

Grow Green Wrocław

Wrocław demonstrator is made up of a series of pocket parks bounded by a green street located within 200 m of one of the area's main streets. Together they create „Green system”:

- A green street
- A green tram stop
- Six blue-green courtyards

The areas have trees, shrubs, swales and rain-gardens, each unique and tailored to the needs of the residents - “Garden of residents” has community gardens, “Rain garden” demonstrator is about rainwater management, “Green oasis” turned parking lot into green place. The common denominator is NBS interventions creating green oases in the densely built areas of Olbin district.

Recognising that engagement of the local community was vital with participatory planning a key element. The locations were determined by the residents through their participation alongside local climate parameters, air circulation, spatial constraints and ownership.



Demonstrators



In 2017 there was first meeting with citizens about the project. In 2018 two sets of residents co-design workshops were held. The first was in June 2018 - eight meetings - one for each area, the second phase in September and October, another eight meetings. Residents then had the opportunity to tell how they imagined the future development of the area, what is most important to them and supported visualize their aspirations. The October and November meetings were used to present the first concepts, incorporating the findings from June with the opportunity to make amendments. The outcome was an exhibition in the premises of the public library for two weeks in January 2019.

In October 2019 more residents meetings were held. These were scheduled during the implementation of the courtyard interiors in order the residents could ask questions to the designers, contractors, managers, representatives of the City Office and the WUELS. The workshop closed with joint planting.

The next series of workshops took place in September/October 2020. The aim was to educate residents on how to take care of interiors - how to use rainwater barrel and cultivate vegetable gardens. More plants were planted together with the residents with various, green-themed games and activities were provided for the children.

The last series was in October 2022 - summing up the GrowGreen project and focusing on the legacy of the project. There was cooking with residents, planting a tree, musicians playing, movies, working on community gardens and discussions about the future of the project and empowering citizens to take care of the demonstrators.

Engaging citizens

The blue-green courtyards were immediately accepted by the residents, while the parklets on green street, as a new creation, needed more time to gain the approval of the citizens.

Because each of the courtyard is different and is focused on different solutions, this has allowed the maximum use of different NBS depending on the yard - for example Area. 4 was focusing on rainwater management on site and due to the system of rain gardens, swales and permeable surface more than 90% of the rainwater has been managed in the area.

The greening of the courtyards brought these areas back to the residents. Previously, they were used mainly as parking places for cars, now in some areas they became the catalyst for community building, e.g., around a community garden.

The project is influencing strategic thinking on green infrastructure and acting as a catalyst for the development of other NBS projects in the city. New NBS initiatives are underway and using the experience from the project.

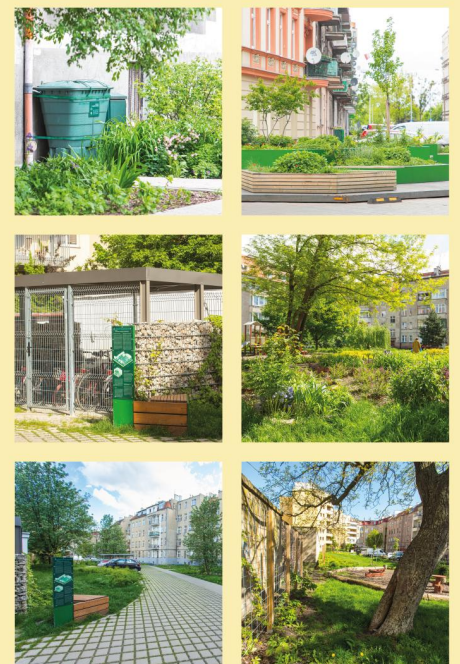
By embedding NBS in long term city planning, development and management there are new projects, programs and investments including NBS.

Engaging with staff working in the local area to help facilitate engagements.

The need for specialist skills is critical. Engaging a contractor with all the required skills as well as ongoing engagement with technical specialists.

Public procurement could be challenging in terms of describing the right conditions and innovation in NBS in public tender.

Engaging citizens in the process of design is key if we want them to take care of the demos in the future.



Key findings



- Blue-green system
- Way to demonstrators
- Green parquet floors along ul. Daszyńskiego

- Green oasis
- Green beginning
- Garden of residents
- Rain garden
- Green tram stop
- Pocket park
- Biodiversity garden
- Green street

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