



**BARKING  
FOOD  
FOREST**

# THE BARKING FOOD FOREST

Fielder's Crescent, Barking Riverside, IG11 0FU

A green space project, brought to you by:

**Thames  
Life** Community  
Development  
Trust

*Oversight By  
the  
Barking  
Food Forest  
Resident  
Steering Group,*

*Operated by  
Community  
Volunteers*



# WHO WE ARE

- Thames Life is a community charity rooted in Barking and Dagenham, working alongside local people to care for places, grow opportunity, and restore connection - to nature and to one another.
- We manage the Barking Food Forest, a community-led green space in an area with limited access to nature. What began as a shared growing project is now a living place of learning, wellbeing and biodiversity, shaped by the people who use it.
- We believe green spaces thrive when communities are trusted as their stewards. Our role is to hold the space, support participation, and centre local voices and care.



Kitchen Garden



Wildlife Area



Making the DIY fence



# WHAT WE DO

- Restore habitats and grow food that supports biodiversity and climate resilience
- Help children, families and residents learn, grow and reconnect with nature
- Deliver outdoor education, wellbeing and skills-based activities with partners
- Support community-led wildlife and habitat monitoring, contributing to London-wide data
- We connect nature, people and place - creating green spaces that are cared for, understood and protected for the long term.



# OUR TRACK RECORD IN 2025

- Visits from local Schools: **60**
- Number of student visitors: **1800**
- Total weekly community gardening sessions: **90**
- Forest School Sessions for under 7's: **35**
- Free Annual Major Wellbeing and Family events: **4**
- No. of trained Keyholders: **15**
- Total Number of Visitors in 2025: **2995**
- Total number of Corporate Vounteer Days: **4**

# 2025 IN 10 PICTURES



# DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Black Water Storage Tanks IBC or similar
- Bricks / Breeze Blocks for Steps / Walls etc
- Corrugated Sheet material (plastic or metal) for roofing and capturing rainwater
- Fencing (Metal / mesh) for creating space partitions & framework for climbing plants
- Gravel / Aggregate for Pathways / creating areas of faster drainage
- Guttering for rainwater harvesting
- Ornamental rocks e.g. large boulders, pebbles, slate for decorating pond, pathways
- Paving slabs and sand
- Shipping containers / portacabins we intend to create a facilities structure featuring WC, secure storage and workshop/event/office space. So containers/portacabins which are already kitted out or empty for us to convert
- Timber Decking boards for decking of facilities – (pavilion) and building planters
- Timber (Good quality) for building benches, picnic tables
- Top Soil & Compost
- Wood Chip for mulch



# LONG-TERM PROJECT NEEDS

The Barking Food Forest has secured planning permission for a permanent building & pavilion on site - a major milestone that enables us to move from a temporary community garden to a fully equipped, long-term nature and learning hub. To realise this vision sustainably and responsibly, we are seeking support for the following long-term needs:

- Infrastructure & Site Development
- Construction of a multi-use community building and open pavilion
- Installation of essential services including running water, sewerage and flushing toilet facilities
- Provision of electricity to support year-round programming, safety and accessibility
- Professional input from a Quantity Surveyor and technical advisors to ensure accurate costing, phased delivery and value for money
- Operational & Running Costs
- Ongoing site management, utilities and maintenance
- Upkeep of tools, equipment and shared facilities
- Programme Delivery & Community Use
- Funding to deliver regular workshops, gardening sessions and school activities
- Resources to support community volunteers, training and skills development
- Long-term funding to ensure the Barking Food Forest remains free or low-cost to access
- Investment in systems that reduce reliance on short-term grants and support long-term resilience

# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED

## Partner With Us

- We welcome funders who want to work collaboratively: sharing learning, measuring impact, and helping shape a model for community-led biodiversity recovery that can be replicated across London.

## Be Part of the Story

- By supporting Barking Food Forest, you are investing in more than a garden. You are helping to restore nature, build local capacity, and create a greener, healthier future for Barking and Dagenham.

**“A community-growing oasis in Barking”**

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<https://www.thames-life.org.uk/our-projects/barking-food-forest/>