes and evaluating the impact of your project. If our expert panel identifies your Expression of Interest as requiring further development we may give you more support to develop your proposal. However, you should not rely on this.

All applicants who submit projects at stage 2 will be invited to present their proposals to our panel of Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, GLA officers, Mayor's Design Advocates and independent experts. This is a chance to pitch the project in person and give us any extra information via a question and answer session. The panel will select the projects to be funded following the pitch.

## Application requirements

Your application should meet the following requirements:

- The project should already be identified in one of the [11 All London Green Grid Area Frameworks](#), or in an updated borough strategy
- Match funding at least half the total project cost is identified (that means every pound of funding from the Mayor must be matched by at least pound of additional funding)
- All funding from the Mayor should be used for capital delivery
- The projects supported by the Mayor should be completed by **December 2019** at the latest

## Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess funding bids and will need to be demonstrated in the Expression of Interest.

### Transforming London's environment

The Green Capital grants aim to create an accessible network of well-designed green infrastructure. Projects should demonstrate and show evidence for providing a range of green infrastructure functions. This includes:

- promoting healthier living
- reducing the impacts of climate change
- improving air quality and water quality
- encouraging walking and cycling
- storing carbon
- enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience

Projects supported through the Green Capital grants should also increase London's tree canopy cover and green cover. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of useful data sources including access to public open space.

### Making better places

London has a wealth of public spaces, such as streets, squares and green spaces, that everyone can use. We want to see projects that are part of a wider long-term effort to improve a place. We want green infrastructure to make better, more imaginative use of existing spaces and public realm to benefit more people.

Green Capital projects will help make London greener. They will provide better access to nature for children and groups that might currently use green space less often. Projects will improve the quality of the place. They will also include opportunities for informal gathering, play, tranquil places to rest and enjoy nature, and encourage walking and cycling.

Projects need to fit their context. They should be coordinated with any regeneration or other environmental objectives, planning policy or future development in the area. We are looking for model design and implementation proposals.

### **Empowering people**

To build a fairer city and stronger communities, we need to bring people together at a neighbourhood level. We want to see projects that cater for London's diverse and changing population. We welcome projects that will improve Londoners' quality of life and contribute to their health and wellbeing.

Green Capital projects should already have a high level of local political and community support. The proposed outcomes should bring benefits to the whole community. In addition, it is vital to have the support of a wide range of partners. You should demonstrate that you have this support, how it will add value and how you will get further support. This includes details of any planned community engagement and consultation.

We welcome projects which engage people in training and volunteering opportunities. We would like projects to target traditionally under-represented groups, like refugee and migrant communities, or older people.

### **Making things happen**

It is important that projects we fund can be completed by December 2019 and within the agreed budget, (see the key dates in section 4).

Projects may form distinct parts of a larger scheme done over a longer time. However, if this is the case, your project must have specific and clearly defined boundaries, outputs and outcomes.

The Expression of Interest must set out key project development milestones and a spend profile. It must also detail any longer term timetable for achieving any additional phases or outcomes (if applicable) after December 2019.

Any permissions required such as landowner agreements and planning permission must be secured by the time the grant funding agreement is signed (towards the end of May 2018). The Expression of Interest must state what permissions will be required and whether they have been secured or will be secured within this timescale.

### **Leaving a positive legacy**

The Mayor wants to make London an even greener city and leave a legacy of environmentally sound, well designed and cherished spaces for future generations of Londoners to enjoy. The projects we fund must contribute to this aim. They should have a clear set of outcomes and have a plan and resources for future maintenance.

All projects will need to be maintained to a high standard. The Expression of Interest must describe how improvements will be maintained in future, including details of how this will be funded and implemented. Future plans for the project (such as a long term improvement plan beyond the remit of this project) should be included. Full submissions at

stage 2 should be accompanied by a ten-year maintenance plan or show how this will be prepared.

The Expression of Interest must describe the project's proposed social, environmental and economic outcomes. It should also show how these contribute to relevant aims and objectives in the draft [London Environment Strategy](#). We will agree specific project outputs for monitoring purposes at stage 2. Expressions of Interest should propose a range of outputs relevant to the project and how you propose to measure them. Outputs could include:

- area of new accessible green space (m<sup>2</sup> or hectares)
- area of improved green space (m<sup>2</sup> or hectares)
- number of trees planted
- amount of new or increased green infrastructure functions
- increase in visitor satisfaction
- length of new and improved connections between green spaces
- length of new and improved walking and cycling routes connecting green spaces
- number of new jobs created
- number of volunteers involved
- increase in visitor numbers
- number of new or enhanced visitor facilities/attractions
- stakeholder group involvement
- amount of habitat restored or enhanced
- number of heritage assets restored or enhanced

### Match-funding

A minimum of half of the total project value (that is for every £1 of City Hall funding at least an additional £1 is brought in as match-funding) is required for each project. This match funding must already be secured, or identified and secured during the project's lifetime. You must provide strong evidence of the ability to achieve the latter. Please set out all sources of match funding and any conditions that apply to other funding sources.

### Funding terms

Any offer of funding will be made subject to your acceptance of a grant agreement. This grant agreement must be signed before your project can start. It will include detail of your project's milestones and when your grant will be paid. We will give you a monitoring form to complete and return at agreed stages of your project (see section 4 for key dates). This will include the requirement to provide evidence of expenditure.



