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Good Practice Catalogue



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1. Introduction

The Green to Water (G2W) project is a Slovak-Hungarian cross-border initiative implemented under the 2021-2027 Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia Programme Green Cooperation (Priority 1). The project, which runs from June 2024 to October 2025, is jointly implemented by the municipalities of Michalovce in Slovakia and Nyírbátor in Hungary, in response to the environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change. The project aims to protect and sustainably utilise natural capital using green infrastructure.

Due to the increasingly frequent extreme weather events in the two cities – heat waves, flash floods, prolonged droughts – it is particularly important to introduce solutions that improve the resilience of the urban environment to climate change. In the framework of the G2W project, the partners will therefore create new community green spaces and rainwater retention solutions that have aesthetic, ecological and recreational value. In addition to technical interventions, the project also includes educational, awareness-raising and community-building elements, thereby facilitating the social foundation of sustainable urban development in cities and their regions.

Green and blue infrastructures – such as street trees, parks, green roofs, rain gardens or water surfaces, water-permeable pavements – simultaneously serve the purpose of stormwater management, improving the urban climate and preserving biodiversity. For urban areas most exposed to the effects of climate change, these nature-based solutions are cheaper and more sustainable than traditional technical means, which is why their application is increasingly justified.

In the case of small and medium-sized cities – such as Michalovce or Nyírbátor – due to limited resources, it is particularly important to learn about innovative, adaptable good practices that can be applied (some of their elements) locally according to individual needs.

The aim of this catalogue is to:

- provide inspiration and practical guidance to municipalities and communities on how to develop their urban green and blue infrastructure, based on valuable knowledge and experience from successful projects,
- inspire innovation and contribute to knowledge sharing inside and outside the partnership.

The study therefore presents nine international and local recognized examples of green and blue infrastructure development.

2. Methodology

The selection of good practices for this catalogue was guided by the overarching goals of the Green to Water (G2W) project: promoting climate resilience, green infrastructure development, and water retention measures in small- and medium-sized urban environments.

The aim was to showcase a diverse yet coherent set of examples that can inspire practical actions and strategic thinking within the Slovak-Hungarian cross-border region. To this end, good practices were selected based on the following criteria:

- **RELEVANCE** – the good practice should be related to one of the objectives of the Green to Water project;
- **EFFECTIVENESS** – there are results behind the good practice, which are recognized;
- **TRANSFERABILITY** – it provides an opportunity for adaptation even for smaller settlements and communities;
- **DIFFERENT SCALE** – among the good practices there are large-scale, complex urban development projects, which serve more as inspiration, and there are also easily replicable, low-budget initiatives that can be implemented even by a smaller residential community;
- **GEOGRAPHICAL AND THEMATIC BALANCE** – in addition to international examples, the catalogue also includes Central European good practices, including good practices related to several topics of green and blue infrastructure development.

The good practices are presented in a uniform structure, according to three aspects:

- **Short description** – the sub-chapter describes the objectives, background and methods of implementing the good practice;
- **Relevance** – justification of why the given good practice is useful and how it fits into the Green to Water project/objectives;
- **Small-scale adaptation** – a short presentation of how the good practice (its individual elements) can be implemented.

This uniform format allows for easy comparison of good practices and simple application of the manual. For comparability, the study also rates each good practice on a scale of 1 to 6 based on general applicability and time and cost requirements for implementation.

	NAME OF THE GOOD PRACTICE	THEME	LOCATION
1.	The High Line	Linear garden	New York, USA
2.	Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	Rain garden	London, UK
3.	Pünkösdfürdő Park	Linear garden/Rain garden	Budapest, Hungary
4.	Turia Garden	Linear garden/Rain garden	Valencia, Spain
5.	Bosco Verticale	Vertical garden	Milan, Italy
6.	CaixaForum Vertical Garden	Vertical garden	Madrid, Spain

	NAME OF THE GOOD PRACTICE	THEME	LOCATION
7.	Tree City USA	Urban forest	USA
8.	Wildflower Veszprém	Pollinator friendly garden	Veszprém, Hungary
9.	Urban Bees	Pollinator friendly garden	London, UK

3. Good Practices

HIGH LINE

About the Good Practice

The High Line is a globally acclaimed example of how an unused area, a former elevated railway, can be transformed into a vibrant public space that attracts 8 million visitors a year (in 2019). Located in Manhattan, New York City, this 2.32 km linear park was created on an abandoned elevated freight rail line. Opened in phases starting since 2009, the High Line combined landscape architecture, ecology, art and community involvement and business to transform an industrial remnants into a vibrant public green space.

It is the first public park in the United States to be built on an abandoned elevated railway line – a section of the abandoned southern viaduct of the New York Central Railroad West Side Line. Amidst New York City's skyscrapers, from Gansevoort Street to 34th Street (Hudson Yard), a 22-block stretch of dense urban fabric, it serves as a green corridor for pollinators and birds. Its elevated location also offers visitors unique city views.



Source: [The New York City High Line](#), [At a Glance | The High Line](#)

The High Line was saved from complete demolition by the nonprofit organization Friends of the High Line, formed in 1999. Since its opening, the park has been operated and maintained by the organization. Nearly 100% of the park's annual budget is funded by donations, so locals and other donors help operate, maintain, and program the park.

