

A GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR WESTMINSTER



**ZERO
CARBON
2040**
Westminster Climate Action



City of Westminster

FAIRER
WESTMINSTER

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Executive Summary

In September 2023 Westminster City Council set out a clear commitment to lead efforts to address the ecological emergency in Westminster.

Since then, the Council has:

- › Invested in increasing the Council's capacity to support an ambitious ecological emergency response.
- › Established a strong evidence base through a Green Infrastructure Audit of the city.
- › Strengthened the ambition of local planning policy, targeting 30% Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments in the city.
- › Increased support for local greening projects through both our Greening Westminster Fund and North Paddington Programme, prioritising areas of deficiency.
- › Underscored its commitment and support for the Wild West End partnership.

We now need to build on the work we have started. The Greening and Biodiversity Strategy provides a framework to help accelerate collaborative action to further protect and enhance the local natural environment.

Whilst 32% of Westminster is green space, there are significant challenges in terms of its biodiversity and resilience to climate change and pollution. Not everyone can access Westminster's green spaces in the same way, emphasising social inequalities which we are dedicated to addressing.

The Greening and Biodiversity Strategy is a key pillar of our efforts to deliver a Fairer Environment, including a commitment to making Westminster resilient to climate and pollution impacts, especially in more vulnerable communities. It supports our ambitions to achieve a net zero city by 2040 and improve air pollution in line with World Health Organisation guidelines, as part of a comprehensive response to these important environmental challenges.

Our approach to tackling the ecological emergency will evolve as we continue to engage with communities and partners across the city to deliver this vision. Together, we will identify and drive an ambitious action plan aimed at protecting and enhancing nature in the city, ensuring equitable access to green space benefits for everyone, and building resilience against the continued threat of climate change.

The Strategy proposes a city 'ecosystem' approach where nature and people can thrive, through six outcome priorities:

Protect and enhance nature in the city

Establish corridors for nature and people

Improve resilience to climate change and pollution

Make our streets cleaner and more liveable

Ensure access to nature for all

Empower local stewardship



Foreword

We now understand better than ever before the shocking reality of the impact of human activity on the decline of nature worldwide.

The effects of climate change, including changing weather patterns disrupting natural cycles, as well as the damaging effect of air pollutants on natural habitats, is further exacerbating this impact. Whilst biodiversity loss is a global issue, according to the 2023 State of the Nature Report, the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Between 1970-2021 the abundance of 753 species fell on average by 19% across the UK. This nature loss is having far-reaching consequences; damaged ecosystems exacerbate climate change, undermine food security, and put people and communities at risk.

Cities like Westminster, have a key role to play in driving a more sustainable way of life as this is where human pressure on the environment is often most acute. Cities require considerable natural resources in terms of energy, water and food, and produce significant waste, air pollution and greenhouse gases, whilst large-scale development can encroach on green space for nature. Westminster has some fantastic green spaces, including 33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Westminster's parks support various species of bird and wildfowl and the city is home to species of bat, hedgehogs, foxes, insects, and invertebrates. The City Council owns and looks after over 300 different species of trees. This important nature capital is threatened by climate change, air pollution and urban development.

We must ensure our communities, now and in the future, can experience the value of nature, for mental and physical wellbeing and through nature-based solutions to climate and air quality impacts. This is why in September 2023 Westminster City Council declared an Ecological Emergency for the city and committed to further action to protect wildlife and improve biodiversity.

This strategy provides a framework for a collaborative response to this, recognising that much of the city's green space is owned and managed by others. In delivering it we will seek to promote and empower action for nature through partnerships with suppliers, residents, communities, businesses, and other key stakeholders. The strategy recognises the importance of nature to all of us and builds on work already underway to protect and enhance it.

We have an exciting opportunity to deliver a truly Fairer Environment, to improve the sustainability and resilience of the city and enhance the natural environment in Westminster for the benefit of all our communities; I am confident that together we can achieve this.



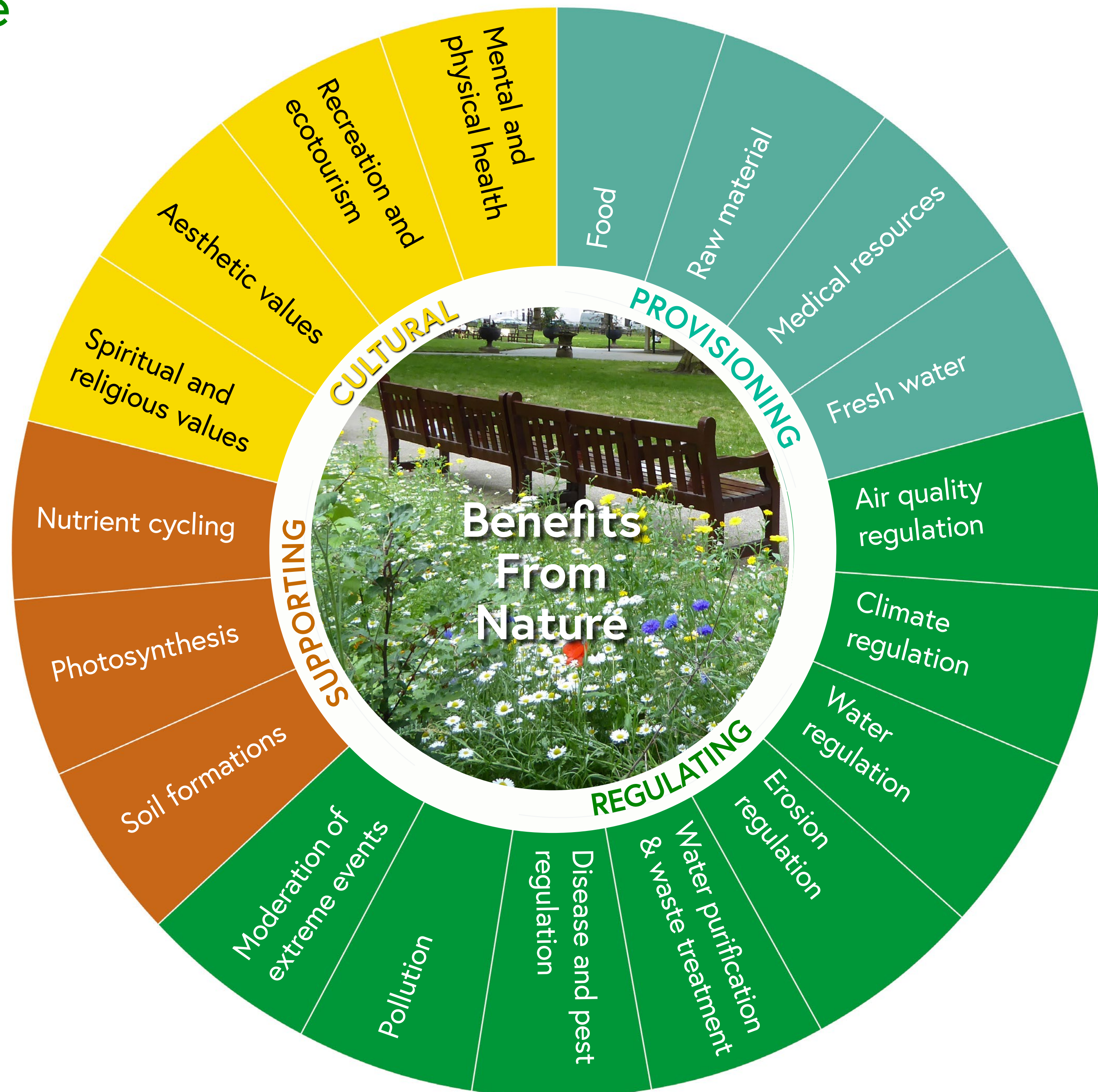
Cllr Ryan Jude
Cabinet Member for Climate,
Ecology and Culture

Why a Greening & Biodiversity Strategy?

