

### About Pocket Forests

Pocket Forests is an award-winning social enterprise working to retrofit urban areas with nature. Native trees and shrubs are critical infrastructure which can help alleviate flooding, air pollution, drought and heat. We reconnect people with natural ecosystems and plant native Irish trees and shrubs in small spaces, working with communities to create pockets of wildly healthy biodiversity.

Pocket Forests was founded in 2020. The team is made up of Catherine Cleary, Ashe Conrad-Jones and Amy van den Broek.

### Three Pillars

Pocket Forests focuses on three pillars: soil health, planting and community engagement.

#### Soil Health

Improving the health of the soil is a very important part of the work. We assess the soil in autumn and prepare the area for planting using permaculture methods which repurpose waste like composted food waste, cardboard waste and woody materials. We leave the site covered and mulched for approximately 3 months until mid-Winter.

#### Planting

We plant bare-root trees and shrubs in winter. These trees are 2 to 3 years old and are also called whips. They are approximately 60-70cm tall when they are planted. We plant three plants per square metre. Our smallest forest is 6m<sup>2</sup> (12-18 trees and shrubs)- the size of a single car parking space. Our largest forest is 50m<sup>2</sup>. (150 trees and shrubs)

#### Community Engagement

All Pocket Forests are planted to benefit a community, business or school and we work alongside the group at all stages to educate and empower them to become Forest Keepers. We measure the impact of our work with a before and after survey about feelings of nature connectedness.

### Pocket Forests in Ireland

We have planted over 80 Pocket Forests across the island of Ireland. We have worked with sites owned by the GAA, schools, universities, hospices, local authorities and community groups.

