Factsheet

Nature at business parks

Guidance for collaboration, measures, and financing nature at business parks for local authorities, park managers, business and financial institutions

July 2026

Contents

A resilient and nature positive business park

Business parks across Europe represent high-opportunity areas for nature restoration due to their scale and concentration of economic activity. Financial institutions, municipalities, business park managers and entrepreneurs share an interest in greening these areas to improve biodiversity and ecological connectivity, reduce risks and strengthen the business environment. A nature-positive business park strengthens business continuity, improves employee wellbeing and enhances urban ecosystems.

Public-private collaboration, bringing together a diverse set of involved stakeholders, creates the strongest foundation for long-term, measurable impact.

Driving action though the Nature Restoration Regulation

The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) provides a binding framework that directly affects business parks located within urban ecosystem areas through:

- No net loss of urban green space and tree canopy cover until 2030, measured against the 2024 baseline
- After 2030, increasing trends in both green space and tree cover are required in every urban ecosystem area.
- Restoration measures should cover 20% of EU land and sea by 2030, expanding to all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.
- Cities with >20,000 inhabitants must prepare Urban Greening Plans, creating alignment opportunities for business parks.
- Monitoring and reporting must use harmonised EU datasets, including CORINE Land Cover Plus (CLC+), High-Resolution Layers, and Tree Cover Density.

These requirements[1, 2] create a strong policy anchor for business parks to contribute to National Restoration Plans (NRPs) and unlock financing through public, private, and blended instruments.

Biodiversity premises at Volkswagen Slovakia

Sources

1. Nature Restoration Regulation (European Commission)
2. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (European Commission)

Nature strengthens business continuity

Nature's co-benefits as drivers for concrete revenue streams? Nature generates concrete revenue streams, such as energy savings, land-value uplift or high-integrity (nature) credits. In doing so, nature restoration can deliver stable returns alongside wider social benefits.

Economic

- **Talent Acquisition and Retention** through an attractive workplace
- **Creates ecological, social and real-estate value** while also preventing delays and extra costs[1]
- **Higher long-term asset resilience** from restored ecosystems[2]

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- **Creates habitats** and supports biodiversity[4]
- **Enhances ecological connectivity**[5]

Health[3 7 8]

- **Healthy and productive employees:** Less stress, less absenteeism, higher productivity and satsifaction
- **Noise reduction** through more greenery
- **Air and water quality** improvement

Reputation[3]

- **Green visitors card:** Corporate Social Responsibility
- **Connection with the environment:** living and recreation on the site

Climate resilience

- **Reduced associated costs from heat stress and flooding risk** through blue-green infrastructure in business parks[6]
- **Improves water management** and regulates stormwater[5]

Meets policy needs[9]

- **Aligns with EU targets and requirements** to restore urban ecosystems (increasing urban green space and urban tree canopy cover)

Sources

1. Nature-inclusive development (Working landscapes of the future, 2023)
2. Business models and investments for nature series (EU Business & Biodiversity Platform, 2026)
3. Factsheet Climate Adaptation for Business Parks (Adaptation Alliance, 2025)
4. Implementing green roofs and walls: lessons from European experiences (European Commission, 2026)
5. Handbook of tools for informing and monitoring urban greening strategies and nature plans (European Commission, 2025)
6. IB-Green project (Interreg North-West Europe)
7. Impact Assessment: Accompanying the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nature restoration (European Commission, 2022)
8. The financial case for high performance buildings: Quantifying the bottom line of improved productivity, retention, and wellness (Stōk, 2018)
9. See page 3

Greening your business to prevent water damage (in Dutch), Interpolis, 2024

Five steps to a nature-positive site

How can your business park contribute to a thriving, nature-positive environment? Below you will find five steps partners can take together to develop an action plan for nature restoration. This approach supports place-based collaboration and is intended for local authorities, park managers, business and financial institutions.