Harnessing the value of nature

Nature is essential to human life. Natural resources such as forests, oceans, rivers and soils fuel our economies, supporting everything from farming and forestry through to leisure and tourism. They underpin our existence, providing food and water, raw materials for construction, the clothes we wear, medicines, and services that support our physical and mental health and happiness, including community cohesion and reduced loneliness. More biodiverse environments are associated with greater mental wellbeing, highlighting the importance to society of measures to protect them¹.

Crucially, nature also provides important 'regulating' services, for example, plants help to improve air quality and soils, trees and plants help to provide cooling during excessive heat and soak away surface water, reducing flooding.



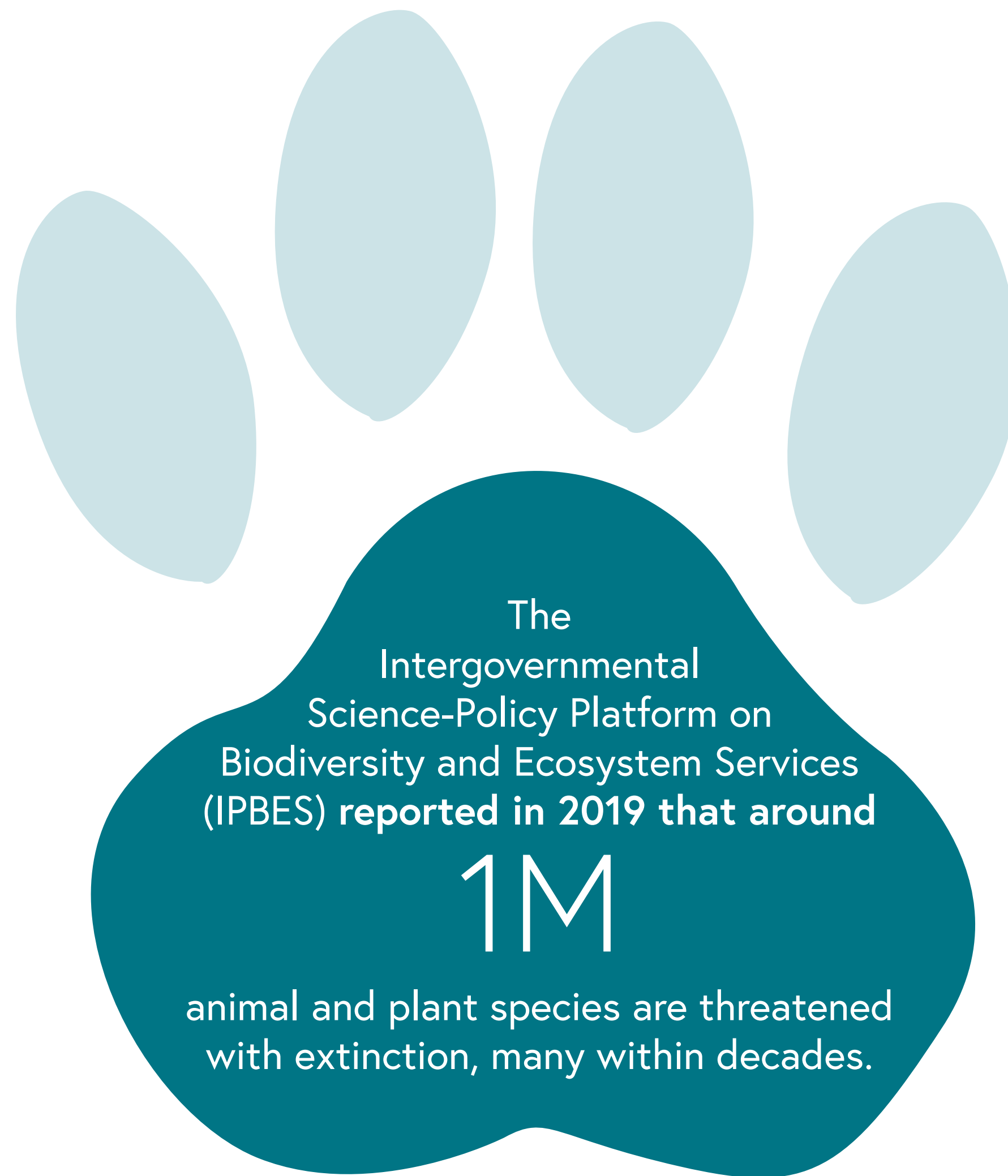
Nature in crisis

The increasing global population, growing impact of urbanisation and land management, coupled with the impacts of climate change has had a devastating effect on the natural environment. As a result of these pressures, we are facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis:

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the area of primary forest worldwide has decreased by



This forest loss contributes significantly to global biodiversity decline.



