City Progress 2023-25 Report

C40 URBAN NATURE ACCELERATOR

How cities are becoming greener and more resilient

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C40 CITIES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was created in collaboration with key city officials across C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities, C40 funders, and C40 staff. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report and the actions that are driving forward immediate and inclusive climate solutions to achieve the commitments of the Accelerator. For further information on the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, please visit the accelerator webpage.

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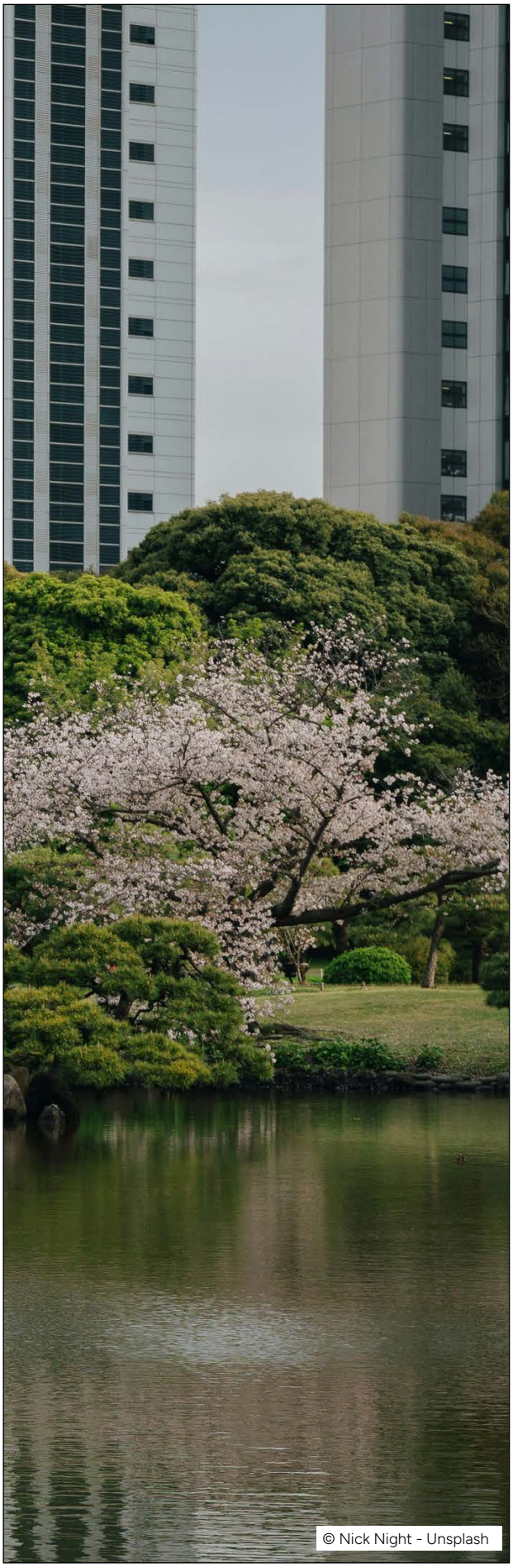
INTRODUCTION

As cities worldwide grapple with rapid urbanisation alongside climate breakdown, the need for inclusive, resilient, and nature-rich urban environments has never been more urgent. Over the last century, cities have experienced the rise of urban sprawl, informal settlements and car dependency. Land has been paved over and nature pushed out. Meanwhile, the climate crisis significantly exacerbates heat and water-related risk in cities. By 2030, nearly half of the world's population – approximately 3.9 billion people – will be exposed to climate-related heat stress, flooding, and drought. Urban residents are especially vulnerable to these impacts, as rising temperatures are amplified due to the urban heat island effect, with cities up to 10-15°C hotter than surrounding rural areas.

Nature is one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools to mitigate climate impacts and safeguard cities from climate hazards such as extreme heat and flooding. Research shows that every US dollar invested in nature-based solutions, such as urban trees, green corridors and permeable surfaces, can generate up to US$8 in avoided losses from climate impacts. More broadly, investments in nature-forward climate adaptation projects yield over US$10 in benefits for every dollar spent over ten years. Well-designed green infrastructure in cities frequently delivers comparable or greater value than grey infrastructure when it comes to cost, co-benefits, and long-term resilience. By cooling neighbourhoods, absorbing floodwater, improving air quality, and sequestering carbon, nature simultaneously addresses multiple climate risks in ways that no single traditional engineering solution can replicate.

Equitable access to nature improves mental and physical health, supports social cohesion and community wellbeing, and builds more inclusive economies. Around 44% of global GDP (US$31 trillion) in cities around the world is at risk due to nature loss, as our economic systems are dependent on nature's essential ecosystem services such as flood control, pollination and climate regulation. A shift toward nature-positive urban development is thus both an environmental and financial imperative. By 2030, the transition to protect, restore and centre nature as an integral part of urban life could create more than 59 million jobs in cities (including 21 million jobs that restore and protect natural ecosystems) while contributing to healthier and more resilient communities.



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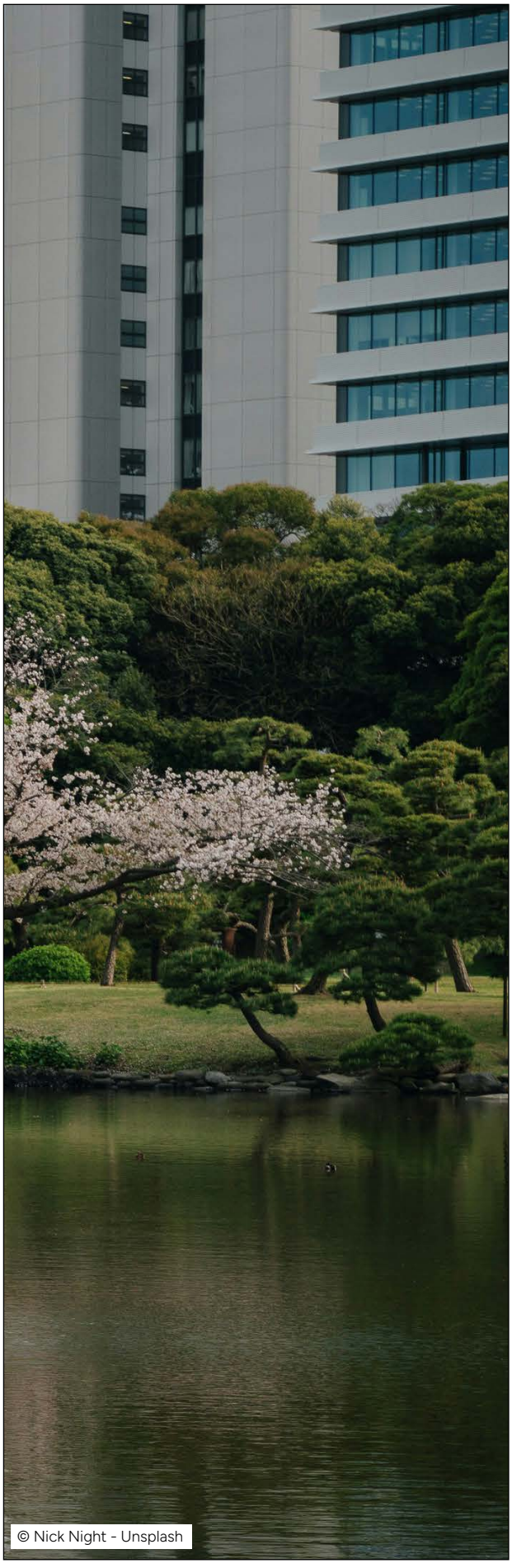

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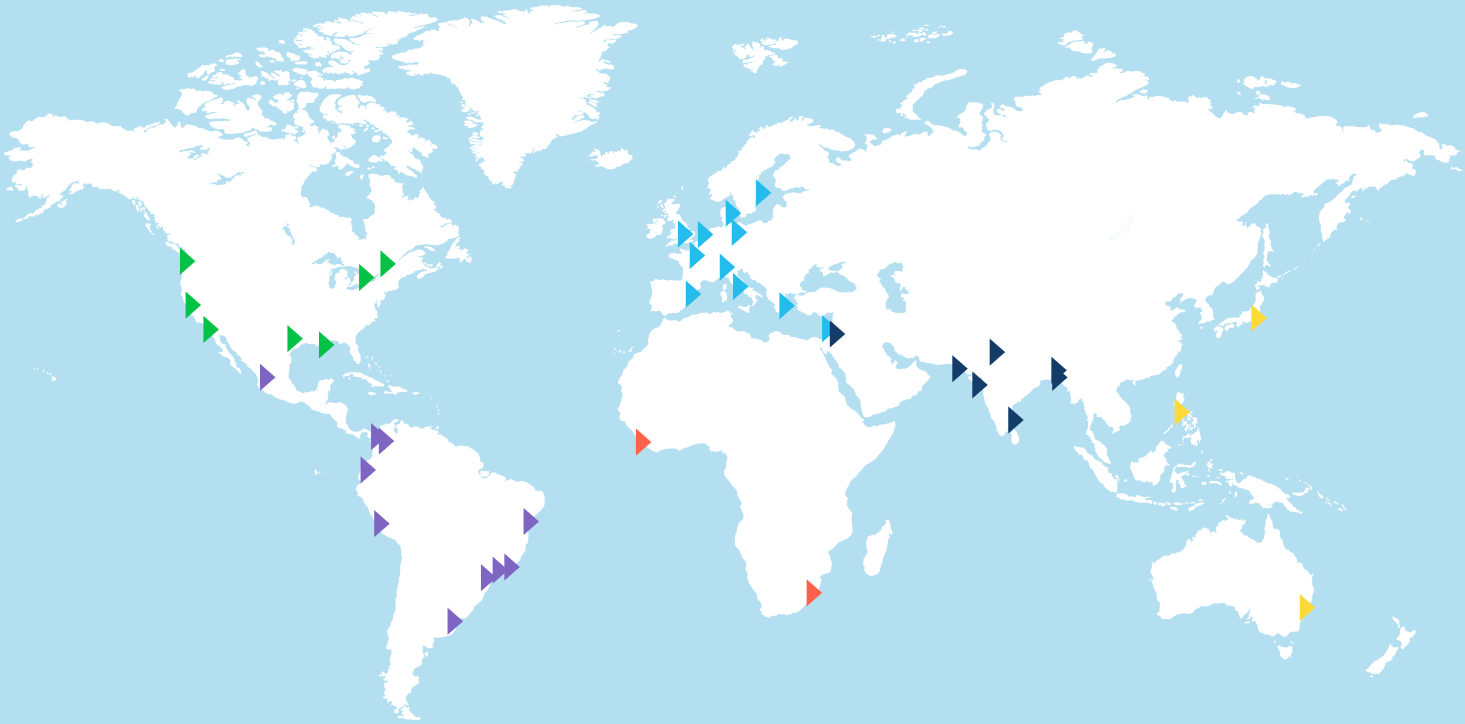
The signatory cities of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator are at the forefront of global efforts to integrate nature into cities to address climate risks like extreme heat and flooding. **Since the launch of the Accelerator in 2021, 40 cities have increased, enhanced, and made nature more accessible and equitably distributed, to reduce climate risk and vulnerability, support wider ecosystem services, and shape more inclusive and healthier communities.**

As part of their commitment to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, signatory cities publicly report on their progress every two years. This was the second reporting cycle, meaning that cities that joined at the Accelerator's launch are now four years into their journey. In the past two years, signatory cities have made significant progress towards Accelerator targets and commitments through a wide range of actions – such as planting new trees and creating new parks and green corridors with strong community involvement, embedding nature more deeply in municipal policies and strategies, and strengthening institutional capacity to increase urban nature.

The C40 Urban Nature Accelerator City Progress Report 2023-25, a more detailed companion to the C40 2025 Accelerator Progress Report, provides a deeper dive into what each signatory city has achieved since the previous reporting cycle in 2023, or since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator. In this report, individual city progress summaries present a detailed overview of the key actions, projects and policies each signatory city has implemented in the last two years to translate Accelerator commitments and targets into real-world impact.

This report serves as a practical resource for city officials and policymakers working on urban nature – both within the Accelerator cohort and beyond – and general audiences to benchmark progress, learn from cities, and identify best practices that may be adapted locally. By presenting each signatory city's progress, the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator City Progress Report 2023-25 shows how the Accelerator's political commitment framework is being put to practice in different urban contexts across the globe.

SIGNATORY CITIES



- Amman
- Austin
- Athens
- Barcelona
- Berlin
- Bogotá
- Buenos Aires
- Chennai
- Copenhagen
- Curitiba
- Delhi NCT*
- Dhaka North
- Dhaka South
- Durban/ eThekwini
- Freetown
- Guadalajara
- Karachi
- Lima
- London
- Los Angeles
- Medellín
- Milan
- Montréal
- Mumbai
- New Orleans
- Paris
- Quezon City
- Quito
- Rio de Janeiro
- Rome
- Rotterdam
- Salvador
- San Francisco
- São Paulo
- Seattle
- Stockholm
- Sydney
- Tel Aviv-Yafo
- Tokyo
- Toronto

*Delhi NCT is not featured as the city did not report in 2025.

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

Five years on from the launch of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in 2021, 40 signatory cities have pledged to achieve ambitious targets by 2030 – by following either one, or both, of the following pathways towards specific targets:

PATHWAY 1:
Increase and improve green and permeable cover
(mitigating heat and flooding risk)

30-40%

of the total built-up city surface area is green and/or permeable space

PATHWAY 2:
Expand equitable access to nature
(increasing accessibility and connectivity)

70%

of the city population has access to a fit-for-purpose green or blue space within a 15-minute walk

Signatory cities have also agreed to meet the following commitments within two and five years of joining the Accelerator:

2-YEAR COMMITMENTS

- Make nature goals public
- Develop support and skills building programmes for green jobs
- Develop a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities
- Conduct gap analysis and mapping to show where new greening is needed
- Accelerate action to address governance barriers to implementation and mobilise access to investments and resources

5-YEAR COMMITMENTS

- Implement new or enhanced public green spaces and green streetscapes in areas with the greatest impact on the most vulnerable
- Complete a baseline natural vegetation inventory and undertake natural capital accounting to raise awareness of the associated value of urban nature
- Develop new inclusive governance frameworks, practices, and programmes
- Update climate action plan adaptation actions to reflect ambitious nature targets

During this reporting cycle, signatory cities reported quantitatively and qualitatively on their progress to become greener and more resilient. Some cities were unable to provide quantitative data; however, the information collected showcases the wide range of actions cities have taken to meet the Accelerator's targets and commitments.