Order of steps

Practice shows that these steps are **iterative** and not linear, as ambitions influence collaboration, financing shapes measures, and commitments evolve over time.

See with your coalition, and for your specific site, when and how you want to formalise the agreements you make along the way.

Further reading

- Factsheet Climate Adaptation for Business Parks (Adaptation Alliance, 2025, in Dutch)
- Additional sector guidance – Engineering, construction and real estate (TNFD, 2026)

Step 1. Engage and collaborate

The natural starting point for most business parks

Result
A committed coalition with shared interests, governance structure, and work plan.

“Collaboration is the starting point for progress.”

Step 2. Ambitions

Reflects shared interests and the local context

Result
A shared ambition for nature restoration and its co-benefits.

“Ambitions work best when they are co-designed.”

Step 3. Targets

Agree on a joint set of targets and a timeline

Result
Clear KPIs and agreed targets and commitments.

”Targets that reflect local realities while aligning with national and EU restoration goals.”

Step 4. Measures

Measures that support biodiversity and co-benefits

Result
A coherent package of measures tailored to the site and targets.

”Good measures deliver multiple benefits and a solid business case”

Step 5. Financial instruments

Compose your financial mix

Result
A financial mix that enables implementation.

“Smart stacking of finance flows.”

Step 1. Engage and collaborate

Find your allies for greening the business park assets. Framing nature restoration around economic benefits (e.g., worker retention, productivity, risk reduction) engages businesses more effectively than ecological arguments alone.

Order of steps

- Demarcation of content – nature restoration, biodiversity, climate resilience, circularity
- Joint ambitions and clear targets (see step 2 and 3) – aligned with national and EU restoration goals
- Demarcation of scale – entire site or a few plots, public space and private plots
- Commitment and expectations – roles, impact agendas and resources of parties
- Work structure – agreements about timeline, governance, and monitoring

Results

Joint commitment (document), with

- Joint ambitions and targets
- Agreements about commitment, roles, tasks, actions and work structure
- Agreements on financing of the process
- Agreements on collaboration, maintenance and monitoring
- Alignment with restoration frameworks and goals

In the form of

- Green Deal, or
- Letter of intent, or
- Cooperation agreement

Further reading

- Green Deal template (in Dutch, PvDF Working group Climate Adaptation, 2025)
- IB-Green project (Interreg North-West Europe)

National and EU level

- Translate NRR into clear requirements, integrate business parks into NRPs and urban greening plans
- Set minimum standards for nature restoration, remove regulatory barriers, and ensure monitoring and enforcement
- Provide national and EU financing levers (e.g., national funds such as France's Fonds Vert, national development banks, and EU instruments such as FEDER, LIFE and EIB)

Regional and local governments and organisations

- Convene partnerships
- Create enabling spatial planning and zoning regulation to facilitate the implementation of NbS
- Manage trade-offs between development and green space
- Provide public services (clean water, heat-island management, air quality)

Business association

- Coordinate members
- Support decision-making
- Promote shared mobility and training

Entrepreneurs, green and innovative start-ups

- Resolve owner–tenant dilemmas
- Anchor tenants drive incentives
- Appoint nature ambassadors
- Improve workplace conditions and supply-chain sustainability
- Develop and scale innovative solutions

Nature as a stakeholder

- Recognising nature as an active stakeholder in decision-making

Park management

- Use contracts to incentivise greening
- Support coordination between landlords and tenants

Financial institutions

- Finance maintenance of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
- Integrate biodiversity KPIs into financing

Banks - Offer sustainability-linked loans; set minimum greening standards for loan eligibility.

Investors - Align portfolios with taxonomy-compliant assets; integrate nature and climate strategies.

Insurers - Integrate flood-risk reduction, drought, climate resilience, mental health and productivity into underwriting.

Other relevant parties

- Employees, residents, universities, architects, facilities operators
- NGOs, etc.

Philanthropy

- Catalyst for pilots and employee engagement.

