



Foreword:

The Peace Forest Ireland began as a concept and was quickly transformed into a project year on year. So that now it is gathering momentum. The following illustrates achievements and goals and objectives for the project. It is at the stage now where new structures are called for. It is an inclusive project with local and global aspects. There are many peace forest projects worldwide to be studied and worked with. The following is intended to help to point the way forward from here under various headings. The original concept includes a main centre of forest biodiversity which would be central to the project as well as a number of hubs, for example one based in each of the areas which have participated in the project to date. These can be community based hubs, possible co-operatives. The creation of an overarching coordinating/facilitating group for the purpose of steering the project seems appropriate at this stage, in order to secure the long term sustainability of the project. This can be set up in the form of a trust, a co-operative, a company limited by guarantee, or other appropriate structure.

INTRODUCTION:

The Peace Forest Ireland Project involves the creation of a peace forest stretching throughout the counties north and south of the border (a border which separates Northern Ireland from the Irish Republic). Besides the planting of peace trees it will bring people together to better understand and share in the richness of cultural diversity and biodiversity of their communities.

Objectives of the project: The following are objectives of the Peace Forest Project:

1. To strengthen the Northern Ireland Peace process.
2. To promote community co-operation and joint projects between communities north and south of the border planting peace trees.
3. To develop joint arboriculture, silvaculture and Permaculture enterprises.
4. To provide training programs in horticulture, woodland development and management.
5. To maximise the creation of sustainable jobs.
6. To set up management structures to ensure the success of the project.
7. To create as far as is practicable a linear peace forest stretching from Derry/Londonderry in the counties on both sides of the border as far as the sea on the east coast. .
8. To utilise existing business enterprises, public and private involving them in the process, thus helping to sustain existing structures and jobs in the local areas.

The Origin of the Project:

The concept of the Peace Forest was developed initially within Forest Friends Ireland who has played the lead role at all stages to date in the development of the project. . The idea of a cross-border forest project had been one of Forest Friends Ireland's objectives since its inception at the beginning of this century. The Dublin North Rotary Club and the Derry/Londonderry Rotary clubs have played an important role in the launch of and in developing the initial stages of the project.

The Centre of Forest Biodiversity

The Centre of Forest Biodiversity, is based on the following ideas, integrating best practice in Horticulture Silva culture and Permaculture; creating a centre for environmental education, information and projects development; incorporating training and conference centre, visitor centre, in the context of existing natural woodlands, tree nursery, new tree plantings, training in forest skills, woodcrafts, promotion of a culture of trees and forests, capacity building and community development; establishing a centre with a residential component, using up to 100% native Irish tree species; incorporating commemorative trees; maximising community involvement in the process. The Centre as envisaged would be held in trust in perpetuity for community benefit. The centre could be the main dynamic in the development of the Peace Forest. Ideally this centre would be located in an existing extensive area of native woodland and associated biodiversity with educational and conservation components.

Project Launch

On the 26th May 2013, Forest Friends Ireland, Dublin North Rotary and the Derry Rotary Club met together and the first tree an oak tree was planted by Sakugi Tanaka the then

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President Rotary International in Saint Columb's Park, Londonderry, Derry. This event took place during the Derry/Londonderry Rotary Club Peace Forum. It was fitting to plant an oak tree, after which Derry/Londonderry is named, and to celebrate Derry/Londonderry as the European City of Culture 2013. Oak trees for the first planting were sponsored by Van Der Vel Ltd., Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, and Gallinagh Nursery, County Donegal.

Conceptual Framework

The Peace Forest is based on the idea of communities all along the border between North and South, from Donegal/Derry-Londonderry to Armagh/Louth, working co-operatively and playing a key role in planting trees in a variety of ways, whether as individual tree plantings, groves, hedgerows, woodland or small or larger forest areas, joining together as far as possible to form a continuous forest canopy, utilising **principles of Sylvaculture, Permaculture and utilising mainly native Irish hardwoods**. The concept of the Peace Forest is based on ecological and environmental concepts rather than on developing plantation forestry. Permaculture which links all aspects of trees with the rest of the environment and the needs of house and farm is another scientific approach which can be central to the project. Deciduous Irish native hardwood trees because of their wide shapes can more easily provide a continuous canopy within which wildlife can move along most easily. Workshops, seminars, information meetings, tree planting demonstrations and seed collections can be organised locally with the possibility of functioning also on a collective basis. The principle of 'Local Provenance', i.e. Trees grown from seeds collected locally will be promoted rather than importing trees from outside. It has been found that this is better from many points of view not least disease prevention and control. Public governmental agencies, local authorities, other local agencies, educational, environmental, community, engaging the counties north and south of the border, various tree growing organisations, landscaping bodies and various other NGOs.