Total number of signatory cities

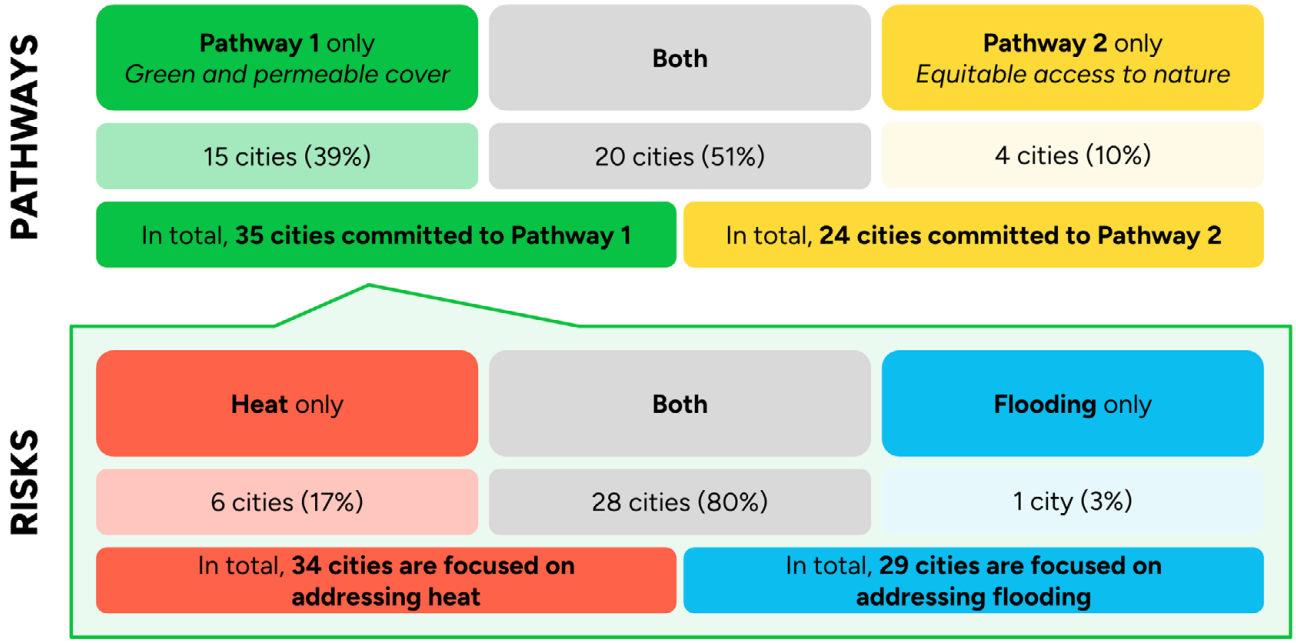
40

cities have committed to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator

Number of signatory cities by region

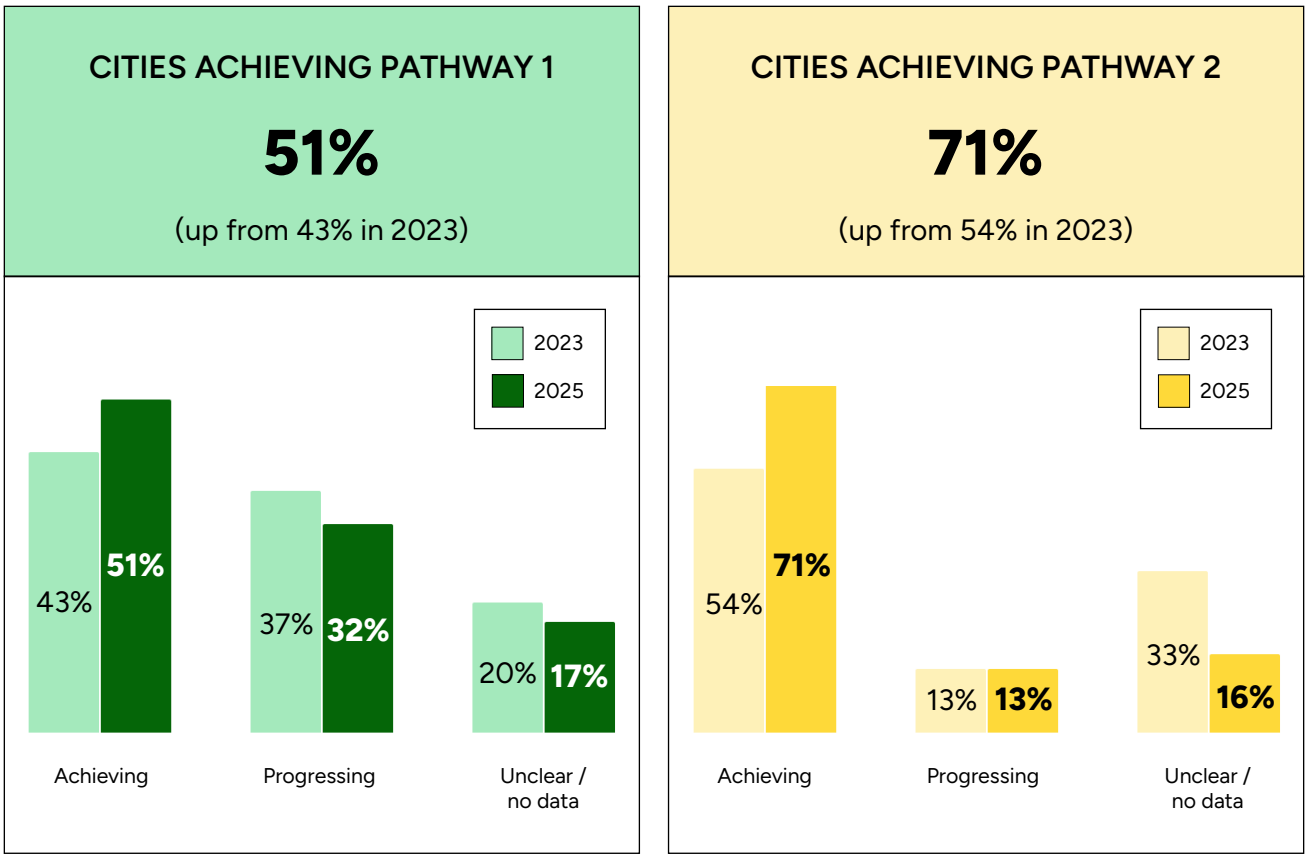
Number of signatory cities reporting on this cycle: 39

Signatory cities per pathway and risk focus

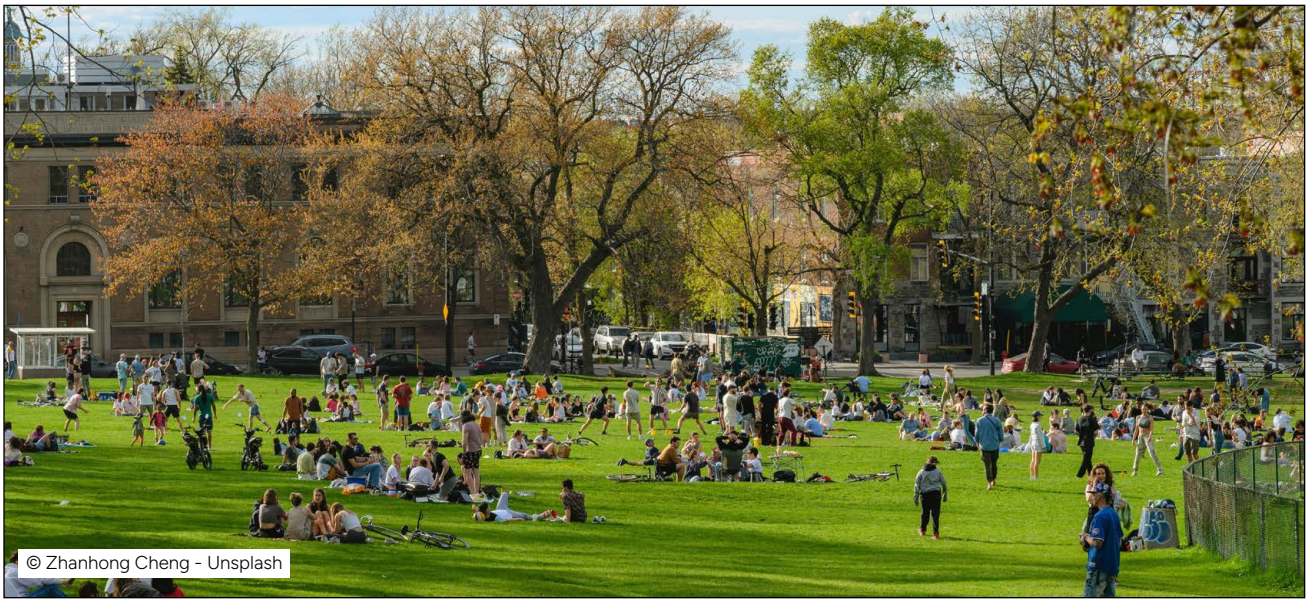


Over half of reporting cities are pursuing both pathways. Pathway 1 is more popular, with 35 out of 39 cities choosing to increase their green and permeable spaces. 24 cities are following Pathway 2, committed to increasing equitable access to nature. A clear majority of the signatory cities committed to Pathway 1 have identified both heat and flooding as the main climate risks that drive their work on urban nature.

Pathway achievement status: 2023 vs. 2025



Compared to 2023, on Pathway 1, five new cities – Austin, Milan, Montréal, Mumbai, and São Paulo – have now met the 30-40% green cover target. Between 2023 and 2025, four more cities – Austin, Curitiba, Guadalajara and Montréal – crossed the 70% population access to green space threshold required by Pathway 2. Across these cities, at least 6 million more residents now live within fifteen minutes of fit-for-purpose green or blue space. The total number of cities reporting unclear or no data also fell across both pathways, reflecting improved data collection and monitoring capacity across signatory cities.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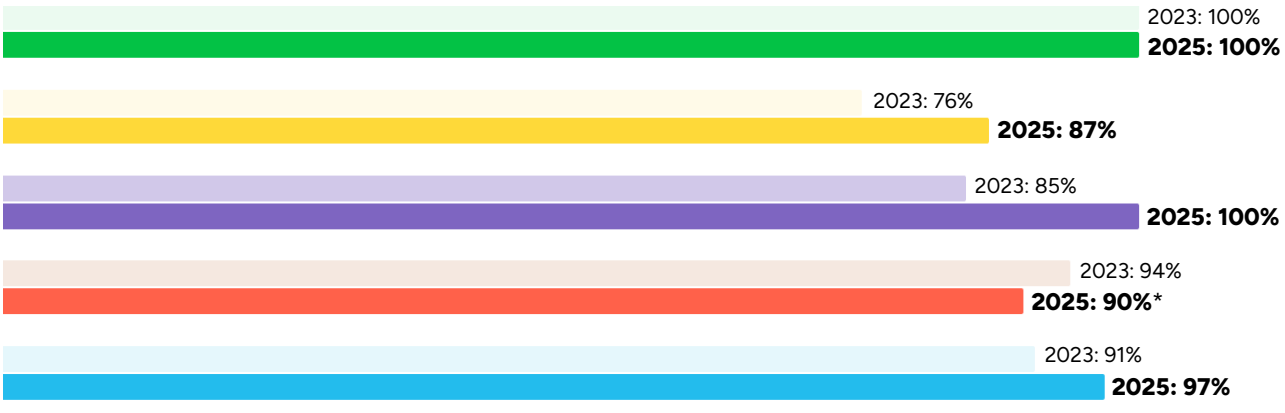
Commitment achievement status: 2023 vs. 2025



**Five additional cities reported in 2025 compared to 2023*

Make nature goals public

Develop support and skills building programmes for green jobs

Develop a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities

Conduct gap analysis and mapping to show where new greening is needed

Accelerate action to address governance barriers to implementation and mobilise access to investments and resources

For the Accelerator's 2-year commitments, the most notable progress since 2023 is seen in cities' dedication to equity and inclusive climate action, with all signatory cities now having a process for involving vulnerable and marginalised communities in greening activities. Another noteworthy mention is cities' understanding and prioritisation of green jobs, with support for green job skills-building increasing from 76% to 87%.

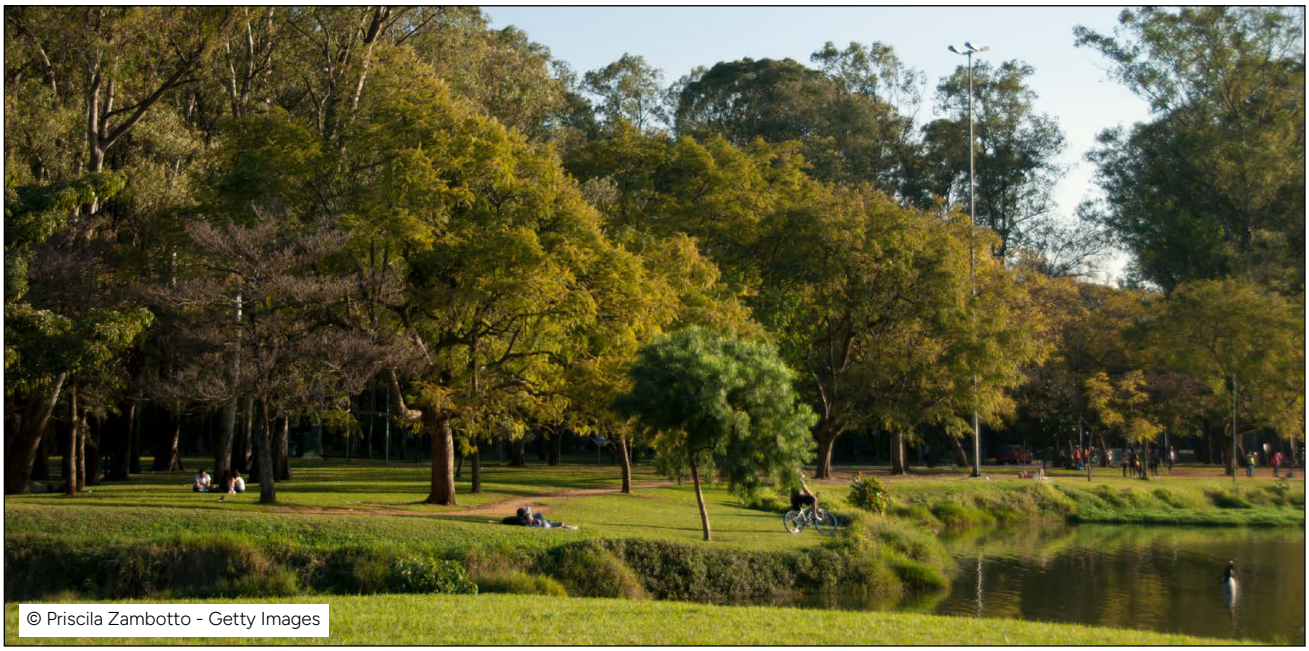
Progress since 2023: what cities have delivered

TREES PLANTED	GREEN SPACES CREATED	GOOD GREEN JOBS CREATED
2+ million	**300+**	**30,000+**
Across 27 cities providing quantitative data	Across 22 cities providing quantitative data	Across 11 cities providing quantitative data

Since the 2023 reporting cycle, C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities have delivered nature-based change at a scale that is measurable in millions of trees, hundreds of new green spaces, and thousands of new green jobs. Freetown has restored 225 hectares of urban and peri-urban forest and more than doubled its green workforce to over 2,800 direct green jobs. Quezon City generated over 20,000 new green jobs by scaling its community-based urban farming programme. Lima planted 260,000 trees across the metropolitan area with an 85% survival rate. São Paulo joined the Accelerator in 2023, and has already opened six new urban parks, established three conservation units, and planted more than 250,000 native Atlantic Forest trees.

Curitiba's tree-planting programme surpassed its previous target of planting 100,000 trees, with 194,000 trees in the ground as of early 2026. Paris planted nearly 129,000 trees toward its 170,000-tree target, and saw its canopy index rise from 21% to nearly 24%. Rio de Janeiro implemented five green corridors, totalling over 33 kilometres in length, and four major parks covering over 460,000 m^2. Chennai built 143 urban parks and 16 sponge parks. Montréal added 35,800 cubic metres of water-retention capacity through sponge parks and bioretention cells – the equivalent of over 14 Olympic-size swimming pools. Salvador created 88 new urban gardens, and Guadalajara consolidated 70 green corridors to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

This progress reflects signatory cities' political will, sustained investment, and growing understanding of nature's co-benefits translated into action on the ground – showing what is achievable when urban nature is embraced as key infrastructure in the face of escalating climate risks.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Key actions cities are taking to become greener and more resilient

26

signatory cities have created formalised city-led green jobs programmes related to nature*

(up from 9 in 2023)

Austin's Civilian Conservation Corps has connected communities historically excluded from environmental fields to over 700 meaningful, well-paying green jobs to date. The newly created Green Infrastructure and Arborist 'job families' opens clear, long-term career pathways in stormwater management, ecological restoration, urban forestry, climate resilience and more.

**This does not include ad-hoc support or one-off trainings*

24

signatory cities have updated plans or strategies to enhance the quantity and quality of nature in their urban areas

(up from 15 in 2023)

Paris has updated several of its nature-related policies, including the local bioclimatic urban development plan alongside a new Climate Plan (2024-2030) that centres climate adaptation and risk reduction. The city also approved a detailed Biodiversity Plan (2025-2030) that operationalises its ecological ambitions through 85 specific, actionable measures designed to combat biodiversity erosion and expand urban green spaces.