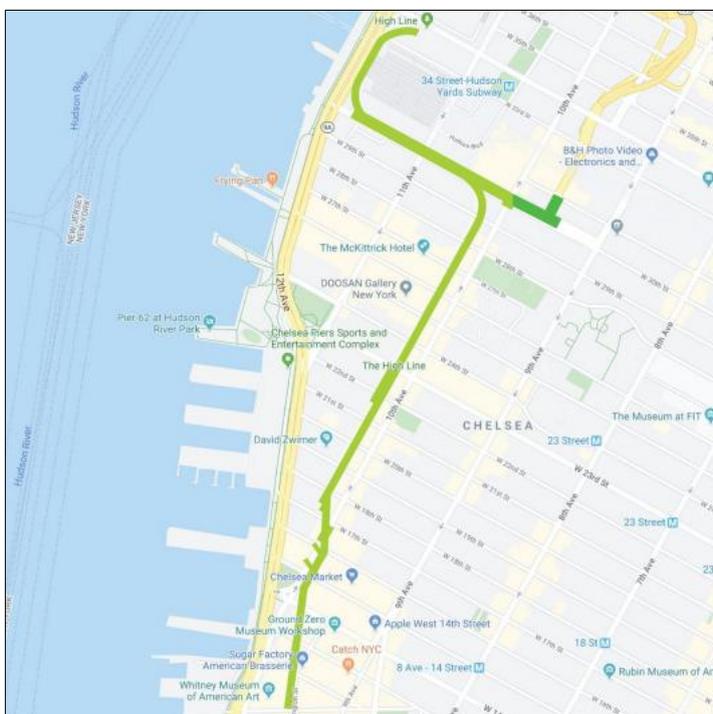


Source: [At a Glance | The High Line](#)

The High Line was designed by Field Operations, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, and Piet Oudolf, and commissioned by a public-private partnership between the City of New York and Friends of the High Line. It was inspired by the 4.7 km long Coulée verte René-Dumont (Paris, France), inaugurated in 1993, which was the world's first project to transform old, disused elevated railway lines into urban gardens.

The park features native and drought-tolerant plants in layered planting beds inspired by the spontaneous vegetation that once grew on the unused railway tracks. The park has 120,000 plants of more than 500 species, nearly a quarter of which are native to the area. The High Line manages stormwater through permeable pavement and planted areas, helping to reduce runoff and improve the urban microclimate.

Beyond recreation and aesthetics, the High Line's transformation has sparked a broad economic boom in surrounding neighborhoods too, but a strong emphasis on inclusivity and community stewardship has remained. Thus, the iconic project is not just a landscape architectural and ecological transformation of a railway track, but an exemplary social, cultural and economic renewal of an underutilized area too.



Source: [Google Térkép](#), [At a Glance | The High Line](#)

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

The High Line is a good example of how unused urban spaces can be reused as part of a green infrastructure development to adapt to climate change, increase biodiversity and strengthen social interaction.

The project serves as a model for sustainable reuse, stormwater retention and the creation of linear green corridors, which are also the main objectives of the Green to Water project. It offers inspiration and transferable solutions for smaller-scale interventions in Central European cities in the areas of ecological vegetation, multifunctionality and participatory design.

Green and blue corridors that extend across urban districts (so-called ecological corridors) are

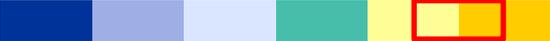
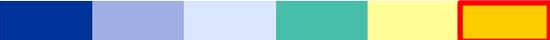
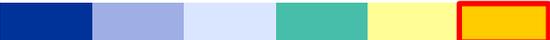
extremely important for urban ecosystems. These linear green (e.g., tree-lined avenues, parks, groves, stream or river valleys) and blue spaces (such as urban streams, canals, and catchment areas) provide connectivity between habitats, facilitating the movement, reproduction, and survival of living organisms within the urban environment.

In addition to their ecological role, urban green and blue infrastructure also holds significant social and economic value, as they offer a wide range of ecosystem services:

- they improve air quality and regulate temperature (helping to counteract the urban heat island effect),
- increase cities' capacity to retain water and contribute to flood protection,
- promote active modes of transport (walking, cycling),
- improve residents' mental and physical health and raise the value of surrounding real estate.

The implementation of the High Line required several years of planning and phased construction, as well as significant funding, but its basic principles can also be applied on a small scale in our cities. With the cooperation of local governments and residents, green corridors can be created in cities (in some city districts) that contribute to increasing the biodiversity of the environment and improving the urban climate. The simplest ways of doing this are the following:

- planting trees on streets, creating green belts along streets;
- creating a network of city parks and institutional gardens;
- developing unused spaces into temporary green spaces;
- greening fences on longer, continuous routes.

Location	New York, USA		
Official webpage	thehighline.org		
Applicability	EASY		DIFFICULT
Time requirement	QUICK		LONG-TERM
Cost requirement	LOW-COST		HIGH-COST

QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

About the Good Practice

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London is one of the UK's most ambitious and comprehensive examples of sustainable urban regeneration. Originally developed for the London 2012 Olympic Games, the 227-hectare site next to the River Lee has been transformed from a heavily polluted post-industrial landscape into a vibrant, accessible, and climate-resilient public space. The park integrates green infrastructure, water-sensitive urban design, biodiversity, recreation, and community development.

Key environmental elements include extensive wetland (for example the Wetlands Walk) and rainwater retention systems, swales, bioengineered riverbanks, and diverse planting schemes designed to improve air quality, reduce urban heat, and manage flooding. Over 4,000 new trees and vast areas of native meadow and woodland have been introduced. All of these blue and green infrastructure elements help the city cope with extreme weather, keep stormwater on site, and support wildlife.



Source: [Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London: Tickets, Opening Hours and Visitor Info](#), [SHIFT Digital Frontiers Report Unveiled During London Data Week | Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park](#)

The park was designed using recycled materials (soil, building materials), developed low-energy buildings in it, and made sustainable transportation connections within the park and with the surrounding neighborhoods.

