FAMILY FOREST INITIATIVE

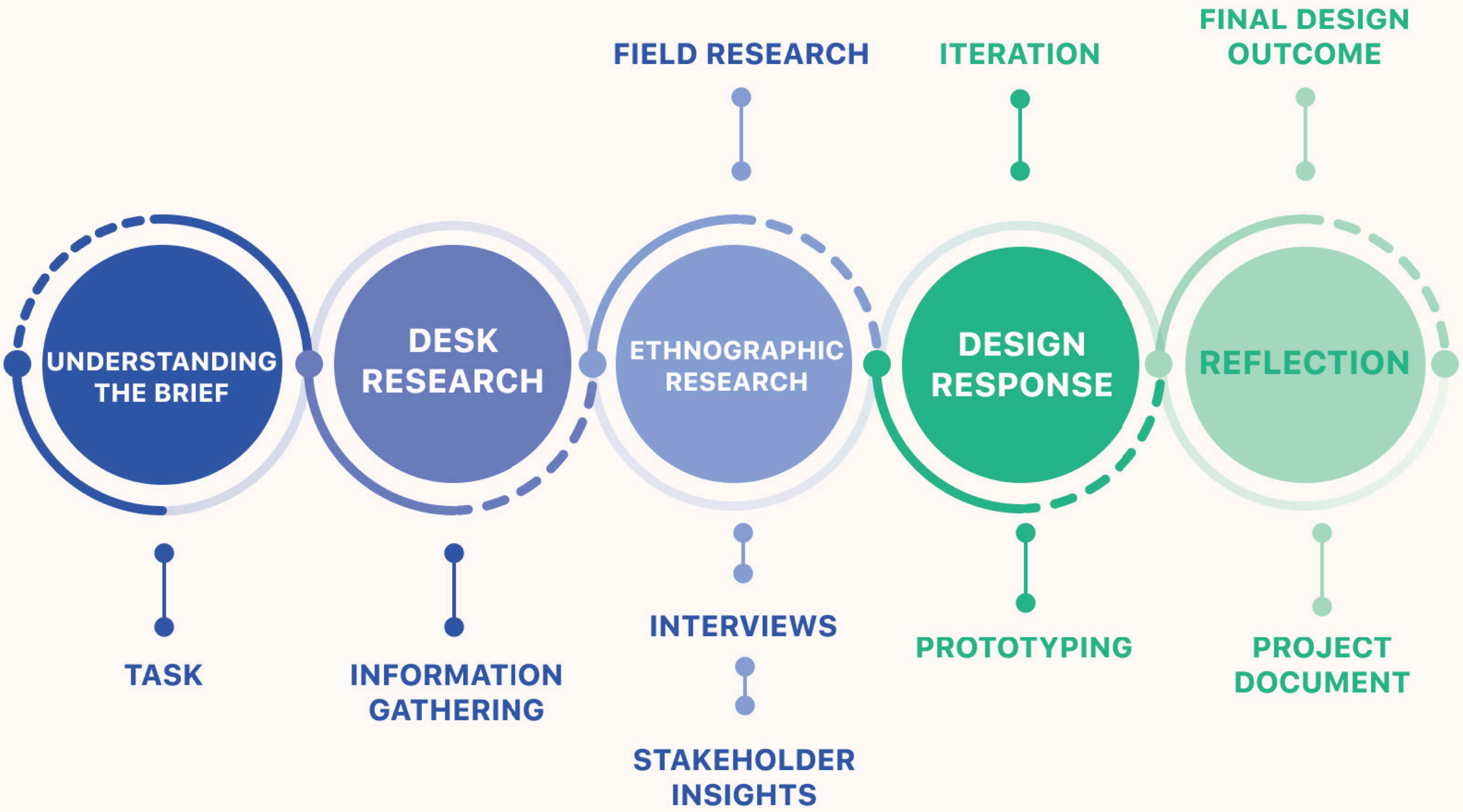
Ecological Citizenship - Tree Equity in Urban Glasgow

Design Innovation & Citizenship - Stage II

Glasgow School of Art - Spring 2026

Group 2 I Alyson Kritz, Jiaxin Shi, Kexin Yao, Mengrui Zhao, Yuefan Wu

TIMELINE


UNDERSTANDING THE BRIEF
TASK
DESK RESEARCH
INFORMATION GATHERING
FIELD RESEARCH
ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
INTERVIEWS
STAKEHOLDER INSIGHTS
ITERATION
DESIGN RESPONSE
PROTOTYPING
FINAL DESIGN OUTCOME
REFLECTION
PROJECT DOCUMENT

UNDERSTANDING THE BRIEF

- Our design response will **connect to Every Tree Tells a Story**: an initiative which engages citizens of Glasgow to share experiences, memories, and stories about trees

- The project should be **deeply rooted in Glasgow**, underscoring the relationship between nature and urban life.

- Recognition of the **emotional and personal relationships & responses** people have to trees is important.

- The project should **foster civic engagement and prioritise community impact**.

- Sustainability should be a key outcome of the final design response, looking **beyond anthropocentric norms** towards a more holistic, healthier planet for all organisms.

Crawford, D. (2025) 'Argyle Street ash in Glasgow wins tree of the year competition'. The Guardian, 25 September. Available at: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/sep/25/argyle-street-ash-glasgow-wins-woodland-trust-tree-of-the-year-competition (Accessed 24 April 2026).

The Noun Project. Available at: thenounproject.com/ (Accessed 22 February 2026).

WHAT IS A TREE?

Psychological Health

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- **Improve mood and mental wellbeing**
- Encourage relaxation and reflection
- Support activities like walking, resting, and forest bathing

Social Culture

- **Gathering spaces** for communities
- Support community events and outdoor activities
- Social interaction across different groups

Cultural Symbol

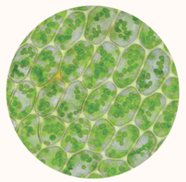
Trees carry **symbolic meanings** across cultures.

- Wish trees – people hang wishes or prayers
- Sacred trees in many spiritual traditions
- Memorial trees representing remembrance and life cycles

Promote Biodiversity

Trees provide **living spaces for many species**.

- Birds nesting in branches
- Insects living in bark
- Fungi and microorganisms around roots
- Small mammals using trees for shelter



Ecological Network

Trees form **symbiotic relationships** with underground microorganisms, **creating networks** that support the health of the entire ecosystem.

Life Cycles

- **Trees are living organisms** with their own life cycles.
- Growth and seasonal changes
- Aging and decay
- Reproduction through seeds

ARK Rewilding Nederland (2026). 'Rewilding Works Better in Larger Areas'. Available at: https://arkrewilding.nl/rewilding-werkt/rewilding-werkt/rewilding-werkt-beter-grotere-gebieden(Accessed 05 March 2026).

KNOWLEDGE MAPPING

LITERAL

the science of trees

maintenance v. ecology

Communi-Map case study

dead wood

Arbor Day

ecological restoration

Ginko trees case study

insect hotels

environmental justice

in the eyes of the animal case study

whole trees case study

trees as flood prevention

biodiversity

Clyde river regeneration

human right to public space

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

tree equity

future library case study

placemaking

blue trees case study

family trees

arena for a tree case study

Christmas trees

trees as symbols of resilience

uses for wood

trees as medicine

trees as play

impacts on health & wellness

biophilia hypothesis

trees as food

trees as shelter from the rain

forest bathing case study

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

SYMBOLIC

tree of life symbolism

Celtic tree mythology

trees associated with fertility & life

trees as memorials

trees associated with death & mourning

Chinese wish trees

Chinese money trees

mirrors in the woods case study

Image sourcing:

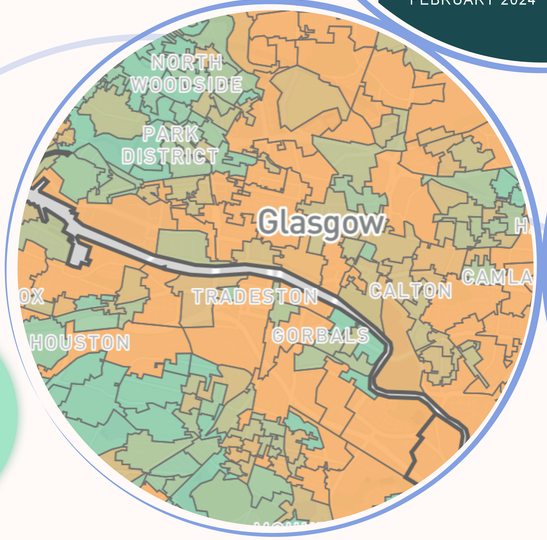
The Noun Project. Available at: thenounproject.com/ (Accessed 22 February 2026).