Step 2. Ambitions

> Ambitions should reflect the shared interests of partners at the business park and the local ecological and social context, while aligning with EU and national restoration frameworks. They are most effective when co-designed, as this builds ownership among stakeholders, strengthens collaboration and governance structures, and smoothens potential resistance.

Ambition areas

Net biodiversity gain	Increase native species and strengthen ecological connectivity across the site
Soil health	Enhance soil quality and infiltration through biodiversity-friendly surfaces, with attention to soil depth and vegetation stratification.
Sound, light, and air quality	Use vegetation, buffers, and low-impact lighting to improve air quality, reduce noise, and protect nighttime wildlife.
Sustainable management of local natural resources	Promote renewable energy, circular materials and efficient resource use.
Climate resilience	Reduce heat, flooding and drought risks through blue-green and circular solutions
Social engagement	Improve wellbeing and shared use of green spaces for employees and visitors
Vocational training and education	Build skills for ecological maintenance and long-term stewardship

Step 3. Targets

Translate the joint ambitions into concrete targets and measurable KPIs. Take local local site conditions into account for setting targets while aligning with EU and national restoration frameworks. This includes the Nature Restoration Regulation requirement to increase urban green space and tree canopy cover.

Net biodiversity gain

- ☐ __ % urban green space
- ☐ __ % tree canopy cover
- ☐ __ % green roofs
- ☐ __ % green façades
- ☐ __ % multipurpose surface
- ☐ __ Number of native and edible species
- ☐ Others, specify:

Soil health

- ☐ __ % biodiversity-friendly surface
- ☐ Availability of green-blue corridors
- ☐ Prescence of worms
- ☐ No-pesticide use
- ☐ Others, specify:

Sound, light and air quality

- ☐ Air-quality regulation indicators
- ☐ Light-related targets for nighttime wildlife
- ☐ Others, specify:

Sustainable management of local natural resources

- ☐ Renewables integrated in buildings
- ☐ Others specify:

Climate resilience

- ☐ __ % water retention for rainwater
- ☐ __ % permeable surface
- ☐ __ % water reuse
- ☐ Wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting
- ☐ __ % heat-island reduction (baseline comparison)
- ☐ __ % bio-based materials
- ☐ __ % circular recyclable materials, ensuring bio-based options do not drive off-site biodiversity loss
- ☐ Use of positive externalities from data centres (heat, water)
- ☐ Others, specify:

Working with targets

This page serves as a working template: the targets shown are examples that partners can adapt to their own site. Use the boxes to agree on a small set of realistic, location-specific targets and document them clearly. Consider:

- **Target definition:** what will be measured and why it matters
- **Measurement method:** who measures what (preferably an external party) and which tool or dataset is used
- **Timeline:** baseline year, target year, and reporting frequency
- **Responsibility:** which party reports progress and how results are shared

Credible action requires a baseline assessment, measurable targets, a timeline, maintenance obligations and transparent reporting. Wherever possible, KPIs should be externally verified and publicly disclosed to ensure that selected indicators reflect real ecological improvement rather than only the easiest measures.

Social engagement and local collaboration

- ☐ Health indicators
- ☐ __ Trees per employee
- ☐ Community farm / garden
- ☐ Industrial symbiosis (shared resources)
- ☐ Participatory sciences for tenants / users
- ☐ Partnerships with local authorities, NGOs, citizen groups, or other business parks
- ☐ Joint monitoring or maintenance agreements
- ☐ Others, specify:

Vocational training and education

- ☐ Skills development for ecological maintenance
- ☐ Educate and involve __ % employees for monitoring
- ☐ Others, specify:

Further reading

- Handbook of tools for informing and monitoring urban greening strategies and nature plans (European Commission, 2025)

Step 4. Measures

Based on ambitions, targets and site conditions, determine which restoration measures are suitable. **Look at the private plots as well as the public space. The effectiveness and costs of measures vary by situation and/or location. Assess based on feasibility, co-benefits, and stakeholder engagement which measures can best apply in your situation.**