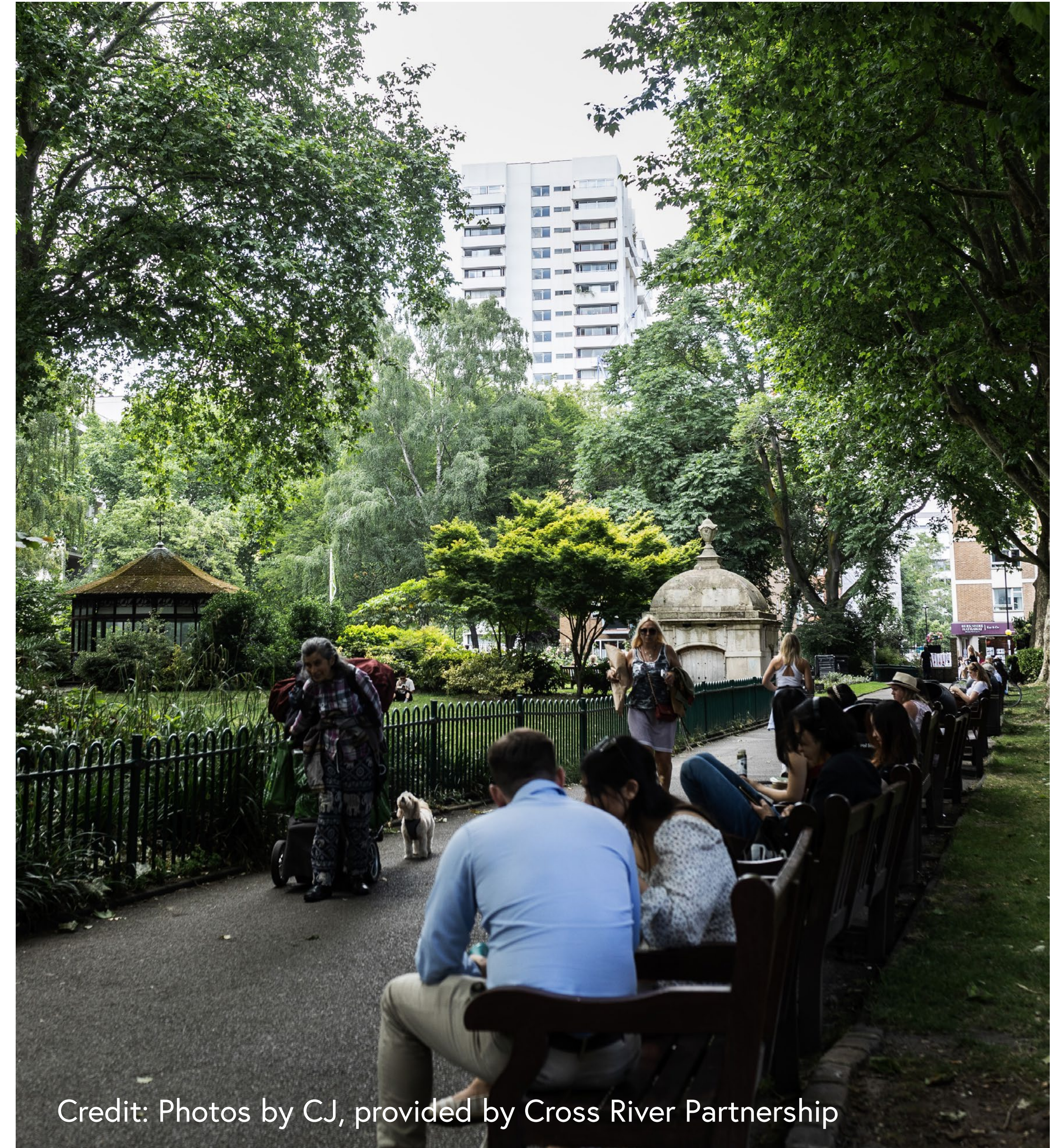
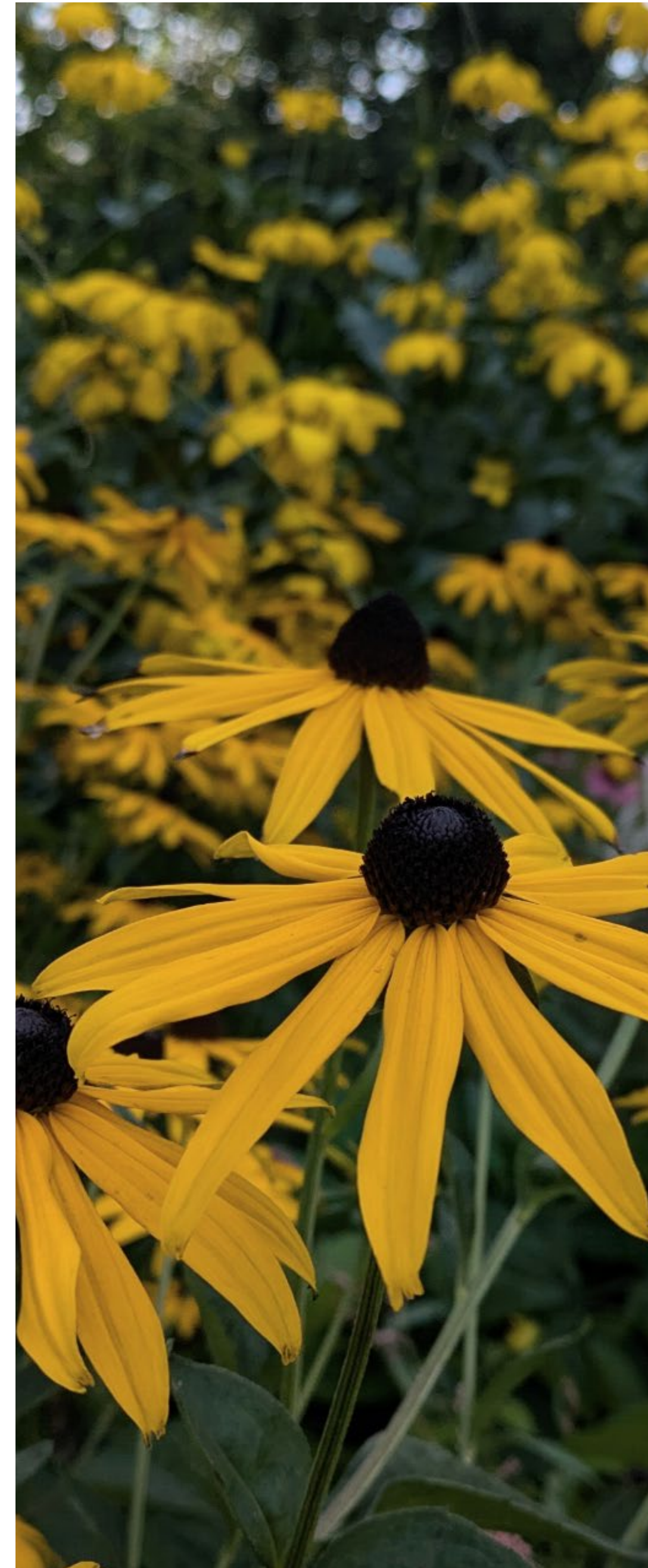
2 United Nations Environment Programme - Facts about the nature crisis | UNEP - UN Environment Programme

An Ecological Emergency for Westminster

In Westminster, we want to create a city where nature and people can thrive; to reduce the city's impact on the natural world whilst harnessing nature's benefits for local biodiversity and our people, communities, visitors and workers.

Although we have some fantastic parks and green areas, they are threatened by some of the highest greenhouse gases of any local authority area in the UK, air pollution levels that exceed World Health Organisation guideline limits and intense pressure for space in a densely built urban environment. New research from Friends of the Earth reveals that one in four neighbourhoods in England are nature pollution hotspots, with some of the highest concentrations found in London.

This is why the council declared an Ecological Emergency in September 2023 and committed to making our parks, housing estates and open spaces more hospitable to wildlife. We want to work with local schools, businesses, community groups and our supply chains to protect and enhance habitats across the borough to comprehensively tackle air pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss threats, delivering a Fairer Environment for all of Westminster.



