



Press Release | 2 March 2015

Trees help boost play at woodland site

Sefton Play Council has been making improvements to a natural learning space at St Mary's Complex in Bootle.

Coordinators from the play charity have planted new trees at the site to provide an improved environment for Forest School sessions.

Forest School helps to build confidence, practical skills and knowledge of the natural world within an outdoor setting, and can involve participants of all ages.

The Forest School area at St Mary's Complex will be used to deliver Forest School sessions to local children, and also to train future Forest School Leaders.

The trees were funded by the national Big Tree Plant programme through The Mersey Forest (www.merseyforest.org.uk) and by ForeStClim.

Dave Tinsley, from Sefton Play Council, said: "Forest School provides a range of benefits to children, from teaching them to play in an active, natural way, to fostering a long-lasting respect for our environment and improving interpersonal skills. These trees will help to enhance our Forest School area and improve the woodland habitat and we look forward to hosting sessions on the site."

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' for more than 20 years.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted 9 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Environment Agency and businesses.

www.merseyforest.org.uk

The Big Tree Plant

The Big Tree Plant is a national campaign that helps people and communities across England to plant more trees where they live and work. Our target is to plant 1 million additional trees by April 2015. Details of the campaign can be found at:

www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant

The campaign has the support of major bodies including Defra and the Forestry Commission, environmental charities and other agencies including England's Community Forests and the Woodland Trust.

ForeStClim

ForeStClim brings together a wide range of experts from the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe to work on issues relating to climate change and forestry. This project has received European Regional Development Funding through Interreg IVB.