Integrated planning
Holistic spatial design across public/private areas

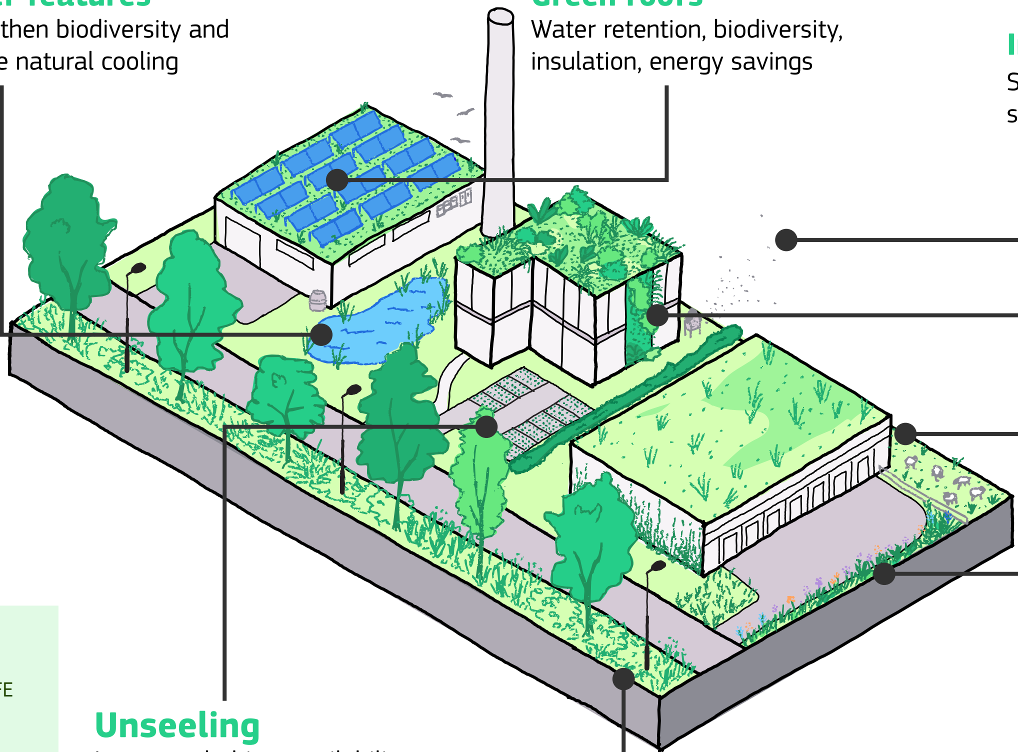
Education and stakeholder engagement
Essential for long-term success and behavioural change

Tools for monitoring
Biodiversity and climate indicators

Water features
Strengthen biodiversity and provide natural cooling

Green roofs
Water retention, biodiversity, insulation, energy savings

Insects and bird nesting
Support for pollinators and species habitat



Green facades
Biodiversity, insulation, energy savings

Local species support
Native plants; ecological maintenance (e.g., sheep grazing)

Soil health
Reduced mowing, improved soil structure

Unseeling
Increases habitat availability, ecological connectivity, healthier microclimate

Reduced lights
Reduced nighttime lighting to protect nocturnal species, reduce energy use

Further reading

- EU examples: Biodiversity premises (EU LIFE programme)
- Biodiversity Action Plan (wienerberger)
- Implementing green roofs and walls: lessons from European experiences (European Commission, 2026)
- Guide du Paysage (AFILOG, 2025)
- Business park innovation database for nature restoration (Working landscapes of the future, in Dutch)

Key takeaway

Measures should be integrated from the start, combining ecological and social functions

Section 5a. Public financial instruments

This section provides an actionable financing guide, helping partners identify which instruments suit each measure and explore opportunities to stack finance flows. Financing is an important step, so mapping instruments across public (5a), public-private (5b) and private (5c) categories helps create a clear overview to build your own mix. Finance should be additional to and not a replacement for regulatory compliance and public responsibilities, recognising that nature restoration delivers public-good benefits and cannot rely mainly on voluntary action or isolated business cases.