The park has been open to the public since the Olympic Games and is home to educational programs, community gardens, biodiversity trails, and citizen science projects. The park balances the city's dynamic development with environmental sustainability, and is a living example of how a significant green and blue infrastructure can be integrated into a metropolitan environment.

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park serves as a holistic, large-scale model for nature-based solutions, climate change adaptation and public engagement. The integration of urban greening, rainwater management and community-led programmes fits perfectly with the goals of the Green to Water programme. The park also demonstrates how degraded land can be transformed into high-value ecological and social spaces – serving as inspiration for smaller Central European cities to implement brownfield green space developments.

Urban residents, communities and schools can replicate elements of the park by creating mini rain

gardens, bioswales or native vegetation zones in private gardens, public parks, schoolyards or unused land. In addition, similar to educational/scientific activities in the park, biodiversity mapping, biodiversity walks, tree planting days etc. can contribute to raising awareness among the population, especially the youth, and to spreading community science.

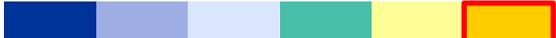


Source: [2012 Gardens \(7724372296\) - Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - Wikipedia](#)

Location London, United Kingdom

Official webpage [Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park | Things to do & see in east London](#)

Applicability EASY  DIFFICULT

Time requirement QUICK  LONG-TERM

Cost requirement LOW-COST  HIGH-COST

PÜNKÖSDFÜRDŐ PARK

About the Good Practice

Pünkösdfürdő Park is one of the first public green spaces in Hungary to be designed entirely with climate adaptation as a central concept. Opened in spring 2022 along the Danube River in Budapest's 3rd district (Óbuda), the 7-hectare park integrates innovative blue-green infrastructure elements to address the negative impacts of climate change – e.g. urban heat island effect, extreme rainfall, biodiversity loss.



Source: own photo, A III. kerületi Pünkösdfürdő park kapta idén az Európa Zöld Városa Nemzeti díjat

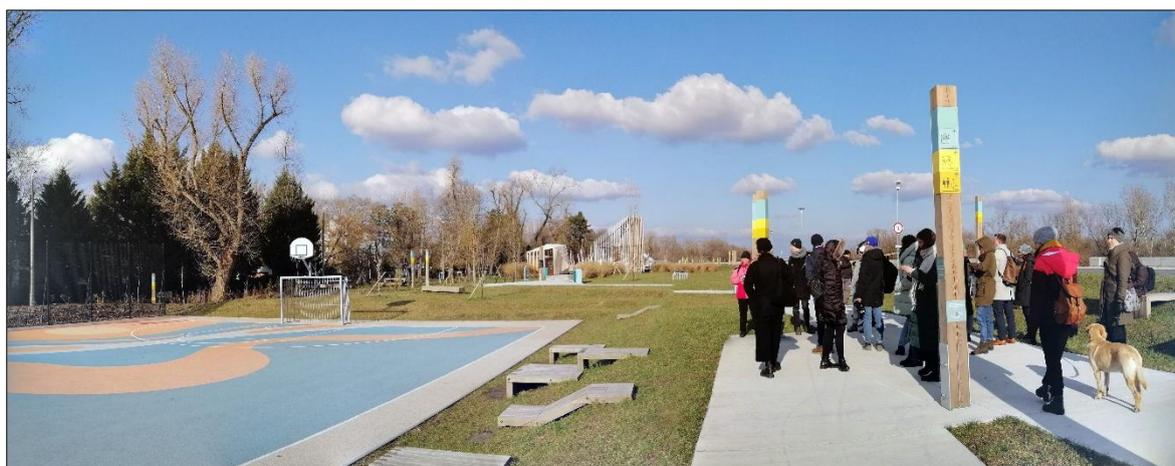
The park serves as both a recreational space and a demonstration site for nature-based solutions – with playgrounds, walkways, shaded resting areas, and abundant vegetation. To address extreme weather events such as heat waves and sudden downpours, the park's design includes rain gardens, infiltration zones, permeable pavements, and drought-tolerant vegetation. Importantly, it avoids traditional, water-intensive lawns, favoring near-natural plantings with native species that require less maintenance and support urban wildlife.



Source: [Ökopark Pünkösdfürdőn](#)

Budapest created its first experimental orchard in the award-winning park, planting a total of 75 trees from 24 different species. The roots of the trees are nourished by an underground irrigation system, but it can be supplemented by manual watering when necessary. Edible forests have a long literature: on the one hand, they increase biodiversity, and on the other hand, harvesting the fruits is a great community program.

As an outdoor classroom, in addition to recreation and ecological aspects, the Pünkösdfürdő Park also aims to educate: the information boards in the park explain how public spaces can be functional, beautiful and sustainable at the same time – how green spaces can improve the urban climate, retain water and preserve biodiversity in urban environments.



Source: own picture

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

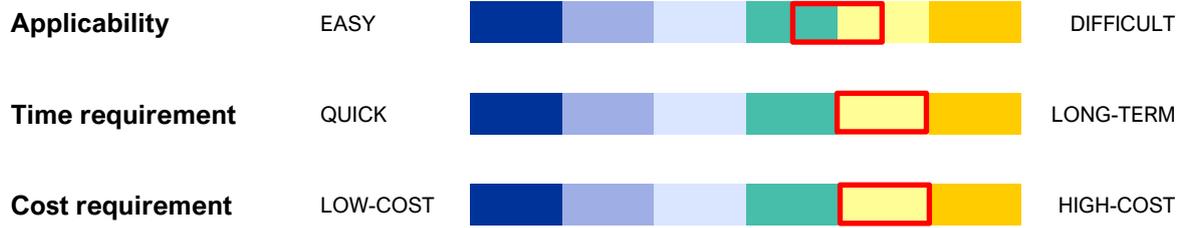
This good practice is particularly relevant to the G2W project, as it demonstrates how multifunctional green infrastructure can address climate change adaptation, water retention, sustainable green space management and community well-being in a single integrated solution.

