

URBAN NATURE NETWORK WEBINAR

Delivering Urban Nature at the Neighborhood Scale – Barcelona & Paris

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BARCELONA
REGIONAL



WORLD BANK GROUP
Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience & Land

Barcelona Nature Plan 2021-2030

- To increase the city's green infrastructure and thereby maximise its services and improve the access of all citizens to urban nature.
- To conserve and promote biodiversity, protecting species and improving habitats and their connectivity.
- To deploy and consolidate ecological management and naturalization.
- To develop knowledge, enjoyment and care of urban nature



3 LINES 2 AREAS

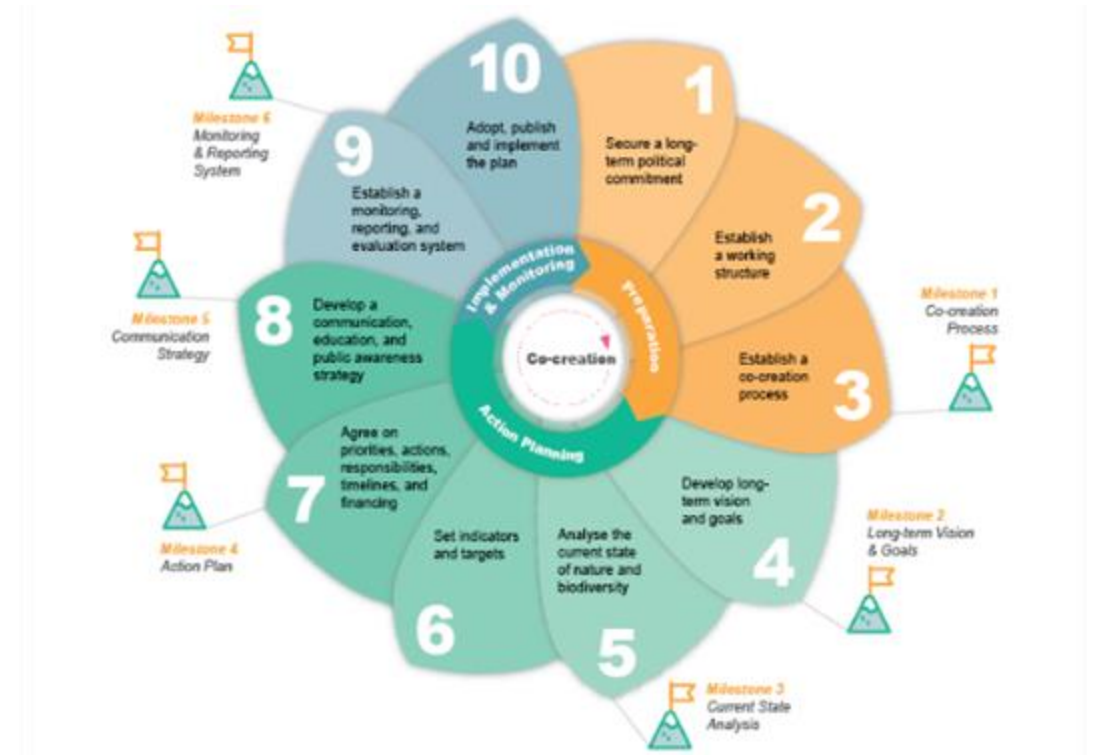
20 ACTIONS

100 PROJECTS

Line 1: More greenery and biodiversity.	Area 1: Knowledge.	Area 2: Governance.
Line 2: Conserving and improving greenery and biodiversity.		
Line 3: With and for city residents.		

Urban Nature Plans+ EU Project

- Barcelona and Paris working together as Lighthouse Cities since 2024.
- EU-funded project to support cities in developing and implementing Urban Nature Plans.
- Peer-learning and cooperation between cities to move from nature planning to nature practice.



Greenery Model

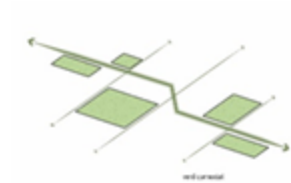


A fair greenery.



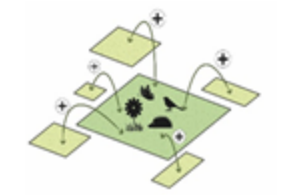
We need to have our own quality green spaces accessible to all city residents, so their environmental services can be enjoyed to the full.

A connected greenery.



We need a system that establishes a network, a true green infrastructure that is complex and connected, designed by reconnecting the city's various green spaces.

A greenery reinforced in biodiversity nodes.



We need to preserve and improve the spaces that contribute greater diversity and complexity to the urban green infrastructure to enrich the entire system.

A metropolitan greenery.



We need to interconnect the green infrastructure from within the city with metropolitan-scale structural elements.



Greenery Model

ACHIEVING A FAIR GREENERY

- Gaps in accessibility to urban green spaces
- Action areas for achieving greenery fairness

STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY NODES

- Nature reserves
- Nodes to be strengthened
- Parks in the vicinity of nodes

INTEGRATING GREENERY ON A METROPOLITAN SCALE

- Critical areas for territorial connectivity

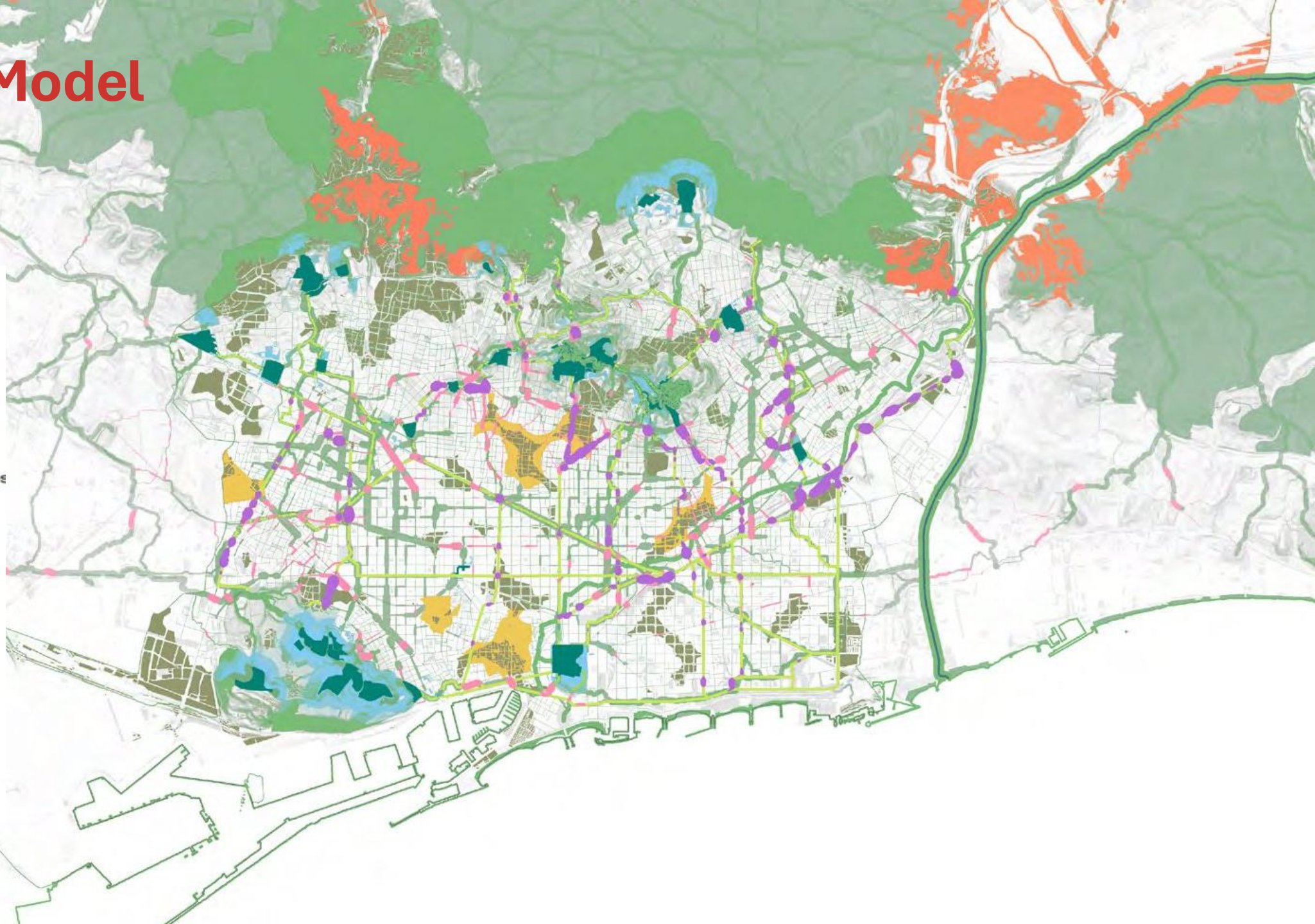
CONNECTING GREENERY

- Green corridors
- Breaks in green connectivity (on foot and by flight)

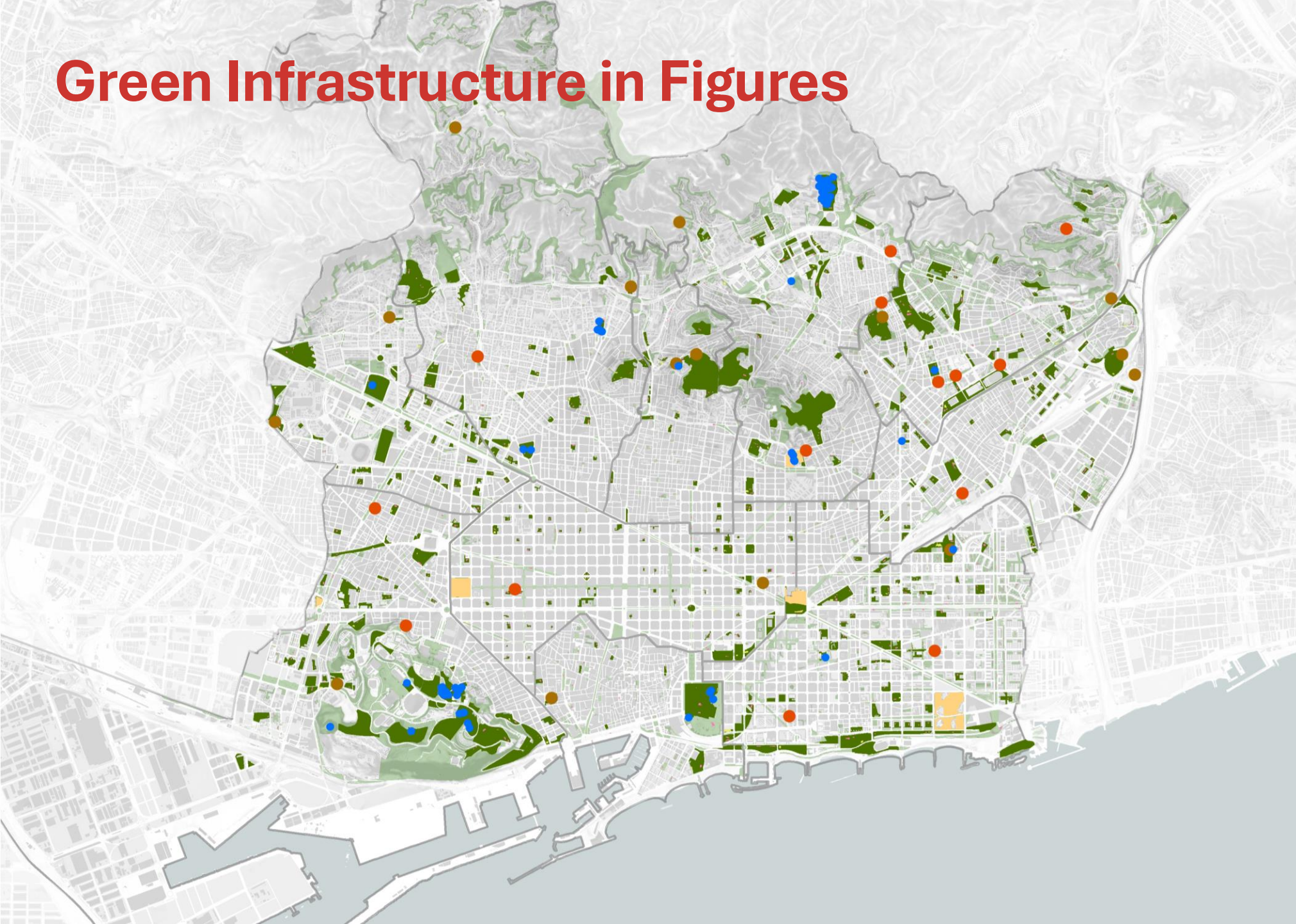
MORE COST LESS COST

Breaks in green corridors

MORE COST LESS COST



Green Infrastructure in Figures



1.277 ha

● Green spaces

+600

● Parks and gardens



105

● Dog areas



889

● Children's play areas



16

● Biodiversity refuges



396

● Urban allotments (plots)