Credit: Photos by CJ, provided by Cross River Partnership

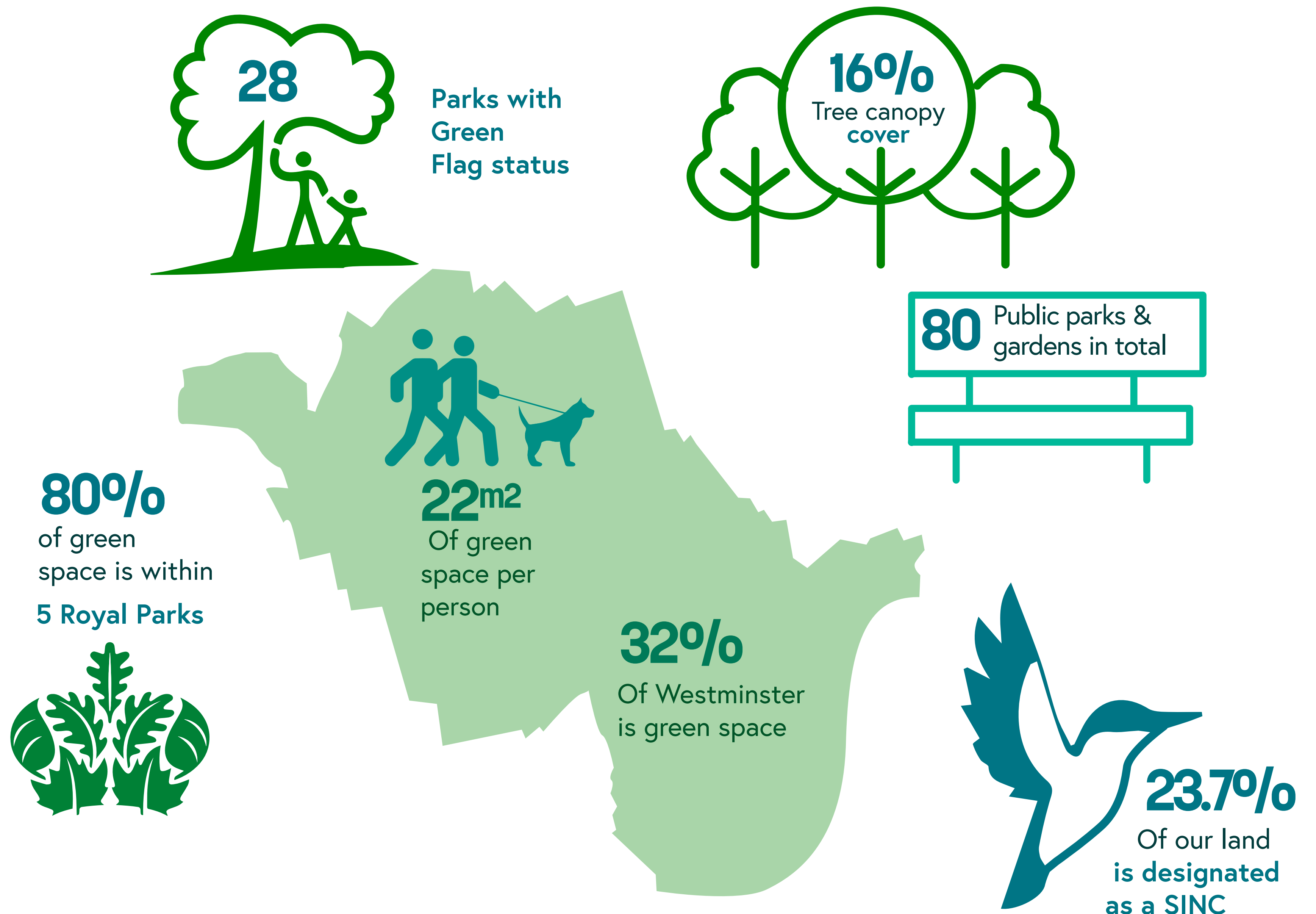
Understanding greening and biodiversity challenges for Westminster

The extent and quality of green space in Westminster

To underpin the Greening and Biodiversity Strategy response, in 2023 the council commissioned a Green Infrastructure Audit of the city. This showed that 32% of Westminster is green space. Westminster has 33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) which cover 23.7% of the borough. Despite this, large swathes of the city have a deficiency in open space and in wildlife, with existing green spaces exposed to competing demands such as recreation and the pressure of high visitor numbers.

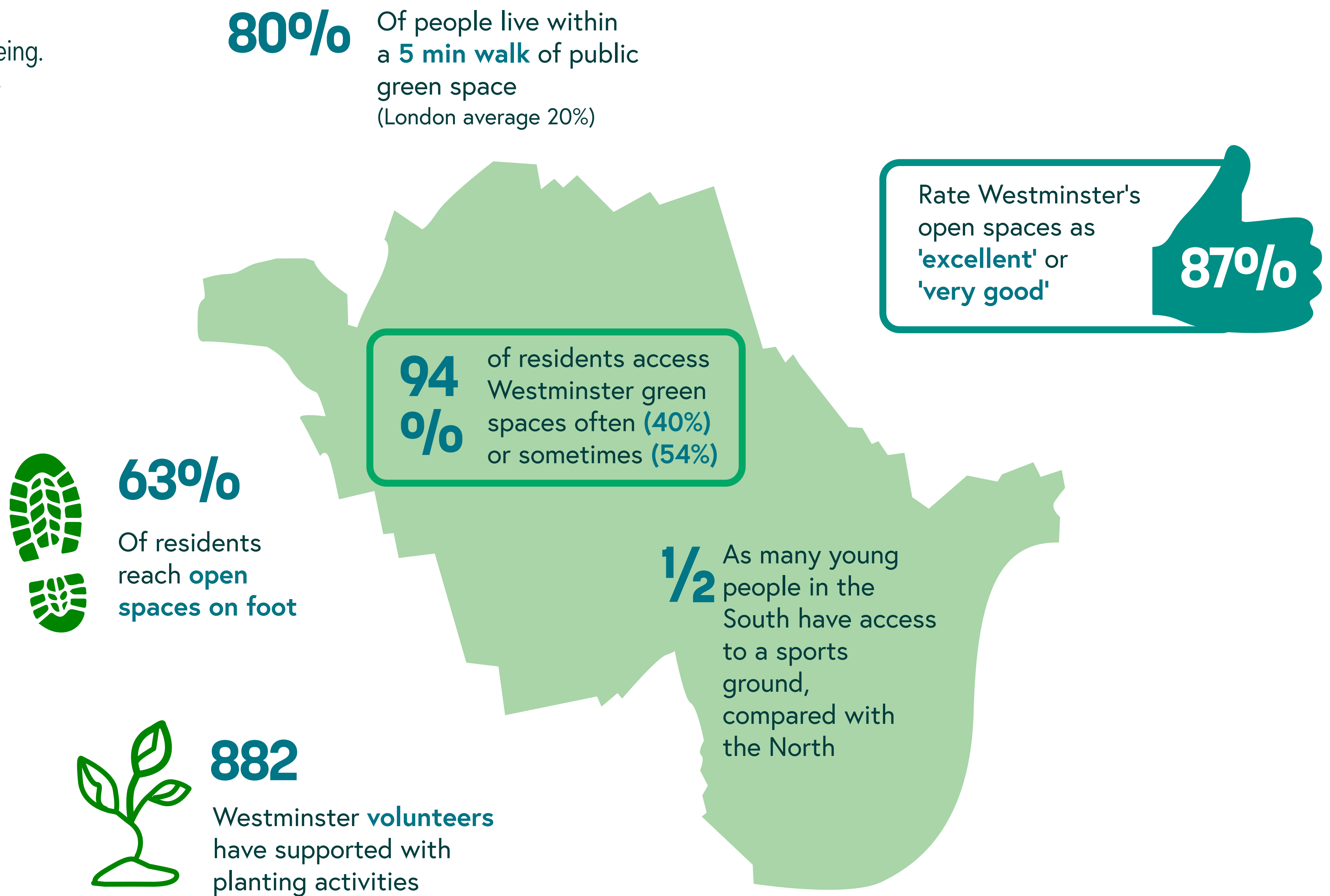
Our green spaces are not well connected for people or nature, with clear gaps in our active travel network as a result. Tree canopy cover in Westminster is around 16%, lower than the London average of 21%. Cover is uneven across the borough, with five wards having less than 10% coverage. Densely built areas, such as the West End, have little space for tree planting.

Whilst we better understand green infrastructure across the city, further work is required to assess the quality and richness of the biodiversity it supports.



Community perception and use of green space in Westminster

Our 2023 City Survey showed us that our residents value highly the green space in the city with many recognising its importance for their health and wellbeing. Around 87% rate Westminster's green spaces as 'very good' or 'excellent'. While 80% of residents live within a 5-minute walk of a public open space, access varies by ward. Only 6% of residents commute by bike, indicating a lack of sustainable travel routes.