32

signatory cities have involved local communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of their nature activities

(up from 22 in 2023)

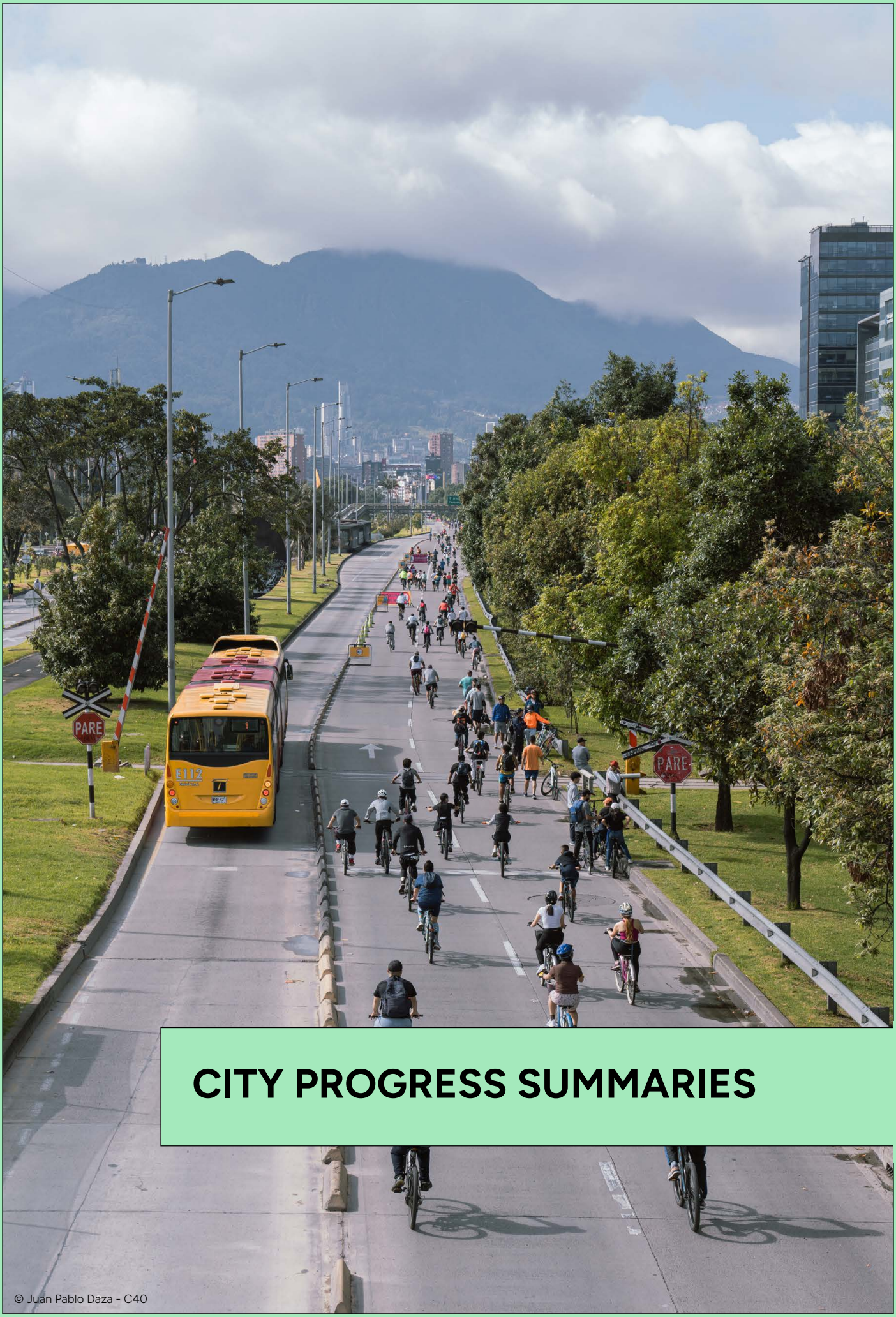
Amman has rehabilitated urban farming parks targeting low-income and marginalised communities, actively engaging residents in participatory planning to design spaces and select productive plants for rooftops and balconies.

31

signatory cities have implemented major projects such as parks, green corridors and other interventions to strengthen biodiversity and urban greening

(up from 14 in 2023)

Chennai has developed 143 urban parks and 16 sponge parks across the city to mitigate flooding risk and support groundwater recharge in vulnerable areas. The city has also launched three flagship parks to help increase biodiversity and flood resilience, spanning nearly 39 acres of multifunctional green space.



CITY PROGRESS SUMMARIES

SIGNATORY CITIES IN

AFRICA

DURBAN/ETHEKWINI, SOUTH AFRICA

Green cover and urban greening
EThekwini Municipality's ecosystem-based adaptation is centred on the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS), a spatial layer that highlights 95,000 hectares of conservation-worthy land. The city's primary focus is building a network of green corridors that enhance biodiversity and create resilient ecosystems capable of buffering the city against floods, heatwaves, and sea-level rise.

Community engagement and equity
EThekwini has made progress in its inclusion efforts by publishing the annual State of Biodiversity report in both English and isiZulu, ensuring nature goals are accessible to the majority of residents. Through its stewardship programme, the city has facilitated the creation of three new conservancies within traditional authority areas. This inclusive governance model ensures marginalised communities are active participants and decision-makers in local conservation initiatives.

Green jobs and capacity building
Green job creation and skills building is also a key focus for eThekwini. The Buffelsdraai reforestation programme continues to provide sustainable employment for 'treepreneurs,' while invasive species management is implemented through tenders that prioritise local community contractors. The city also conducts regular capacity-building workshops in marginalised communities, to incorporate indigenous knowledge into biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation strategies.

Looking ahead
Future priorities for the city include the revision of the D'MOSS layer after comprehensive public participation, and the development of Environmental Management Plans for sites seeking protected area status. EThekwini is also working on a pilot project for invasive species management in the KwaThoyana stewardship area.

Isimahla Biodiversity Stewardship site © Bheka Memela

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Green cover and urban greening
Freetown has established itself as a global leader in community-driven reforestation through its flagship #FreetownTheTreeTown campaign. Supported by US$1.8 million in upfront capital from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the city restored over 1,200 hectares of urban and peri-urban forest by 2025. The campaign aims to plant, grow, and digitally track 5 to 7 million trees and mangroves by 2028, effectively reducing the risk of landslides, flooding, and coastal erosion for the city's residents.

Green jobs and workforce development
#FreetownTheTreeTown has generated 2,825 direct green jobs to date – more than doubling its 2023 baseline. Of these roles, which include tree workers, nursery managers, and community mobilisers, 67% are held by women and 95% by young people from economically disadvantaged communities. This pay-to-grow scheme provides sustainable income to residents while building the foundation for the long-term survival of the city's green infrastructure.

Technology, data, and monitoring
Freetown is leveraging cutting-edge technology to ensure the transparency and sustainability of its reforestation. The city uses drone surveys and high-resolution satellite data to verify tree cover and analyse ecological connectivity across the peninsula. Individual trees are geotagged using mobile apps by a dedicated team of 'tree trackers'. To secure future funding, Freetown is currently registering its tree assets under the Verra Standard, which will help unlock private sector investment through carbon offset markets.

Climate resilience and adaptation
In 2025, Freetown also launched West Africa's first Urban Heat Action Plan, which integrates nature-based solutions with innovative engineering. This plan includes the establishment of cooling corridors, the installation of shaded market pavilions, and the piloting of temperature sensors in vulnerable informal settlements to identify priority areas for thermal relief. These efforts are guided by Community Adaptation Action Plans, ensuring that all interventions are locally led and tailored to the needs of residents most affected by climate breakdown.

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SIGNATORY CITIES IN

EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

Green cover and urban greening
Quezon City is making rapid gains in urban greening through its One Million Trees Programme, which has planted over 515,000 trees since 2023 and contributes to the city's goal of doubling its green areas by 2030. A highlight of Quezon City's nature progress is the GORA (Green, Open, Renewable, Access) Lane, a network of nearly 9 kilometres of pedestrian corridors featuring pocket parks and public art. The city has also rehabilitated 20 local parks and installed rainwater harvesting systems across 119 public schools to enhance climate resilience and water security.

Quezon City is also focusing on large-scale greening through its Generation Restoration Project. A primary goal is the transformation of the Payatas Controlled Disposal Facility, a former dumpsite, into a green, climate-resilient community space. This project serves as an anchor for a wider Biodiversity Green Corridor that will link key ecological nodes like the Sierra Madre and the La Mesa Watershed.

Green jobs and workforce development
The city is a regional leader in urban agriculture, with over 1,400 community-based farms established to date. This initiative has drastically boosted green employment, with the number of urban farmers growing from over 18,800 in 2022 to over 43,200 in 2025. These programmes specifically benefit marginalised groups, including single parents, elderly people, and people with disabilities, while simultaneously supporting local food security.

Looking ahead
Looking toward 2026, Quezon City will open 34 new parks and continue expanding its GORA Lane network. The city is also preparing to launch a Citizen Science Programme for K-12 student leaders, combining biodiversity conservation workshops with hands-on, community-based projects to empower the next generation of environmental stewards.


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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Green cover and urban greening
Sydney has met its quantitative target with green spaces standing at over 33% of the city surface area; the city has now set an ambitious goal to reach 40% by 2050. Since 2023, Sydney has created three new parks totalling over 14,800 m^2 and upgraded 19 existing parks to better align with community needs. In 2023, the City adopted updated versions of several key documents following a comprehensive review: Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, Tree Species List to further support the greening programme.

Technology, data, and monitoring
By tracking a suite of canopy metrics, including canopy cover at the 100-metre scale and age structure and species diversity at the 800-metre scale, Sydney aims to ensure that high-quality, diverse tree populations are equitably distributed, with a particular focus on its most vulnerable neighbourhoods. The City has also completed a comprehensive vegetation inventory that individually records and values every council-managed tree and park as part of its asset management. This ensures that funding is accurately allocated for the maintenance and renewal of green infrastructure.

Governance, policy and strategy
The Sydney Development Control Plan allows the City to integrate nature-related requirements into the private sector. This plan mandates compulsory deep soil zones for tree growth and offers height bonuses for developments that include green and social roofs. Larger developments in the city must now undergo mandatory biodiversity assessments by qualified specialists. To support urban wildlife, Sydney has introduced bird strike mitigation measures near parks and waterways, such as treated windows on new buildings.

Looking ahead
Future priorities include the development of the Greening Sydney Fund, which will use developer compensation fees to fund greening across the local area. Sydney is also reviewing its Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan and Community Greening Framework.


Observatory Hill significant tree © Chris Southwood - City of Sydney

TOKYO, JAPAN

Governance, policy and strategy
Tokyo is aligning its urban nature goals with the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, targeting a nature-positive status by 2030. In the Tokyo Climate Change Adaptation Plan, revised in March 2024, the vision for 2050 is to minimise the city's impact on biodiversity and secure a rich natural environment. Green coverage, defined as the share of the total area covered by greenery, including park areas and water surfaces, currently stands at over 52% across mainland Tokyo.

Green cover and urban greening
The city places a specific focus on increasing parks in its dense 23 wards. Tokyo has set an ambitious target to open 130 hectares of new metropolitan parks by 2030, with 37 hectares already completed as of 2024. This is supported by the Urban Planning Parks and Green Spaces Development Policy, which prioritises the transformation of unused urban land into green recreational space. Additionally, Tokyo aims to expand conservation areas to a total of 1,000 hectares by 2050.

Finance, investment and green jobs
Tokyo uses innovative financial tools like green and blue bonds to fund its nature projects, such as greening along waterfronts and development of metropolitan parks. The city's Greenery Programme mandates greening measures for the construction of new buildings, extensions, and similar projects on sites above a certain size. To support green jobs, the city offers accreditation for Tokyo Nature Guides promoting eco-tourism, as well as training for Green Volunteer Leaders.

Looking ahead
Tokyo will continue developing the TOKYO Digital Wildlife Inventory, created with citizen scientists using a smartphone app. The city is also focused on recovering and protecting precious natural sites through regional volunteer conservation activities, which engaged over 40,000 participants in total by 2024. These initiatives support Tokyo's efforts to remain a leader in balancing megacity growth with green space conservation.

Satoyama Conservation Area in Tokyo © City of Tokyo

SIGNATORY CITIES IN

EUROPE

ATHENS, GREECE

Green cover and urban greening
Athens is accelerating toward its nature goals, with at least 70% of residents now within a 15-minute walk of green and blue spaces. The city has committed to planting 5,000 trees annually until 2028. Over 7,400 trees have been successfully planted across streets, squares, and parks since early 2024. This effort is supported by a public monitoring platform that allows residents to track the city's progress in real-time.

Governance, policy and strategy
The city's climate ambitions have been formalised through the Climate City Contract (CCC) for neutrality by 2030, a milestone that earned Athens the EU Mission Label. Under this contract, the city is implementing its first micro forest and has constructed 14 pocket parks to provide localised cooling in dense and heat-vulnerable areas.

Community engagement and equity
The city is using the EUI-Cooling Havens programme, a €6 million initiative to transform underused spaces into climate-resilient green hubs through participatory design. Athens' Greening the Grey initiative incentivises residents to transform their own courtyards and terraces into green spaces. Large-scale projects like the 214,000 m² Elaionas Park in West Attica and the completion of the National Garden project are further expanding benefits of urban nature to high-risk communities.

Looking ahead
In 2026, Athens is preparing to implement major green corridor projects in Exarcheia and Plato's Academy to restore ecological connectivity. The city is also pioneering the first superblock in Athens through the Pilot Cities Programme ASCEND, which integrates green infrastructure with school terraces and courtyard gardens. These efforts are complemented by the Youth Climate Action Council, which empowers young residents to co-design the city's adaptation strategies by including them in key municipal decision-making processes.

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BARCELONA, SPAIN

Green cover and urban greening
Barcelona continues to commit to urban greening, achieving its goal of adding 10 hectares of green space annually. In the past two years, the city has implemented five new biodiversity refuges, as well as numerous green roofs and walls. Barcelona's dedication to providing equitable access to urban nature has been particularly successful; nearly 93% of the city population now lives within a 5-minute walk to a green space.

Governance, policy and strategy
Flagship greening projects like the 24,000 m^2 Can Clos, Plaça Glòries, and the Consell de Cent green axis have all been central to Barcelona's recent progress. To manage future climate risks, the city updated its Climate Plan in 2024, integrating specific goals and actions for urban nature and biodiversity conservation. The city also uses its multilingual Biodiversity Atlas platform to provide accurate and regularly updated data on urban flora and fauna.

Community engagement and equity
To ensure equitable access to nature, the city uses a 'Green Model' map to identify priority areas with a shortage of green spaces. Residents actively influence municipal investments through the Decidim Barcelona digital platform, which has facilitated the implementation of multiple green space projects funded through participatory budgeting.

Looking ahead
In response to the severe drought the city experienced until 2025, Barcelona's new Citizen Commitment for a More Sustainable Barcelona 2024-34 plan adapted its immediate focus to include water management alongside greenspace and biodiversity goals. Looking ahead to 2026, Barcelona plans to develop new inclusive governance frameworks by exploring partnerships with the private sector.


