



Tiny Forest Criteria

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast-growing, native woodland around the size of a tennis court (approximately 200 m²), which is combined with an engagement programme to support community ownership and provide social benefits.

The Tiny Forest criteria includes physical characteristics, social characteristics and scientific monitoring as follows:

Physical characteristics

- Only contains native trees and shrubbery
- Is the product of field and literature research into the most suitable native species locally
- Has soil that has been prepared according to the Tiny Forest planting method
- Uses no chemicals (fertilisers or pesticides)
- Has approximately 25 different tree species
- Has 3 trees per square metre
- Provides space for the trees to grow undisturbed for at least 10 years (no tree thinning or timber harvesting unless in exceptional circumstances (e.g. disease, safety))
- Branches, leaves, and dead trees are left to lie where they have fallen
- Is at least 4m wide across the full length of the forest, without interruptions (such as a path)
- Has a layer of mulch (such as straw) at least 15cm deep

Social characteristics

- Includes an outdoor classroom where feasible
- Has a local partner (volunteer / community group / council)
- Was planted by local residents, corporate employees and/or school children
- Can be used as a place for local residents to come together and for outdoor lessons with school children
- Enables engagement opportunities for local residents, corporate employees and/or school children
- Is maintained (weeding/watering/litter picking) by a Keeper Team of 4-5 local volunteers for the first 2 years

Monitoring requirements

- Using Earthwatch's methodology, carry out monitoring a minimum of 2 times a year for the first 2 years after planting, preferably through citizen science
- Submit the monitoring data collected to Earthwatch at the end of each growing season