Environmental Justice

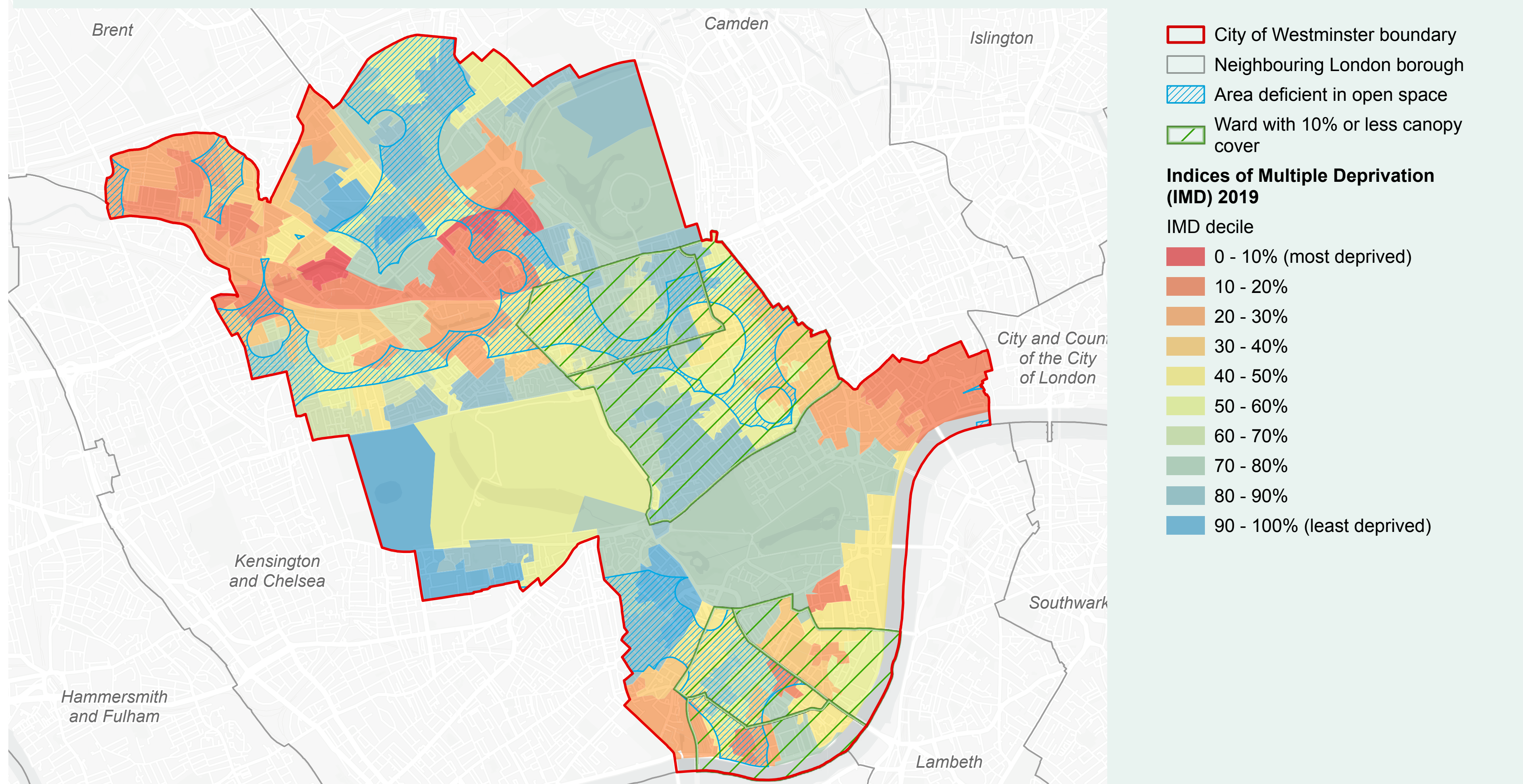
To understand how Westminster’s residents are impacted by their environment, the council has developed the Environmental Justice Measure (EJM) tool. EJM analysis, alongside audit findings, shows that not everyone can access Westminster’s green spaces in the same way, with poorer availability of green spaces and walking routes in areas of greater deprivation.

Just 46% of people from low-income households (less than £15,000) have easy access to green space, compared to 70% of households with an income of over £35,000.

As disadvantaged groups are exposed to increased socio-economic related health inequalities, they are more likely to gain from the positive mental and physical health benefits associated with green space.

We also understand that people with disabilities and long-term illnesses in the borough are less able to access green spaces, and women and girls are less likely to be active outdoors than men with personal safety concerns a contributing factor.

GI Audit Indices of Deprivation, Open Space Deficiency and areas with Lowest Canopy Cover



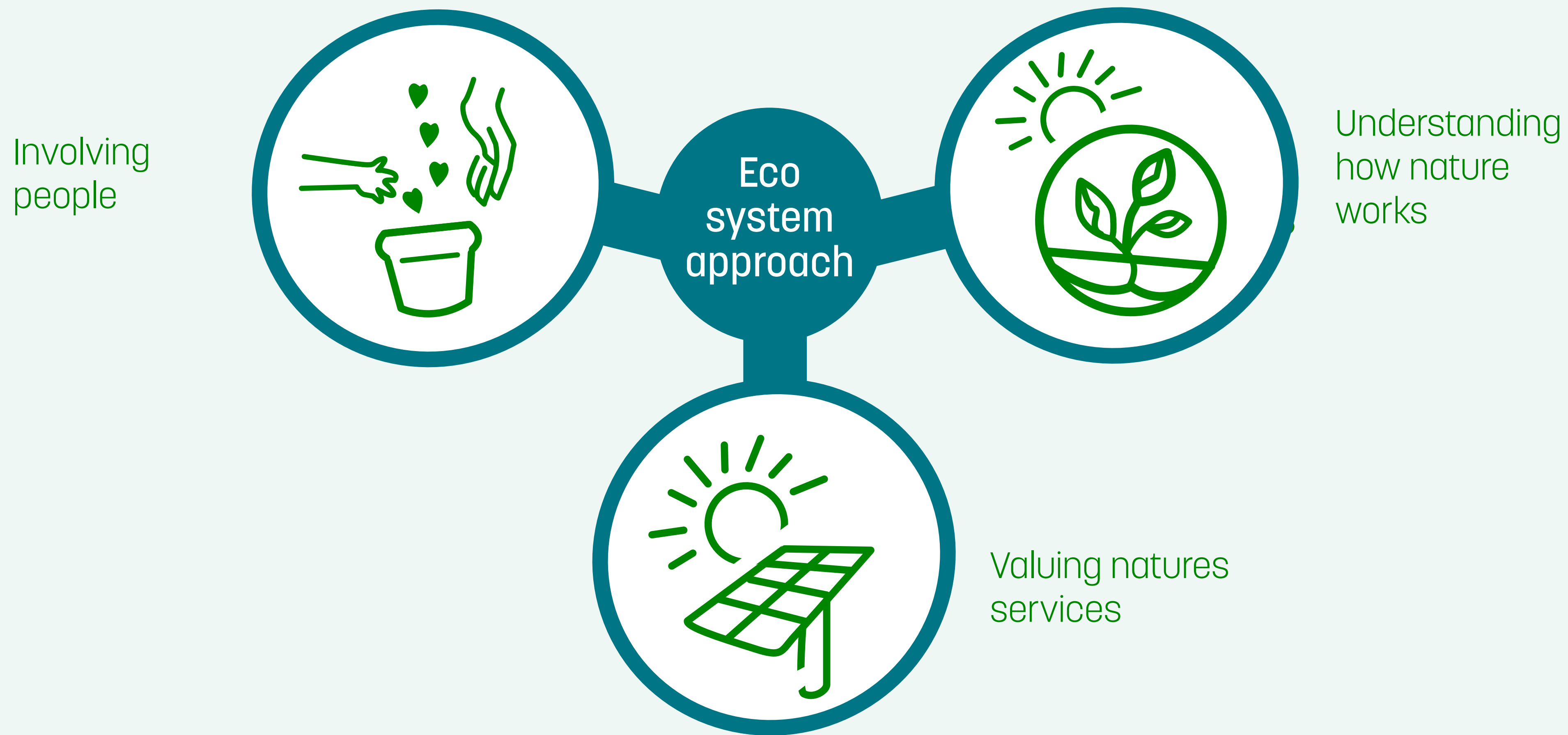
Developing our Ecological Emergency response