67

● Naturalized ponds



244.031

Trees



6.994

Planters



446

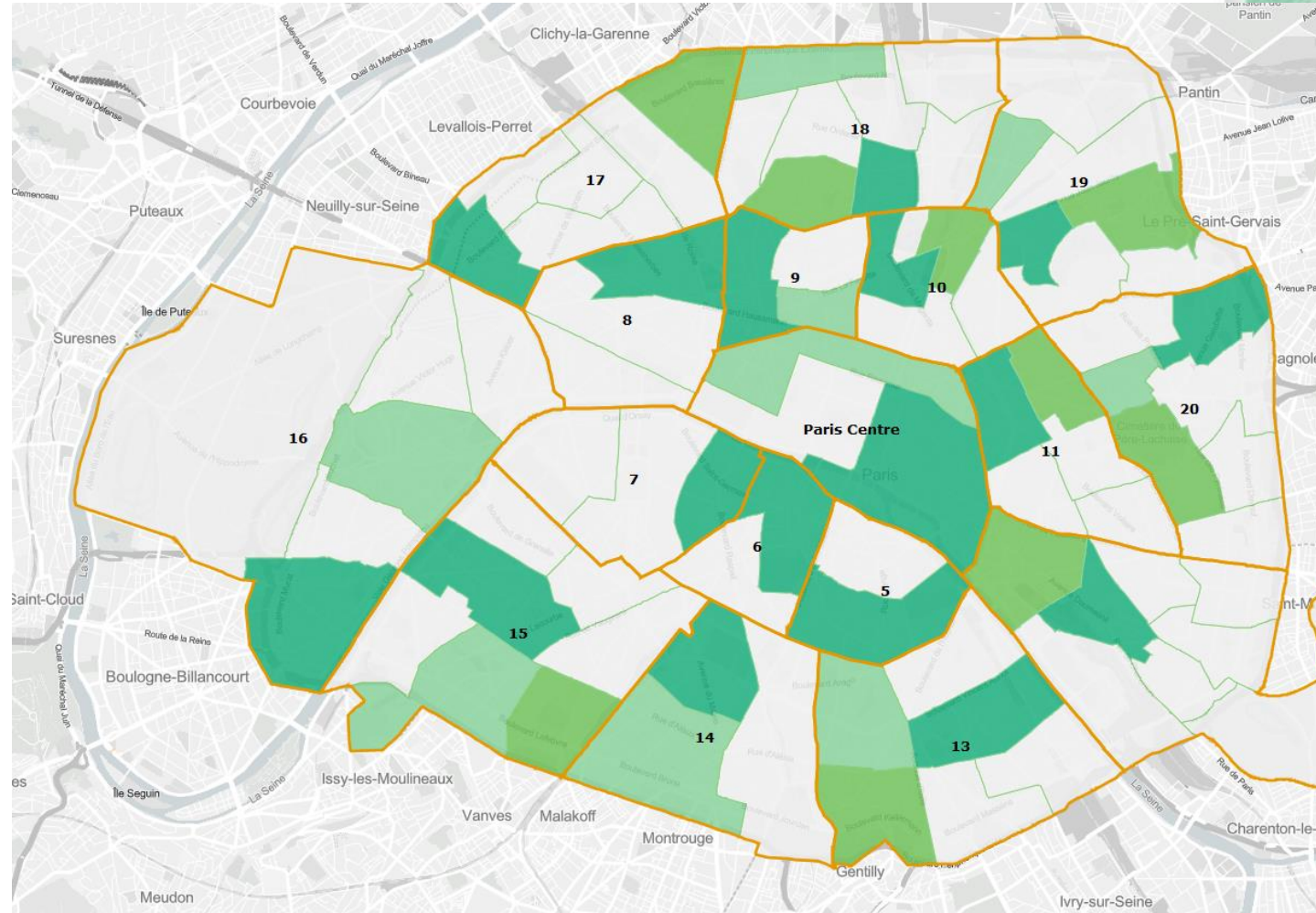
Wildlife structures

Paris ecological corridors map



"Beautifying your neighborhood" program

- Provide greater clarity for residents regarding construction timelines and the expected long-term benefits
- Minimise the need to reopen streets by coordinating works with utility operators (gas, electricity, district heating, etc.)
- Focus on greening, schools and underprivileged areas

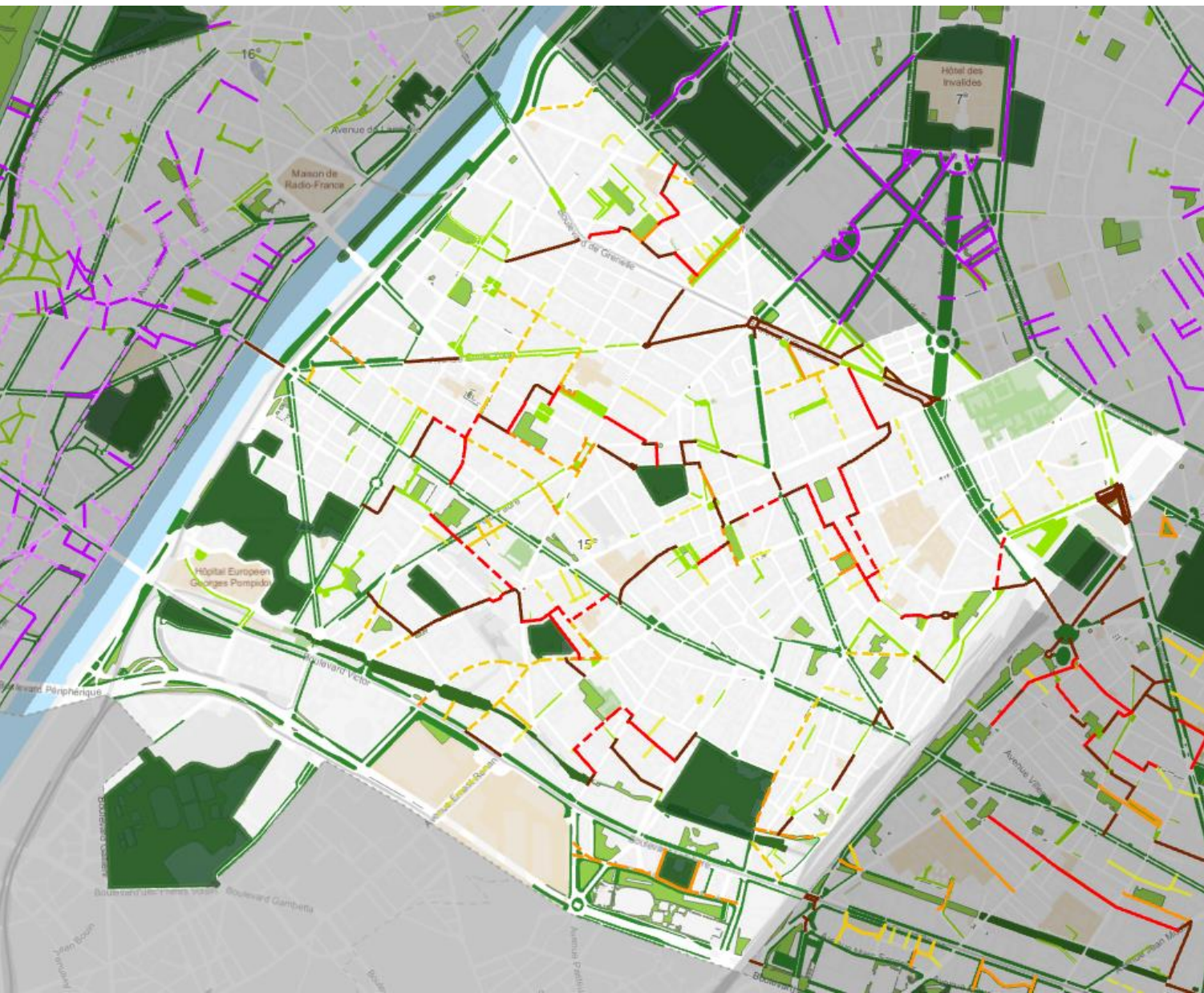


A coordinated approach for scaling-up fast

- One public consultation: in-person and on-line
- One investment plan for the projects approved through the consultation
- One works schedule to coordinate and consolidate construction projects within the year.



Greening new streets: prioritizing biodiversity?



