



Plant a Forest for your Community

National Tree Week 2023 & Carlow Community Forests

As part of National Tree Week 2023, Carlow County Council are launching a new “Carlow Community Forests” initiative, and will be providing free tree saplings to any group registered with Carlow PPN, who are seeking to transform a minimum of 1.25 acres of community-managed green space into a Community Forest.

Successful applicants will be provided with 40 free saplings (mixed species) annually from 2023 to 2027, inclusive. This density is designed to avoid the need for thinning out, to ensure age variation, and to facilitate any future proposals to incorporate walkways or amenity/interpretive infrastructure.

Areas currently devoid of existing trees, or with low (less than 10%) canopy cover, will be prioritised.

A written understanding (letter) from the group will be required to demonstrate:

1. their commitment to a zero-pesticide policy in the management of the Community Forest,
2. a commitment to ensuring proper care (particularly relating to watering) in the first 5 years, and
3. a planting layout for 2023-allocated saplings (hand-drawn will suffice) that shows a long-term understanding of the root and canopy needs of a mature forest, i.e. well-spaced out and appropriately distanced from buildings or roads to avoid any future need for pruning.

Please submit letter to Shane Casey, Environmental Awareness Officer at scasey@carlowcoco.ie before **Friday, March 10th 2023**