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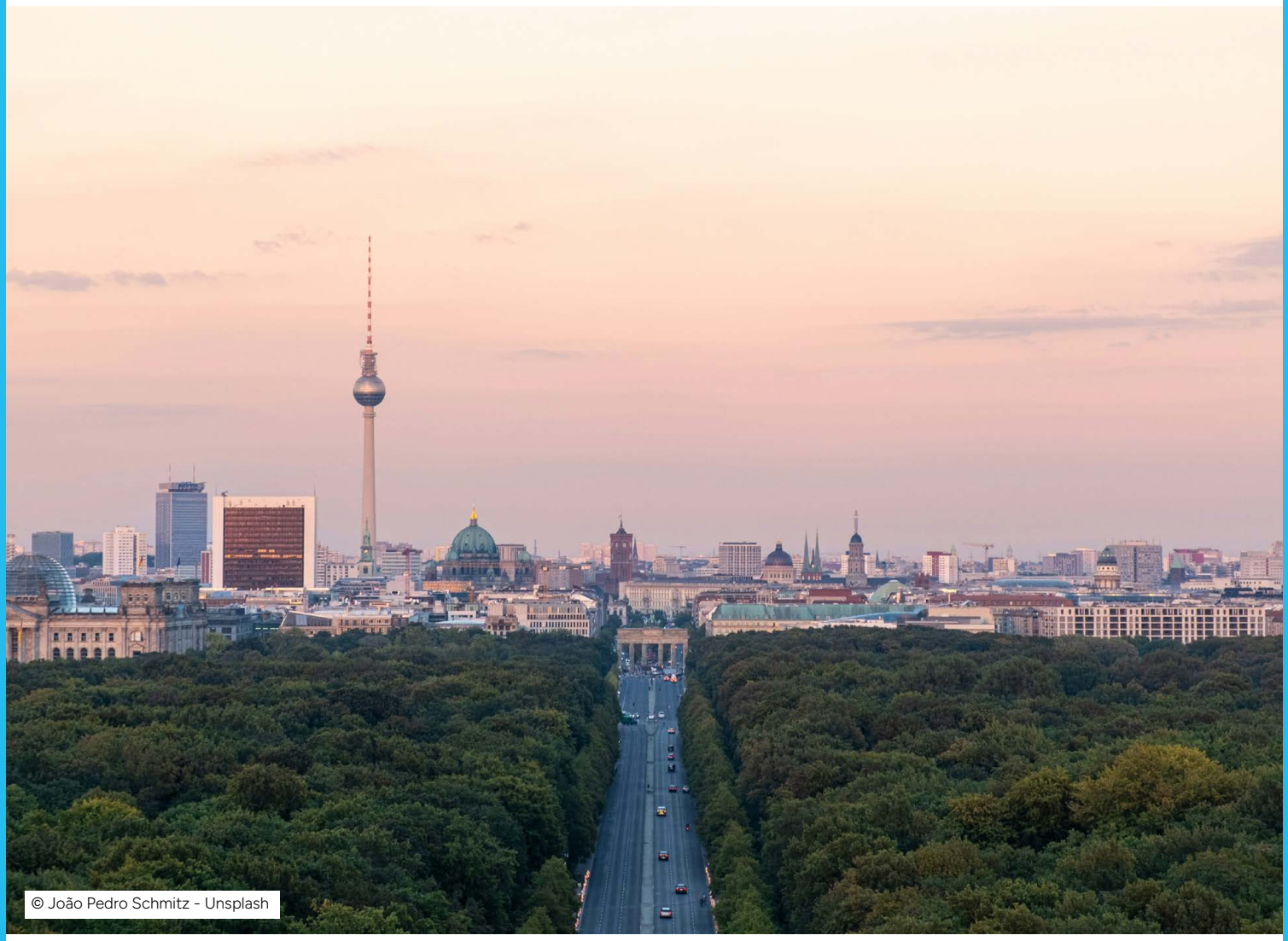
BERLIN, GERMANY

Climate resilience and adaptation
Berlin is following the sponge city model through its newly established Blue-Green Alliance, a strategic partnership between the city government and state-owned entities. The alliance aims to implement decentralised rainwater management and cooling measures, with the first phase focusing on the sustainable redesign of city squares.

Governance, policy and strategy
In 2025, the adoption of the Strategy for Biological Diversity 2030+ has provided a clear framework for restoring ecosystems while improving quality of life in the city. The city launched the Berlin Urban Nature Pact at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP16 in Cali in November 2024, initiating a global movement for municipal biodiversity protection. This pact is supported by a dedicated coordination office to help other cities implement concrete nature-positive initiatives.

Green cover and urban greening
Large-scale greening projects are central to Berlin's progress, most notably the development of the Tegeler Stadtheide landscape park on the site of the former Tegel Airport. The city is also advancing Spreepark Berlin, which holds a sustainability certification from the German Sustainable Building Council, and the Berlin Mixed Forest Programme for climate-adapted forest conversion. To support greening in private properties, Berlin has introduced a green roof requirement for certain new buildings.

Looking ahead
In 2025, Berlin hosted the first joint meeting of the Urban Nature Pact to facilitate capacity-building for member cities, with plans to continue these activities in 2026. The city also plans to refine its Geo-Portal to include detailed mapping of potential sites for urban greening, helping to prioritise areas best fit for depaving and re-wilding.



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Governance, policy and strategy
Copenhagen continues to advance its nature-based solutions through an integrated approach to biodiversity and climate adaptation. A major milestone in the past two years is the development of a city-wide biodiversity strategy that emphasises partnerships with residents and organisations to support urban nature. Copenhagen's distribution of green spaces is equitable and high, with 92% of the city population living within 300 meters of a green or blue space.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The city is leveraging its Cloudburst Management Plan to deliver environmental improvements in low-income and vulnerable neighbourhoods. Flagship projects like the Karens Minde Axis have transformed once-degraded areas into multifunctional green stretches that manage heavy rainfall, boosting biodiversity with native species and artificial lakes. Another key initiative, Grønningen, transformed a simple lawn into a vibrant recreational space focused on local biodiversity through co-design with residents, architects, and artists.

Green jobs and workforce development
Copenhagen is also fostering a green economy through an employment programme that hires unemployed residents on social welfare for nature regeneration tasks. In 2024, participants in this programme worked across five different areas, focusing on invasive species removal, undergrowth clearing to support light-demanding plants, and cleaning local lakes to improve accessibility for birds and insects. These projects provide meaningful work while directly enhancing the ecological health of the built environment.

Looking ahead
Copenhagen is updating its Climate Adaptation Strategy to integrate urban nature even more deeply into municipal planning as a way to tackle extreme heat, which is a growing concern to the city. Copenhagen is also exploring the implementation of a specific target for green space percentages in new residential developments and setting stricter quality standards for urban nature. To support these goals, various funds have been established for green façades and local community projects aimed at increasing neighbourhood biodiversity.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LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Green cover and urban greening
London continues to keep more than half of the city green in the face of development pressures. Nearly 52% of the city is now under green cover and over 96% of the population lives within 400 meters of a green space. Since 2016, the Mayor of London has made more than £33 million available for greening. This has included funding the planting of over 620,000 trees, including two new woodlands, providing more than 85 hectares of public green space. In total, 900 hectares of green space have been created or improved.

Community engagement and equity
London is a pioneer in community-led rewilding and restoration, which is a political priority for the mayor. This has been supported by the Mayor of London's grant funding programmes; more than 460 hectares of wildlife habitat have been restored through the Rewild London Fund. Launched in 2024, the Trees for Young Londoners programme has engaged approximately 1,000 students from underrepresented backgrounds and special needs schools in planting 4,000 trees, while teaching them about career opportunities in urban forestry and greenspace maintenance.

Finance and investment
The Green Roots Fund will award £12 million over three years to greening projects that involve and empower Londoners in creating nature-rich neighbourhoods. So far £3.5 million has been awarded to 26 projects. The Clean and Healthy Waterways plan will set out a 10-year roadmap to restore London's rivers, canals and streams. New £7 million funding for strategic climate adaptation and greening projects will deliver tree equity and urban resilience, large scale rewilding, strategic sustainable urban drainage and equitable access to green and blue spaces.

Looking ahead
Looking ahead, the recent launches of the innovative London Green Infrastructure Framework and Local Nature Recovery Strategy will seek to further embed social equity in the city's nature strategies, with future efforts aiming to create an equitable, stronger and more resilient network of nature across the capital.


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MILAN, ITALY

Green cover and urban greening
Milan has achieved both its 2030 targets; over 35% of the city area is now green and permeable space, and more than 92% of residents live within a 15-minute walk of a green space. This has been driven by municipal plans including the Urban Masterplan, the Air and Climate Plan (PAC) adopted in 2020, and the Green and Landscape Plan, currently in development and expected to be adopted by the end of 2026.

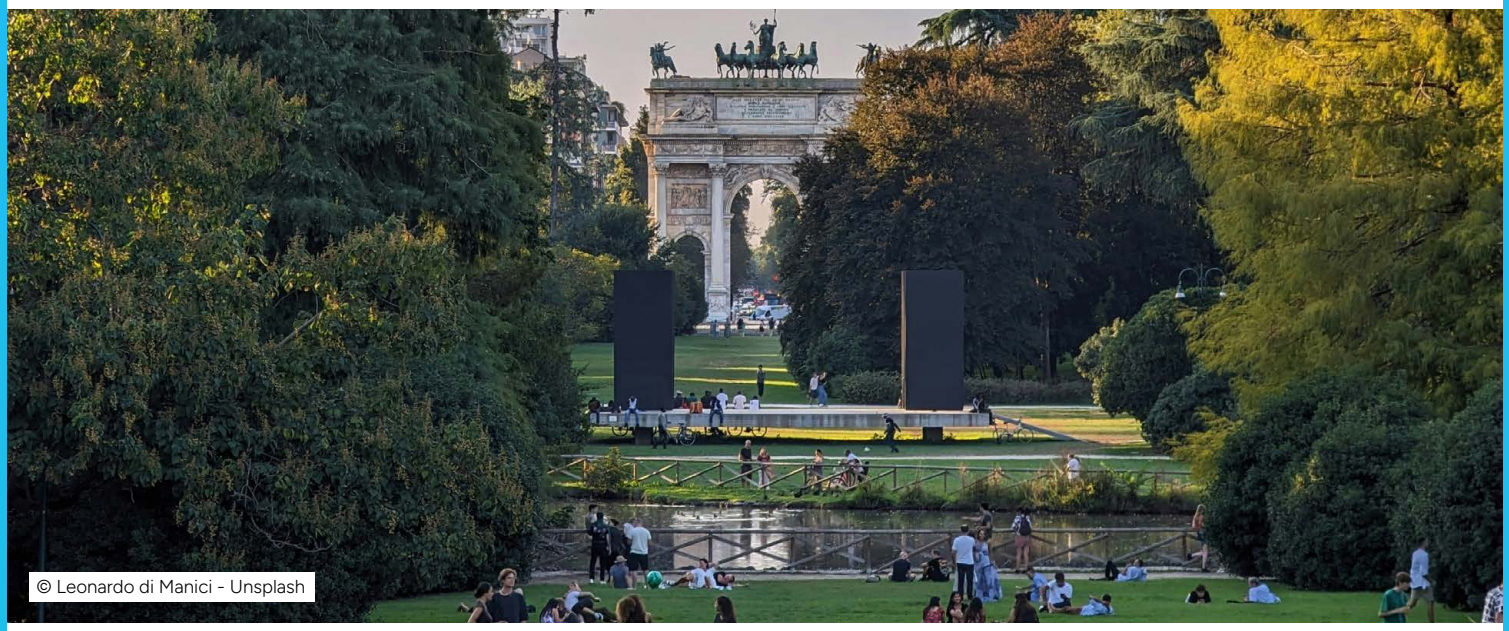
Governance, policy and strategy
The Municipality of Milan's key initiatives include urban forestation projects funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and interventions linked to major infrastructure projects, such as the M4 metro line, which has increased accessible green areas and new tree planting. During the 2023–24 planting season, over 15,000 new trees were planted by the municipality along streets, parks and other urban green areas.

Climate resilience and adaptation
Milan is also a frontrunner in de-paving and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), which improve ecological quality while reducing flood risk. Eight interventions have been designed and 27 further areas identified for pavement removal through public and private funding. By 2029, the city plans to implement 14 SuDS projects in collaboration with MM, the integrated water service provider. This includes greening former parking areas on Via Guido da Velate, Via Pacini and Via Toce to enhance cooling and reduce flooding. Nature-based engineering interventions along the Lambro River and the Vettabbia canal also improve water management and enhance biodiversity.

Community engagement and equity
The School Oasis programme has transformed underused schoolyards in hot neighbourhoods into cooling spaces, with one oasis planned in each of the city's nine municipalities. In the Bovisa district, the GOCCIA project is restoring an 18-hectare urban forest in a former industrial site using phytoremediation – using living plants to clean up contaminated soil, air and water within the site.

Technology, data and monitoring
Milan is also improving the ecological performance of existing green spaces to deliver ecosystem services and enhance urban wellbeing. This includes trialling mixed-species tree rows to boost resilience and progressively expanding reduced-mowing areas to support biodiversity. New technologies are further enhancing green infrastructure management: a digital twin covering around 30,000 trees and data-driven systems to estimate trees' ecosystem services are enabling more informed decisions across the city.

Partnerships and environmental stewardship
Milan's Care and Adopt Public Green initiative engages local associations and residents in maintaining green areas, particularly in peripheral neighbourhoods. This is complemented by several collaboration agreements and sponsorship programmes, through which local organisations and companies support the care for public green spaces, combining environmental and social objectives.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PARIS, FRANCE

Green cover and urban greening
Paris is making impressive progress towards transforming into a garden city, with its Plan Biodiversité 2025-2030 setting 85 concrete actions to enhance nature in the capital. The city has met its 2030 target, with nearly 32% combined coverage of green spaces and permeable surfaces. Paris has also reached a significant milestone by planting 150,000 trees between 2020 and 2026, greening the city faster than ever before. After inaugurating Place de la Catalogne urban forest in 2024, the city has also created three new urban forests, including at the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville and Place du Colonel Fabien.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The city's climate adaptation strategy is centred on protecting its most vulnerable populations. Since 2023, the Oasis Schoolyards programme has transformed 35 schoolyards into green cooling centres, with a goal of 100% of students able to access nature during school. Paris has also implemented 522 water features and intends to create 20 new ponds by 2030 to enhance the blue frame of the city and support biodiversity.

Green jobs and policy
Paris is also pioneering an inclusive green economy through programmes like 'Parisculteurs,' which has facilitated sustainable agricultural projects in the city for over a decade. The city supports unemployed people to become gardeners through local associations managing the ecological health of the Petite Ceinture, the historic inner railway belt. Under the 'Paris Action Climat Biodiversité' pact, over 50 companies have committed to operational nature-positive measures in their business practices. In 2024, Paris adopted its bioclimatic Local Urban Plan (PLU), which identifies green space gaps and mandates new environmental standards for construction.

Looking ahead
Planned work in the city in 2026 and beyond includes creating 500 new vegetated pedestrian streets and creating 100 neighbourhood wildlife refuges. Paris will also measure its biodiversity footprint for the first time, establishing a robust database to track the long-term health of its 3,400 wild species.


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ROME, ITALY

Green cover and urban greening
Rome has made significant progress in urban greening, planting nearly 38,000 trees and 115,000 plants between 2021 and 2025. This effort is largely supported by the National Recovery and Resilience (PNRR) funding, with a broader goal to plant 628,000 plants across 628 hectares in the coming years. The city has recovered 70 hectares of public space from building development and completed five new parks along the Tiber River.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The city is actively developing its 100 Parks for Rome project, which identifies 19 initial parks as part of a comprehensive green infrastructure masterplan. To combat the urban heat island effect, Rome is working on creating and redeveloping new green spaces like the Centocelle Park, a former military airport and car demolition site as well as various other reforestation projects. Rome is also preparing its first heat plan (Piano Caldo), aiming to establish a network of climate shelters, including indoor facilities and outdoor parks and gardens.

Community engagement and equity
To ensure equitable access to nature, Rome is conducting studies to identify vulnerable groups within a 15-minute radius of green or blue spaces. The city presented its initial findings on neighbourhood heat impacts in June 2025, using these data to prioritise nature interventions in areas most prone to heat islands. The city is empowering residents to maintain local green spaces through initiatives such as collaboration agreements and the adoption of green areas.

Looking ahead
Rome is launching a new website in 2026 to allow residents to track progress on nature-related goals. The city also continues to organise annual public gardening courses, which train an average of 200 participants each year in the care of green infrastructure. These initiatives are designed to foster a sense of shared responsibility for the city's ecological resilience and its multiple benefits. Starting in October 2026, forest plants will be planted on three hectares of de-paved land.

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ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Green cover and urban greening
Rotterdam has created 26.9 hectares of new green space as of the end of 2025, exceeding the target of reaching 20 hectares by 2026. A significant portion of this growth – 8.3 hectares – consists of green roofs, supported by municipal subsidies. The city has achieved both of its 2030 targets, with green spaces accounting for over 31% the city area and over 97% of the population having access to a cool, green space of at least 500 m^2 within a 600-metre radius.

Community engagement and equity
The city is a leader in community engagement, with residents of 610 streets actively involved in local greening projects in their streets in 2025. Initiatives such as the TegelTaxi facilitate the replacement of paving tiles with plants, while the NK-Tegelwippen championship encourages competitive depaving. Since 2023, Rotterdam has reached a milestone of 58 nature-based school playgrounds, with 13 more in development to provide cooling and shade and educate children on environmental issues. The city has also created 40 hectares of bee-friendly landscape.