Focus on the 15th District

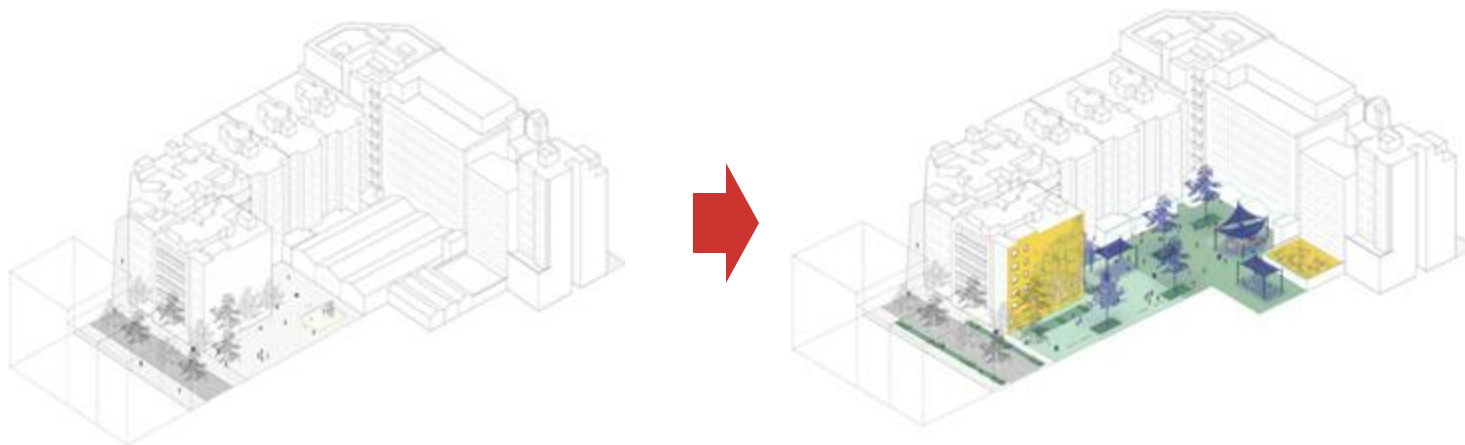
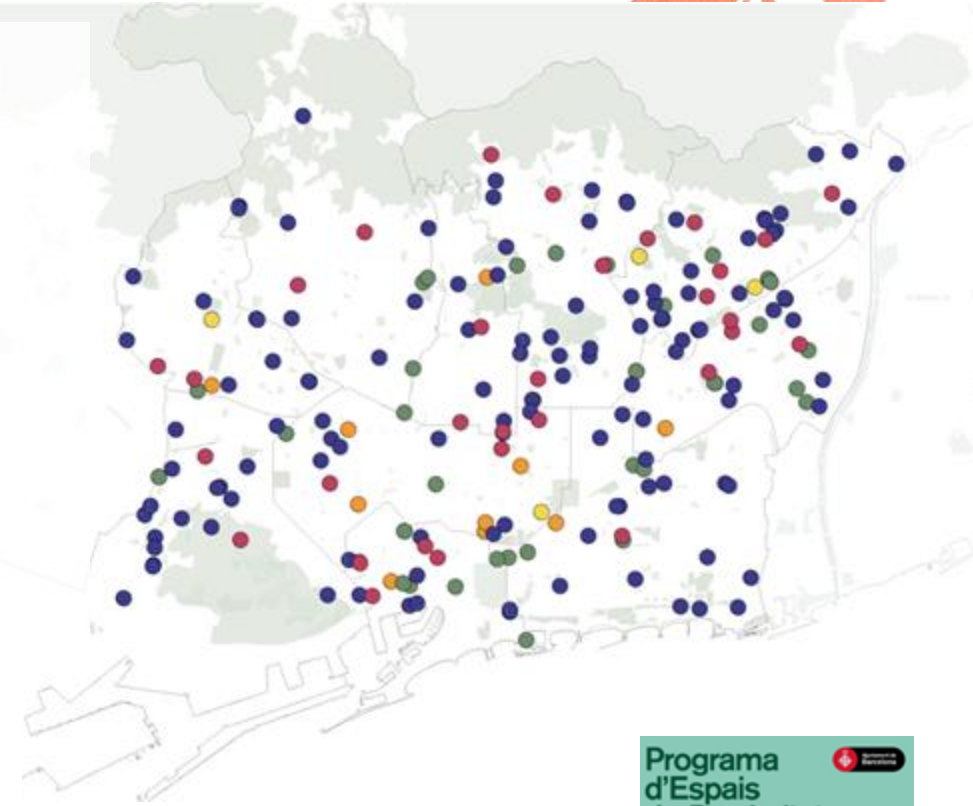
-  **P1: lifting of a fragmentation or creation of a new framework**
-  **P2 : strengthening of already existing corridors**
-  **P3 : transverse sections that densify the main mesh**
-  **P4 : isolated sections**

Proximity-Based Urban Spaces Program 2024-2028

Creation of 25 new green spaces (20 ha) through the transformation of underused urban areas.

The programme aims to deliver greener, shadier, and more climate-resilient public spaces in all districts.

The initiative includes 370 interventions citywide, supported by an investment of €130 million.



Alsamora Street



Before & After

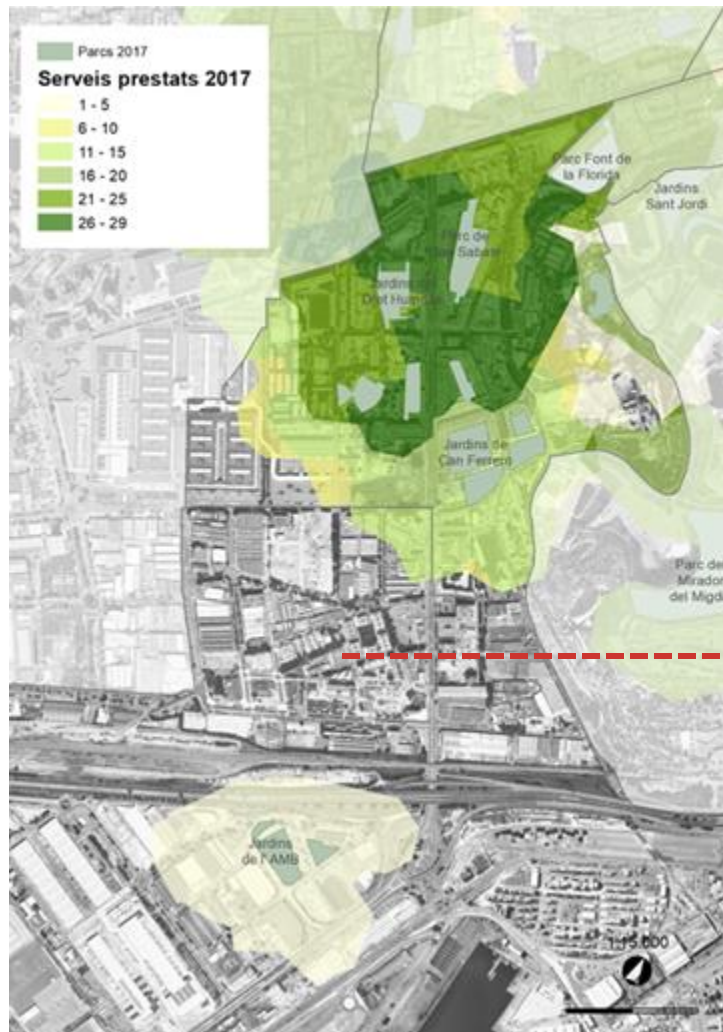
Transformation of the Marina del Prat Vermell Neighbourhood

Increased 5-minute proximity to green space.