MOST VALUABLE DESK RESEARCH

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

DESIGNING WITH WATER: DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR GLASGOW'S RIVER CORRIDOR

TREE EQUITY SCORE UK



WOODLAND TRUST

Glasgow City Council (2024) 'Designing with Water: Design Guidance for Glasgow's River Corridor'. Available at: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/1888/Designing- with-Water-Design-Guidance-for-Glasgow-s-River-Corridor/pdf/Designing_with_Water__Design_Guidance_for_Glasgows_River_Corridor_Feb24.pdf?m=1707840100783 (Accessed 22 February 2026).
The Woodland Trust (2026). Available at: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ (Accessed 16 February 2026).
Tree Equity Score UK. Available at: https://uk.treeequityscore.org/map (Accessed 22 February 2026).

RESEARCH INSIGHTS

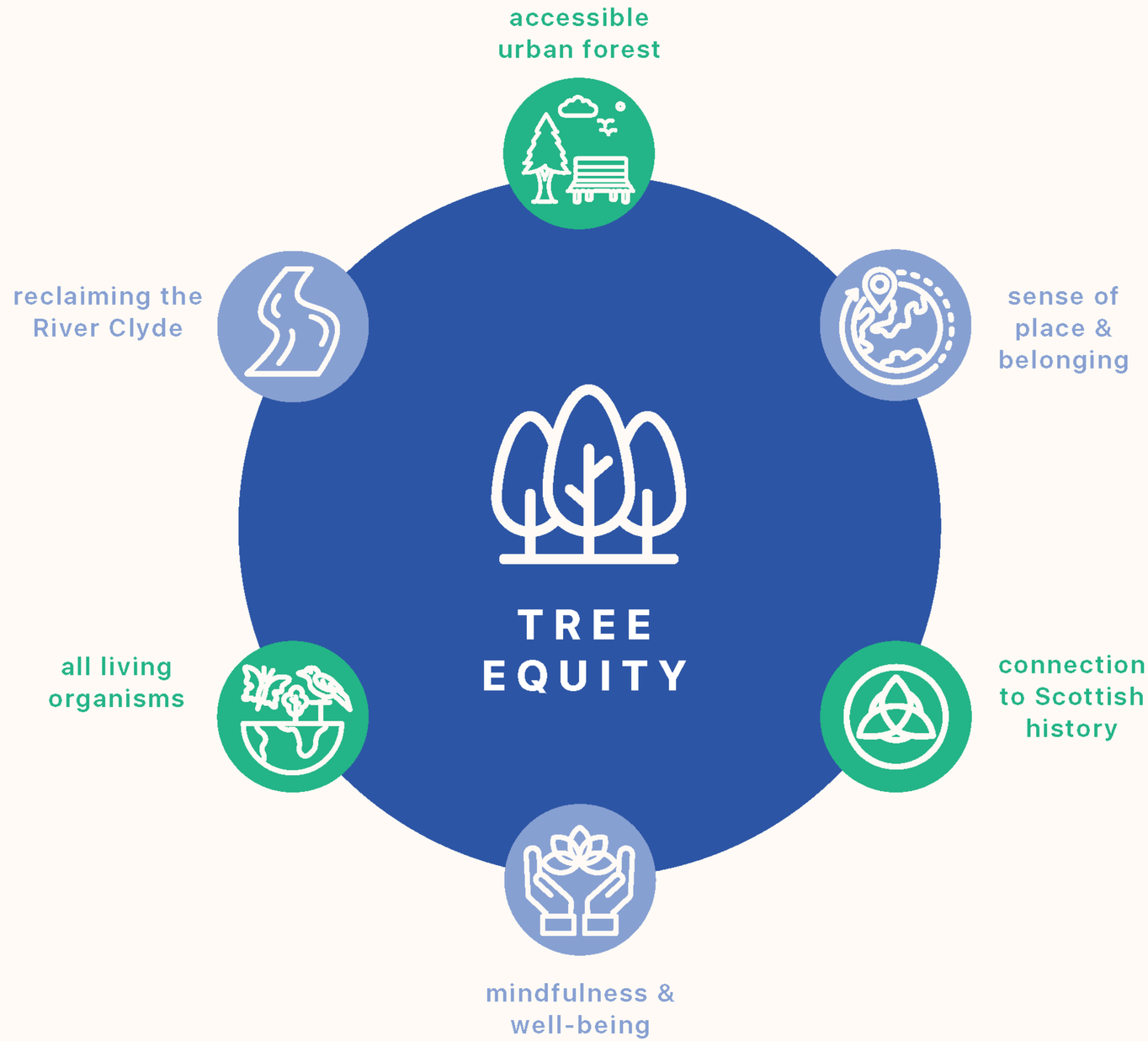


Image sourcing:
The Noun Project. Available at: thenounproject.com/
(Accessed 22 February 2026).

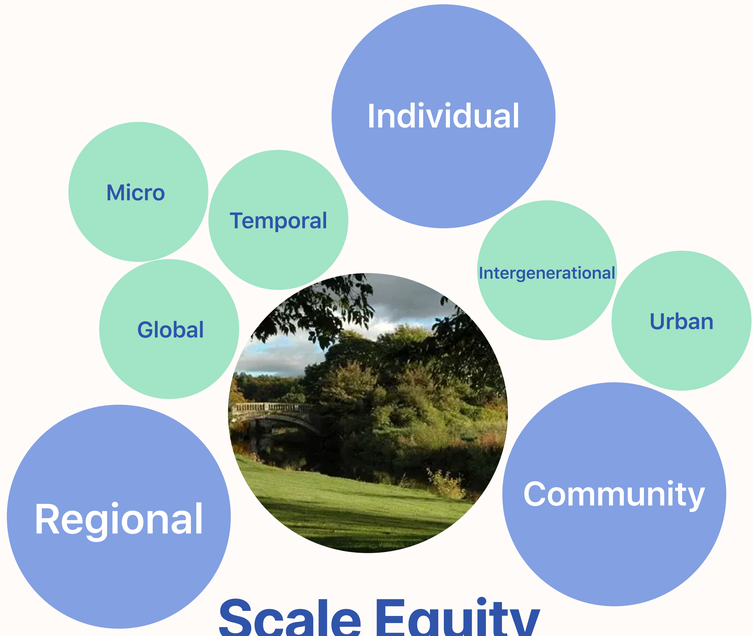
TREE EQUITY DEFINITION

Express Equity

Species Equity

Access Equity

Action Equity



Scale Equity

Image sourcing:

Deviant Art (2026) 'Explore Pollok'. Available at: https://www.deviantart.com/tag/pollok (Accessed 04 March 2026).

Konstantin Dimopoulos (2026) 'About the Blue Trees'. Available at: https://kondimopoulos.com/the-blue-trees/ (Accessed 04 March 2026).

Marshmallow Laser Feast (2026) 'In the Eyes of the Animal'. Available at: https://marshmallowlaserfeast.com/project/in-the-eyes-of-the-animal/ (Accessed 04 March 2026).

The Forest Bathing Institute (2026) 'The Forest Bathing Institute'. Available at: https://tfb.institute/ (Accessed 04 March 2026).

Tree Listening Project (2026) 'The Tree Listening Project with Alex Metcalf'. Available at: https://treelistening.co.uk/ (Accessed 04 March 2026).

STATEMENT OF INTENT

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL LIVING ORGANISMS TO CONNECT & ENGAGE WITH TREES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

Image sourcing:

The Noun Project (2026) Available at: thenounproject.com/ (Accessed 22 February 2026).

The Woodland Trust (2026) 'Barn Owl'. Available at: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/birds/barn-owl/ (Accessed 16 February 2026).

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (2022) 'What is Forest Bathing?'. Available at: https://www.uwlax.edu/currents/what-is-forest-bathing/ (Accessed 16 February 2026).

World Economic Forum (2023) 'Why We Must Talk About Nature-Positive Cities this COP28'. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/11/why-we-must-talk-about-nature-positive-cities-this-cop28/ (Accessed 16 February 2026).

