



**CASE STUDY**

# Bankside Urban Forest

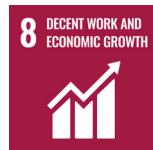
***"We are transforming the Bankside neighbourhood  
to make it environmentally resilient, to promote  
social life and to support local economic initiatives"***

Valerie Beirne, Bankside Urban Forest Manager



## PROFILE SNAPSHOT

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://betterbankside.co.uk/what-we-do/bankside-urban-forest">betterbankside.co.uk/what-we-do/bankside-urban-forest</a>
<b>Social channels</b>	BetterBankside
<b>Contact us through Alliance</b>	Valerie Beirne (vb@betterbankside.co.uk)
<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Main sector</b>	Public-private
<b>Uforest thematic discipline</b>	Urban landscape planning
<b>Stage of development</b>	Implementation



By promoting local, new jobs in the green sector.



By energising the local community to work for inclusive, green spaces, to slow down traffic and to safeguard cultural heritage.



By making the most of unused spaces and by efficiently using natural resources.



By increasing the neighbourhood's green cover by more than 1000m<sup>2</sup> and by improving over 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of public space.





## START-UP

Starting in 2008, the Bankside Urban Forest is a long-term, open-forest strategy that aims at integrating forest ecology principles into streets and public spaces in Bankside, one of the oldest, medieval-street-patterned neighbourhoods in London.

### BANKSIDE URBAN FOREST'S GOALS:

This initiative has an annual business plan related to:

- Improving Bankside for everybody.
- Integrating new developments into the existing fabric, making sure these deliver both commercial and environmental benefits.



## INITIATIVE MODEL

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

#### What does Bankside Urban Forest do?

- It designs and executes different-scale projects, both temporary and permanent, to turn streets into pedestrian, green and communal areas that foster social interaction.
- It promotes tree-planting days on housing estates.
- It influences developers by offering green infrastructures ideas to incorporate into their target buildings and sites designs.



### BENEFICIARIES:

#### Who benefits from Bankside Urban Forest's activities?

1. **Local businesses and major developers** that fund projects, because the market is driving developers to look at demands of end-users for more sustainable buildings and surrounding landscapes.
2. **Local residents, business workers and tourists**, that enjoy a better, healthier and resilient environment.
3. **The green-economy workforce**, that finds new jobs in the urban horticultural and forestry sector.

### PROMOTION:

#### What is Bankside Urban Forest's promotion strategy?

The Bankside Urban Forest's communication strategy is based on the following channels:

- Events and activities related to project briefs and proposals.
- Mailing lists.
- Social media.
- Bankside promotion website.

### GOVERNANCE:

#### How does Bankside Urban Forest implement its activities?

- Led by **Better Bankside**, one of the first Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in the country.
- **Consultation board** by the Bankside Urban Forest Management Group that comments on greening plans for major developments.
- Executed locally by an **urban gardener and volunteers**
- In collaboration with:
  - Local authority (Southwark council).
  - Developers.
  - Major Landowners.
  - Cross river partnership: Regeneration agency.
  - Architecture foundation: cultural organisation focused on nature and architecture.
  - Tate modern: Cultural Institution with an art gallery.
  - Neighbours participation (ex.: mapping the area).

