

## Tiny Forest

A tiny forest can be put on a piece of land no bigger than a tennis court. Witney in Oxfordshire was the beginning of this green revolution and it is now spreading throughout the UK.

Some 600 saplings were tightly planted together, and these will produce a super-small super dense and biodiverse piece of urban woodland. The benefits are it will help fight climate change, mitigate neighbourhood flooding and bring in more wildlife.

The trees in Witney will grow up to 25 metres tall, and eventually sunlight will not penetrate the ground beneath them. It is estimated that 500 different species of insects, birds and small mammals will make their home in this woodland. Crucially, the sheer concentration of the trees will make them especially efficient at sucking up carbon from the atmosphere.

The project is part of Earthwatch, a non-profit conservation organisation. Each forest costs up to £25,000, with money coming from sponsors and local authorities.

The former mayor of Witney was quoted as saying " In the summer when it was only a few months old we were already seeing birds, bees and butterflies thriving there so the future is exciting"

Scientific modelling shows that after just four years, a single forest will:

Grow up to 5x faster than monoculture tree planting schemes.

Absorb up to 30x more carbon compared to traditional planting schemes

Attract more than 500 species of animals and plants in addition to those planted

Process 30,000 litres of rainfall

Improve air quality through dust reduction

Provide up to 30x better noise reduction compared to traditional planting schemes