Peace Forest workshops

Peace Forest workshops can be organised as part of the process, collecting tree seeds locally and growing them on in the community to become part of the forest. .

Project Structures

The following is one possible structure to enable the individual elements of the project to operate. Other options can be discussed at the initial stages:

1. One organisational structure for consideration is the establishment of number horticultural Enterprise hubs, for example up to 8 number minimum Number- half of which would be located on the northern side of the border and half on the south.
2. These could be based as follows: Derry/Donegal, Leitrim/Fermanagh, Cavan/Monaghan and Dundalk/Armagh, (i.e. 8 no. Hubs).
3. The hubs approach could have a Staff structure like the following: One CEO and deputy CEO to facilitate and administer the overall project
Each of the eight hubs to have:
 - a) One enterprise manager
 - b) One assistant manager
 - c) Tree nursery manager
 - d) Researcher- to establish inventory of local trees and woodlands
 - e) One Secretary
 - f) One PRO
 - g) One treasurer
 - h) Six number interns
 - i) Six 'manual' non-skilled operatives'
 - j) Three skilled horticulturalists.Total potential numbers involved in the project One hundred and seventy eight. This approach could create many jobs.

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4. **Trustees:** The project could have trustees who could oversee the project, the composition of which can be agreed in advance.
5. **Structure.** The Peace Forest project can be set up as a charity, company limited by guarantee, a co-operative a trust or other structure as appropriate.
6. In order to initiate the next phase of the project the following are needed: A start up centre from which to operate the project at the initial stage, including offices (either shared, or rented), training rooms, and conference facilities.
7. The start up centre concept can be duplicated in the main participating centres, which could also incorporate land for tree nursery development and woodland planting and management. Ideally, a target of up to twenty acre sites at the outset for each of approximately eight hubs, containing considerable biodiversity and having some mature woodland and water source could be aimed for.

Phase One- Costings- The following is one possible model which could be used for the local hubs individually or collectively. Other models will also be considered before firm decisions are made:

For Phase One it is suggested that the project have a co-ordinating centre at one of the locations where plantings have already taken place and where is considerable community involvement in the process, of which there are several as can be seen from the plantings that have already taken place and the information on the Peace Forest Ireland Facebook. A structure, facilities and resources and estimated costs could be considered using this kind of model:

Resource	Cost approx. Euros
Offices	12,000**
Land for tree nursery and horticultural training-c.20	200,000 *

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acres- marginal lands with maximum biodiversity and mature natural woodland, ideally with river and mains water supply.	
Secretary	30,000**
CEO	50,000**
Horticultural and tree expertise	40,000*
Tree Nursery Manager	30,000**
Tree nursery trainees- 3 number : 3x15,000	45,000**
Job Bridge- 6 number- state funded	
Interns- 6 number	6,000**
Volunteers – 15 numbers approx	
Insurance costs	10,000**
Materials, including office equipment/tools, stock for nursery, machinery etc.	50,000*
Site works/maintenance	20,000 **
Initiatives designed specifically to improve community relations	200,000*
Horticultural Sylva -cultural Perma-cultural training programs	80,000*
Consultancies including public relations	50,000*
Project launches-local	20,000*
Total costs	843,000

*once off cost NOTE: These are indicative/estimated costs. ** annual cost

Peace Forest project came to Fermanagh-Leitrim Feb 1st 2014.

On Feb 1st 2014 children from both sides of the border came together in a novel Peace Project peace tree planting with the promise of continued seeds of healing between communities in both Leitrim and Fermanagh. Twinned

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sites in
Kilty-Cashel planted native trees in their areas.

Forest Friends Ireland and the Dublin North Rotary Club organised the event. border. Local community association environmental group Love Leitrim has teamed up and donated the ash trees for the event. James Comiskey of About Your Garden donated some fifty trees for the plantings.