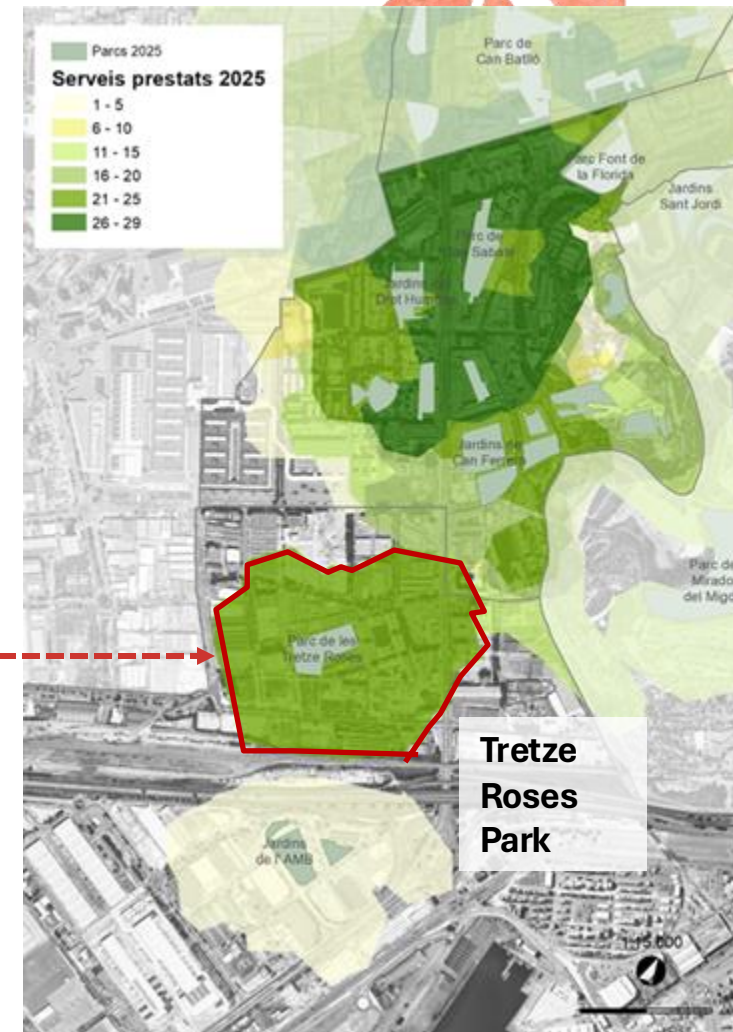
Enhanced socio-environmental services.

Improved quality of public space.

2017 (Before)



2025 (after)

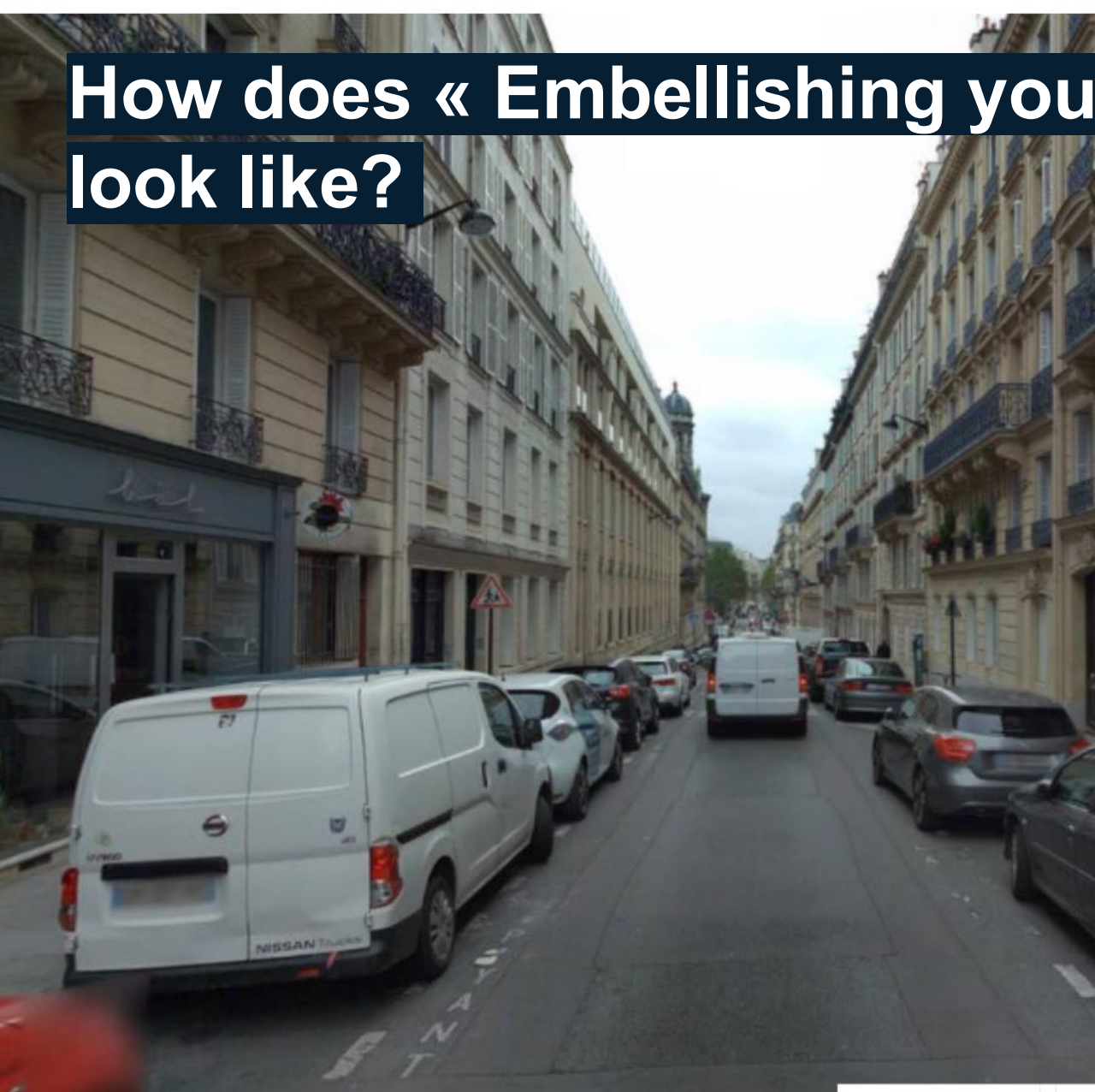


Tretze Roses Park



Before & After

How does « Embellishing your neighborhood » strategy look like?