Governance, policy and strategy
The city launched the Klimaatrechtvaardig Rotterdam movement to protect marginalised groups from climate impacts and promote climate justice. This is supported by the Wijk aan Zet programme, which empowers 39 elected district councils to determine how neighbourhood budgets are spent on nature and resilience.

Looking ahead
Rotterdam plans to complete 7 large new city parks and create 40 hectares of bee-friendly landscape. In 2026, Rotterdam will implement its Green Agenda and 'Rotterdams WeerWoord' plans to incorporate even more ambitious targets. The city is also a key partner in the EU JUSTGREEN project, collaborating with other European cities to integrate equity perspectives into all urban nature policies.


© Arnoud Verhey

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Green cover and urban greening
Stockholm has achieved both of its 2030 targets, with 59% of its built-up area classified as green space and at least 90% of city residents living within 300 meters of a fit-for-purpose green space. The city has successfully completed its Local Biodiversity Action Measures (LBAM) mapping, which now serves as the primary tool for prioritising urban nature projects at the city district level.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The ongoing development of the Vårbergstoppen landscape park targets both biodiversity enhancement and recreational value for residents. The city has also carried out a city-wide mapping of heat islands and vulnerable facilities, such as day care centres, to guide climate adaptation strategies. These initiatives are spurred by the Miljöprogram 2030, which mandates well-functioning and cohesive ecosystems.

Green jobs and workforce development
Stockholm is also engaging young people from marginalised communities in summer green jobs to help implement biodiversity measures. This programme uses LBAM to identify neighbourhoods in most need of urban greening and environmental restoration. The city also uses the Linkage Mapper technology to measure and improve the connectivity of its green infrastructure for prioritised species.

Looking ahead
Planned activities for 2026 include nature conservation training for municipal staff and contractors. Stockholm is also working on a project to map tree canopy cover, specifically targeting areas where coverage is below 30%. To ensure long-term sustainability, the city is also developing a new financial model to secure permanent investments for meeting its ambitious biodiversity targets.

Vårbergstoppen park © Clement Morin - LAND arkitektur

TEL AVIV-YAFO, ISRAEL

Governance, policy and strategy
Tel Aviv-Yafo is treating urban nature as key infrastructure, granting natural sites significant statutory importance in its updated Master Plan. The updated Climate Action Plan includes a municipal goal to ensure one-third of the city area is made up of green and permeable spaces. A new mission on the climate resilience of natural systems will focus on expanding the citizen science network and protecting both land and marine habitats.

Green cover and urban greening
Tel Aviv-Yafo recently completed a survey of 200 natural sites, including detailed ecological assessments for 68 priority areas. Major projects include the opening of the 2-hectare (20-dunam) Hassan Arafeh Park, which features an ecological pond for collecting storm water, and the restoration of the 10 Mills site in Yarkon Park, which recreated vital urban wetlands. The city has also planted 10,000 new trees, distributing 10% of them directly to residents to encourage private yard greening. Public engagement is high; a campaign in April 2025 reached 200,000 residents through guided tours of the city's natural sites.

Green jobs and workforce development
Tel Aviv-Yafo is also investing in community-based green jobs through resident training initiatives. In 2024, 300 residents attended courses on nature conservation and monitoring, including hands-on workshops in neighbourhood compost management and nesting box installation. These programmes are designed to close organic waste loops, increase resident involvement, and encourage sustainable urban living.

Looking ahead
In 2026, the city will complete its plan for green corridors and belts to ensure continuity between natural sites. Tel Aviv-Yafo is also the lead on a Regional Nature Accord with 13 neighbouring municipalities, recognising that biodiversity management must cross municipal boundaries.

Reading Promenade in Tel Aviv © Michal Nahari

SIGNATORY CITIES IN

LATIN AMERICA

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Green cover and urban greening
Bogotá has expanded its green and permeable areas by 326 hectares since joining the Accelerator in 2021. This progress is guided by the Bogotá Camina Segura 2024-2027 Development Plan, which prioritises the renaturalisation of paved areas. The city is also using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology to automate tree identification and map potential sites for new plantings, thereby promoting data-driven urban greening.

Community engagement and green jobs
The city's inclusive and community-focused approach is reflected in the Women Who Re-Green (Mujeres que Reverdecen) programme, which trained more than 20,000 people in urban agriculture by the end of 2023. In the most recent reporting cycle, 1,560 women in vulnerable situations received certification in environmental maintenance and received payment for their conservation work. Bogotá has also established eight urban forests, two of which were proposed directly by the local community.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The city is also widely adopting Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), with more than 25,000 m^2 implemented in parks and municipal facilities. These systems manage significant volumes of rainwater to mitigate flooding in high-risk areas such as Bosa-Apogeo, in southwest Bogotá. The city has also been implementing its 'Bridges that Unite' strategy, transforming previously abandoned spaces under bridges into safe, multifunctional green areas for residents.

Looking ahead
Bogotá plans to complete the Gibraltar Velodrome and Santa Lucía Park by the end of 2026, adding 30,900 m^2 of green space and hundreds of trees. Through a technical agreement with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the city will focus specifically on renaturalisation and urban greening in areas with the worst air quality levels.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Green cover and urban greening
Buenos Aires has successfully increased its green spaces by 31 hectares since 2021, ensuring that 91% of its population remains within a 400-metre walk of a park. Key greening projects completed in the past two years include the Colegiales Railway Park, Innovation Park, and the Villa Santa Rita Square, the first dedicated park in its neighbourhood. This expansion is guided by the city's 2050 Climate Action Plan and the Master Plan for Linear Public Trees and Green Spaces, which integrate nature-based solutions with urban development.

Climate resilience and adaptation
The city has emphasised the ecological restoration of its nature reserves, notably the Reserva Lago Lugano, where asphalt was removed to create educational wetlands. The reserve recently opened five new hectares to the public and expanded its native plant nursery to supply citywide restoration projects. To protect these areas, the city formalised a certified forest brigade equipped with specialised tools for fire management and risk monitoring. In 2025, Buenos Aires also created its first urban microforest and has implemented 30 climate shelters within existing green spaces to protect residents from extreme heat.

Green jobs, technology and monitoring
To measure the impact of its greening interventions, Buenos Aires continues its temperature and humidity monitoring network in Barrio 20 – one of the city's largest informal settlements – and has recently expanded monitoring to the Rodrigo Bueno neighbourhood. This data helps the city identify priority sites for nature-based solutions in dense urban areas. The city's Green Job Indicators report also identified over 203,000 green jobs, highlighting the socio-economic benefits of environmental stewardship. One example is the community garden 'La vivera orgánica' in Rodrigo Bueno, which has supported a group of women to grow and sell organic food.

Looking ahead
In 2026, the city will release its first Urban Vegetation Coverage Index (ICVU) to inform its long-term planning. Buenos Aires also plans to plant 4,000 native species in reserves. Additionally, four new green squares and rain gardens totalling 3,632 m^2 are planned for the Papa Francisco neighbourhood in Barrio 20 to enhance local resilience against climate risks.


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CURITIBA, BRAZIL

Green cover and urban greening
Curitiba is increasing urban nature through the launch of the Half a Million Trees by 2028 project, which has already seen 194,000 trees planted as of March 2026. The city now manages 53 parks and forests and has recently created three new conservation units, including the Maria de Lourdes Beserra de Sousa Urban Biodiversity Conservation Forest. In Curitiba access to nature is very high; only 0.4% of the city population currently lives more than 1,200 meters from a public park.

Climate resilience and adaptation
A recent achievement in Curitiba's environmental strategy is the Bairro Novo do Caximba Climate Risk Management Project, the largest of its kind in the city's history. This smart neighbourhood initiative involves relocating families from hazardous, unsanitary areas to safe housing while simultaneously combatting environmental degradation. This effort is being complemented by the development of the Belém Eco-District, which will feature a 6.3 km linear park designed to transform the neighbourhood into a local blueprint for urban climate resilience. Curitiba has also recently completed its third urban farm in the industrial CIC district.

Finance, technology and monitoring
Curitiba is also advancing its technical capabilities through SISAAprev, a data collection and climate monitoring tool that informs strategic planning and the formulation of policies that guide investments in nature-based solutions and green infrastructure. This is supported by an inventory of carbon sinks, which uses remote sensing and aerial analysis to map vegetation and forest areas larger than 50 m^2. To finance these ambitious goals, Curitiba has secured approximately US$380 million in international funding from the Inter-American Development Bank, New Development Bank, AFD (France's public development bank) for green infrastructure projects and strategies aimed at decarbonisation.

Looking ahead
In 2026 Curitiba is focusing on the Water Reserve of the Future programme, which combines flood control with leisure and conservation in the city's southern region. This includes the construction of a new urban park on the Atuba River featuring two large containment basins. The city also aims to conduct a comprehensive account of its natural capital through its participation in the UNEP Generation Restoration project.

Urban farm in the CIC district © Ricardo Marajó - SECOM

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Green cover and urban greening
Guadalajara has been working to increase equitable access to nature, with 70% of the city's population currently living within a 15-minute walk of a public green space. The city's nature work has been internationally recognised, with Guadalajara named Tree City of the World for six consecutive years by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Climate resilience and adaptation
One of the city's main priorities is mitigating urban heat and the urban heat island effect. Guadalajara has achieved a 1% reduction in the municipal area affected by heat islands compared to 2019, thanks to its strategic tree planting plan implemented over the past six years. Between 2023 and 2025, the city successfully planted more than 60,000 trees. Additionally, Guadalajara has consolidated 70 green corridors, which are managed through specialised urban forestry practices to enhance their ecological function and thermal regulation capacity. The native tree production programme has propagated 60 regional species, which are better adapted to local climatic conditions, resulting in more than 4,000 native trees ready for planting.

Community engagement and equity
The city is fostering shared responsibility in nature stewardship through its 'Adopt a Tree' initiative, which encourages residents to request, plant, and care for trees outside their homes. Specialised municipal teams, such as the Guadalajara Verde y Viveros Department, work on the production of high-quality native trees. In parallel, dry or hazardous vegetation is removed and processed at the forestry collection centre, transformed into mulch and compost, and then reintegrated into the soil across the city's green areas. This contributes to the overall health of the urban ecosystem. These efforts have strengthened environmental governance by improving coordination with on-the-ground operational teams.

Looking ahead
Guadalajara aims to plant an additional 20,000 trees annually, with a focus on the neighbourhoods most vulnerable to climate change. In 2026 the city is also working to recover 500 grey spaces along sidewalks for new plantings, replacing concrete with natural and permeable infrastructure. Future priorities include expanding community engagement workshops and updating the urban tree inventory using LiDAR technology, which will enable timely monitoring of tree health through spatial analysis.

Parque Revolución, an important green space in the city that was recently reopened following restoration works. © City of Guadalajara

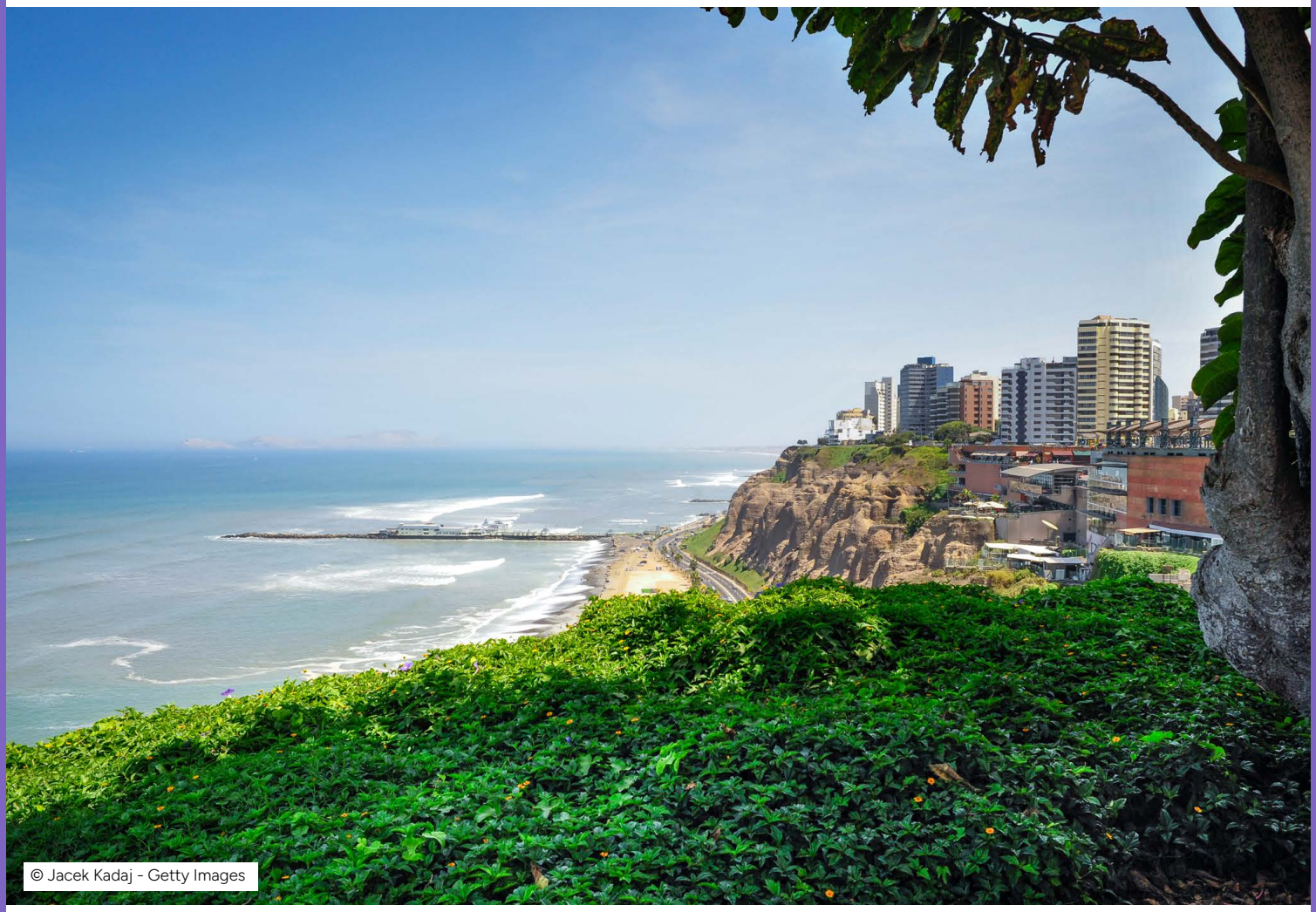
LIMA, PERU

Green cover and urban greening
Lima is rapidly expanding its urban forest through the Lima Verde Urban Tree Planting Programme, planting 260,000 trees throughout the metropolitan area with a survival rate of over 85%. To ensure the sustainability of the tree planting efforts, the city has signed 47 inter-institutional agreements with district municipalities and other entities. Additionally, the city has recovered over 27,000 m^2 of green space within the dense Cercado de Lima district.

Governance, policy and strategy
A milestone for Lima's conservation efforts is the implementation of the Master Plan for the Lomas de Lima Regional Conservation Area (2022-2026), which was 19% complete as of early 2025. The city is also focusing on its unique wetlands; the Municipal Authority of the Pantanos de Villa recently obtained the first carbon footprint for its conservation area, as part of its commitment to urban sustainability and environmental impact monitoring.

Community engagement and equity
Lima is emphasising community engagement through projects like Déjame que te cuente (Let me tell you), which uses QR codes to give historic trees a 'voice' and provide visitors with educational data. The city also hosts the Lima, Garden City competition to reward residents and organisations that maintain high-quality green spaces. These initiatives are fostering environmental stewardship, with over 12,000 people trained on green space maintenance in recent years.

Looking ahead
Lima aims to plant 4 million trees by 2030 as part of its updated Local Climate Change Plan. Major avenues like Nicolás de Piérola are slated for restoration with new shrubs and trees. The city is also developing a guide to urban and peri-urban forestry to promote the use of plant species adapted to Lima's arid climate. A surveillance system is also under construction for the Lomas de Carabayllo area to protect nearly 200 hectares of fragile ecosystem.



MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

Urban greening and governance
Medellín is embedding nature into the city through its ambitious Renaturalisation Plan, which established a binding framework for all urban planning projects through 2036. The city has achieved a green cover rate of approximately 33% and is using its Urban Tree System (SAU) to monitor the health and diversity of its nature in real-time. Flagship initiatives like the Green Corridors programme implemented along roads and streams continue to mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Community engagement and equity
Community empowerment is central to Medellín's approach to nature, with the city dedicating 5% of its annual budget to projects chosen by residents through a participatory budgeting process. This has led to the creation of numerous eco-gardens, community gardens, and green walls, particularly in vulnerable neighbourhoods where communities can enjoy multiple co-benefits of these green projects. The city is also developing a nature-based solutions catalogue featuring 73 distinct solutions to guide public and private developers.

Green jobs and workforce development
Medellín is also pioneering the Green Manifesto, a multi-stakeholder alliance between public and private sectors to stimulate the creation of green jobs. Strategic objectives include the formalisation of 'Watershed Guards' and community pacts for the conservation of ravine retreats. These efforts are supported by a public management model that identifies 67 key actors responsible for the city's ecological structure.

Looking ahead
The city is prioritising urban nature to address five spatial challenges, including air quality and blue-green infrastructure management. Planned work also includes technical workshops with 18 municipal departments to ensure nature-based solutions are integrated into all new public works. By focusing on areas like La Candelaria and Santa Cruz, Medellín aims to rectify historical deficits in green space and build long-term resilience.


© Alcaldía de Medellín - C40

QUITO, ECUADOR

Governance, policy and strategy
Quito is advancing its urban nature ambitions through a robust legal and regulatory framework, with the Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito issuing resolutions and ordinances to preserve green ecosystems, protect water sources and manage natural resources. The updated Quito Climate Change Action Plan (PACQ) 2025 details a roadmap toward carbon neutrality by 2050 with 76 concrete actions, including nature-based solutions. Greening projects will be guided by the forthcoming Public Space Master Plan (PMEP), which will set short-, medium- and long-term intervention priorities centred on green-blue infrastructure and the Urban Green Network – a system connecting the city's green spaces to regional protected areas including the Cayambe-Coca Reserve and Cotopaxi.

Green cover, urban greening and community engagement
A flagship element of Quito's urban greening strategy is the Bicentenario Park, developed on the site of the city's former airport and gradually consolidated since 2014 into a major leisure and recreation hub. The city has also developed the Turubamba, Centinela y Resiliencia park, with a new metropolitan park in Calderón currently in planning stages. In 2024, Quito added 2,500 new trees to its Urban Green Space System through a specialised urban tree service, prioritising native species for biodiversity and climate resilience. The city also created an ecological corridor within the Urban Green Network, featuring pollinator gardens, rain gardens, living tree pits, living fences and green roofs. Participatory budgets allow residents to decide on at least 60% of the budget for their local areas – with new parks and recreational areas increasingly chosen by communities to be funded in the past years.

Looking ahead
Quito plans to plant 3,000 additional trees in strategic public spaces, carry out technical maintenance on 5,500 existing trees, and install 1,500 m² of pollinator gardens across urban parishes to support biodiversity and community environmental education.

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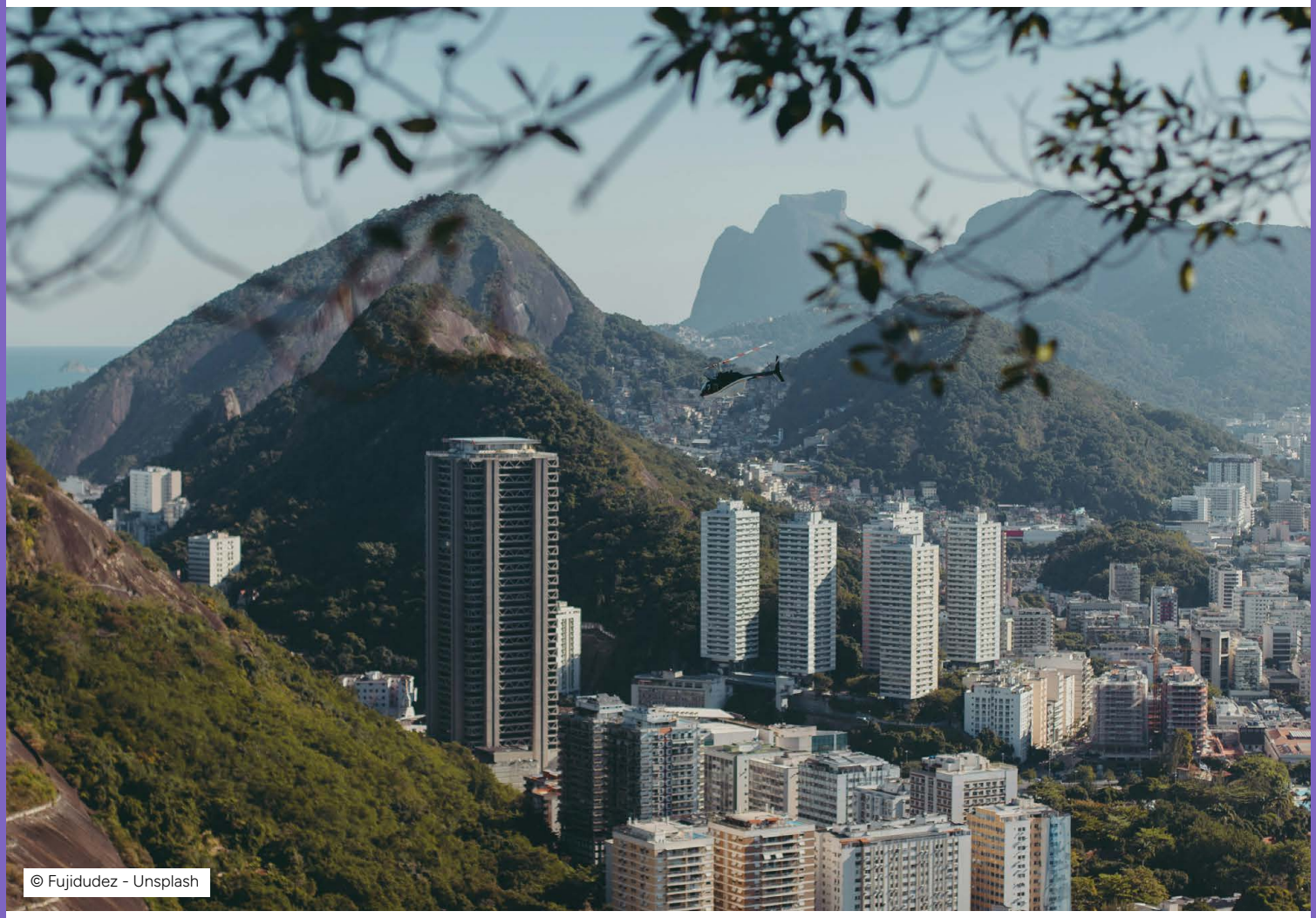
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Green cover and urban greening
Rio de Janeiro has achieved its 2030 Accelerator target with a green area coverage of 61%. The city is a pioneer in climate adaptation, having enacted the first Municipal Heat Wave Response Protocol in Brazil, which includes 76 cooling points established across municipal facilities. Large-scale urban nature projects include the 76,000 m^2 Realengo Park and the 136,000 m^2 Rita Lee Olympic Park, both opened in 2024.

Community engagement and equity
The city's nature strategy emphasises social justice, particularly through the Hortas Cariocas programme, which hires residents from favelas to produce organic food. Another key initiative is the Guardiãs das Matas (Guardians of the Forest) programme, which empowers women from marginalised communities as environmental stewards. To engage the next generation, the Young Climate Negotiators Programme has already trained 150 young people to participate in global climate conferences.

Technology, data and monitoring
Rio de Janeiro is also using advanced technology to manage its urban forest. The city has recently reviewed its Municipal Plan for the Recovery of the Atlantic Forest (PMMA) and uses high-resolution satellite data to define the location of its green corridors. Rio de Janeiro is also implementing a 'Heat Observatory' mapping project in Complexo do Alemão to protect one of its most vulnerable neighbourhoods from extreme heat. Additionally, the city is rapidly expanding its air quality monitoring, having acquired 33 low-cost monitoring stations to supplement its fixed reference network.

Looking ahead
Throughout 2026, Rio de Janeiro will continue to develop its Green Corridors project, having already established 15 km of tree-lined roads in the Irajá district alone.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SALVADOR, BRAZIL

Green cover and urban greening
Salvador is focusing on large-scale reforestation and urban agriculture, having planted more than 31,000 seedlings of native Atlantic Forest species between 2023 and 2025. The city has also implemented more than 140 urban gardens, including community, school, and commercial spaces, as well as 'sacred leaf' gardens dedicated to African-based religions. These gardens promote the wellbeing of residents and their relationship to nature, enhance food security and cultural heritage, and provide cooling benefits to urban neighbourhoods.

Governance, policy and strategy
The city is currently updating its nature goals through its Strategic Plan (2025-2029), which will integrate specific budgetary commitments for urban nature. Salvador is working to inaugurate five new municipal parks by 2028, with the most recently delivered initiatives being the Centro de Interpretação da Mata Atlântica and the Viveiro de Restinga. Additionally, the city has recently created its first green corridor along Avenida Manoel Dias.

Green jobs and finance
Salvador is pioneering sustainable property tax incentives, such as the Green IPTU and Yellow IPTU, which offer up to 10% tax discounts for developments that incorporate sustainable construction and solar energy. The solar programme has already benefitted 280 households. To create stable green jobs for its residents, the city is also focused on workforce training programmes in fields like photovoltaic system installation and agroecology.

Looking ahead
Salvador plans to implement six additional green corridors along major arterial roads by 2028. The city was also awarded a proposal through the C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) to implement a combination of blue, green, and grey infrastructure in low-income neighbourhoods. This project aims to serve as a replicable model for improving climate resilience in areas highly exposed to flood and heat risks.

Residents in Salvador's urban gardens which foster environmental awareness, well-being, and stronger community bonds. © Igor Santos - SECOM

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Green cover and urban greening
The City of São Paulo has been working to achieve its climate adaptation goals by expanding the percentage of green cover across the municipality, which currently accounts for more than 50% of its territory. Since joining the Accelerator in 2023, the city has inaugurated twelve new parks, created three conservation units, and planted more than 370,000 native Atlantic Forest trees. In addition, São Paulo is in the process of acquiring approximately 11% of the city's private green areas – an area larger than Paris – with the aim of protecting native forests and water sources.

Community engagement and equity
To address inequalities in access to nature, the 'Viva o Verde SP' project is being implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat. It focuses on the management of municipal parks, mapping socio-environmental vulnerabilities to guide best practices for enhancing these public assets. This data-driven approach ensures that new green infrastructure is prioritised where it can generate the greatest impact for the most vulnerable communities. The city also stands out for its use of the BIOSAMPA Index, which monitors 28 biodiversity indicators and is based on the Biodiversity City Index methodology (also known as the Singapore Index).

Green jobs and looking ahead
To support a greener workforce, São Paulo maintains the Operação Trabalho Programme, which includes several types of jobs particularly in environmental maintenance and stewardship. The programme provides training and employment for 117 low-income individuals working in the maintenance and preservation of municipal parks. This initiative is part of a broader effort to generate and formalise green jobs for the unemployed population. By 2026, the city plans to complete the first revision of its Climate Action Plan (PlanClima SP) and continue expanding public green areas.

Fazenda da Juta Park © Sergio Barzaghi - SECOM

SIGNATORY CITIES IN

NORTH AMERICA

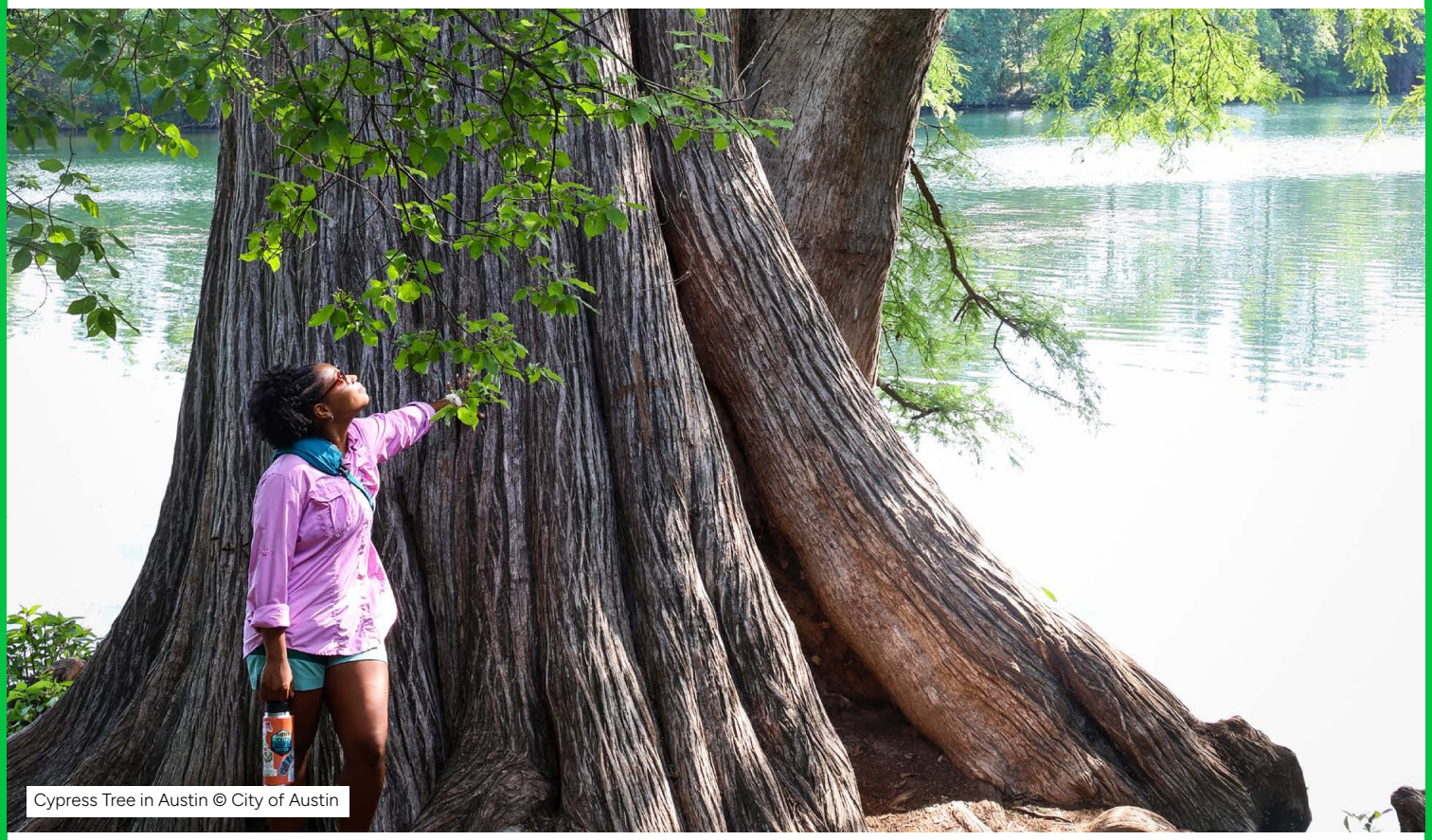
AUSTIN, UNITED STATES

Urban greening and governance
Austin is embedding urban nature into its long-term strategy through the Austin Climate Equity Plan, which includes goals and strategies to support natural systems, and aims for 50% city-wide tree canopy cover by 2050. Currently, the city's tree canopy coverage is 41%. In 2024, the city achieved major land conservation milestones, with Austin Parks and Recreation acquiring 500 acres of parkland and Austin Water protecting an additional 784 acres. This targeted acquisition strategy has raised access to nature, with over 70% of the city's population living within a 15-minute walk to a green or blue space.

Green jobs and workforce development
The city has continued to strive towards building a more inclusive green economy through the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps. ACCC provides career pathways for communities historically excluded from environmental fields to meaningful green jobs, in sectors like stormwater management and ecological restoration. The city has also established specialised Arborist and Green Infrastructure 'job families' to promote professional growth. These initiatives support workforce development and expand the general public's understanding of green vocations, showing that climate and nature work can be diverse, stable, and accessible.