Further reading

- Business models and investments for nature series (EU Business & Biodiversity Platform, 2026)
- Factsheet Climate Adaptation for Business Parks (Adaptation Alliance, 2025)
- Invest4Nature (European Union)
- Entreprises: mode d'emploi pour financer la biodiversité (MEDEF, 2026)

	Public	For	By	Size	Project type
Subsidies and grants	Financial contribution for process, advice and plan and/or adaptation measures	Entrepreneur and collective	Municipality, water authority, province, central government, European Union	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k Medium €500k–€5M	Plan development, advice, physical measures
Fines and permit fees	Mandatory charges imposed on activities that impact the environment, used to deter harm and fund regulatory or restoration efforts. Option for free permit or discount when plan proofs being nature-positive	Business and asset owners	Regulators and public authorities	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Regulatory compliance
Tax reductions	Tax benefit for proven nature measures or landscape designs. This could be for several tax systems, like real estate tax, sewage fee, permit fee, corporate income tax and/or VAT	Entrepreneur	Municipality, water authority, central government	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Physical measures
Sustainability linked public loans	Publicly backed loans that provide affordable, long-tenor capital for projects delivering environmental or societal benefits, option for an interest discount based on sustainable performance	Municipalities, public agencies, SMEs, land managers	National governments, development banks, public financial institutions	Medium €500k–€5M Large €5M–€50M	Physical measures, infrastructure
Risk management incentives	Regulatory incentives that reduce environmental risk by linking permissions, reduced fees, or preferential treatment to strong environmental performance	Companies and operators	Public regulators	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Operation

Tax benefit MIA / Vamil (NL example)

The Dutch government has listed no-regret measures for sustainability, including biodiversity and climate adaptation, with clear definitions. Companies that invest in such measures could make use of Environmental investment deduction (MIA) and Arbitrary depreciation of environmental investments (Vamil) schemes linked to the corporate income tax. More information MIA/Vamil.

Rabobank is using the same list for providing a sustainability contribution to companies that buy such measures. More information Rabobank (in Dutch).

Section 5b. Public-private financial instruments

Stakeholder roles at a glance – A quick guide to clarify which stakeholder leads, enables or verifies each financing instrument.
For establishing the greening of a business park, a municipality and a business association could initiate further collaboration and enable a Business Investment Zone (NL) or Business Improvement District (UK). Providing subsidies is an important starter by municipalities to stimulate and guide business. Banks could step in by structuring Sustainability-Linked Loans (SLLs), and corporates can act as off-takers or co-investors. A partnership with an NGO can be helpful for certification and monitoring progress.

	Public-private	For	By	Size	Project type
Green Deal with impact agenda	Joint agreements on ambitions, KPIs and financial support for sustainable measures and/or process guidance	Collective	Government (municipality/water authority), business association, bank and/or insurer	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Process guidance
Business Investment Zone (NL) / Business Improvement District (UK)	Business district based additional agreed real estate tax to set up a collective local fund to finance measures in public and/or private areas at a business park	Collective of entrepreneurs or companies	Business association, municipality	Small €50k–€500k Medium €500k–€5M	Process, physical measures
Economic Investment Funds	Entrepreneurs in a municipality can invest in sustainable initiatives together through collection of contributions by the municipality and additional subsidy	Collective of entrepreneurs or companies	Government (municipality/water board), business association	Medium €500k–€5M Large €5M–€50M	Physical measures
Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)	Voluntary or contractual payment made to land stewards for managing ecosystems in ways that maintain or enhance the service they provide.	Real estate owners, Indigenous communities, conservation managers	Governments, water utilities, companies, and philanthropies	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Ecosystem management