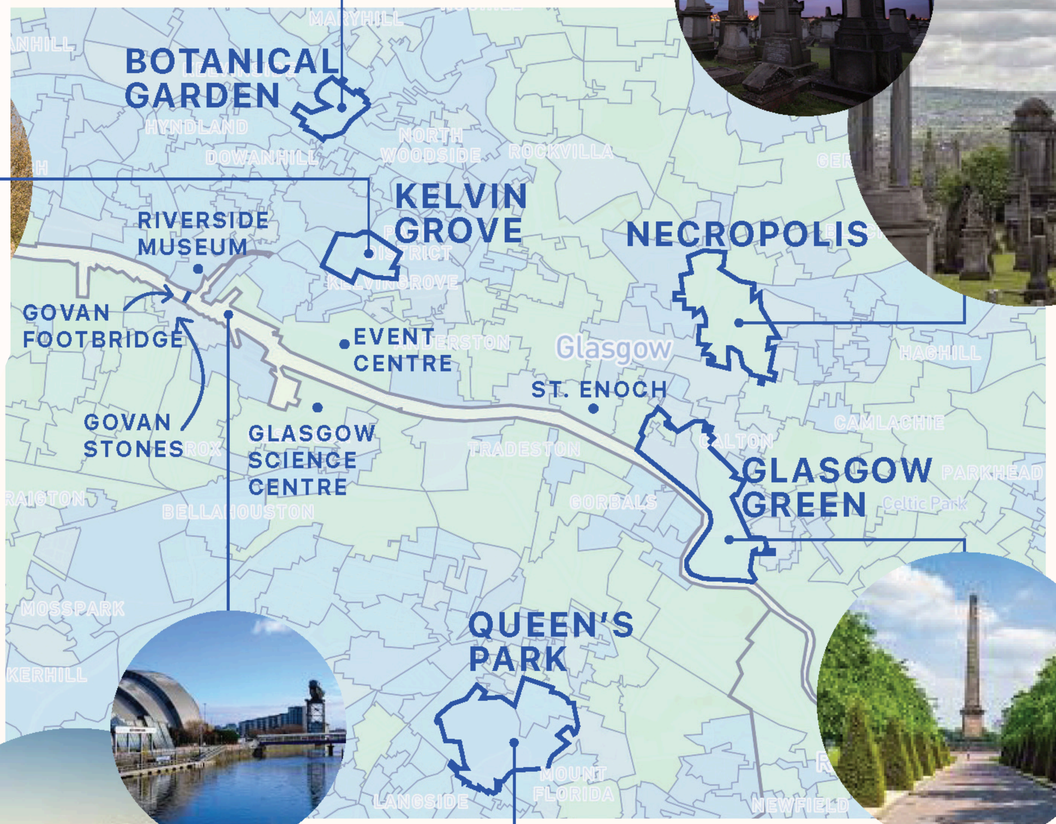
FIELD RESEARCH MAP

BOTANICAL GARDEN

- Provides plant identification
- Indoor & outdoor **exploration of nature**
- Highlights historical context & significance

THE NECROPOLIS

- Monumental display of **Glasgow's history**
- Explores symbolism between trees and life & death



KELVINGROVE

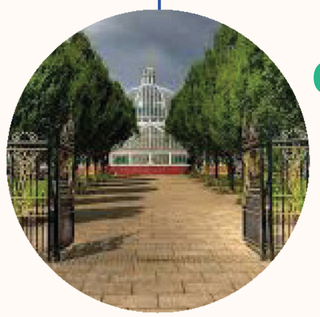
- Displays urban heritage
- Provides recreation & sightseeing
- Variety of tree canopy cover

GLASGOW RIVER FRONT

- Symbol of Glasgow's industrial heritage
- Centrally located within city
- **Very little tree cover**

GLASGOW GREEN

- Well-manicured & landscaped
- **Showcases Glasgow urban life**
- Located along River Clyde



QUEEN'S PARK

- Contains both natural & artificial areas
- Provides recreation & sightseeing
- Explores tree symbolism through memorial gardens

Image sourcing:

The Noun Project. Available at: thenounproject.com/ (Accessed 22 February 2026).

RIVER CLYDE FINDINGS

Why the River Clyde?

- Largest public space in the city
- Strong historical significance
- River area has very limited tree cover
- Area has not been fully utilised as citizen engagement is limited

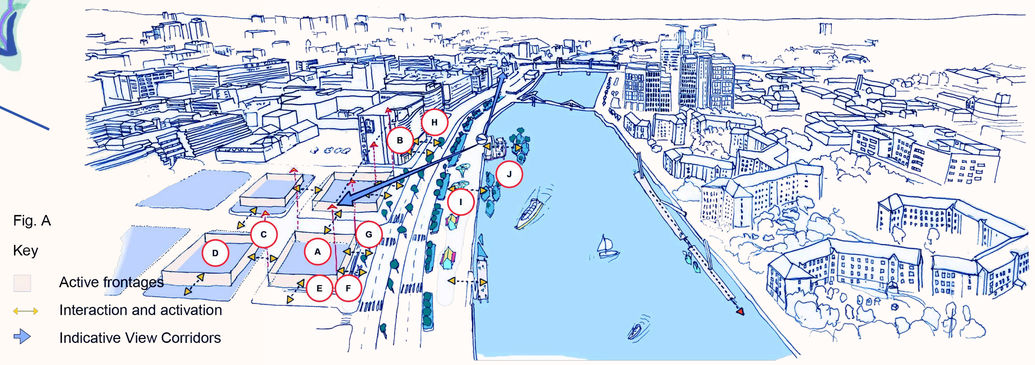


Image sourcing:
Glasgow City Council (2024) 'Designing with Water: Design Guidance for Glasgow's River Corridor'. Available at: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/1888/Designing-with-Water-Design-Guidance-for-Glasgow-s-River-Corridor/pdf/Designing_with_Water__Design_Guidance_for_Glasgows_River_Corridor_Feb24.pdf?m=1707840100783 (Accessed 22 February 2026).

RIVER CLYDE INSIGHTS

ECOLOGY

MEDIUM CASE STUDY: AN OVERVIEW OF THE RIVER CLYDE

Habitats can be restored by **reintroducing native species** and **rebuilding ecological networks.**

HISTORY

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

Turning abandoned industrial sites into tree-focused green spaces can **restore the environment** and **support biodiversity.**