Similar to the Queen Elisabeth Park adaptation, residents and schools can replicate key elements of good practice on a smaller scale:

- creating rain gardens or installing permeable surfaces (e.g. gravel paths or permeable paving stones) in their gardens or schoolyards can help retain water;
- and using native and drought-tolerant plants instead of traditional lawns can reduce irrigation needs and improve biodiversity.

Location Budapest – 3rd district, Hungary

Official webpage [Ökopark Pünkösdfürdőn](https://www.okopark.hu/)



TURIA GARDENS

About the Good Practice

The Jardín del Turia (Turia Gardens) is a 136-hectare, approximately 10 km long linear park in Valencia, created in the former bed of the Turia River after it was diverted after a devastating flood in 1957. To protect against flooding, the Plan Sur project diverted the river's waters southwards through a new 12 km long and 175 m wide canal, the construction of which required significant earthworks, dams and bridges. The new canal has been effective in protecting the city centre for decades, although heavy rainfall in 2024 highlighted the flood risks to areas close to the riverbed caused by extreme weather events.



Source: [Jardín Del Turia en Valencia: 74 opiniones y 101 fotos](#), [Jardines del Turia en Valencia: un oasis urbano](#)

Originally intended as a transportation corridor, the riverbed was transformed into a green space following public pressure through the movement “The Turia riverbed is ours, and we want it green”. Opened in 1986 and expanded gradually, the park now connects 18 neighborhoods and several historic bridges, and it includes recreational areas, sport fields, playgrounds like the giant Gulliver, Mediterranean gardens, and the the landmark building complex of City of Arts and Sciences.



Source: [El jardín del Turia: 35 años como pulmón de la ciudad de Valencia - Iberflora](#), [1 100+ Turia River Fotók témájú stock fotó, vizuális alkotás és jogdíjmentes kép - iStock](#)

The park's lowered topography allows it to act as a flood corridor: lawns, rain-tolerant trees, and artificial wetlands absorb and retain stormwater before it reaches the sea. It is estimated to retain or drain 3–5

million m³ of precipitation per year. The park also has a microclimate-improving effect, reducing summer temperatures by 2–3°C in the surrounding city districts.

The size of the park (and other green spaces in the city) ensures that 97% of Valencia's residents have access to a green space within 300 meters. Attracting more than 7 million visitors (residents and tourists) per year, the Turia Park is both an important ecological infrastructure and a popular public space. Its key role in climate adaptation and urban liveability contributed to Valencia winning the European Green Capital Award in 2024.



Source: [Valencia, the green capital of Europe | Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem](#)

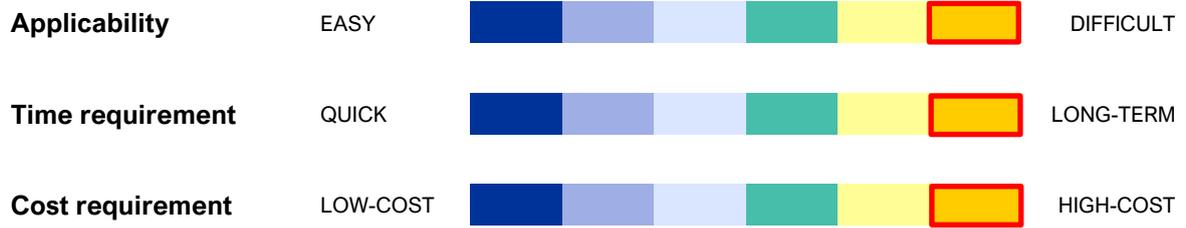
Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

With the longest urban park in Europe, the Turia Gardens demonstrates the city's commitment to creating green spaces that both protect and enhance the urban environment, and it also illustrates the importance of public engagement in the development of green spaces. All of these principles are important principles of the Green to Water project.

The given good practice also shows that strong political commitment is very important in achieving a long-term urban development goal. This approach is well suited to municipalities with limited budgets, such as the partner cities, which have to build their green infrastructure step by step. However, it is instructive for municipalities to have a long-term vision/action plan to implement their plans.

Location Valencia, Spain

Official webpage [Inicio - Parc del Turia](#)



ŰBOSCO VERTICALE

About the Good Practice

The Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest) is an ambitious, pioneer project that implements urban afforestation through vertical gardens, increasing biodiversity, reducing urban sprawl, while contributing to improving the urban microclimate.

The globally recognized green real estate development project is a complex of two skyscrapers designed by Boeri Studio and located in the Porta Nuova district of Milan, Italy. The residential towers, both inaugurated in 2014, are 116 meters (26 floors) and 84 m (11 floors) high, and within the complex is an 11-story office building.



Source: own pictures

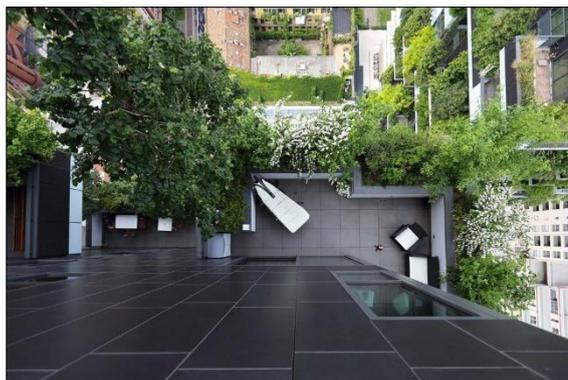
The facades of Bosco Verticale accommodate a total of 730 trees, 5,000 shrubs, and 11,000 perennials and ground covers, which in total is equivalent to the vegetation of a 1-hectare forest. This vertical forest improves air quality, provide natural insulation, reducing energy consumption for heating and cooling reduces noise pollution, enhances the mental well-being of residents, and supports urban biodiversity by providing habitats for various species.