Planting in Kilty-Cashel took place at 12 noon on Sat Feb 1st at the Fairgreen Community Garden Kiltyclogher and in Cashel at 12.45 Many groups took part in the planting which was facilitated locally by Kathleen McCaffrey (mccaffrey.kathleen@yahoo.ie) and local residents.

TREE PLANTINGS- 2014

THE FIRST PEACE FOREST PLANTING OF 2014 took place at the Leitrim/ Fermanagh border, on the 1st. February, at KiltyClogher in the Fairground Community Garden at 12.00 and in Cashel at 12.30/12.45. Children, parents, community leaders and teachers from both sides of the border came together for the event and members of Forest Friends and Dublin North Rotary Club travelled to Leitrim/Fermanagh for the weekend to participate in the plantings. The Love Leitrim environmental group and James Comiskey of About Your Garden and the Tree Council of Ireland donated trees for the event.

Peace Forest Ireland tree-planting Saturday 29th. March 2014
11.00 Location -St. Nicholas Avenue Dundalk. The Dundalk planting was a 'Dundalk Tidy Towns' hosted event, (Willie Duffy 0861783490: Albert McGurke 0861525364).

In the afternoon of the same day, 2.00 Location - Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket Newry –hosted by Martin's Lane & Corrinshago Community Association (Contacts-Mark Crossey 0044 7988675510:07988675510)- the Newry planting took place with Ballybot House CCG and Thomas Davis GAC. The

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trees for these plantings were provided by the Tree Council of Ireland and Paul Martin Horticulturalist of Paul Martin Designs Dundalk

Also involved: Horticulturalist, James Comiskey – 'About Your Garden'. Paul and James took part in the plantings.

<http://www.aboutourgarden.ie/> Dublin North Rotary was represented by President Mary Carroll and club member, Una Kane; and Forest Friends Ireland was represented by Hon. President John Haughton

The third planting of 2014 took place at Dowra where commemorative trees were planted for friends of local community members who lost their lives in the conflict in Northern Ireland. This planting was facilitated and planned by Bee Smith and Tony Cukson.

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Peace Forest Tree Plantings: - 2015

Peace Forest peace tree plantings took place during National Tree Week (1-8 March), and the weeks following and with local community groups, with Dublin North Rotary, Forest Friends Ireland, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan and Leitrim County Councils, the Organic Centre Rosinver, local communities the Patrick Kavanagh Centre Inniskeen. Trees for the March plantings were supplied by Forest Friends Ireland, the Tree Council of Ireland and the 'One Million Trees in One Day' project – (contact-Imogen Rabone (m) 087296 0588 : imogen@onemilliontreesinoneday.com)

DRAFT PROGRAMME: The programme may be subject to change-please check details close to the events

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www.onemilliontreesinoneday.com Facilitation for these plantings was done by- John Haughton: Hon. President Forest Friends Ireland and Environmental and Ecology Officer Rotary Ireland (m) 0852536650 Email jjhaughton@gmail.com
6/3/15

The economic value of trees can be estimated under various headings, including: Oxygen provision, carbon storage/climate change, air pollution control, prevention of soil erosion, land fertility value, water recycling, flood prevention, wildlife/biodiversity value, food (horticulture/perm culture), building materials crafts and other usages, aesthetic value, value in the promotion of ecotourism, best farming and horticultural, permacultural and educational values and enhancements.

Peace Forest tree plantings 2017: The Commemorative Peace Woodlands MODULE

4,000 peace trees have been planted in 2017 in memory of all those who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland conflict

MARCH 6; The first 1000 trees (of a total planting of 2,000) were planted at the old Forkhill Barracks Forkhill following a reception to launch the project at 11.30am. These trees were sponsored by the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland. Old Forkhill is a former British military installation that is in the process of being converted for community use. ENQUIRIES: **Darren Rice** E - darren.rice@nmandd.org | T - 028 308 28592 | M - 07713 089225 **Landscape Partnership**

Manager

Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme

Comhairle an Iúir agus Mhúrn

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Crossmaglen Community Centre, O'Fiaich Square

Crossmaglen, BT35 9HG-are the organisers of this tree planting event. Plantings took place in the former Army Base Forkhill which has been transformed into a peace forest for use by the

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community. They joined with Forest Friends Ireland, the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership, Newry Mourne and Down District Council, the Peace Forest Ireland Project and the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland to plant the trees on the 6th. March.