How a certification system can help stacking (public and private) finance flows

A certified project with auditable KPIs gives financiers confidence in cash-flow reliability, making it easier to combine multiple instruments

Example 1: Grant (feasibility) + public loan (CAPEX) + SLL (private co-finance)

Certification provides verified baselines and KPIs, helping each financier rely on the same performance data

Example 2: BIZ fund + municipal subsidy+ PES payments

Certification ensures transparent measurement of ecosystem services, enabling PES and public support to sit on top of collective funding

Section 5c. Private financial instruments

Financing made practical, a quick overview showing which instruments fit each stage of a nature restoration project. Early-stage finance builds momentum and reduces risk before larger capital enters. Such low-risk, enabling finance consists of grants, CSR, or philanthropy. Mid-stage supports coordinated action and unlocks larger budgets. Shared-investment instruments like blended finance, PPPs, BIZ/BID are useful then. Mature-stage finances implementation and maintenance at scale with long-term, scalable capital like bonds, institutional capital and nature credits.

	Private	For	By	Size	Project type
Sustainability-linked loans	Loan from a bank, with an interest discount for a sustainability performance	Entrepreneur and collective	Private bank	Medium €500k–€5M Large €5M–€50M	Physical measures
Impact funds and outcomes-based financing	Investment vehicles that deploy capital toward projects delivering measurable environmental or social outcomes, with returns tied to verified impact	Park managers, investors and project developers	Fund managers, development finance institutions	Large €5M–€50M Very large > €50M	Physical measures
High-integrity nature credits	Tradable units representing quantified, verified ecological improvements; should complement regulation, must meet strict integrity criteria, and should not be used alone to claim ‘nature positive’ status	Corporates	Land stewards, conservation organisations, crediting platforms generating and verifying credits	Small €50k–€500k Large €5M–€50M	Ecosystem restoration
EU Green Bonds and ICMA-aligned nature restoration bonds	Bonds that raise capital exclusively for environmentally beneficial projects following EU Green Bond Standards or ICMA Green Bond principles	Public bodies, corporates, financial institutions	Sovereigns, municipalities, development banks, and corporates issuing labelled bonds to institutional investors [Example of Nord Rhein Westfalen]	Very large > €50M	Physical measures
Sponsorship and CSR contributions	Voluntary corporate funding for nature, community, or sustainability initiatives aligned with brand or CSR priorities	NGOs, local authorities, community projects	Companies, financial institutions	Micro < €50k Small €50k–€500k	Physical measures, community projects

Linking finance to revenue models

Examples of how nature-restoration measures generate real, monetisable value

Stormwater savings: lower drainage costs; supports loan repayment and reduces insurance premiums.

Productivity gains: stronger business case for corporate co-investment.

Carbon or nature credits: creates revenue stream (e.g., Icade’s Label Bas Carbone credits).

Recommendations

These recommendations reflect the collective insights of the business parks subgroup of the Finance & Biodiversity Community and partner stakeholders. They outline how public authorities, financial institutions, business park actors and EU bodies can help advance high-integrity, scalable nature restoration.

Strengthen public frameworks and clarify roles

Public authorities are advised to translate the Nature Restoration Regulation into clear requirements for business parks and integrate these into National Restoration Plans. They should also clarify roles across national, regional and local levels to strengthen multilevel governance and implementation[1]. Together, these steps enable the setting of minimum standards, removal of regulatory barriers and effective monitoring and enforcement.

Move from voluntary targets to minimum expectations

Baseline assessments, measurable KPIs, timelines, maintenance obligations, and transparent reporting with external verification where possible are essential to move beyond voluntary action. KPIs should be aligned across three levels: regulatory compliance, overarching frameworks[2] that provide common definitions and extractible datasets for benchmarking, and project-level indicators. A national certification system with an auditable KPI framework improves comparability, credibility and enables stacking of public and private finance.