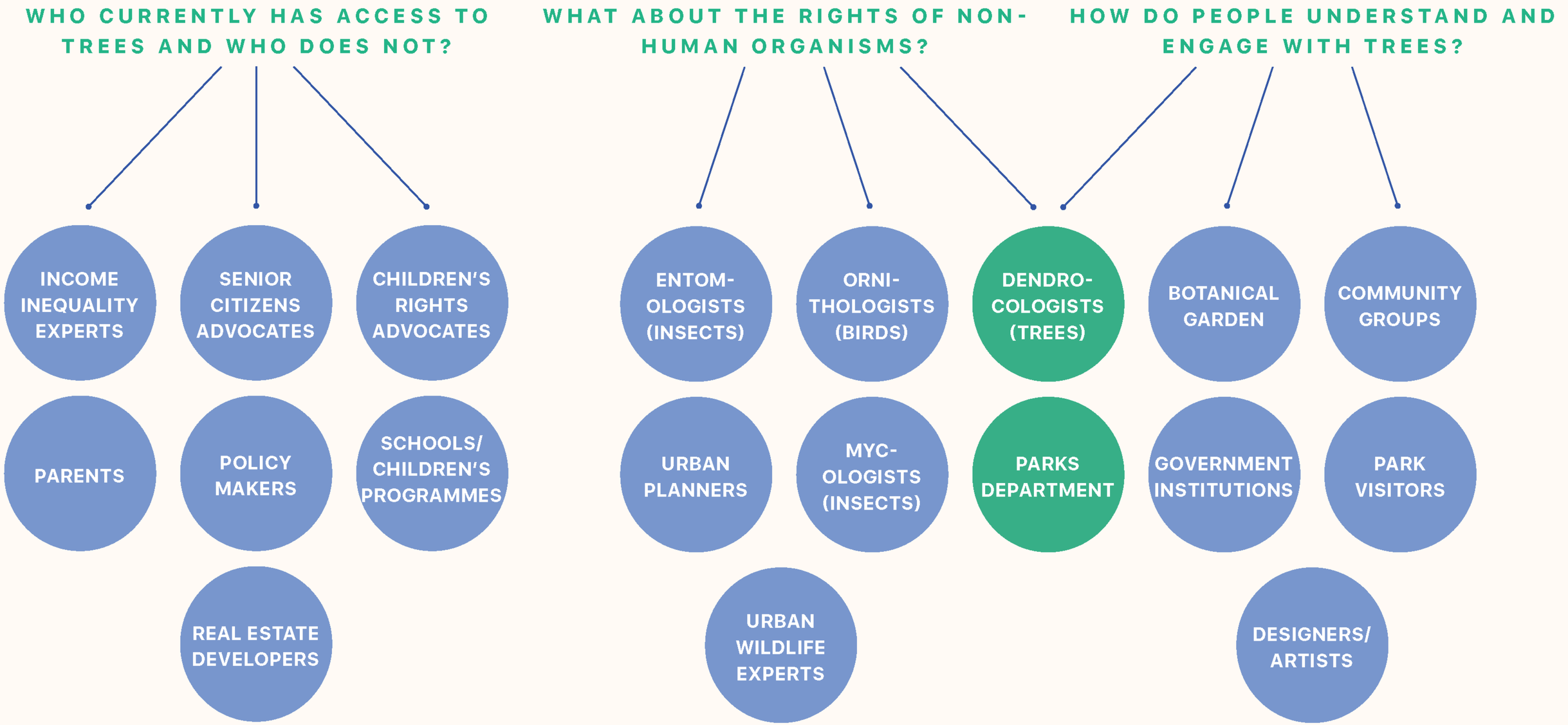
REGENERATION

DESIGNING WITH WATER: DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR GLASGOW'S RIVER CORRIDOR

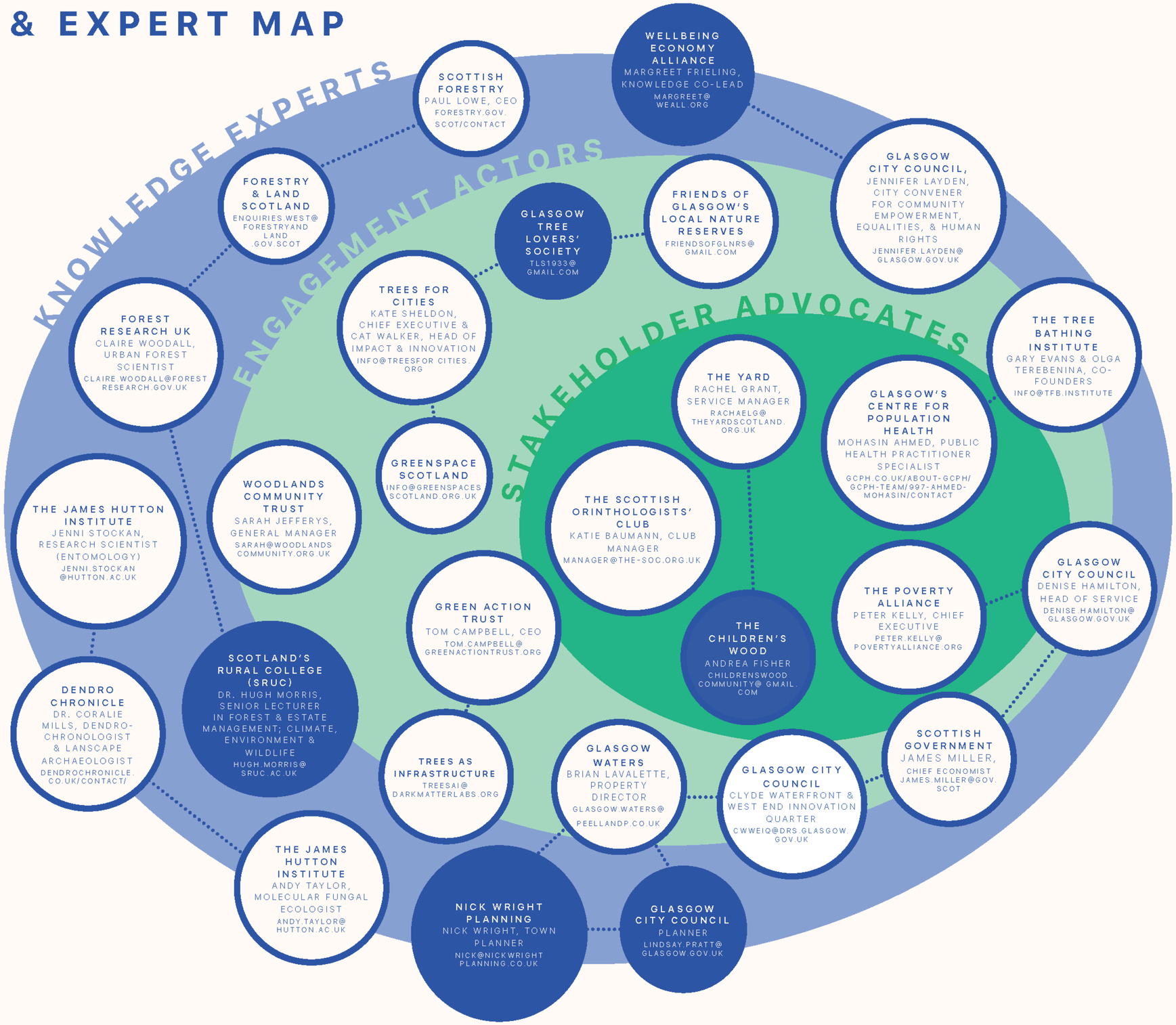
Regeneration efforts are underway to transform the River Clyde into a **sustainable, community-centred public space**

Glasgow City Council (2024) 'Designing with Water: Design Guidance for Glasgow's River Corridor'. Available at: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/1888/Designing- with-Water-Design-Guidance-for-Glasgow-s-River-Corridor/pdf/Designing_with_Water__Design_Guidance_for_Glasgows_River_Corridor_Feb24.pdf?m=1707840100783 (Accessed 22 February 2026).
Historic Environment Scotland (2026) 'Discovering the Clyde'. Available at: https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2018/04/discovering-the-clyde/ (Accessed 16 February 2026).
Medium (2024) 'Case Study: An Overview of The River Clyde.' Available at: https://lewis-thehydrologist.medium.com/case-study-an-overview-of-the-river-clyde-8021737f6533 (Accessed 22 February 2026).

IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS & EXPERTS



STAKEHOLDER & EXPERT MAP



STAKEHOLDER & EXPERT MAP

STAKEHOLDER & EXPERT INSIGHTS

Nick Wright
Nick Wright Planning
Planner

- Importance of **clear definition**
- Balance between organizations
- **Involve local communities** in decisions

Dr Hugh Morris
Scotland's Rural College
Forestry Senior Lecturer

- Apply **system-based design**
- Planting the **right tree for the right environment**
- focus on canopy creation for urban cooling and flood prevention

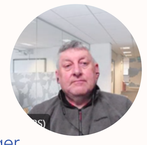
Lisa Hough-Stewart
WEAll Scotland
Interim Director

- Wellbeing and **future generations** over growth
- Nature's **value beyond economics**
- "Never really thought of the Clyde as nature"

Andrea Fisher
The Children's Wood
Volunteer

- **Children help plan & care** about trees
- Schools often lack outdoor space
- Adults often restrict children out of safety concerns

Gillian Dick
Glasgow City Council
Spatial planning manager



David McAllister
Glasgow City Council
Forest & Woodland
Strategist

- Downtown planting is challenging, especially for potted trees
- Accurate data is essential before tree planting
- **Tree value must be quantified** against developer interests

Bob Gray
Glasgow Tree
Lovers' Society

- **Public access has been restricted** as parks are converted into nature reserves
- Cost is most significant factor in protection of urban trees