MARCH Thursday 9 and Friday 10 Rebel Hill Castle Lake Forest Demesne, Bailieborough, Cavan Co. Cavan, Ireland. 2,000 trees sponsored by Coillte were planted consisting of 1,000 Oak, 500 Larch, 200 Scots Pine, 200 Hazel and 100 Holly; they will be planted on a 1.3h plot. Planting organised by the Bailieborough Development Association will start at 12noon on Thursday 9th and finish at 6pm on Friday 10th (Finishing at 6 p.m. both evenings).

Enquiries: Lee Mc Donnell 086-794-9739

lee@bailieborough.com & bda@bailieborough.com

MARCH 9th and Friday 10th 2,000 peace trees, were sponsored by Coillte were planted at 'Rebel Hill' Castle Lake Forest Demesne, Bailieborough, Cavan Co. Cavan, These trees. The planting was organised by Lee McDonnell of the Bailieborough Development Association.

Wednesday 5th April: The final part of the 2017 Peace Forest Ireland plantings took place **the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area** on Wednesday 5th April with plantings **in the Palace Demesne Armagh** and in surrounding towns and villages across the geographical **and political spectrum in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area.**

The Peace Forest Ireland Project 2017-(summary)- contained two modules, the planting of 2,000 peace trees in the Castle Lake Demesne Bailieborough, Co. Cavan and the planting of 2,000 peace trees in Armagh Banbridge Craigavon, giving a total of 4,000 trees to be planted in remembrance of all those who lost their lives in the Northern Ireland conflict. The trees

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for the former are being sponsored by Coillte and in the case of the latter, the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland.

Note: The Peace Forest Ireland Project is envisaged as one of strengthening the Peace process and the principles based on the Good Friday Agreement. The project was launched in Derry/Londonderry in May 2014 and pilot tree plantings have taken place in each of the border counties since then

The 2018 Peace Forest Project Module: During 2018 it is intended to plant a tree for each child born in the border counties in the year 2017. Ideally local authorities, other public agencies, community organisation, schools and colleges, and environmental organisations will be involved in this module of the Peace Forest Project.

PEACE FOREST IRELAND: Next Steps:

The following next steps are suggested:

1. Establishing an enabling committee, a completely new structure, made up of representatives of the organisations and individuals who have participated in the Peace Forest Project to date. This new organisation would carry out all the functions of the Peace Forest Ireland Project from the time of its inception to take place during 2018.
2. Securing start-up funding
3. Renting office space
4. The establishment of the most appropriate legal entities/structures in order to secure appropriate outcomes in the development of the project, whether Trust, Co-operative, Company Limited by guarantee.
5. Preparing a scoping report covering all aspects which can be used as a springboard to establish best practice over all aspects of the project.
6. Seeking long term funding which would make the project sustainable in the long term.
7. Search for a site which would be suitable for the Peace Forest Centre for forest Biodiversity.
8. Establishing partnerships designed to achieve the aims and objectives of the Peace Forest Project.
9. Identify sites for tree plantings and sources of trees. Possible tree sources include the Woodland Trust, Conservation Volunteers, Coillte, Northern Ireland forest Service, the Republic of Ireland Forest Service, commercial tree nurseries, the Landscape Association of Ireland, commercial tree nurseries.

The True Value of a Mature Tree:

A tree is worth \$193,250 according to Professor T. M. Das of the University of Calcutta. A tree living for 50 years will generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, control soil erosion and increase soil fertility to the tune of \$ 31,250, recycle \$37,500 worth of water and provide a home for animals worth \$31,250. This figure does not include the value of fruits, lumber or beauty derived from trees

Concluding Remarks: the Peace Forest Ireland Project has developed with various partnerships making it possible to carry out extensive plantings of peace trees. The next phases will involve an ever increasing number of partnerships with many agencies, public and private, north and south of the border, as well as environmental NGOs., philanthropists and private enterprise. New structures will be necessary to enable the project to fulfil its objectives in full.

LINKS: <http://www.forestfriends.ie/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ForestFriendsIreland>
<https://www.facebook.com/peaceforestireland>

For further information and in order to get involved please phone 0852536650

John Haughton project facilitator for the period 2013-2017 inclusive