Make finance follow policy and integrity

Market-based and private-finance instruments can help scale restoration measures, but they should operate within a clear public policy framework. Minimum requirements, transparent monitoring and credible verification are needed to avoid fragmented voluntary action and ensure that finance rewards real ecological improvement rather than intentions.

Ensure high-integrity nature credits

Nature credits should complement, not replace, regulatory obligations or on-site mitigation. They must meet high-integrity criteria: additionality, robust baselines, independent verification, transparent registries, no double counting, long-term maintenance and limits on claims. They should also not be used alone to claim ‘nature positive’ status.

Promote transparency and verified performance

Financial benefits, public claims, labels and preferential treatment should depend on verified performance rather than commitments or planned measures.

Sources

1. Rooted in Nature: Advancing Nature-Based Solutions from National Policy to Local Action Across NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs (UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, 2026)
2. Additional sector guidance – Engineering, construction and real estate (TNFD, 2026)

Further reading

- A global framework to measure, manage and communicate business circularity (WBCSD, 2025)
- State of nature metrics (Nature Positive Initiative)
- Reporting standards on Transition: CDP Forests, CDP Cities 2026 questionnaire, GRI Standards
- Sustainable Bonds for Nature: A Practitioner’s Guide (ICMA, 2025)
- BiodiverCity® label (CIBI)
- Markets, financing and incentives for NbS (Invest4Nature, 2024)
- Demand and supply chains in NbS (Invest4Nature, 2025)
- Policy brief: Unlocking Private Capital for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (Invest4Nature, 2025)

Example – Icade rewilding business parks (France)

Icade's rewilding programme is anchored in a biodiversity performance contract with CDC Biodiversité, updated over time to reflect the specificities of urban business parks. Through this contract, the progress of all indicators is monitored annually and the impact of the measures implemented is assessed every four years. This structure enables Icade and its service providers to take the necessary actions between assessment years.

Step 1. Engage and collaborate

Biodiversity performance contract: This contract has been in place since 2014 and was updated in 2019 and again in 2023 to better consider the specificities of urban business parks, as well as the ecosystem services provided by rewilding.

Step 2. Ambitions

Rewilding 100% of business parks by 2026: Icade has set a clear ambition for its business parks to with a goal to rewild 100% of its business parks by 2026, with higher goals in 2030. This ambition focuses on improving the quantity and quality of green and water spaces and enhancing ecosystem services.

Step 3. Targets

Using a performance-based methodology to assess rewilding:

- hBAF: Indicator of green and water space quality.
- Performance: ≥50% of seven indicators must meet targets.
- Resources: 100% of nine indicators must meet targets.
- Experimental: Soil and green-blue infrastructure monitored, not included.
- Assessment: Rewilding checked in 2026 and 2030.

Step 4. Measures

- Planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plant species
- De-paving parking areas
- Creating new habitats, including gabion walls, bat shelters and sanctuary areas.
- Increasing the number of mixed hedges.
- Greening ponds
- Sustainable management practices
- Communication on biodiversity measures to occupants

Step 5. Financing

Rewilding works for the business parks are primarily financed internally by Icade. The wooded parc project at the Porte de Paris business park also generated carbon credits, used by Icade, as it obtained the French Label Bas Carbone. As of 2026, Icade has included biodiversity capital investments (including works on their business parks) in their Green Bond.