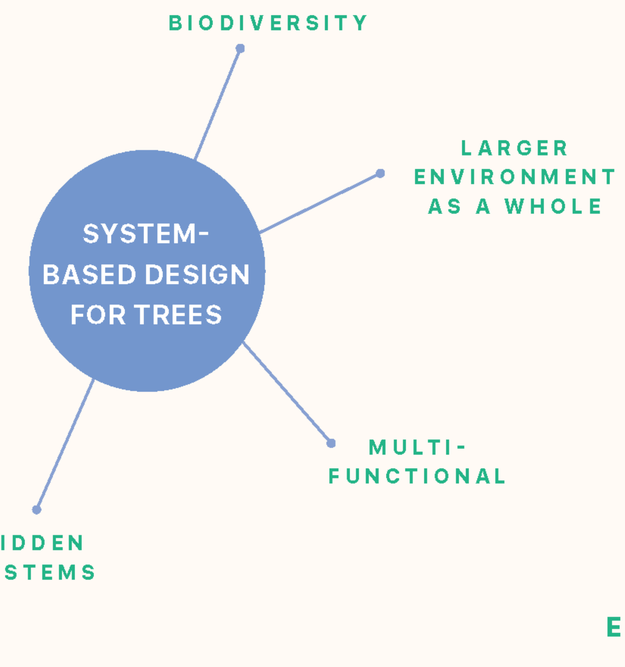
SYSTEM-BASED DESIGN FOR TREES

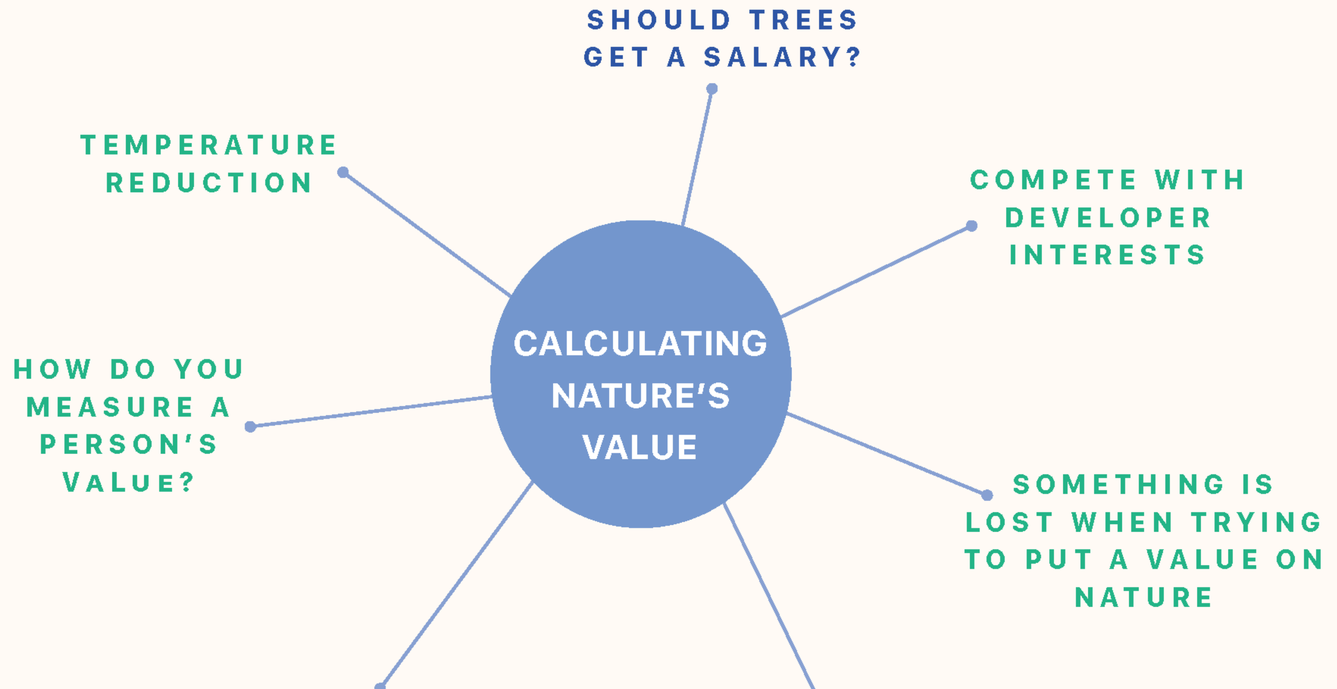
CALCULATING NATURE'S VALUE

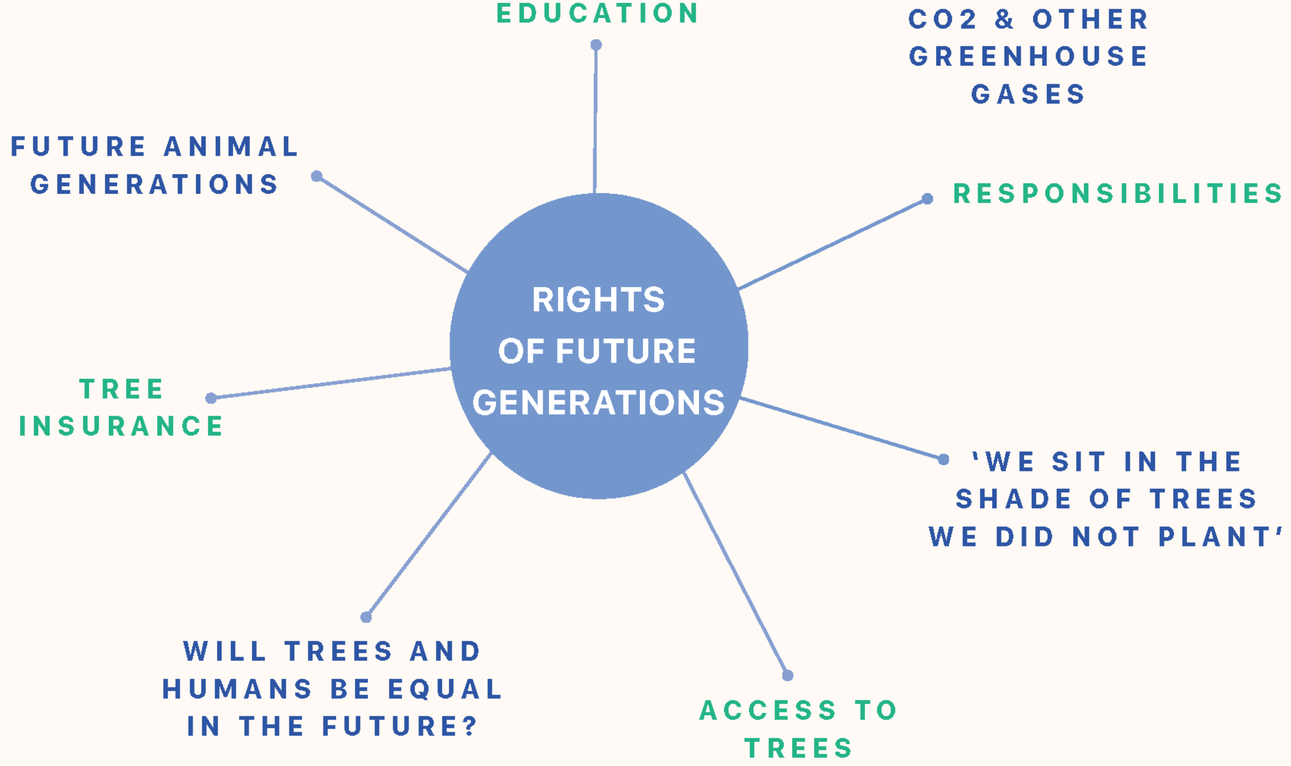
RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

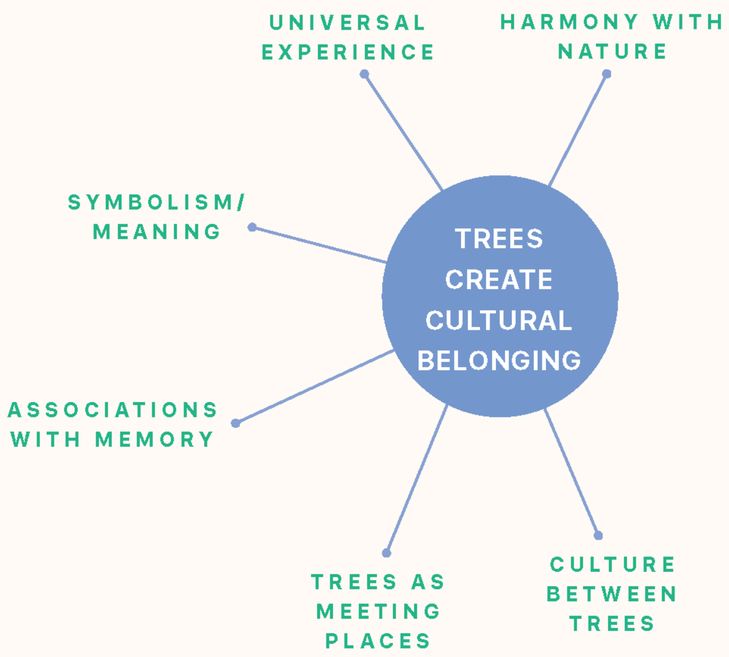
TREES CREATE CULTURAL BELONGING

AFFINITY MAPPING









IDEATION MAPPING

TREE EQUITY

EXPRESS EQUITY

- DATE WITH A TREE
- FLOATING TREATRE
- MUSEUM OF NATURE AND HUMAN SOUNDS
- TREES ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF SAINTHOOD
- LIVING HISTORY EXHIBIT
- TREE STORY WALK ALONG THE RIVER
- MEMORY CARRIER
- INTELLIGENT TREE DETECTION SYSTEM