Rue de la Bienfaisance – 8ème

Before & After

Green streets: assuming a new sharing of public space



Rue Abel – 12ème



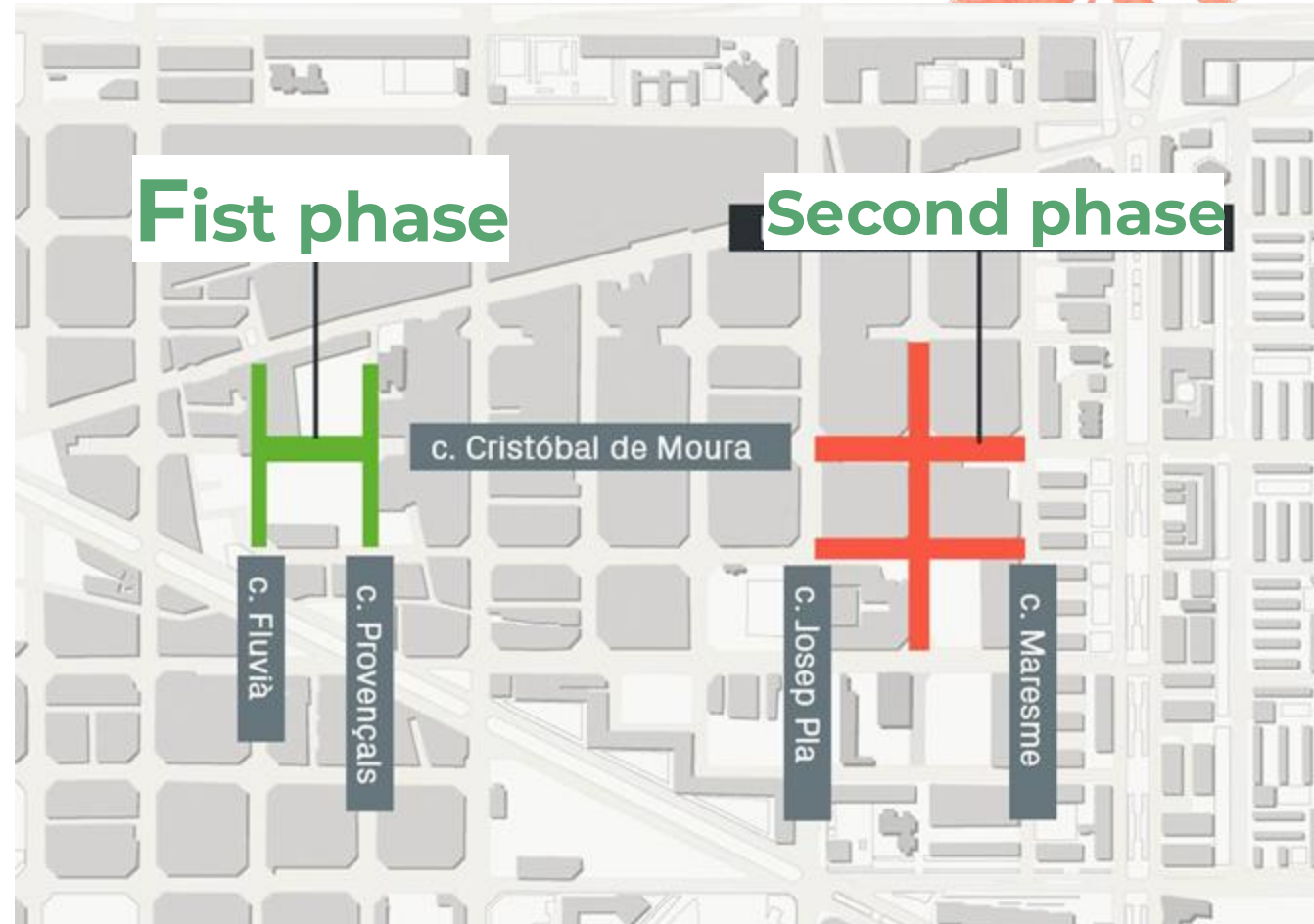
Before & After

Green Streets

4,300 m² of green area

Greener and more pedestrian-friendly streets prioritising walking and cycling.

New trees, green areas, SUDS, and photovoltaic pergolas for climate adaptation.



“Cristofol de Moura Green Street”



Before & After

“Bolivia Green Street”



Before & After

Consell de Cent Green Street



Before & After

School Protection Programme

“Protegim les Escoles” launched in 2020 to transform school surroundings into safer, healthier and more child-friendly public spaces. Between 2021 and 2025, the city pacified more than 200 school environments, reducing traffic pressure, and creating new spaces for play, social interaction and community use.

+ 200

Protected schools



Before & After



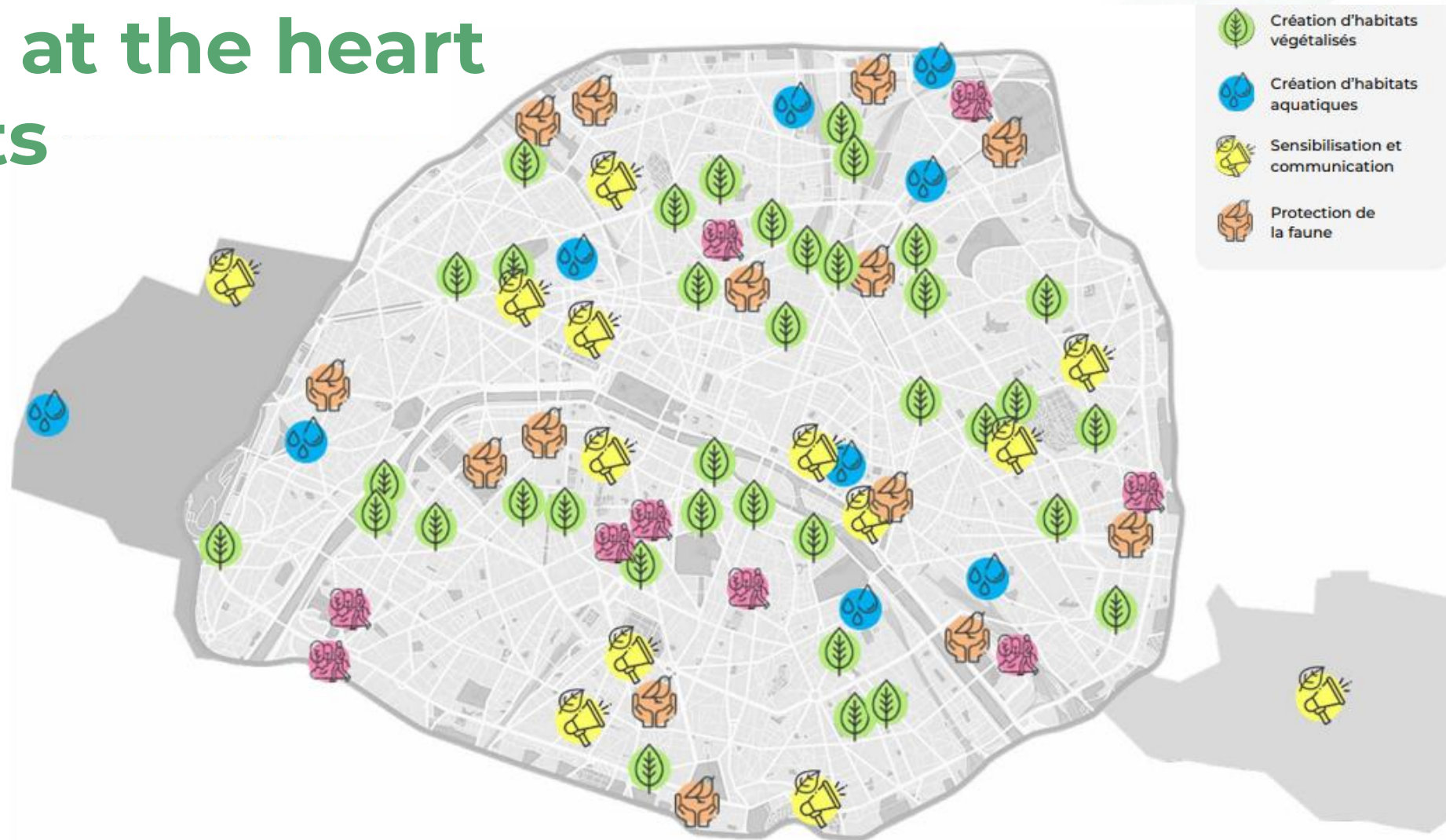
Carrer de Nàpols

Green schools streets

ue Tandou – 19ème



Biodiversity Strategy: 84 concrete projects deployed at the heart of districts



Sparrow Neighborhoods



Biodiversity shelters

Artificially created habitats with restricted access, designed to increase the richness of urban fauna and flora.