A city-wide, ecosystem approach

The ‘ecosystem approach’ recognises the link between the status of the local environment and the valuable support services it provides for human well-being.

It integrates natural elements and sustainable practices into urban management to enhance environmental resilience and biodiversity. To achieve this in Westminster, we will seek to better balance the use of natural resources with their conservation, working in partnership to empower action and maximise the value to all our communities.

The council will consider the full range of opportunities for enhancing nature and its value through our services, supply chains, networks, tools and levers, establishing corridors for wildlife and sustainable travel, and improving access to green space for all. We will draw on the many great examples of where this has been achieved successfully in cities worldwide and will continue to seek the views of Westminster’s communities.



Case study The New York High Line

The New York High Line is an elevated historic freight railway line which has been transformed into an accessible public green space, helping to reconnect city dwellers with nature. It has a diverse range of native plant species, creating habitats for wildlife and air quality improvement, and sustainable practices have been

employed like composting and the use of recycled materials. This project demonstrates how an existing infrastructure in the heart of the city can be creatively repurposed into green space to support wildlife, enhance community engagement and promote a healthier environment.



The New York High Line

Case study The 'Sponge City' Concept in China

Urban flooding and water shortages are major problems for large cities around the world. In response, China has launched a programme of 'Sponge Cities' to manage excess storm water through an integrated water management approach. This aims to turn impervious city surfaces into 'sponges' using permeable surfaces and green infrastructure,

including wetlands, green rooftops and rain gardens that enable water to be captured, reused or absorbed through natural processes. This nature-based solution harnesses ecosystem services for flooding control but also helps reduce pollution and create spaces to improve the quality of city life through a more sustainable approach to urban planning.



Sponge City Concept

Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly

In 2023, we delivered a Citizens' Climate Assembly, bringing together 47 residents representative of the people of Westminster to ensure that the views and priorities of our communities shaped Westminster's approach to achieving a net zero city by 2040.



One of their priority recommendations was **'To fund and support greening initiatives and projects, both in terms of increasing biodiversity and developing green infrastructure...'**, demonstrating the importance of greening to our communities. This Strategy will support our response to their recommendation, and we'll continue to engage with our Citizens Climate Action Committee to harness their views, review our progress and identify opportunities for continued collaboration.

The Wider Policy Context

It will be important to align our approach with national and regional regulations, strategies and plans which help to set clear expectations for nature conservation and provide opportunities to enhance green space through the planning system.

The council will continue to work with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and other partners across London and beyond, to understand opportunities for collaboration, and for harnessing and sharing good practice.

National

The Environment Act 2021 sets requirements for local planning authorities to achieve 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) through developments and for local authorities to set policies, take action and report on what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity under a newly strengthened statutory duty.

The act also requires responsible authorities to prepare and publish a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Greater London Authority have designated responsibility to produce a plan for the whole of London.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework assists planning authorities and developers to meet the GI requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework by providing guidance and standards on the quantity and accessibility of greening.

Regional

The London Plan (2021) requires all major developments to incorporate the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) into site and building design. This is a measure used to evaluate the quantity and quality of urban greening provided by a development proposal.

The London Environment Strategy (2018) sets out the Mayor of London's commitments on biodiversity, including:

- › Increasing tree canopy cover by 10% by 2050.
- › Increasing overall green cover to at least 50% of London by 2050.
- › Providing funding to support greening projects and re-wilding Sites of Important Nature Conservation (SINC).

Our vision for a greener Westminster

Based on our current understanding of greening and biodiversity challenges and recommendations for Westminster, and to deliver an integrated ecosystem approach to their management, the council has set out six outcome priorities for Westminster's Greening and Biodiversity Strategy. These seek to recognise the full value of nature to people and the need therefore to better balance the demands of city life with nature enhancement and protection.

Protect and enhance nature in the city

Seek to protect and increase green spaces to provide habitat for local biodiversity

Establish corridors for nature and people

Improve the connectivity of green spaces to provide important wildlife corridors and improved routes for active travel

Improve resilience to climate change and pollution

Harness nature based solutions to build the city's resilience to climate change and air pollution

Make our streets cleaner and more liveable

Seek opportunities to green our streets, protecting users against exposure to poor air quality and climate impacts

Ensure access to nature for all

Target greening and biodiversity action that will ensure all of our communities can benefit equally

Empower local environmental stewardship

Encourage collective responsibility to help protect nature and contribute to improving biodiversity across the city

Protect and enhance nature in the city

More needs to be done to stop habitat loss, restore areas of green space and create new habitats for wildlife.

This is challenging in Westminster given its densely built historic townscape and competing development pressures. We need to encourage sustainable development, protect and improve habitats for nature within existing green spaces and find innovative ways to expand greening across the city.

Since 2023 the council has taken part in the annual 'No Mow May' campaign to raise awareness of the importance of nature and help promote biodiversity.

We have banned the use of glyphosate by our contractors, becoming a pesticide free council, and are encouraging others to do the same.

Greening Westminster is an annual grant funding programme designed to improve and increase Westminster's green infrastructure and open spaces. Over £350,000 was awarded to greening and biodiversity projects this year. Greening Westminster has funded projects like the 'Onion Garden', located in Victoria on a previously unused pocket of paved space and the enhancement of Lisson Green Estate Community Allotments.



Encouraging wildflower growth as part of No Mow May



The Onion Garden in Victoria, funded via the Greening Westminster fund

Protect and enhance nature in the city

Looking ahead we will:

- › Strengthen our planning policy and guidance to influence development to meet new standards for biodiversity and climate resilience, targeting up to 30% biodiversity net gain (BNG), subject to viability.
- › Work in partnership with our communities and stakeholders to protect and enhance the city's 33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), building on the recommendations of our Green Infrastructure Audit.
- › Continue to work through our networks including our supply chains and with regional partners, to push for stronger efforts on nature conservation. This includes the GLA and organisations such as the London Wildlife Trust, Royal Parks and neighbouring Authorities.



Encouraging wildflower growth as part of No Mow May

Establish corridors for nature and people

In an urban environment like Westminster where habitats are fragmented, improving the connectivity of green spaces supports the movement of species between habitats and resources, whilst providing other co-benefits such as shading and improvement of local air quality and with it, opportunities for the sustainable and active travel of people around the city.

The council is a member of the Wild West End partnership, a collaboration between property owners, businesses and conservation organisations aimed at creating a network

of green spaces (via a combination of green roofs and walls, planters and flower boxes and street trees) to improve biodiversity and air quality in the West End of London and maximise benefits for both nature and our local communities.