SPECIES EQUITY

- BIO-MODULES
- INSECT HOTEL
- BIO-STRESS SENSORIUM
- CLYDE FLOATING TREE ISLAND
- BIO-STRESS SENSORIUM
- ADOPT A TREE
- TREE CARE AS CURRENCY
- DEADWOOD DONATIONS
- SHELTER UNDER TREE

ACCESS EQUITY

- URBAN TREE ADOPTION SYSTEM
- TREE RIGHTS TOOL KIT
- THE RIVER CLYDE: BACK TO GLASGOW'S ROOTS
- SENSORY WALKING FOR ELDERLY/ DISABLED
- LIVING LOG
- MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE
- CREATE A TREE CORRIDOR FOR GLASGOW
- TOWN FORUM FOREST
- EMIINENT DOMAIN TO CREATE PARKS ALONG THE RIVER CLYDE
- TREE ID CARDS
- HOLOGRAPHIC INDOOR INTERACTIVE FOREST

ACTION EQUITY

- TREE INVESTMENTS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- TREE VALUE CALCULATOR
- RAINWATER MANAGEMENT
- TREE CONGRESS
- FUTURE CITIZENS VOTING SYSTEM
- TREE BILL OF RIGHTS
- LOCAL BUSINESS ADOPT-A-TREE
- TREE BAR
- TREE ENDOWMENTS

SCALE EQUITY

- COMMUNITY TREEHOUSE
- TREE BRIDGE
- MICROFOREST IN CITY
- NATURE REGATTA
- SISTER CITY TREE EXCHANGE
- ROOT PATH GROUND MARKING SYSTEM
- RE-IMAGINING SAFETY THROUGH TREES
- COMMUNITY T(R)EA PARTY
- NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVE PARKS

Image sourcing:

Deviant Art (2026) 'Explore Pollok'. Available at: https://www.deviantart.com/tag/pollok (Accessed 04 March 2026).

Konstantin Dimopoulos (2026) 'About the Blue Trees'. Available at: https://kondimopoulos.com/the-blue-trees/ (Accessed 04 March 2026).

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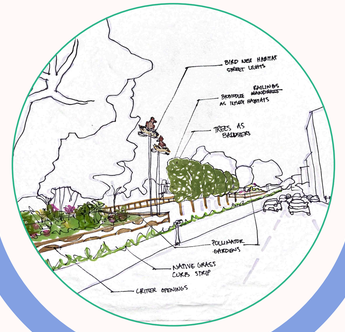
ITERATION

COMMUNITY TREEHOUSE

- Emphasises **placemaking** along River Clyde
- Community space for **place-based learning**
- Enhances relationships between people & the environment

- Creates a **multi-species** co-living space
- Fosters **bio-diversity**
- Provides shelter & support for **non-human organisms**

RIVE CLYDE BIO-MODULES



DATE WITH A TREE

- App to provide **access** to trees from anywhere
- Fosters **multi-sensory** opportunities
- Encourages **engagement, discover, interaction, and learning**

- Provides **monetary compensation** for tree care and maintenance
- Seeks to **calculate the value of trees**
- Re-thinks the **hierarchy between economics and ecology**

TREE SALARY

FAMILY FOREST INVESTMENTS

- Re-thinks concept of generational wealth
- Prioritises **environmental investment** over monetary investment
- Focuses on **future generations**

Family Forest Initiative

Glasgrow Family Forest Initiative is an **urban development strategy** proposed to the Glasgow City Council to invest in tree equity for future generations. The project would **commit to planting and maintaining a tree for every new baby born or adopted within the City**. Trees will be planted along the River Clyde as part of ongoing efforts to regenerate this central corridor to **build a more connected, natural, and sustainable Glasgow**.

CASE STUDY INITIATIVES

SCOTLAND BABY BOX

Initiative to send essential childcare items to every new born baby in Scotland.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

An American non-profit which donates new children's book to any child under 5 years old.

TREES FOR LIFE

Gift certificates which dedicate newly planted trees to an individual.

SPANISH BABY BONUS

Country-wide policy to pay parents €1,200/year per child for up to 3 years after their birth.

PLANT! WOODLAND SITES

An initiative to plant a tree for every new baby born or adopted in the country of Wales.

LEEDS BABY WEEK

An initiative to plant a tree for every baby born in Leeds for one week each year.

Baby Week (2024). 'Planting a Tree for every Baby Born in Leeds'. Available at: https://babyweek.co.uk/planting-a-tree-for-every-baby-born-in-leeds-in-2020/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Babybe Legal (2025) 'Baby bonus 2025: requirements and how to apply (Form 140)'. Available at: https://babybelegal.com/en/blogs/noticias/cheque-bebe-espana-2025?srsltid=AfmBOopqvV-dRc2TTruxEbCAS83JOqS6tDgHLPbZVUiAMxotZZeKLiMa (Accessed 07 April 2026).

BBC (2017) 'What's inside Scotland's baby boxes?'. Available at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-39225542 (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (2026) 'The Dollywood Foundation'. Available at: https://imaginationlibrary.com/the-dollywood-foundation/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Mygov.scot (2024) 'Scotland's Baby Boxes'. Available at: https://www.mygov.scot/baby-box (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Size of Wales (2022) 'https://sizeofwales.org.uk/plant-scheme/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Spain Buddy (2026) 'Almería baby bonus 2026'. Available at: https://www.spainbuddy.com/almeria-baby-bonus-2026/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).

Trees for Life (2026) 'Tree Certificates'. Available at: https://treesforlife.org.uk/support/plant-a-tree/tree-certificates/gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23436721334&gbraid=0AAAADLfgYl95C2Qejxj-Sdy0Nsn7SyAD&gclid=Cj0KCQjwp7jOBhDGARIsABe7C4cZH0pMt929v3vgy0paTivKEGufNH6D68yDRrLhcwq_8eb1Eavww0aAmWkEALw_wcB (Accessed 07 April 2026).

INITIATIVE COMPONENTS

1

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Legislative initiative wherein the City Council plants and maintains a new tree for every born or adopted in Glasgow.

CONNECTION TO BABY BOX

Connect the concept to Scotland's popular Baby Box program to reinforce its role in investing in future generations.

2

3

TREE MAP & EQUITY INDEX

Online interactive map which allows citizens to see where their tree is located, track new tree growth, and quantify how tree equity has progressed.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Plant! Woodland Sites & Leeds Baby Week Case Study: Proven success in similar government initiatives

Scotland Baby Box Case Study: Willingness of Scottish government to invest in wellbeing initiatives

Glasgow City Council's Designing with Water Case Study: Council's determination to regenerate Clyde Riverfront

BBC (2017) 'What's inside Scotland's baby boxes?'. Available at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-39225542 (Accessed 07 April 2026).
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Size of Wales (2022) 'https://sizeofwales.org.uk/plant-scheme/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).

CONNECTION TO BABY BOX

Scotland Baby Box Case Study: Opportunity to build off a popular government program

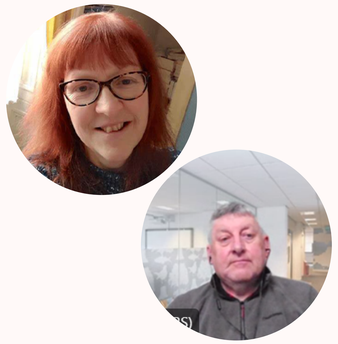
WEALL Stakeholder Insights: Strategy to not only value the rights of, but also invest in future generations

The Children's Forest Stakeholder Insights: Families of diverse backgrounds experience a universal connection to trees

BBC (2017) 'What's inside Scotland's baby boxes?'. Available at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-39225542 (Accessed 07 April 2026).
Mygov.scot (2024) 'Scotland's Baby Boxes'. Available at: https://www.mygov.scot/baby-box (Accessed 07 April 2026).

TREE MAP & EQUITY INDEX

Tree Equity Map UK: Allow citizens to see improvements to tree equity in Glasgow in real time

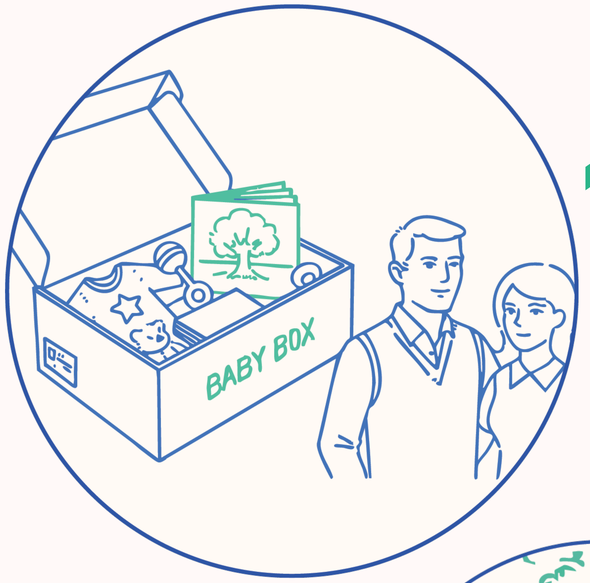


Glasgow City Council Planning Insights: Opportunity to quantify trees' values and benefits

Plant! Woodland Sites Case Study: Opportunity to expanding access and strengthen connections to ecological citizenship

Size of Wales (2022) 'https://sizeofwales.org.uk/plant-scheme/ (Accessed 07 April 2026).
Tree Equity Score UK. Available at: https://uk.treeequityscore.org/map (Accessed 22 February 2026).