Climate resilience and policy
Austin is addressing flooding risk through its Rain to River strategic plan, which focuses on equitable flood mitigation and water quality protection for the next decade. Currently, 76% of the city consists of permeable surfaces that support groundwater recharge. New building codes, such as the 2024 Wildland-Urban Interface Code, mandate sustainable materials and landscaping to reduce the risk of wildfires in vulnerable zones.

Looking ahead
The city is considering a comprehensive bond election to fund massive infrastructure and climate improvements in 2026 and beyond. Planned activities include an amendment to the City of Austin's Climate Equity Plan and the installation of new shade structures in neighbourhood parks identified as heat hotspots. Equity remains a priority throughout Austin's nature work; a great example is the adoption of the nationally recognised Tree Equity Score as the city's primary decision-support tool for tree equity planning. It is designed specifically to help cities plant more trees in neighbourhoods facing higher environmental and socioeconomic challenges.



Cypress Tree in Austin © City of Austin

LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES

Green cover and urban greening
Los Angeles has advanced a comprehensive biodiversity agenda driven by the 2025 LA Biodiversity Index Monitoring Report, which evaluates city-wide ecological health and informs future policy. Eleven city departments have coordinated more than 70 initiatives covering a wide range of biodiversity goals, including large-scale implementation projects like the planting of over 14,000 trees along streets and in public parks.

Green jobs, community engagement and equity
The City of Los Angeles has invested in citizen-driven science and workforce development related to green spaces. Community science initiatives like the LA Nature Quest and the City Nature Challenge have engaged residents in documenting local ecosystems, while the Tree Ambassador Program provided urban forestry training. Los Angeles was also working on its Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP), a five-year roadmap designed to maximise ecological gains and ensure that benefits derived from nature are equitably distributed. The city's General Plan, namely the Open Space element, was also being updated to integrate environmental justice with biodiversity protection. Innovative municipal rebates, such as the Turf Replacement Programme, incentivised private property owners to transition to using drought-tolerant, native species.

Looking ahead
The City had planned to finalise the LBSAP and progress its Urban Forest Management Plan. Key field initiatives included the StreetsLA Biodiversity Median Program, which focuses on greening traffic medians, and targeted tree planting in historically disadvantaged communities. Unfortunately, LA Sanitation and Environment's Biodiversity Program was paused during the last budget cycle, but is currently seeking alternative resources and funding. Other efforts – such as tree planting, invasive plant removal, native plant restoration and tree giveaway programmes – continue to support biodiversity in Los Angeles.

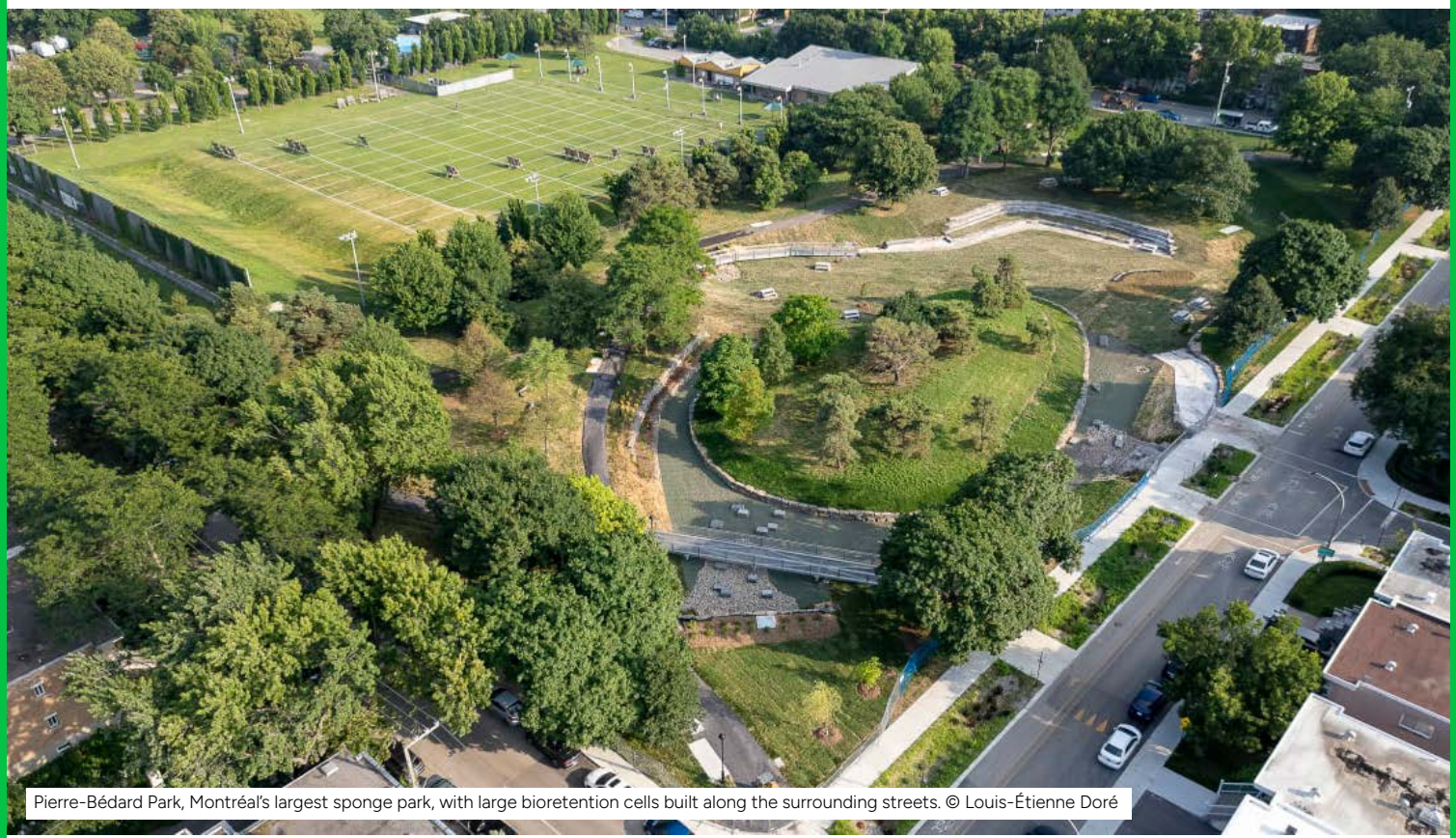
MONTRÉAL, CANADA

Green cover and urban greening
Montréal is proud to have already reached C40's Urban Nature Accelerator 2030 targets, with a green space coverage of nearly 38%. Over 82% of its population live within a 15-minute walk of a park. Bioretention and sponge-park projects have been implemented across the city, designed to manage extreme rainfall and mitigate flooding risk. These new green infrastructures have added a total water-retention capacity of 35,800 cubic meters between 2022 and 2025, the equivalent of 14.3 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Climate resilience and adaptation
Montréal is also advancing several other restoration initiatives, including strengthening its urban forest, restoring riverbanks, applying phytoremediation techniques, controlling invasive plant species, and undertaking major park development including Parc Frédéric-Back – formerly a quarry and landfill, now being transformed into a large multifunctional park – and the Parc-nature de l'Écoterritoire de la Falaise, where extensive paved and artificial areas will be converted into natural environments.

Governance, policy and strategy
In addition, Montréal is a pioneer in climate governance with its Climate Test, a mandatory decision-support tool that assesses the climate impact of major projects. Montréal also launched its first climate budget in 2024, dedicating nearly 10% of capital expenditures to green and hybrid infrastructure. To further support the circular economy, the City adopted a Circular Economy Roadmap in 2024 and became one of the first cities to publish a Circularity Gap Report.

Looking ahead
Montréal will continue working to protect ecosystems and biodiversity in the large parks network and to improve access for all, including vulnerable and marginalised communities. The City is gradually implementing approaches on universal access and Gender-based Analysis Plus in the planning and management of its parks to foster inclusion and equity. Montréal's second strategy for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is currently being prepared and will be an important tool to support collaborative initiatives in park planning and management. In the coming years, Montréal will also implement five new nature-based actions added to the 2025 Climate Plan, including the Sponge City approach, no net land take, greening in vulnerable areas, ecological connectivity, and the ecological management of green spaces.



Pierre-Bédard Park, Montréal's largest sponge park, with large bioretention cells built along the surrounding streets. © Louis-Étienne Doré

NEW ORLEANS, UNITED STATES

Urban greening and governance
New Orleans is using nature to address water-related risks through large-scale investments and community-led reforesting. In 2024, the city began implementing over US$19 million in federal grants to plant more than 18,600 trees over the next five years. These efforts are specifically targeted at disadvantaged neighbourhoods with low canopy coverage, such as Hollygrove-Dixon and St. Claude. The city's strategic vision on green spaces is guided by The Big Green Easy, a parks master plan that prioritises equity and resilience. New Orleans is monitoring its park walkability rate; 80% of the city population and 81% of low-income residents currently live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The city's Hazard Mitigation Plan now requires private developments to treat stormwater on-site using green infrastructure like bioswales and rain gardens.

Green jobs and workforce development
New Orleans is also pioneering local workforce development through the Thrive Works Green programme and a new apprenticeship model focused on urban forestry. The city has engaged thousands of residents through the Water Wise Neighborhood Champions network, which has already implemented 115 local green infrastructure projects. To protect its natural heritage, the city passed a unanimous Tree Protection Ordinance in March 2025.

Looking ahead
The city's first Extreme Heat Mitigation Plan will be finalised in 2026, and work will continue on the Gentilly Resilience District project. New Orleans is also completing 25 priority green infrastructure projects identified through detailed hydraulic studies, representing a US$315 million investment pipeline. Projects like the Elysian Fields Avenue Walking Path serve as models for converting unused neutral grounds into high-quality recreational and natural space.

© Chelsea Audibert - Unsplash

SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES

Green cover and urban greening
The newly formed Reimagining San Francisco alliance is working to achieve a goal of 30% biodiverse green space by 2030. The city currently boasts 100% open space access, with every resident living within a 10-minute walk of a green or blue space. Recent projects include the opening of the India Basin Waterfront Park and restoration of Woodland Canyon Creek, where 4,000 native plants were planted. Another notable achievement is the historic reintroduction of Silvery Blue butterflies (Glaucopsyche lygdamus) – the closest living relative of the extinct Xerces Blue butterfly (G. xerces) – in the sand dunes of the Presidio, a park at the southern end of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Governance, policy and strategy
The city is updating its Climate Action Plan for 2026, which will include a streamlined Healthy Ecosystems chapter focusing on increasing local biodiversity and tree equity. A key target of this plan is to plant 30,000 new trees by 2040 to reach a citywide total of 155,000 street trees. This strategy positions trees as critical public infrastructure for cooling and psychological wellbeing.

Green jobs and workforce development
Workforce development is a core component of San Francisco's nature efforts, particularly on Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands, where the city is training staff in natural resource management rather than traditional 'mow and blow' landscaping. The city has also finalised the San Francisco Biodiversity Guidelines and worked with the World Economic Forum to try to increase private sector investment in urban nature.

Looking ahead
San Francisco will finalise an update to its Climate Action Plan in 2026 and continue establishing a baseline for permeable and biodiverse spaces through a dedicated data working group. Following a public vote to close the Great Highway, the city is also developing the new Sunset Dunes Park, further expanding its coastal biodiversity corridors.

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SEATTLE, UNITED STATES

Green cover and urban greening
Seattle has met both of its 2030 targets, with approximately 32% of the city composed of permeable or publicly accessible green spaces and 99% of residents living within a 10-minute walk to a park. In 2025, the city celebrated 20 years of its Green Seattle Partnership programme, with over 2,000 acres of forest in restoration, 1.5 million native plants installed, and 1.5 million volunteer hours during that time.

Finance and urban tree canopy
The city recently received US$12.9 million in federal funding to plant and maintain trees in equity areas, amplifying its goal of achieving 30% tree canopy cover. Seattle's new Tree Code mandates that removed trees be replaced with two or three new trees to ensure long-term canopy health. These efforts were highlighted when Seattle was selected by the UN Environment Programme as a Role Model City for the Generation Restoration initiative.

Green jobs and workforce development
Seattle is also a pioneer in green job programmes through the Seattle Conservation Corps, which provides housing and training in green space management for formerly unhoused individuals. Participants manage green stormwater infrastructure and build rain barrels, fostering sustainable livelihoods. In the Duwamish Valley, the city collaborates with the DIRT Corps to hire and train local residents for park restoration and tree planting in areas with high environmental impacts.

Looking ahead
Seattle recently completed its One Seattle Plan, which includes restoring shoreline habitats and expanding pollinator corridors. The city also completed a Coastal Habitat Assessment for 19 parks to prepare for sea level rise. The city will finalise an update to its Climate Action Plan in 2026, which will formally integrate nature-based solutions and environmental justice into all emissions reduction efforts.

Community tree planting event © Serve Ethiopians Washington

TORONTO, CANADA

Green cover and urban greening
Toronto is highly experienced in urban forest management, with a vast network of parks and ravines covering approximately 13% of the city's land area. In 2025, the city approved a major operating budget of CA$85.1 million to support urban forestry and green infrastructure. These investments are critical to achieving Toronto's goal of 40% canopy cover by 2050, with current plans involving the planting of approximately 120,000 trees and shrubs annually while prioritising neighbourhoods with low tree equity.

Community engagement and equity
The city places a strong emphasis on biodiversity and community-led stewardship, engaging more than 15,000 residents in tree planting and environmental programmes in 2024. Key initiatives include the relaunch of Lights Out Toronto to protect migratory birds and the successful recertification of Toronto as a Bird Friendly City. The city also published the Toronto Island Park Master Plan, including an indigenous approach to design and stewardship, which recognises the rights of the landscape as a living being.

Green jobs and workforce development
To foster an inclusive green economy, Toronto has entered the fifth year of its GreenforceTO programme, a work-and-learn initiative that recruits and trains equity-deserving individuals in green infrastructure (GI) maintenance. This programme has recently expanded to include Sod Alternative pilot sites and an 'Adopt a GI' initiative to engage local communities in green space maintenance. These efforts are complemented by the Urban Forestry Grants and Incentives Program, which has invested and leveraged over CA$22.8 million since 2017.

Technology, data and monitoring
Toronto is also at the forefront of data-driven natural asset management, having adopted a Corporate Asset Management Plan in 2025 that estimates the total replacement value of its natural assets at CA$8.2 billion. The city also launched the Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA), an interactive tool that helps staff and community groups prioritise tree planting in underserved neighbourhoods. Looking ahead, Toronto is preparing to update the Toronto Green Standard to introduce new sustainable performance measures for development.

SIGNATORY CITIES IN

SOUTH WEST ASIA

AMMAN, JORDAN

Governance, policy and strategy
Under the Greater Amman Municipality Strategy 2022–2026, Amman is advancing urban nature and climate resilience, targeting the addition of 150 hectares (1,500 dunums) of green space annually. By the end of 2025, green coverage had reached 2.35% (18.8 km²), approaching the 2026 target of 2.5%, in line with the city's Climate Action Plan and Green City Action Plan.

Green cover and urban greening
Amman is introducing and nurturing drought-tolerant native trees and shrubs suitable for the local environment. Major projects include Al-Jundi Park, with 17,000 trees across 35 hectares; the Environmental Park at the Pepsi Project, with 3,500 trees across 8.5 hectares; Princess Salma Park with 3,000 trees across 4.4 hectares; and Phosphate Hills Phase I with 19,000 trees across 30 hectares. The Amman–Zarqa BRT corridor was also greened with 6,100 trees and 4,000 shrubs across 26 hectares, enhancing urban connectivity and environmental quality.

Community engagement and equity
The flagship 'From Grey to Green' initiative integrates urban agriculture, water-sensitive design, and community engagement. Five parks were rehabilitated using treated greywater, reducing potable irrigation water use by 50% while improving access in underserved areas. Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme has supported urban agriculture pilots, nursery upgrades, and a training hub at Tafawoq Park, engaging over 500 participants and 3,000 residents. In addition, a Miyawaki-style forest in Jubeiha was planted with 4,000 native trees and 120 fruit trees.

Looking ahead
For Amman, 2026 will see the completion of the 5.2 hectare Royal Village Park and the 35 hectare Phosphate Hills Phase, as well as the heritage tree preservation initiative, further enhancing Amman's green infrastructure and climate resilience.