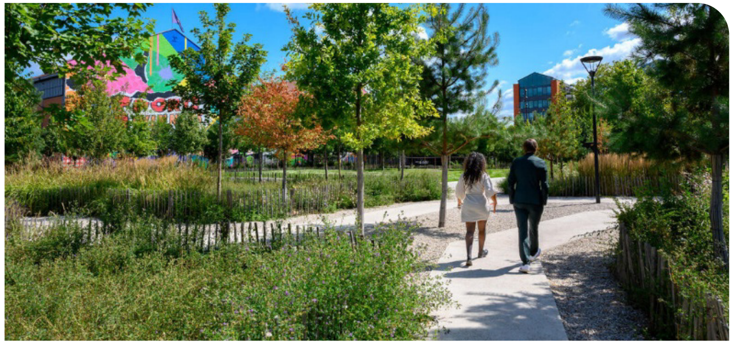


Photo credit: Grégoire Crétinon

Example site: Portes de Paris Business Park

7 years, 1500 trees, 3 lawns, 1,5ha of urban wooded area accessible to users and local inhabitants, with protected habitats for the fauna.

In April 2025, this space earned the French Label Bas Carbone, following the Ville Arborée methodology, a first both for the region and for a private company in France.

Further reading

- Biodiversity overview – 2025 results (Icade, 2026)
- Icade completes the extension of the urban forest in its Portes de Paris business park (Icade, 2024)

Example – Sandyford business improvement district (Ireland)

The Sandyford Business District (SBD) is one of Ireland's largest business districts, bringing 4 business parks together. Sandyford Business District is home to approximately 25.000 employees and around 6.000 residents. SBD works together with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) in a joint collaboration, e.g. to transform 0.8 hectares of land into a Civic Park for residents, workers and visitors.

Step 1. Engage and collaborate

Joint venture between public and private stakeholders: Sandyford Business District's Board is composed of members from the local authority and businesses.

Stakeholder involvement:
the community and key stakeholders are actively included in the design of the Civic Park, e.g., through public consultations.

Step 2. Ambitions

Transforming the former industrial estates into a sustainable and modern mixed-use business district:

DLRCC developed a strategy aiming at creating new connections between open green spaces across the urban areas and a Climate Action Plan for 2024-2029 which includes nature-based solutions.
In this frame, SBD wants to transform 0,8 hectares into a Civic Park.

Step 3. Targets

Build a Civic Park in a densely built area to address the needs of green infrastructure and liveability for residents and workers:

- Addressing the lack of public/civic amenities in SBD
- Active stakeholder participation at all stages
- Significant contribution to greening and increased biodiversity in the district
- Reuse of materials in the development of the park

Step 4. Measures

Public consultations have been open to better define the needs and wishes from residents and workers.

Potential measures include:

- More planting in public spaces and increasing biodiversity
- Tree canopies
- Allotments
- Greenways
- Sport facilities

Step 5. Financing

The companies located within the District contribute a commercial levy, which is collected by the local authority and reinvested back into the Sandyford Business District.

In addition, both Sandyford Business District and DLR have been part of the European project IB-Green (Interreg North-West Europe), co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Sandyford Business District

Further reading

- Sandyford Civic Park
- Sandyford Urban Framework Plan 2022-2028
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Green Infrastructure strategy – County Development Plan 2022-2028

Sharing experiences and challenges

We hope this factsheet inspires and helps you make your business park a resilient and green environment. Start exploring opportunities together with your partners and identify the steps that fit your site best. We are eager to hear which financial instruments and restoration measures you are considering. By sharing your experiences, we can continue building knowledge and practical solutions together.

European Business & Biodiversity Platform

As part of the EU Business & Biodiversity Platform, the members of the Finance and Biodiversity (F&B) Community have contributed to this guidance together with partners. It reflects the needs and opportunities identified by the Platform members and the European Commission. This guidance explores and maps opportunities for nature restoration at business parks, drawing on ongoing practice across Europe.

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The structure for this guidance and its steps is largely based on the Factsheet Climate Adaptation for Business Parks by the Dutch Adaptation Alliance and Sustainable Finance Platform. The format has been adapted to this paper on nature in business parks and refined following consultations and workshops with the Finance and Biodiversity Community and partners.

Illustrations: Alessa Bor, NextGreen

Cover photo: Biodiversity premises at Volkswagen Slovakia

European Business & Biodiversity Platform

European Commission