Many innovative solutions are used in the installation and maintenance of the buildings' vegetation:

- the planters of the 3.3-meter-deep cantilevered terraces of the Bosco Verticale are protected by a bituminous waterproofing membrane and a root protection film;
- each is equipped with sensors to measure soil moisture and an automatic irrigation system that use greywater;
- the plants are cared for 4 times a year, once of which is done from the outside of the building

by trained “Flying Gardeners”.

Since its opening, the building has won numerous awards (2014-2015 International Highrise Award, CTBUH’s “2015 Best Tall Building” Worldwide), and inspired a growing movement of green high-rises around the world. It is a good example of how architectural and ecological approaches can coexist in cities, even in highly urbanized and densely populated areas.



Source: [Vertical Forest | Milan | Stefano Boeri Architetti](#)

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

Bosco Verticale is a flagship example of green infrastructure development that addresses a number of urban sustainability challenges – lack of green spaces, biodiversity loss, urban heat island effect, air pollution, sustainable water management, etc. – within a single solution.

The iconic building is relevant to the G2W project as a good practice because it demonstrates how vegetation can be integrated into the built environment to retain water, reduce energy consumption and improve environmental quality. Its visual appeal also serves as an effective communication tool, raising public awareness of the value of green solutions in cities.



Source: [Vertical Forest | Milan | Stefano Boeri Architetti](#)

Although the scale of Bosco Verticale is unique, its principles can be applied in homes, schools and community buildings:

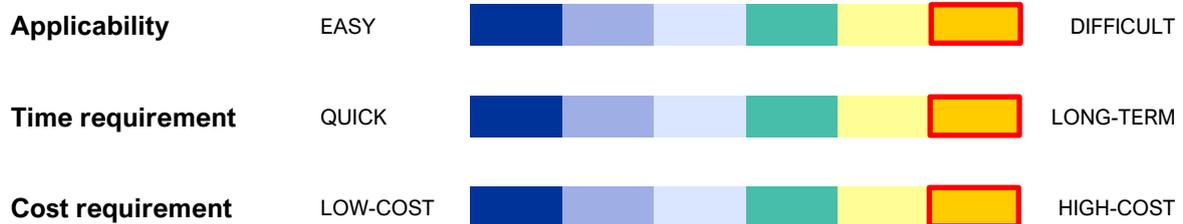
- Vertical gardens using climbing plants or perennials that tolerate local climatic conditions can be created at home, along fences, walls and on balconies.

- By collecting rainwater, using automated drip irrigation and simple sensors (e.g. moisture meters), interesting educational projects can be implemented for students.

These initiatives not only have aesthetic value, but also improve the microclimate around homes and buildings, and help young people learn about the importance of plants, biodiversity and a climate-adaptive living environment.

Location Milan, Italy

Official webpage [Vertical Forest | Milan | Stefano Boeri Architetti](#)



CAIXAFORUM VERTICAL GARDEN

About the Good Practice

The Vertical Garden Wall of CaixaForum is one of the most iconic examples of urban green infrastructure in Europe, showcasing how vegetation can be seamlessly integrated into architecture in dense city environments too. Designed by renowned French botanist Patrick Blanc, the vertical garden was installed in 2008 as part of the transformation of an old electric power station into a cultural centre, a project led by Herzog & de Meuron architects. Located in the heart of Madrid’s Paseo del Prado cultural axis, the garden dramatically rises alongside the museum’s entrance plaza, covering a previously blank 24-meter-high facade.

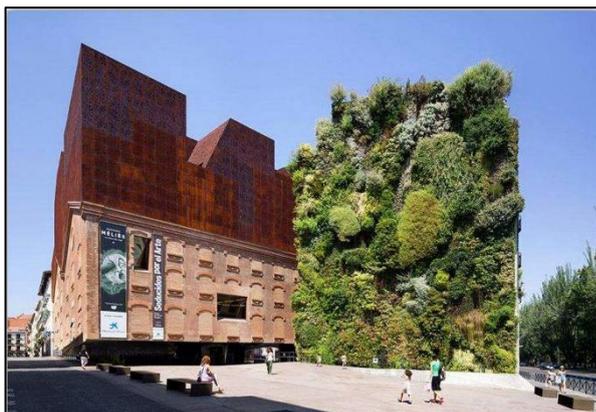
The living wall – the largest vertical garden ever built in the world – covers approximately 460 square meters and is planted with over 15,000 individual plants from more than 250 native and exotic species. Unlike traditional green walls that rely on soil, the CaixaForum garden employs hydroponic technology, where plants are rooted in synthetic felt and irrigated with a nutrient-rich water system. The water system of the wall consists of five vertical pipe circuits that distribute water from the top down, and roughly 50% of the irrigation water is recirculated, significantly reducing water consumption.



Source: own picture, [Caixa Forum, Madrid | Vertical Garden Patrick Blanc](#)

Environmental sensors embedded in the green wall monitor temperature, light levels and humidity, allowing for automated regulation of irrigation and nutrient delivery. This technology ensures the health of the plants and the efficiency of the system all year round. The plant species of the wall have been carefully selected to tolerate Madrid’s changing climate and are arranged to create rich, varied tapestry of colours, textures and ecological niches. The unique garden is maintained by a specially trained gardener using a boom, equipped with a helmet and harness to work at height.