We are working with partners Veolia to deliver a refreshed vision for the Grand Union Canal, from Ladbroke Grove to Little Venice to increase access between the canal and the city, and enhance the biodiversity of the canal's environment. We will be introducing a Lekko box to monitor the biodiversity make-up of the canal to guide what initiatives can be rolled out to help nature in the area thrive.



Credit: Cross River Partnership

Parklet installed on Drury Lane outside St. Clement Danes' CE Primary School



'Bug hotel' outside of Grand Junction, Westbourne Ward

Establish corridors for nature and people

Looking ahead we will:

- › Deliver a Sustainable Transport Strategy in 2025 that will set our vision for enabling our communities to travel safely and sustainably, including identifying opportunities for green infrastructure along our travel routes.
- › Continue working with The Crown Estate to deliver a shared ambition to connect St. James's Park to Regent's Park via a new park-to-park green and active travel link through the heart of the West End.
- › Explore how we can enhance and extend 'The Green Spine', a park and pedestrian-friendly route through Church Street, through the use of green walls, street trees and pocket parks to improve greening connectivity between the north and south of the borough.



Credit: Photos by CJ, provided by Cross River Partnership

Greening in the Marylebone area



Regent's Park, one of Westminster's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation



Greenery can help to enhance the visitor experience on our high streets

Improve resilience to climate change and pollution

Nature-based solutions can increase biodiversity whilst simultaneously safe-guarding people against the impacts of climate change and air pollution.

We want to focus efforts to ensure investment, development and place shaping across the borough harnesses these opportunities, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Our Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Masterplan identifies opportunities to implement a range of nature-based solutions to manage surface water across the borough, including rain gardens, street trees and permeable paving.

We're creating climate resilient and greener housing estates in North Paddington by introducing features such as green roofs and drainage systems to combat flood risk and promote biodiversity.



Sustainable drainage on the 'The Green Spine' in the Church Street area



Greening on Churchill Gardens housing estate

Improve resilience to climate change and pollution

Looking ahead we will:

- › Maintain, plant and protect Council owned trees to support a long-term increase in tree canopy cover, targeting a 10% increase of existing cover by 2050.
- › Identify opportunities for nature-based adaptive measures as part of our climate adaptation and resilience plan (CARP) and refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, to protect Westminster from climate-related risks and extreme weather events.
- › Ensure that all development projects larger than 100m² or more than one property that have a drainage implication will incorporate a SuDS based drainage scheme in compliance with the new standards before construction can commence as part of Westminster being designated as a SuDS Approval Body (SAB).



Tree canopy cover in Victoria

Make our streets cleaner and more liveable

Urban green infrastructure has been shown to have a positive economic impact, with greener streets resulting in increased footfall. Infrastructure such as green walls, street trees, lamp posts and planters can contribute to cleaner walking routes, corridors for wildlife and shading in summer.

Recent survey responses for our Oxford Street and Regent Street public realm schemes indicated that greening and sustainability are key considerations for visitors and communities, demonstrating the need to consider and incorporate greening opportunities on our streets.

Opened in 2022, the £22m Strand Aldwych redevelopment has transformed one of London's most congested and polluted streets. The scheme incorporates large, planted areas with year-round colour to support biodiversity and pollinators in the area, with trees providing natural shade.

The Schools' Clean Air Fund supports Westminster schools and nurseries to take action against air pollution which disproportionately impacts children including through greening interventions. Green walls and screens help to filter harmful pollutants but also deliver mental health benefits and ecological gains by attracting insects and wildlife. To date, 17 schools and nurseries across 11 wards have benefitted from the fund.



Make our streets cleaner and more liveable

Looking ahead we will:

- › Prioritise sustainability through our collaborative approach to upgrading the iconic Oxford Street. We aim to create a greener, more sustainable environment for residents and visitors through tree planting, improved green infrastructure and understory planting within the redevelopment plans that take into account biodiversity needs and climate adaptation, and sees the scheme as part of a wider local green space network.
- › Continue to review the opportunities for our public realm schemes to green our streets and public spaces. We'll continue to explore with our communities, how to improve the sustainability of schemes and place greater emphasis on the role of greening within designs.
- › Introduce new soft landscaping including new trees, boundary planting and mini forest areas, to improve habitat areas for biodiversity and combat air pollution from the A40 flyover. As part of this process, we'll be co-designing with local teens and installing a place for girls and supporting community involvement in the project planting.



Ensure access to nature for all

Westminster's communities are at the heart of our Fairer Environment ambitions, and we want to ensure everyone can benefit from the wellbeing value provided by green space through for example, physical activity and community cohesion.

These benefits are not currently experienced equally, with green space deficiency in areas of the North, West End and South of the borough, including where communities may have lower income and higher vulnerability.

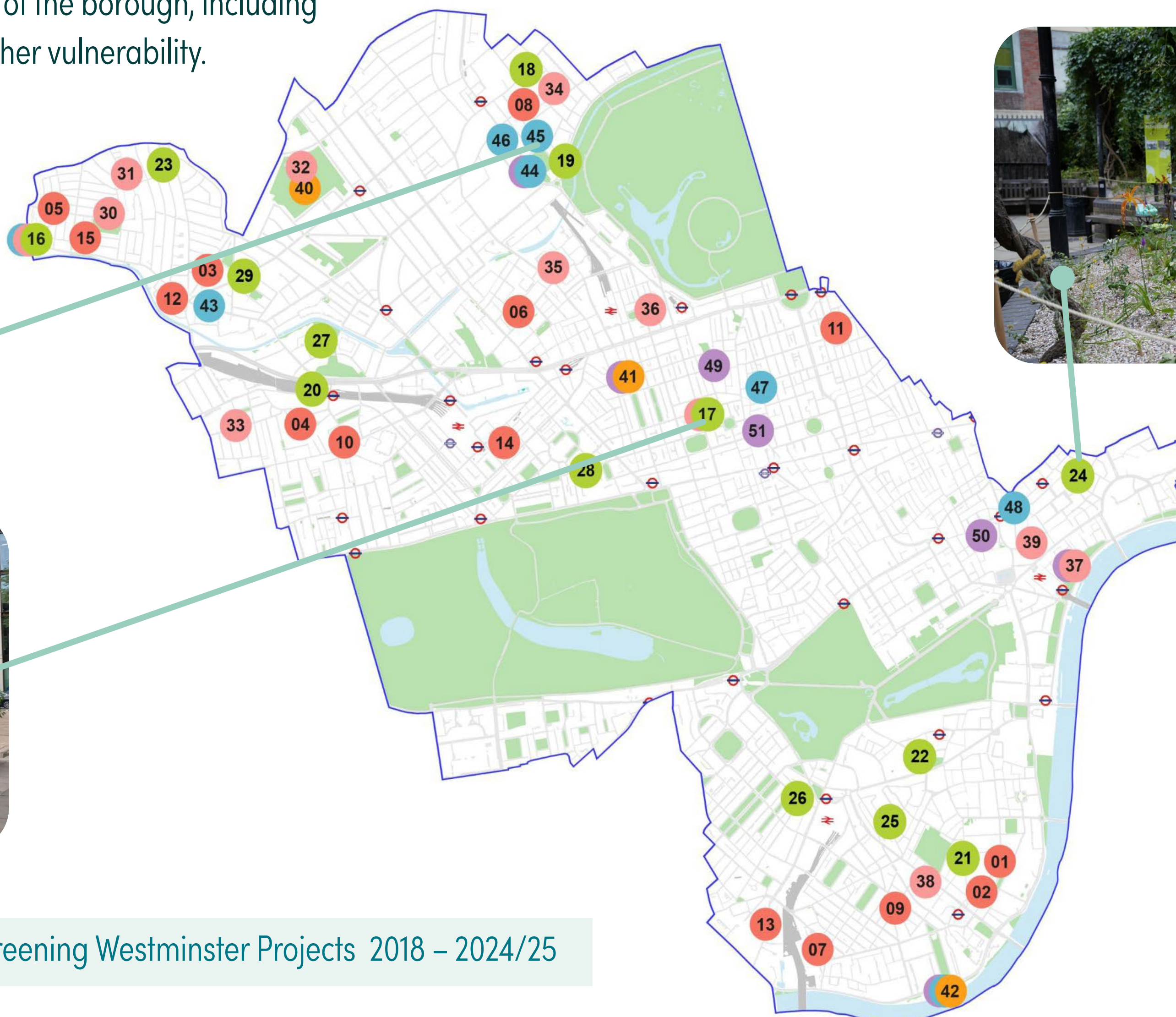
We have used our Environmental Justice Measure tool to help target greening activity and address these disparities in line with our commitment to tackle health inequalities and will continue to do so through this strategy. Our Greening Westminster Fund prioritises projects which serve and strengthen local community groups and address the needs highlighted in our EJM. A full list of example projects is available on the council's website.