## 4. Key dates

### Green Capital grant applications

29 November 2017	Project call opens
19 February 2018	Deadline for Expressions of Interest
Early March 2018	Shortlisted projects invited to make a full application
Late April 2018	Deadline for full applications
May 2018	Project Pitch day – shortlisted projects present to panel
By 31 May 2018	Funding agreements signed
June 2018	Project start
December 2019	Project complete
By March 2020	Monitoring information submitted and final funding claimed

### Community Tree Planting and Green Space Grants

We plan a further round of Community Tree Planting and Community Green Space Grants for 2018. The Greener City Fund prospectus will be updated as new rounds are opened. For the latest information, see our website.

### Support for preparing your application

Please check our website for details of support with preparing your application:  
[www.london.gov.uk/greener-city](http://www.london.gov.uk/greener-city)

If you have questions about the application process please contact:  
[greencity@london.gov.uk](mailto:greencity@london.gov.uk) with 'Green Capital' in the subject line of your email



## CASE STUDY: Wetland

### Firs Farm Wetlands

This project created a new wetland in an area of underused playing fields. It provides additional flood storage, better water quality and creates wildlife habitat. As well as an improved landscape with enhanced local biodiversity, over 100 homes and a section of the A10 dual carriageway now have better flood protection. A cycleway and network of footpaths, outdoor classroom, dipping platform and several seating areas have been added. This encourages visitors and creates safer routes to school.

Find out more:

[www.firsfarmn21.org/](http://www.firsfarmn21.org/)

Photo credit: Friends of Firs farm



## CASE STUDY: Greenways

### Thames Chase

Havering Council, Thames Chase Community Forest, Essex Wildlife Trust and RSPB have together created a network of cycling and walking routes. These link tube stations on the District Line and the mainline station at Rainham with country parks, woodlands and nature reserves on London's eastern fringe. The project provides opportunities to cycle mainly off-road for 25km, try out a 2km mountain bike challenge at Ingrebourne Hill, and explore some of London's most wild landscapes on well-marked trails.

Find out more:

[www.thameschase.org.uk/discover/walking/big-green-destinations-walking-app](http://www.thameschase.org.uk/discover/walking/big-green-destinations-walking-app)

Photo credit: Forestry Commission

# Appendix 1: Useful data sources

Applicants should refer to evidence to demonstrate the green infrastructure and social challenges their projects will address. The following list of data sources is not exhaustive but provides a useful selection of measures to consider.

## **Access to Public Open Space and Nature**

### [Access to public open space and nature in London by ward](#)

This dataset includes the percentage and count of residential households within Wards with access to at least one open space by specified type of space, and the amount/proportion of each ward that is open space with and without public access. It also includes the proportion of homes located within public open space and access to nature boundaries. Homes further away than the maximum recommended distance are considered to be deficient in access to that type of public open space.

Source: London Datastore

## **Water quality**

Green infrastructure (e.g. via sustainable drainage systems) is known to significantly improve water quality.

### [Water Framework Directive transitional and coastal waterbodies](#)

### [Water Framework Directive river, canal and surface water transfers waterbodies](#)

### [Water Framework Directive Surface Water Bodies in England Status and Objectives](#)

Source: Environment Agency

## **Surface water flood risk**

Green infrastructure is known to help reduce the volume of rainwater reaching the sewer and drainage network, e.g. through infiltration into the soil and evapotranspiration. It also reduces the rate at which rainfall reaches the sewer and drainage network, giving the network time to empty and reducing the risk of flooding.

### [Long term flood risk information](#)

Source: Environment Agency

### [London Regional Flood Risk Appraisal](#)



## [London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan](#)

Source: Greater London Authority

### **Urban Heat Island**

Urban areas can be up to ten degrees Celsius warmer than the surrounding countryside, due to the high proportion of man-made surfaces that store heat during the day and release it slowly at night. Green infrastructure helps provide shade during hot, sunny days, as well as helping to reduce local temperatures.

## [London's Urban Heat Island - Average Summer](#)

Source: Vito

## [Mortality Risk from High Temperatures in London \(Triple Jeopardy Mapping\)](#)

Source: UCL

### **Air Quality**

Green infrastructure can help reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations and particulate matter concentrations, and can also act as a barrier between emission sources and people.

## [London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory 2013](#)

## [Borough by borough air quality modelling and data](#)

Source: London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

## [Annual pollution maps](#)

## [London Air Quality Network - Local Authorities](#)

Source: London Air Quality Network

### **Walking and cycling**

High quality green infrastructure can encourage people to walk and cycle more, and help people to walk and cycle in areas of higher air quality. This can improve physical health and mental wellbeing, as well as reducing road congestion and overcrowding on public transport.

## [Method of travel to work by borough](#)

Source: 2011 Census, Quick Statistics table QS701



## **Mental health (Mood and anxiety disorders)**

Green infrastructure is known to help improve mental health and wellbeing.

### [Mood and anxiety disorders indicator](#)

This measure is taken from the Department for Communities and Local Government English Indices of Deprivation. The index contains 7 subdomains (e.g. Income, Crime) produced from a series of underlying indicators, one of which is the “Mood and anxiety disorders indicator” and forms part of the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain. This measure is a composite indicator score based on: prescribing data, Hospital Episode Statistics, suicide mortality and health benefits data.

## **Data by geographical area**

If you are looking for data for a borough, ward or LSOA to support your application you may wish to refer to the interactive atlases on the London Datastore. These contain a wide range of data including about health and wellbeing, access to nature and indices of multiple deprivation.

### [London borough profiles and atlas](#)

### [Ward profiles and atlas](#)

### [Lower Super Output Area atlas](#)

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