INITIATIVE STORYBOARD



1 Baby box arrives with Glasgrow pop-up book.

2 Pop-up book tells the story of each tree planted in the name of children born or adopted in Glasgow.

3 As the tree and child both grow, families can visit their tree.

4 Many years later, the tree can continue to be visited by the now grown child with their own family, sitting in the shade of a transformed woodland along the River Clyde.

BABY BOX POP-UP BOOK

Our decision to choose a pop-up book is based on **Scholastic's research** that the interactive properties of a pop-up book are particularly **engaging for children of various ages.**

Minsker, M. 'How Pop-Up Books Can Boost Reading Skills'. Scholastic. Available at: https://www.scholastic.com/ parents/family-life/parent-child/how-pop-books-improve-reading-skills.html (Accessed 20 April 2026).

BABY BOX POP-UP BOOK

A loose registration card prompts parents to register their child's tree either online or via mail.

Pulling on the "R" in GLASGROW reveals a keepsake tree ID card, linking each child to their tree.

A hidden flip mechanism allows families to insert and update personal photos of their tree.

FINDING YOUR TREE

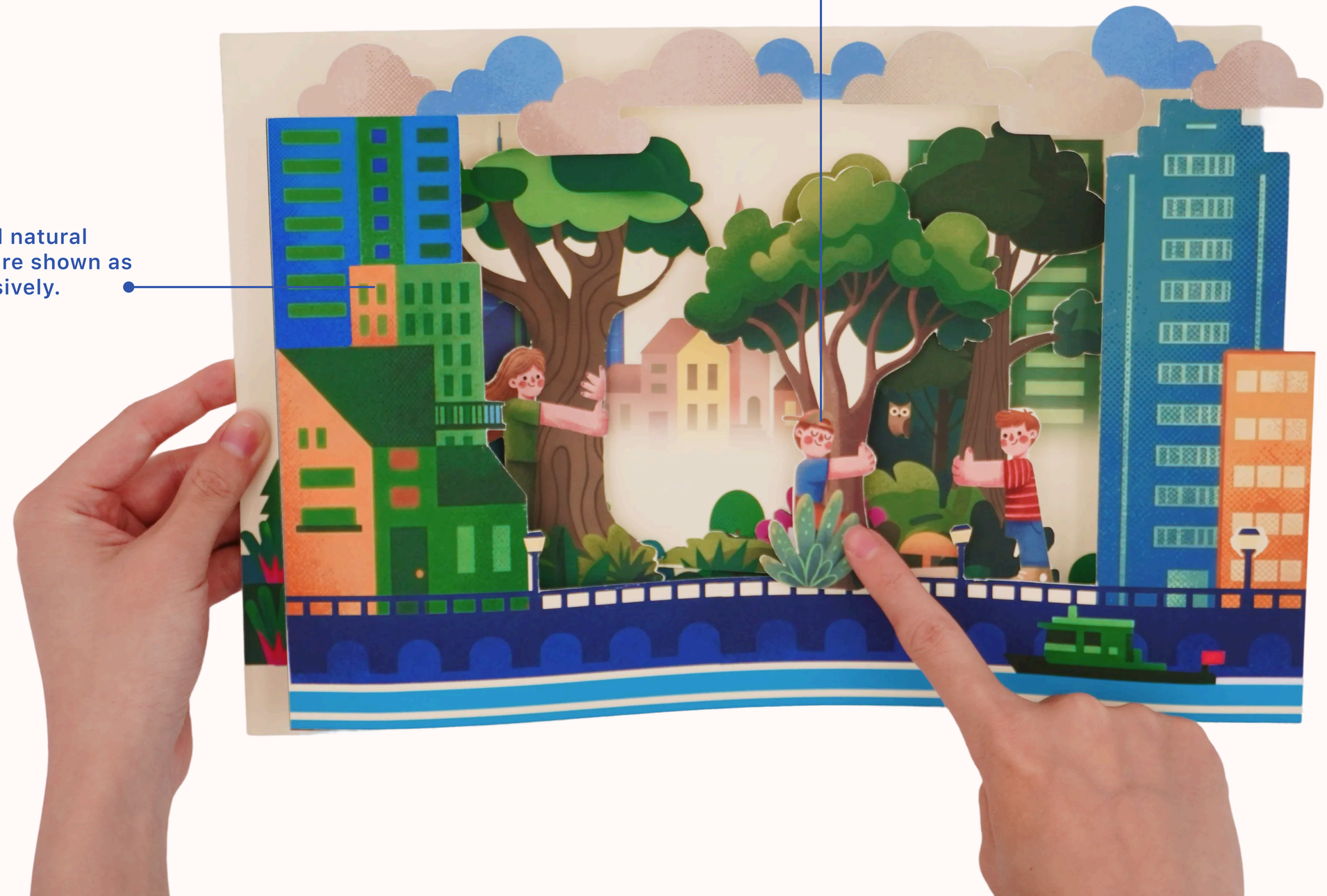
Logo represents a future symbiotic relationship between the city's people, nature, and urban infrastructure

Entrance to web portal, tree map, and equity index

BABY BOX POP-UP BOOK

The second page depicts older children visiting and engaging with their trees. This access within central Glasgow strengthens the bond between tree and citizen as they grow in tandem.

The urban and natural environment are shown as existing cohesively.