Beyond its visual and ecological impact, the vertical garden plays an important environmental role in the dense urban fabric: it cools the immediate microclimate through evapotranspiration, improves air quality by filtering pollutants and fine dust, and provides habitat for insects and urban birds. It also acts as a thermal and acoustic buffer for the building. For both residents and visitors, it provides a spectacular, eye-catching example of how green design can enhance the cultural, educational, and environmental value of urban public spaces.



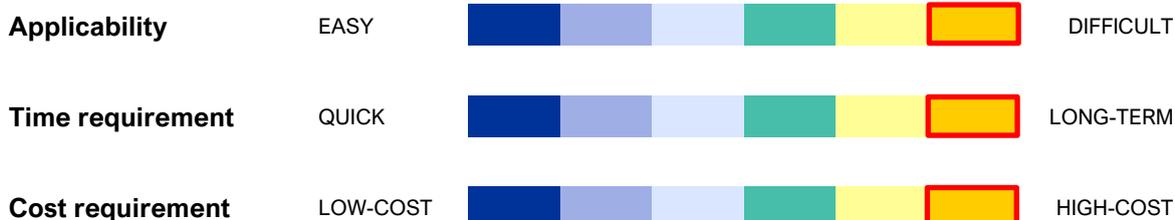
Source: [Caixa Forum, Madrid | Vertical Garden Patrick Blanc](#)

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

As one of the first large-scale vertical ecosystems built in the world, the CaixaForum Vertical Garden demonstrates how architecture can be both heritage-sensitive and climate-adaptive, providing a range of ecosystem services through its vegetation. Like Bosco Verticale, the CaixaForum Vertical Garden, although unique in its size, can provide inspiration on how to create vertical gardens on a smaller scale on fences, balconies or walls (see adaptation ideas at Bosco Verticale).

Location Madrid, Spain

Official webpage [Caixa Forum, Madrid | Vertical Garden Patrick Blanc](#)

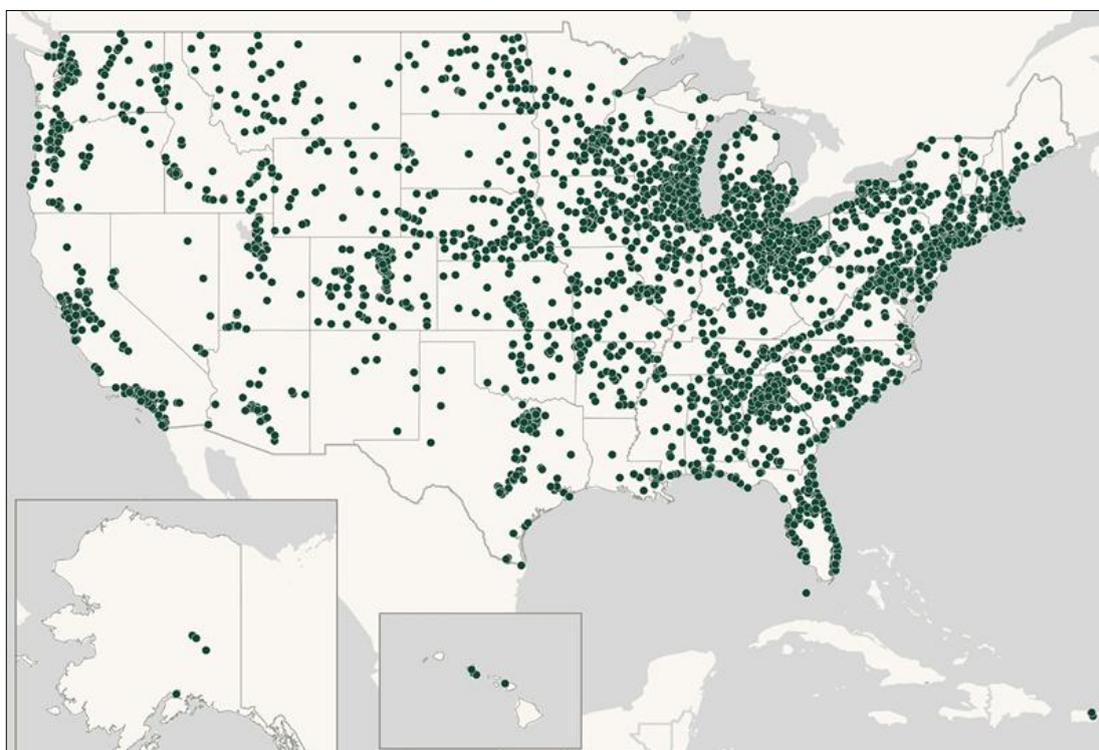


TREE CITY USA

About the Good Practice

Tree City USA is a national recognition program established in 1976 by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. The program aims to encourage better urban forest management across American communities – large and small.

The initiative began nearly half a century ago with 42 communities in 16 states. There are now Tree City communities in all 50 states. In 2024, 3,587 U.S. cities and towns were recognized, meaning 48% of the country’s population, or more than 155 million people, live in a Tree City USA community.