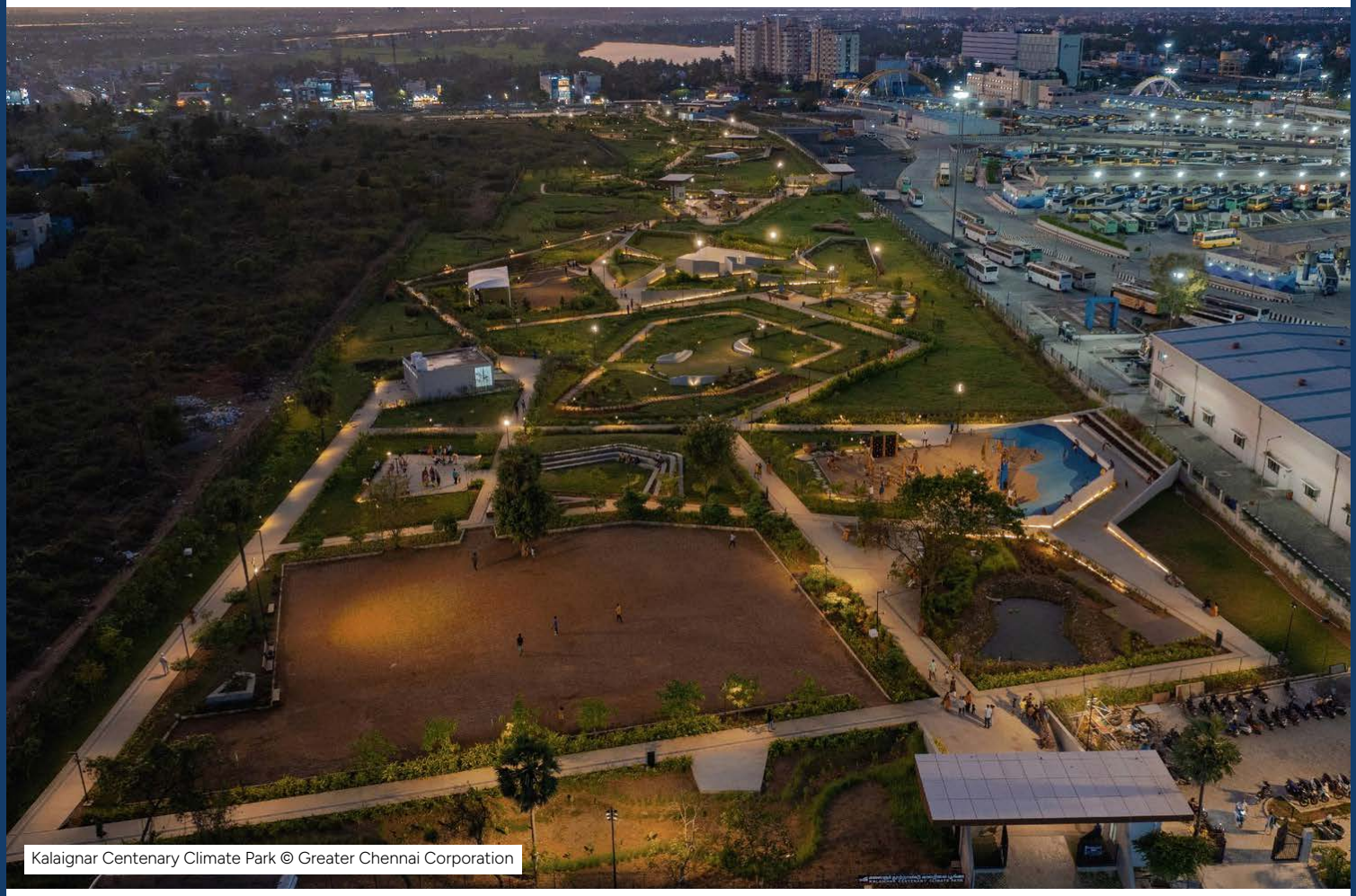
CHENNAI, INDIA

Climate resilience and adaptation
Chennai is strengthening its urban resilience to address flooding and heat risks through an integrated network of blue-green infrastructure. Over the past two years, the city has prioritised the restoration of 245 water bodies and the development of nature-based solutions, including the creation of over 88 sponge parks that function as urban water retention systems. These parks help store excess rainwater, recharge groundwater tables, and mitigate urban flooding.

Green cover and urban greening
The city also launched three flagship ecological restoration projects, totalling 38.7 acres, including the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Wetland Park and the Kalaignar Centenary Climate Park. The city has successfully secured finance for nature by raising US$21.4 million (INR 200 crore) through municipal bonds to fund stormwater drain implementation and waterbody restoration. This investment supports the restoration of 8 major lakes, 71 smaller waterbodies, and building storm water drains to a length of 769 km, ensuring they can store over 28.3 billion litres of water.

Community engagement and equity
Chennai is also protecting its coastal fringe, restoring mangrove patches and initiating a five year protection plan for the Pallikaranai Marshland, the only surviving wetland ecosystem in the city. The city is also developing more than five inclusive 'sensory parks' designed specifically to engage children with various disabilities.

Looking ahead
In the financial year 2026–27, out of the 955 parks maintained by the Greater Chennai Corporation, 200 will be upgraded in the first phase and 25 additional sponge parks will be developed to further build resilience against water-related risks. In parallel, through initiatives such as the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Chennai aims to increase urban tree cover from 23.7% to 33% within a decade and improve ecological health across the metropolitan region.



Kalaignar Centenary Climate Park © Greater Chennai Corporation

DHAKA NORTH, BANGLADESH

Urban greening and community engagement
Dhaka North is prioritising the restoration of its blue-green infrastructure to mitigate rising heat risks. Key achievements include the restoration of canals and lakes to improve drainage and local biodiversity. The city is actively involving residents in its greening efforts, particularly through community-managed tree plantations. To support these initiatives, the city provides training to community volunteers, building local capacity for green space maintenance.

Looking ahead
Dhaka North is seeking to strengthen its efforts in heat-resilient planning through nature-based solutions, scaling up the restoration of the city's vital canal networks, and expanding the municipal budget reserved for addressing climate change.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DHAKA SOUTH, BANGLADESH

Green cover and urban greening
Dhaka South is focusing on restoring nature and addressing water-related risks through large-scale restoration projects. A key example is the city's Old Buriganga Channel Restoration project, which will revive water channels, improve drainage, and create new open spaces. The city has launched four canal restoration projects that combine waterbody revival with the promotion of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, and is targeting the development of at least one park or playground in each of its 75 wards.

Community engagement and equity
During the implementation of these open space and restoration projects, participatory sessions were held to gather feedback from marginalised communities. Between 100 and 120 residents were directly engaged in both designing solutions and performing civil works for the canal initiatives, such as embankment construction and tree planting.

Looking ahead
Dhaka South is prioritising the greening of its riverbanks, specifically along the Buriganga and Balu River belts. The city is also exploring the setup of an effluent treatment plant to ensure water purification and drainage restoration as part of its ongoing canal development. The city is also working to update its Geographic Information System (GIS) database to provide a clearer picture of existing greenery and help identify new opportunities for urban greening.

KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Urban greening and governance
Karachi's nature efforts are guided by the Karachi Climate Action Plan, where a key priority is the restoration of green spaces to mitigate extreme heat and the urban heat island effect. The city has planted over 65,000 saplings between 2021-23, and revitalised the Gutter Bagchicha area, focusing on treating sewerage water and renewing the abandoned space into green public space. To combat urban flooding during the rainy season, the city has committed to regular cleaning of over 45 stormwater drains. These operational actions are supported by a US$359,000 (PKR 100 million) Green Fund established under the Karachi Municipal Corporation in 2024.

Community engagement and equity
The city has also made progress in making governance more inclusive, with the city council featuring its first-ever representation of transgender people, who actively participate in greening initiatives within their wards. Karachi is also collaborating with regional authorities for extensive mangrove restoration along its coastal belt to combat sea-level rise. The city aims to expand its green spaces through the rehabilitation and enhancement of existing parks, as well as new Miyawaki forests.

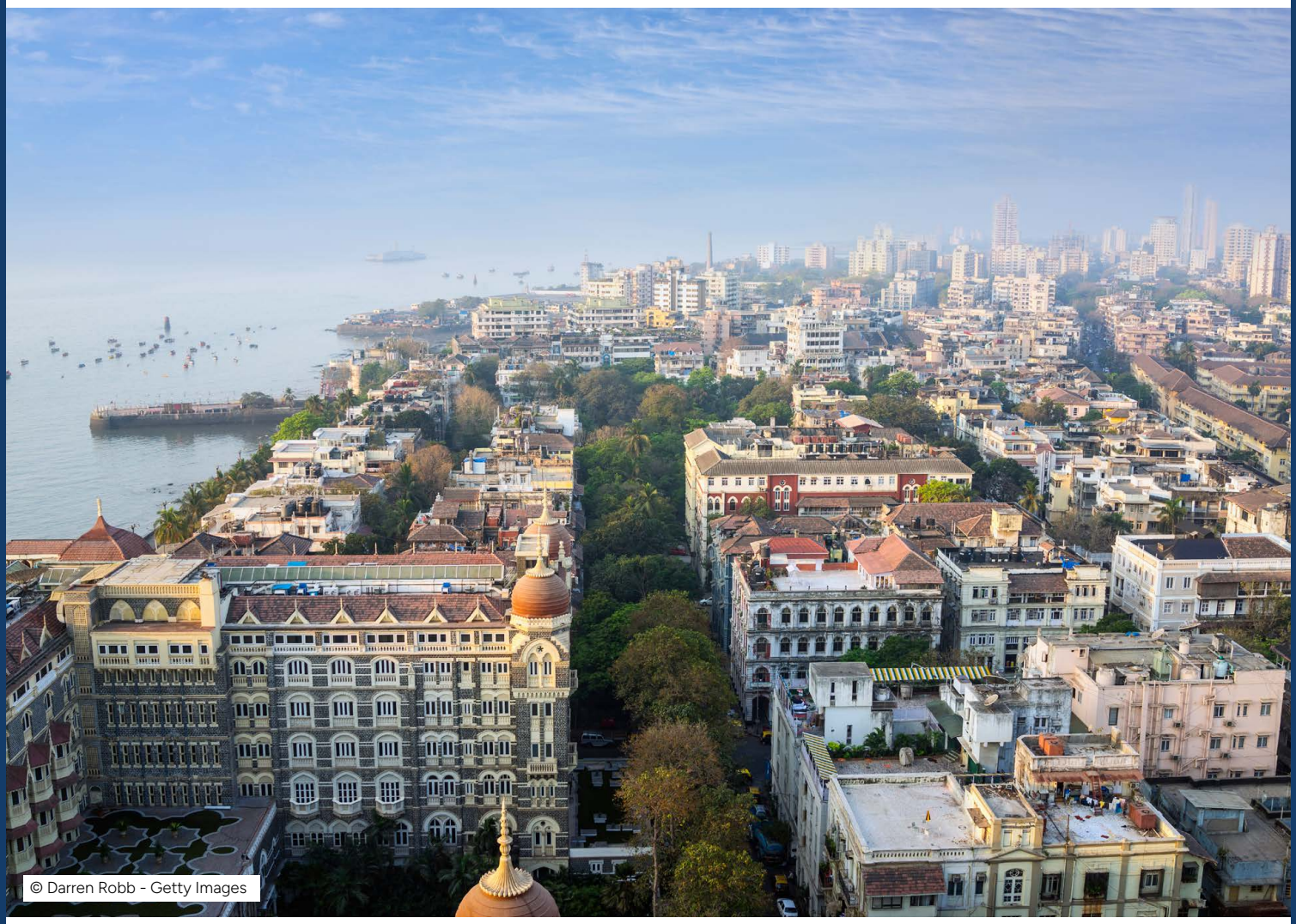
MUMBAI, INDIA

Governance, policy and strategy
Mumbai has formalised its environmental commitments by establishing a new Environment and Climate Change Department in 2024 to steer the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP). The city is actively expanding its tree canopy, notably through the development of 14 new Miyawaki forests and the Vruksha Sanjivani Abhiyan 2.0 initiative to protect and care for existing trees.

Green cover and urban greening
Innovative public-private partnerships are key to Mumbai's approach. Projects like the Marol Urban Forest and the landscaping of 70 hectares along the Mumbai Coastal Road are being implemented through collaborations between the municipal corporation and industrial estates or corporate social responsibility funds. To encourage community participation, the city released the Greening Mumbai Citizen's Handbook, a manual to guide residents in creating everything from balcony gardens to large-scale forest plots.

Finance and investment
Mumbai is also committed to addressing climate risks like flooding and heat stress through nature-based solutions. The city has already planted flowers and trees in 515 central medians and traffic islands, covering over 25 hectares. For the 2025-26 budget, Mumbai has allocated US$40 million (INR 383 crore) for urban greening under its first ever climate budget, which integrates MCAP targets into municipal financial planning.

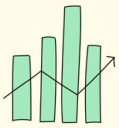
Looking ahead
Future priorities include the expansion of the Marol Urban Forest with 51,500 new saplings and the identification of green corridors in high-heat vulnerable wards. The city will also continue its GPS-based tree census to gain a full picture of its urban trees.



CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD

Despite great progress achieved by signatory cities, many barriers to achieve the Accelerator targets remain. In a trend new to this reporting cycle, cities have noted **the emerging challenge of incentivising residents and businesses to increase nature in private spaces** – especially in high-density cities where public land fit for greening is increasingly scarce.

The remaining challenges are similar to those reported by cities two years ago: limited financial resources, governance challenges, support needed for building data collection and monitoring systems, scarce land availability, as well as the lack of available water and resources – monetary and labour – for the long-term maintenance of urban nature.

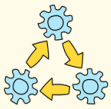


Difficulties in **defining key indicators and building methodologies, data collection and monitoring systems**

Lack of financial resources and staff for **maintaining nature** projects in the long term

Difficulties in greening private spaces, and incentivising residents and private actors to do so

Limited financial resources to work on nature, and difficulties tapping into national or multilateral funds



Governance challenges, including **silos and lack of cross-departmental coordination**, pose a significant barrier

Lack of vacant land to be developed as green public spaces, with nature provision often not prioritised

Lack of available water for nature is an issue that will worsen with the climate crisis

However, C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities have already proven that they are actively looking to address these challenges and putting solutions into practice.

Finance, tackling land scarcity and greening private spaces

To address funding gaps, Montréal launched a dedicated climate budget in 2024, directing nearly 10% of capital expenditure to green and green-grey infrastructure, while Mumbai allocated US$41 million (INR 383 crore) for urban greening under its first ever climate budget. Freetown has secured funding from multilateral banks and is now registering its tree assets on carbon markets to unlock private investment. To tackle land scarcity in dense cities, Berlin requires green roofs on new developments, and Rotterdam and Athens are transforming underused courtyards, roofs and terraces through resident-led incentive schemes. Medellín dedicates 5% of its annual budget to a participatory budget programme, through which residents have chosen to fund nature-based projects such as green walls and community gardens.

Data, monitoring and integrating nature into planning and policy

To monitor biodiversity, Stockholm has recently finished updating its mapping of existing green infrastructure, informing actions to be taken to meet the city's biodiversity goals, and Buenos Aires has created a machine learning model for the detection of green areas, making it possible to generate datasets of urban green for each neighbourhood in the city. In the face of governance barriers, cities such as Seattle and Sydney are embedding nature-based solutions directly into climate action plans and urban planning codes, making urban greening a legal requirement and institutional priority. Tokyo's Greenery Programme mandates greening measures for the construction of new buildings, extensions, and similar projects on sites above a certain size.

Looking ahead to 2030

The above actions, and many others presented in this report, show that the barriers to urban greening are real, but not insurmountable. The next five years will be crucial in scaling ambition and action, so all signatory cities successfully meet their commitments by the 2030 target year. By building upon existing progress and exchanging knowledge through city-to-city networks and workshops, and with C40's continued support, cities can further accelerate action and overcome barriers to become greener and more resilient by 2030. C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities are already demonstrating that urban nature is fundamental for building more climate-resilient, healthy, and equitable cities. By harnessing solutions from nature, we can build better lives for urban residents everywhere.

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