

WILD BLOOMSBURY MANIFESTO

UCL research shows that bringing nature into urban environments provides a range of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, surface water management, summer cooling, cleaner air and improved health and wellbeing.



Located in the heart of London, UCL and the other University of London Colleges have the opportunity to make transformational change to the public realm that we own and manage to better support both nature and our local community. That's why UCL has partnered with the University of London, Bedford Estates, Camden Council, Birkbeck, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and SOAS to create a strategy for a healthier and liveable Wild Bloomsbury.



Bloomsbury is already relatively green with 19% of its 152 hectares covered in Green Infrastructure, this is vast in comparison to Mayfair, a similar size area with only a 5% cover. This is in part due to the strong community of residents, students and workers within the area already creating nature-based community schemes. The area boasts impressive squares, gardens, and the infamous London plane trees. But we want to create an even greener Bloomsbury.



At UCL we've committed to creating 10,000m² of additional biodiverse space across our estate by 2024, but we, and our partners want to go further. Building on the neighbouring project, 'Wild West End', we aim to create a living landscape within Bloomsbury, developing ground-breaking solutions to the twin crises' of biodiversity loss and climate change.

OUR VISION



Our Wild Bloomsbury Vision seeks to work as a community to increase the quantity and quality of green infrastructure in Bloomsbury to benefit people and wildlife. This increase in green infrastructure would aim to deliver the following ecosystem services: Reduced Flood Risk, Improved Air Quality, Summer Cooling, Carbon Sequestration, Improved Health and Wellbeing and Increased Biodiversity.





The Wild Bloomsbury Strategy, developed by The Green Infrastructure Consultancy in line with national and local policy identifies existing green infrastructure, and examples of interventions such as green Streets, Walls, and Bicycle Stores.

Areas across Bloomsbury have been identified for each intervention, showing costings, and the ecosystem services which would be generated. Detailed examples for each intervention have been provided to showcase how they could look.

Research and community participation will be at the heart of Wild Bloomsbury. We envision the area to be an outdoor laboratory for researchers, students and citizens interested in the natural and built environment. There will be opportunities to assist with describing the baseline conditions and monitoring changes in habitats and species, as well as abiotic factors including microclimates, hydrology, air and water quality and human experiences and wellbeing.



JOIN US



We know that there are many organisations and citizens already implementing greening initiatives, who are passionate about making a climate resilient community. We hope that the Wild Bloomsbury Vision can act as an umbrella, encouraging groups to work together under one vision, apply for funding jointly and learn from each other to make a difference on a large scale. We don't currently have a fixed idea of what being a member of Wild Bloomsbury means, we want to co-create this with you. If you are interested, please get in contact with Hannah Biggs, Sustainability Manager at UCL: Hannah.biggs@ucl.ac.uk