Source: National Infographic (2024), Tree City USA | Arbor Day Foundation

To earn Tree City USA status, municipalities must meet four core standards:

- **Standard 1 – Tree Board or Department:** Someone should be responsible for the care of community-owned trees. This responsibility often falls to a city department, but in many smaller communities, a tree board—a group of interested citizens—directs tree planting and management activities.
- **Standard 2 – Tree Care Ordinance:** A basic public tree care ordinance provides the foundation for a city’s tree care program. It provides a way to set good policy and, if necessary, enforce it with legislation.
- **Standard 3 – Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 per resident:** By setting aside \$2 or more, the community demonstrates its commitment to the cultivation and care of this valuable public asset. Many budget items can contribute to this \$2 per capita minimum, plus off-budget items such as volunteer labor and third-party donations of materials

or equipment.

- Standard 4 – Proclaim and Celebrate Arbor Day: By officially proclaiming Arbor Day, public officials express their support for the community tree program, and by celebrating Arbor Day, they help raise community awareness of the importance of urban trees.

Tree City USA’s national recognition helps communities demonstrate and promote their commitment to greener living environments. The program is open to communities of all sizes, from 20-person Sibley, North Dakota, to 8 million-person New York City.

Participation in the program brings measurable economic benefits to communities – for every USD 1 invested, there is a USD 3-5 environmental benefit as a result of energy savings, stormwater management, property value increases, etc., but most importantly, residents of Tree City USA certified communities live in a more aesthetic and livable environment thanks to the cleaner air and shaded streets provided by trees.

The initiative emphasizes participatory governance by involving schools, NGOs, and citizens in tree planting and maintenance activities. Through Arbor Day, the program also emphasizes public celebration to ensure that green goals receive due attention and momentum. Although designed for the United States, its principles are universal and have inspired similar programs worldwide.



Source: Tree City USA – Borough of High Bridge, Installation’s selection as a ‘Tree City USA’ runs to 34 years

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

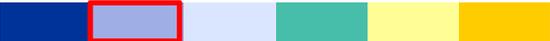
Tree City USA is a valuable good practice for the Green to Water project, as it demonstrates how a structured, replicable framework can mobilize local governments and citizens around sustainable urban forestry and tree management. The program’s emphasis on long-term planning, community participation, and municipal accountability aligns with G2W principles and contributes to G2W’s primary goal of climate change adaptation through increased tree cover.

The principles of Tree City USA can be replicated locally, on a small scale, without formal designation by any municipality or residential and school community:

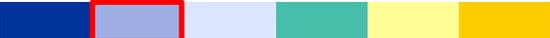
- Local governments can set simple criteria – such as planting a minimum number of trees per year, holding awareness-raising events such as Arbor Day, or organizing tree planting days.
- Residential and street communities, school classes can form “green teams” to adopt trees and create watering schedules.

Location USA – country-wide initiative

Official webpage [Tree City USA | Arbor Day Foundation](#)

Applicability EASY  DIFFICULT

Time requirement QUICK  LONG-TERM

Cost requirement LOW-COST  HIGH-COST

WILDFLOWER VESZPRÉM

About the Good Practice

The classic, old-fashioned green space maintenance – with low-cut mowing every 21 days – has contributed to kill urban biodiversity, the strengthening of the effects of climate change (heat islands, heat waves, heavy rains), and the increase in green space maintenance costs. All of this has prompted cities to reform old practices and search for new management methods.

In response to the challenge, Veszprém introduced a new approach to grassland management in 2015-2016, resulting in climate-adaptive, semi-natural grasslands that require less maintenance and have greater biodiversity. The main technological changes of the new method were:

- Reduced mowing frequency, timed to avoid the flowering period;
- Spreading collected grass cuttings to enrich habitats;
- Sowing wildflower seed collected from neighbouring areas.

The change provided an opportunity to raise awareness among the public and explain that uncut areas are not neglected areas, but are beneficial in terms of increasing biodiversity and attracting pollinators. Initial resistance to the practice disappeared within a few years, and, in several locations, residents are now asking the local government to create wildflower meadows in their own neighborhoods.



Source: [Wildflower cities | urbact.eu](http://Wildflower_cities_|_urbact.eu)

The city of Veszprém, through its public utility company (VKSz), is continuously experimenting and developing the new grassland management method, the success of which has 3 main elements:

- Political commitment – city decision-makers support VKSz in introducing new technologies to exploit the benefits of urban green spaces (favorable microclimate, combating heat islands, increasing biodiversity, etc.);

- Scientific background – the city is cooperating with the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences in implementing the program, which is testing and monitoring the new grassland management program in 7 sample areas.
- Involvement of the population – The fact that the local community was continuously informed and involved in the implementation of the program from the beginning through information boards, flyers, guided walks, school programs, city festivals, etc. played a major role in the public acceptance of the program.

In January 2025, Veszprém was awarded the URBACT Good Practice Award for its “Wild Veszprém – Climate Adaptive Grassland Management” project. Seeing the results and successes of the program, the Veszprém methods were adopted by several Hungarian cities, including Budapest.



Source: [Európában is példaértékű a Vadvirágos Veszprém program – Veszprém](#)

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

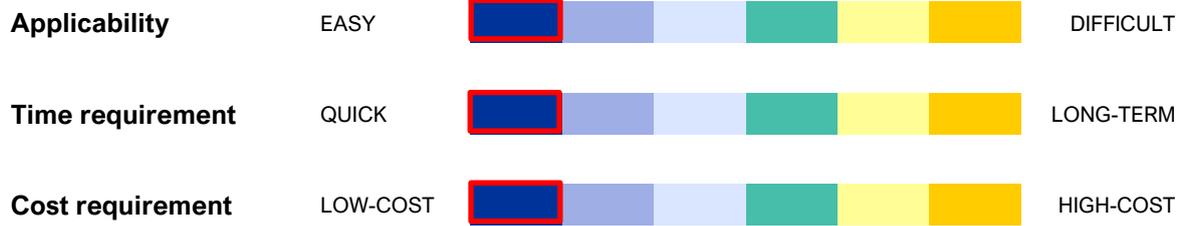
Wildflower Veszprém is a relevant and easily adaptable good practice, as it effectively combines low-cost, nature-based solutions with public awareness and community engagement to enhance urban biodiversity and resilience. The program aligns with the goals of the Green to Water project, which supports the development of green infrastructure and promotes climate change awareness.