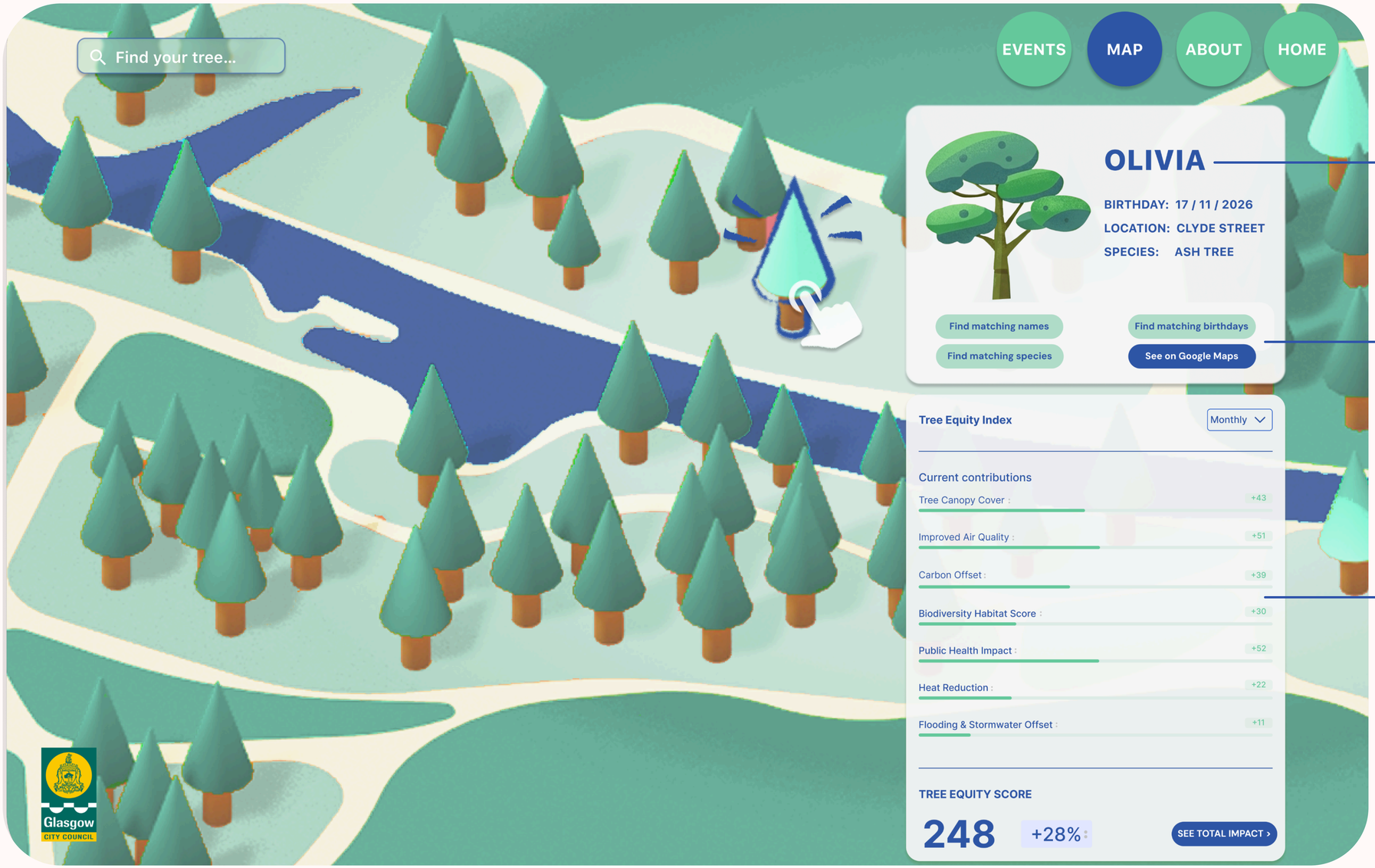
BABY BOX POP-UP BOOK

The River Clyde transforms into a thriving urban forest, filled with diverse trees and shared public space.

The tree recipient, now grown up, enjoys the shade of their with their own family. This symbolises the intergenerational impact proposed by this initiative

The initiative’s success extends to supporting new biodiversity along the river.

FINDING YOUR TREE

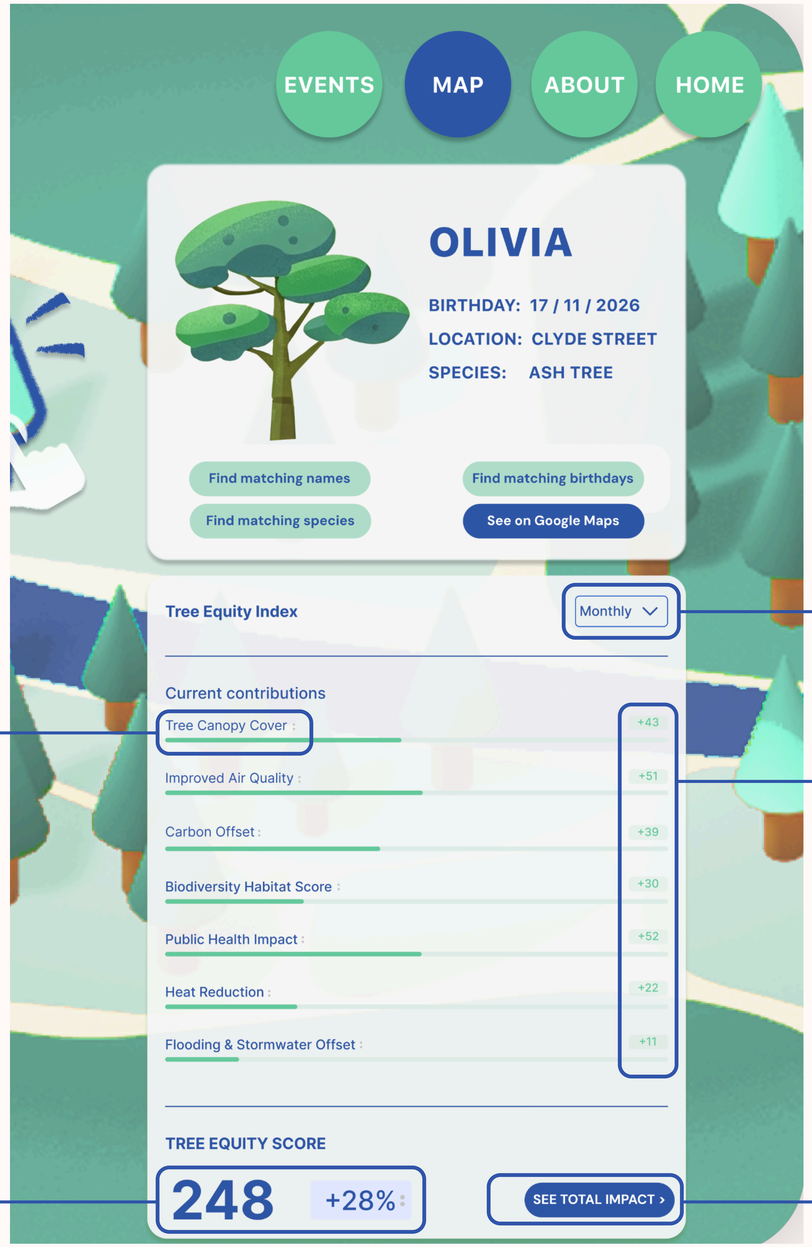


Clicking on a tree reveals its name, birthday, and species

Features allow visitors to search for matching trees, as well as find precise tree locations

Tree equity index shows tree impact on equity to date

TREE EQUITY INDEX



Category with additional information available

Total contribution by points and percentage increase

calculate contribution by point in time

points per category

View total project impact in real time

The Tree Equity Index is based on research from **Tree Equity Index UK** & the **New York City 2026 Urban Forest Plan**

City of New York (2026) 'NYC Urban Forest Plan'. Available at: https://report.urbanforestplan.nyc/NYC-Urban-Forest- Plan-2026.pdf (Accessed April 21 2026).
Tree Equity Score UK. Available at: https://uk.treeequityscore.org/map (Accessed 22 February 2026).

CONNECTION TO EQUITY

Equating trees with human life, ensuring all newborn Glaswegians have **a companion tree to grow with** throughout their lives.

Regenerating the River Clyde to **create a central natural corridor** in one of the areas with the least amount of tree canopy cover in all of Glasgow.

Providing all newborn Glaswegians with this vital resource investment, **regardless of class, gender, or race.**

A NEW STORY FOR THE RIVER CLYDE

PAST

The River Clyde has a **rich and storied past** which defines some of the most important moments in Glasgow's history.

PRESENT

Since its **ecological collapse** in 1960s and 1970s, it has made slow, but insufficient progress in returning to its natural wonder.

FUTURE

Through our family forest initiative, we look toward a **future where every tree planted along the river has its own story**, deeply connected to the citizens of Glasgow.

Scape (2018) 'Exploring the Clyde with Britain at Low Tide'. 2 March. Available at: https://scapetrust.org/exploring-the-clyde-with-britain-at-low-tide/ (Accessed 28 April 2026).
Smillie, L. (2024) 'River Clyde back in time: The history of Glasgow's ancient river in 30 pictures - holidays, industry, and more'. Glasgow World *[online]*, 15 March. Available at: https://www.glasgowworld.com/lifestyle/retro/river-clyde-back-in-time-the-history-of-glasgows-ancient-river-in-30-pictures-holidays-industry-and-more-4557004 (Accessed 28 April 2026).

REFLECTIONS

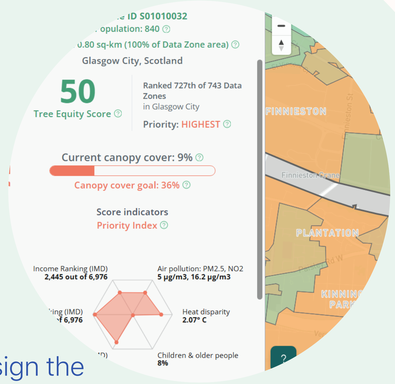
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We would propose adding an **additional phase of the project** to focus on engaging directly with the Glasgow community. This phase would **utilise surveys, workshops, and public hearings** to understand community needs and brainstorm how the project could best serve the public.

FINDING PARTNERS

This project has immeasurable potential to **engage community partners and sponsors.** We would love the opportunity to **lead workshops and engage in one-on-one discussions** with potential partners to collaborate on designing the project's final outcomes.

TREE EQUITY INDEX



There is only so far we can design the tree equity index without **engaging directly with sustainability and urban forest experts.** We would propose researchers and scientists be **integrated into the project** to finalise the design of this index, as well as continually track its progress.

TESTING

Thoughtfully **testing our pop-up book and tree map prototypes** with peers or stakeholders would be extremely helpful in identifying opportunities for improvement.

THANK YOU!

Group 2 I Alyson Kritz, Jiaxin Shi, Kexin Yao, Mengrui Zhao, Yuefan Wu