

# VALUING WALSALL'S URBAN FOREST



**Most Common Tree Species:  
English Oak, Silver Birch and Ash**

**Of the four districts of the Black Country, Walsall's trees provide the most ecosystem services per year, valuing £7.4 million**

Urban forests provide people with a range of benefits (or ecosystem services) that help make our towns and cities better places to live.

Trees filter air pollution, improve our health, store carbon and reduce flooding, whilst also providing important habitat for wildlife and a multitude of other benefits.

Black Country Consortium Ltd worked in partnership with Birmingham Tree People, Barton Hyett Associates and Treeconomics to survey the trees in Walsall. Using a plot sample assessment in i-Tree Eco the team quantified the structure of Walsall's urban forest and valued a range of the ecosystem services it provides to society.

**Number of Trees  
624,000**








**10.9%  
Tree Cover**





**77  
Tree Species**

**60  
Trees per hectare**

Walsall's urban forest contains an estimated 624,000 trees benefiting over 286,000 people. That's almost 2.2 trees per person.

In addition, Walsall's trees:

-  Cover an area equivalent to 1,130 ha with a leaf area of 9,850 ha.
-  Intercept around 172,000 m<sup>3</sup> of rain water every year, equivalent to an estimated £169,000 in avoided water treatment costs.
-  Filter an estimated 14.5 tonnes of airborne pollutants each year, worth £923,000.
-  Remove an estimated 6,900 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year, worth £6.3 million.
-  Store an impressive 141,000 tonnes of carbon worth £128 million.
-  Are at risk from pests and diseases- Ash dieback could affect 52,800 trees in Walsall.
-  Would cost £333 million to replace like-for-like.

-  Leaf area is equivalent to 266 times the area of Pelsall North Common (37 ha)!
-  Avoided runoff is equivalent to 69 olympic swimming pools of water!
-  Carbon sequestration is equivalent to the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 14,570 cars!
-  Carbon storage is equivalent to the weight of 11,000 new London double-decker busses (12.4 tonnes)!