Residents and schools can replicate the concept by designating small wildflower plots in their home gardens, community areas, or schoolyards. By avoiding frequent mowing and planting native seeds, urban residents can transform even small areas into pollinator-friendly zones.

No-mow corners with wildflowers can be excellent educational tools for teaching about climate change adaptation – related educational programs could include biodiversity observation tasks or art projects related to local flora and fauna.

Location Veszprém, Hungary

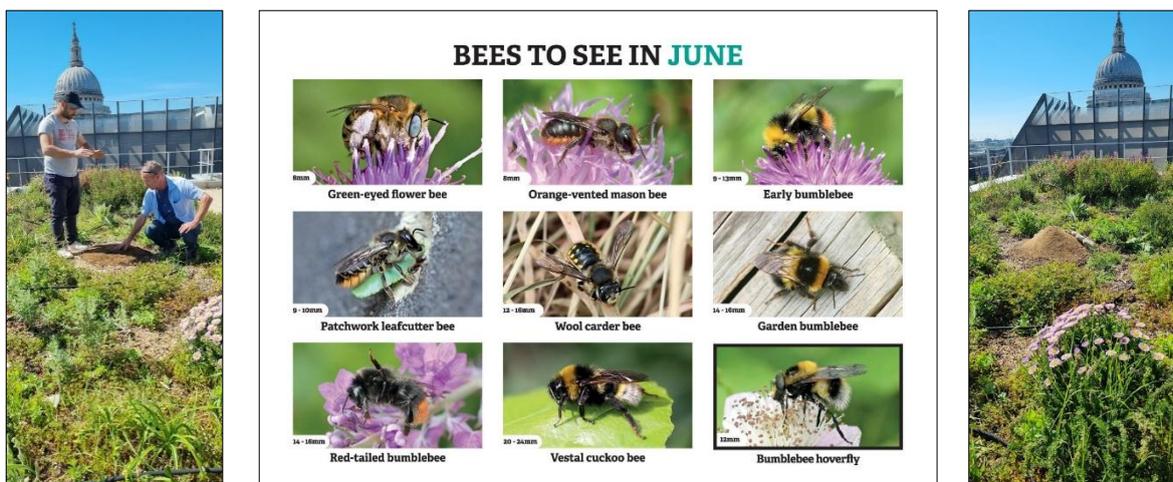
Official webpage [Wildflower cities | urbact.eu](http://Wildflower_cities_|urbact.eu)



URBAN BEES

About the Good Practice

Urban beekeeping is currently an increasingly popular pastime, with rumours that there are over 5,000 hives operating in London, including at notable locations such as Buckingham Palace, Kew Gardens and the Ritz Hotel. Urban beekeeping supports pollination, biodiversity and local honey production, with initiatives such as Urban Bees promoting sustainable practices.



Source: Urban Bees Blog

Urban Bees is a London-based social enterprise dedicated to enhancing urban biodiversity by supporting both wild and managed bee populations. Founded by Alison Benjamin and Brian McCallum, the organization focuses on creating bee-friendly habitats, educating the public about the importance of pollinators, and promoting sustainable beekeeping practices. Their key initiatives include:

- **Habitat Creation** – Urban Bees collaborates with businesses and communities to install bee-friendly planters, rooftop gardens, and bee hotels, providing essential forage and nesting sites for solitary bees and other pollinators.
- **Education and Training** – The organization offers workshops and courses on bee identification, habitat creation, and responsible beekeeping, aiming to raise awareness and empower individuals to support pollinator health.
- **Corporate Partnerships** – Urban Bees partners with companies like KPMG and Lush to integrate pollinator-friendly practices, such as installing beehives and developing green spaces, into their corporate social responsibility programs.

Through these efforts, Urban Bees contributes to strengthening the resilience of urban ecosystems, supporting pollinator populations, and fosters community engagement in environmental protection.



Source: Urban Bees Blog

Relevance and small-scale adoption of the Good Practice

Urban Bees is a good example of how targeted interventions, involving the community, can increase urban biodiversity. By focusing on habitat creation and education, the nonprofit organization addresses key challenges related to pollinator protection, which is in line with G2W’s objectives of promoting sustainable urban environments and encouraging community participation in green initiatives.

Urban Bees practices can be adopted by residents and schools through:

- Creating Pollinator-Friendly Spaces – Planting native, nectar-rich flowers in gardens, balconies, or schoolyards to provide food for pollinators.
- Installing Insect/Bee Hotels – Creating simple bee hotels using natural materials to provide nesting sites for solitary bees.
- Educational Activities – Organizing workshops or classroom sessions on pollinator identification and the importance of bees and insects in ecosystems.

These activities not only support local pollinator populations, but also serve as educational tools, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of urban biodiversity among residents, especially young people.

Location London, United Kingdom

Official webpage urbanbees.co.uk

Applicability EASY DIFFICULT

Time requirement QUICK LONG-TERM

Cost requirement LOW-COST HIGH-COST

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Urban Bees

- [Urban Bees helping bees in the city](#)
- [Urban Bees Blog | Helping bees in the city](#)
- [Urban beekeeping — from the illegal rooftop hives in New York City to Chelsea Flower Show | Country Life](#)