16

BIODIVERSITY
SHELTERS



Joan Miró Park



Glòries Park

Empty plots

Within the Mans al Verd programme, unused municipal plots are temporarily managed by non-profit organisations to promote community-led urban greening

20

ACTIVE
SPACES



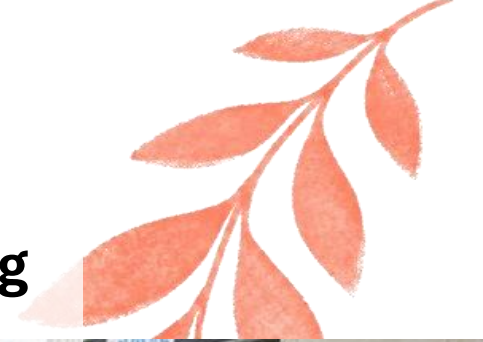
Port'm a L'Hort



Connect Hort

Tree pit program

This programme helps residents to take the essential steps in planting and maintaining tree pits.



Herbicide-free management of tree plots



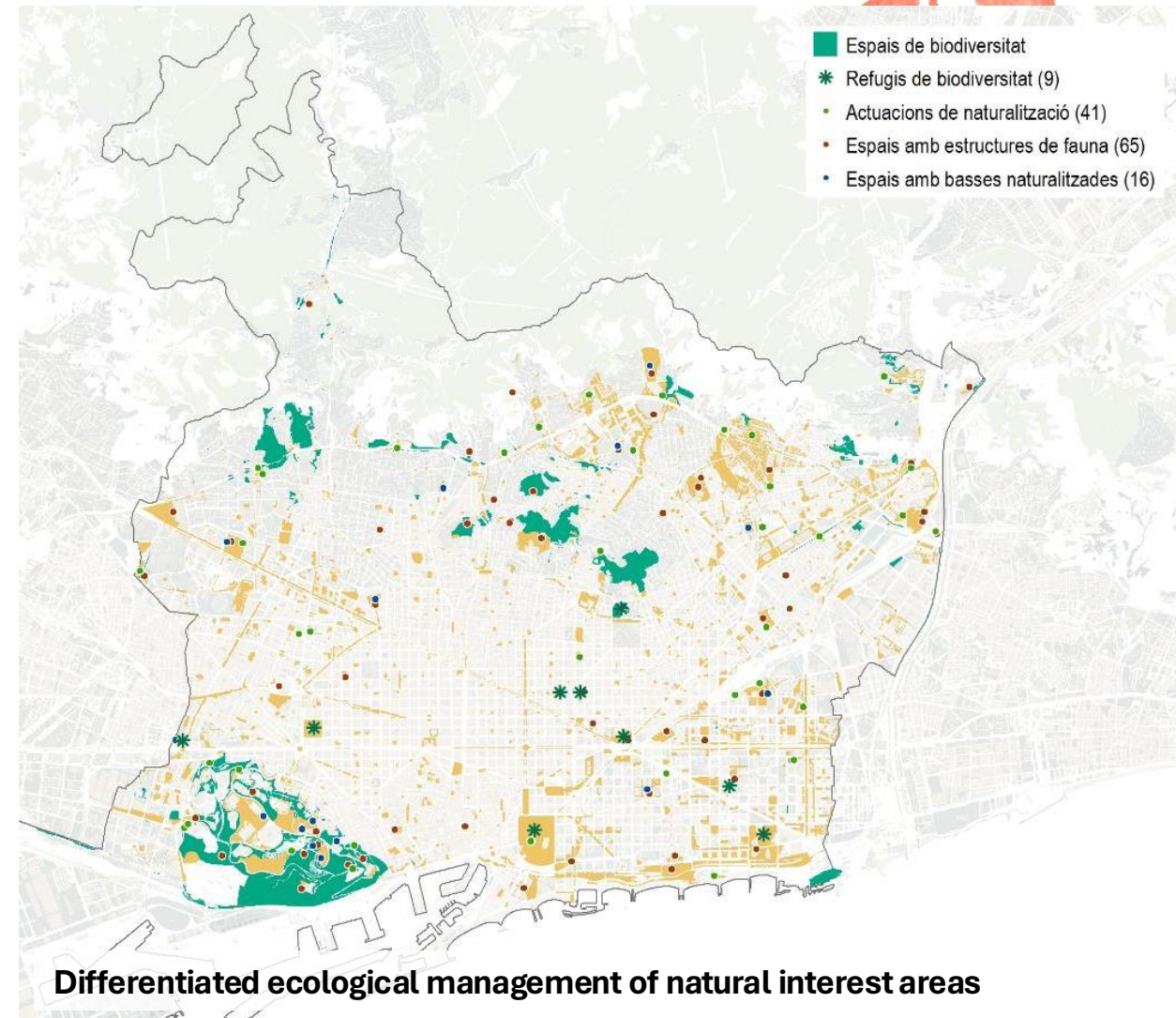
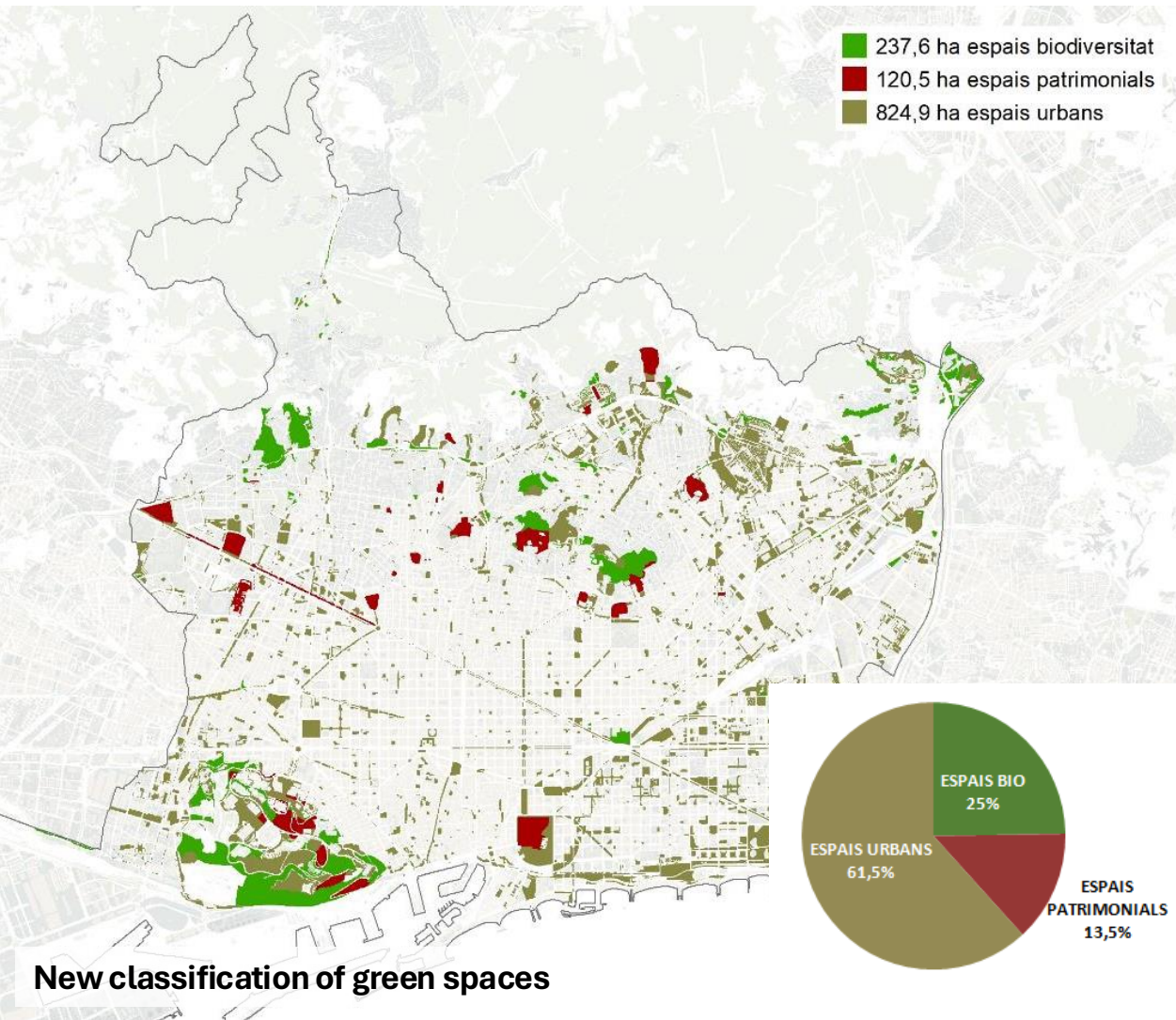
Barcelona City Council phased out the use of glyphosate and other toxic herbicides in municipal green spaces and public areas, as part of a shift towards more ecological green space management.