St. Johns Wood Church Grounds



Georges Park, near Baker Street



Map of Greening Westminster Projects 2018 – 2024/25



Covent Garden Playground and Nature Garden

Ensure access to nature for all

Looking ahead we will:

- › Work in partnership with communities and partners to deliver placed-based activities, like the North Paddington Programme, to help address areas of green space deficiency. The programme has already established a strategic approach to community greening aimed at increasing access to community outdoor spaces, opportunities for food growing, engagement and education, and to enhance local capacity for greening of spaces in the area. Projects are also planned to deliver improvements to local school greening infrastructure and the creation of a North Paddington Nature Reserve, an initiative to celebrate urban nature and local connections to wildlife.
- › Work with our communities to further develop plans for achieving the strategy and empowering action. We will seek input and engagement from underrepresented groups to help ensure everyone is empowered to use, feel safe and be active in these spaces. In particular, we want to understand more about the barriers to access and how to overcome them.
- › Maximise opportunities to use our parks and leisure spaces to bring our communities closer to nature and encourage social cohesion and positive health and wellbeing outcomes through associated strategies such as the upcoming Active Westminster Strategy.



Empower local environmental stewardship

Pollution and consumption are devastating our natural environment.

This is determined by the energy we use, the things we purchase and the way we live our lives and we therefore all have a critical role to play in reducing this impact. We want to create a sense of collective responsibility across Westminster, helping our communities and businesses to understand their impact on the natural environment and take collective action to reduce this.

Our Forest Schools, provide children with invaluable outdoor education, to build lifelong connections with the environment from an early age.

In July 2024 we ran a comprehensive Let's Go Green Together awareness campaign which showcased sustainability action by the council, residents and partners to encourage others to get involved in helping make Westminster a greener, cleaner and more natural place. On the council's website, our [Environment Hub](#) provides useful tips and guidance on sustainable ways of living to reduce our impact on the environment.



Empower local environmental stewardship

Looking ahead we will:

- › Do more to empower nature-positive behaviour changes. As part of the North Paddington programme we're looking to work with the community via local Climate Champions to transform the area into a 'Greener Living' hub, where sustainable lifestyles are normalised and accessible, leading to improved wellbeing and reduced impact on the local environment.
- › Work with our Citizens Climate Action Committee to make progress on the Climate Assembly recommendation to 'fund and support greening initiatives and projects. Both in terms of increasing biodiversity and developing green infrastructure and technologies' and identify opportunities for future collaboration and wider impact.
- › Continue to work with our Westminster Youth Council to help drive this agenda. In July 2024 Youth Council held its first Climate Conference of the Parties (COP) event, featuring speeches from Councillors and Youth MPs, as well as an interactive Climate Fresk activity.



Delivering action through partnership

This strategy and vision for a greener, more biodiverse Westminster is just the first step. Looking ahead, and in the second year following our ecological emergency declaration, we will identify and develop an ambitious action plan that protects and enhances nature in the city, building on the good work already underway. We will work across the council, through our regional networks, with businesses and landowners, and in close partnership with our communities to ensure the action plan is developed in partnership and delivers benefits to everyone.

In parallel, there is more work to be done to understand how we can effectively deliver these ambitions by continuing to build our understanding of the challenge, and by drawing on lessons learned from nature conservation efforts elsewhere. In particular, we will:

- › Seek to improve and share our evidence base on local biodiversity and species richness and draw on dedicated ecology expertise to support our action delivery.
- › Build our understanding of good practice interventions, forging links with academic institutions and wider expert networks across the country and beyond.
- › Target our investment and engagement to reduce the inequalities that exist, working with communities, the voluntary sector and local partners to better understand and overcome the barriers to accessing green space to ensure everyone can benefit from nature.
- › Determine clear success measures, as well as monitoring, reporting and governance processes to drive forward action across the city and transparently evaluate our success.



Glossary

Business Improvement District (BID)	A business led and business funded body formed to improve a defined commercial area to fund projects and services that District (BID) enhance the local business environment. Projects can include marketing and promotion, enhanced greening, and extra safety and cleaning measures.
Biodiversity	A measure of how many different forms of life live in an ecosystem - the diversity within species, between species and between ecosystems.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Obligates developers to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land by making sure habitat for wildlife is left in a better position than it was before, having a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity.
Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)	In response to declaring a Climate Emergency and setting target for the council and the city of Westminster to reach net zero emissions (by 2030 and 2040 respectively), the council produced a Climate Emergency Action Plan which sets out comprehensive actions for reducing carbon emissions across the City, working in partnership with businesses, communities and residents. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.gov.uk/fairer-environment-hub/understand/climate-action-plan
Ecology	In academic terms, the study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment.
Environmental Justice Measure (EJM)	A framework created by Westminster City Council that supports our ambition for a 'Fairer Environment'. The EJM is an interactive framework that covers a broad range of indicators to present transparent information for residents to better understand how environmental change impacts their local ward. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.gov.uk/about-council/data/environmental-justice-measure
Greater London Authority (GLA)	The Greater London Authority (GLA) consists of the Mayor of London and the 25-member London Assembly, both are elected on a four-yearly cycle. The Mayor is the executive of the GLA, and is responsible for its core functions: transport, policing, fire and rescue, planning and housing.
Green Infrastructure (GI)	Used to describe the network of natural and seminatural features, including 'blue' assets such as rivers, canals and ponds, and 'urban greening' assets such as green walls, green roofs, street trees and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Known nationally as Local Wildlife Sites, SINCs are locally designated areas which are recognised as being of particular importance to wildlife and biodiversity. Although a non-statutory designation, SINCs are afforded a high level of protection within the planning system.
Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)	Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are drainage solutions that provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water through networks of pipes and sewers to nearby watercourses. By mimicking natural drainage regimes, SuDS aim to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment.



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St Clement Danes' students were awarded the 'Young Gardener of the Year' category for the green roof of their school in the Westminster rewilding competition.



City of Westminster