Ecological Management and Urban Naturalisation



A New Management Approach for Biodiversity and Public Health



Communicating naturalisation

- On-site signage
- Digital communication through municipal channels and social media
- Media advertising campaigns, such as “Donem pas al verd”
- City map of naturalised spaces



Ecological Management and Urban Naturalisation

A scenic view of a city, likely Valencia, Spain, featuring a large stadium with a distinctive dome and a historic building with a tall tower in the background. The foreground is filled with lush greenery, including trees and yellow wildflowers, suggesting a focus on urban naturalisation.

We promote a mix of different types of vegetation, including grasses, shrubs, and trees.

We plant more local species to support wildlife.

We design biodiversity shelters.

We monitor overly abundant wildlife species and invasive exotic plant species.

We improve the vegetation structure to incorporate trees, shrubs, and herbaceous

We improve ecological corridors, blue, green and permeable soil continuity

How to finance renaturation and NbS?

Today

**Municipal budget
(management and
investment)**

**National and European
cofundings**

Mixed Development Zone

**Green and Sustainable
Bonds**

Tomorrow?

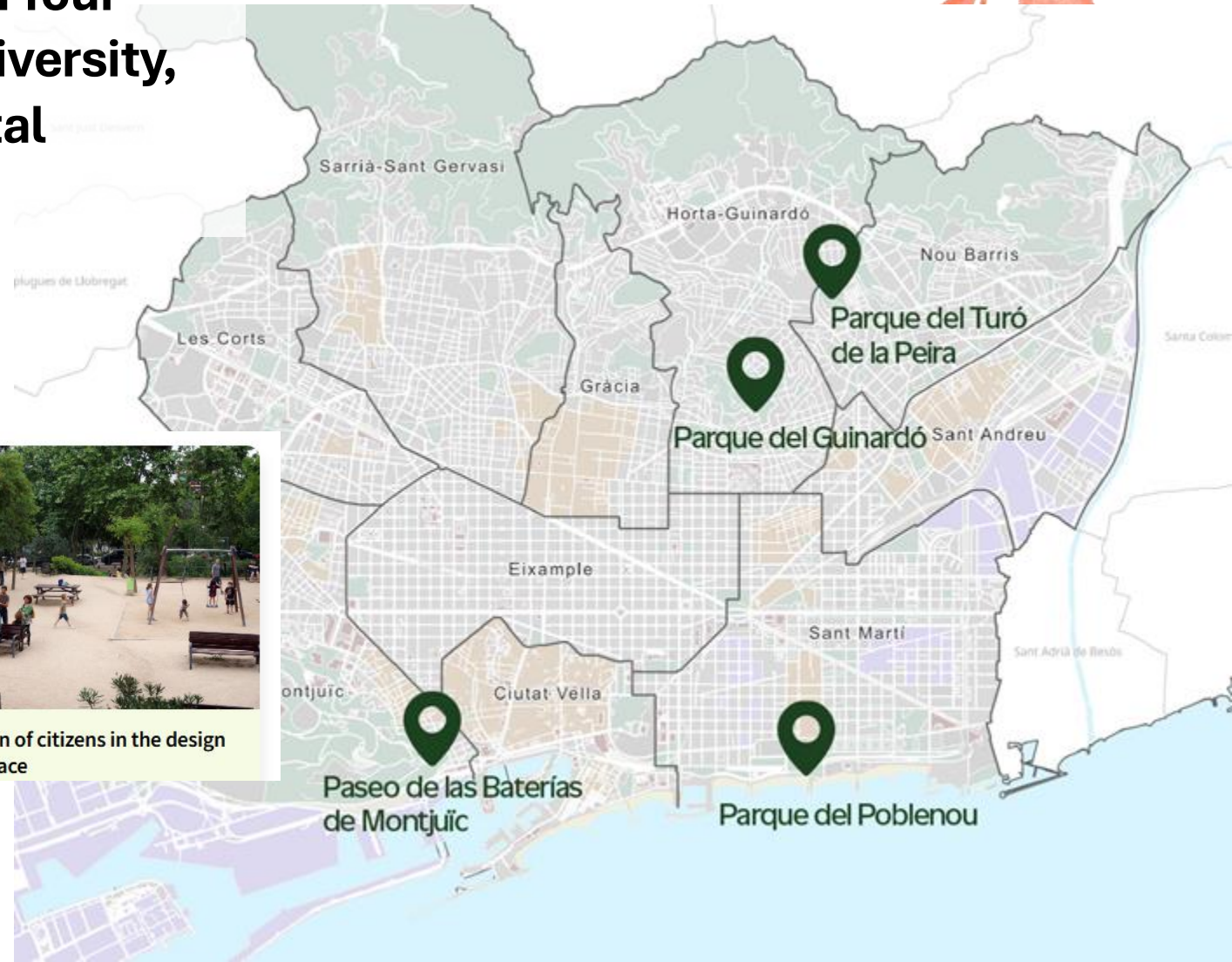
Philanthropic and private sponsoring

Local Carbon Cooperative

**Integrating ecosystemic
benefits valuation**

Renaturalization projects through State funding

Transformation and naturalisation of four urban green spaces to improve biodiversity, climate resilience, and environmental quality, supported by EU funding.



Improve urban green infrastructure



Adapt to climate change and promote biodiversity



Participation of citizens in the design of public space





Roofscapes: Retrofitting existing buildings



Ecological Management and Urban Naturalisation

Natural meadows

