

# NbS Exhibition

## Call for Contributions



*What we are looking for — and how to contribute*

### About the Exhibition

The NetworkNature NbS Exhibition is a modular, museum-style pop-up exhibition designed to bring Nature-based Solutions (NbS) closer to people through stories, experiences, science, and local examples.

The exhibition is built around a central visitor journey, with four linear storylines and branching “village” nodes that visitors can explore in more detail. Each node acts like a small thematic world, connecting lived experiences with science, practice, governance, and local stories from across Europe.



*WHEN WE STOP MOWING EACH PIECE OF LAND INTO SILENCE, THE LIFE OF AN ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM RETURNS*

Fig.: Example of exhibition storyline for Node 4: From Lawns to pollinator meadows

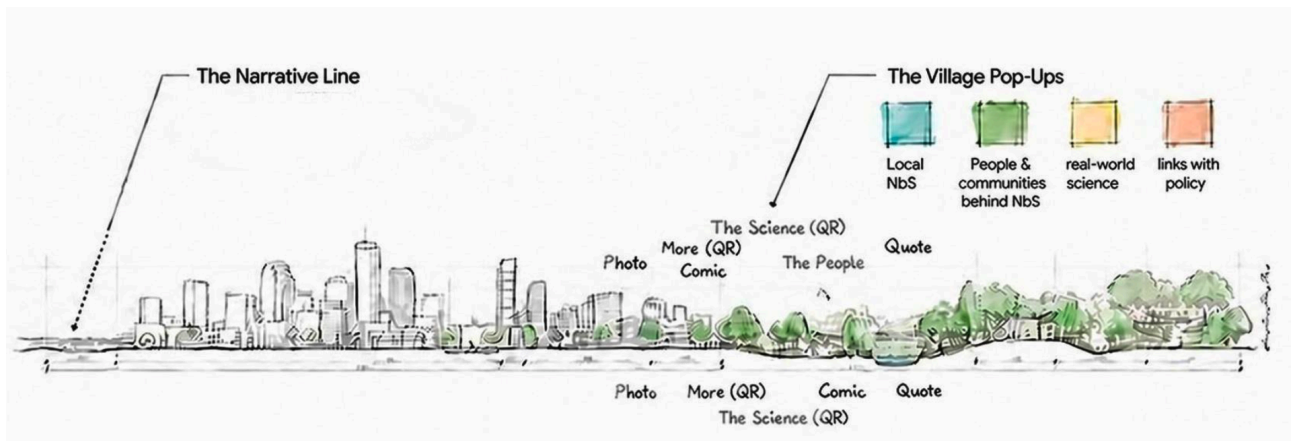
### The Four Exhibition Storylines (Village Nodes)

<b>Node 1</b> Concrete → Urban Forest	<b>Node 2</b> Channels → Rivers	<b>Node 3</b> Supermarket → Food Forest	<b>Node 4</b> Lawns → Pollinator Meadows
Explores urban greening, urban forests, tree corridors, canopy cover, biodiversity-friendly public spaces, pocket parks, cooling, health, and climate resilience.	Focuses on water-sensitive cities, river restoration, re-naturalised watercourses, wetlands, sponge city approaches, floodplains, infiltration, flood management, and water resilience.	Addresses urban agriculture, food forests, edible landscapes, agroecology, peri-urban food systems, pollination, food security, and community stewardship.	Explores biodiversity-friendly management and habitats, wildflower meadows, reduced mowing practices, ecological corridors, rewilding approaches, and urban habitat restoration.

These storylines are not rigid categories — many NbS types contribute to several nodes at once (e.g. rain gardens, urban wetlands, pocket parks, multifunctional spaces). You can choose several nodes where relevant.

## The Pop-up Village Concept

Each node functions as a small pop-up village branching from the main visitor journey. These villages combine different layers of content and perspectives.


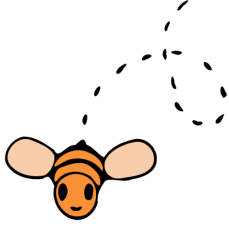




Possible branches include:

- **Real-world science**  
Science-based insights about impacts, microclimate effects, biodiversity outcomes, etc.
- **Relevant NbS types and interventions**  
Local examples of urban and peri-urban NbS, restoration activities, design approaches, biodiversity, and implemented solutions.
- **People and communities behind NbS**  
Inspiring portraits and personal stories of people, organisations, and communities behind designing, implementing, maintaining/caring for, and monitoring NbS
- **Links to policies**  
Links to urban greening plans, European and international restoration and climate adaptation targets.

## Four Character Perspectives







Visitors experience each node through four recurring lenses:

 <p><b>A Drop of Water</b></p> <p>Water cycles, flooding, infiltration, storage and resilience</p>	 <p><b>A Bee</b></p> <p>Pollination, habitats, biodiversity and ecological connectivity</p>	 <p><b>A Leaf</b></p> <p>Vegetation, cooling, soil, ecosystem functioning and carbon processes</p>	 <p><b>An Elderly Person</b></p> <p>An Elderly Person — health, accessibility, wellbeing, safety and everyday experiences</p>
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## What We Are Looking For

We invite NbS Hubs, projects, and partners to contribute materials to help populate the village nodes. Every contribution — however small — helps make the exhibition feel real, local and alive.

The most useful contributions come in these formats:

-  **A photo with caption** — *real-world NbS from your city or region*
-  **A quote or short story** — *from someone who designs, plants, manages or cares for urban nature*
-  **A 'Did you know?' fact** — *something local, surprising or striking — one sentence*
-  **A graph or data visualisation** — *showing an NbS impact or outcome*
-  **A link** — *to a project, tool, dataset, interactive map or case study*
-  **A short video or audio clip** — *of a place, person or process (under 3 minutes)*

You don't need to contribute across all formats. Even a single strong photo with a good caption, or one memorable fact, is genuinely useful.

## Section 1: Visuals of Locally Implemented NbS

We invite NbS Hubs and NbS projects to contribute images of locally implemented NbS — ideally before and after. If you only have after-implementation images, that is fine. And if the impact is not immediately visible to the untrained eye, that is valuable too: revealing what is not obvious is part of what the exhibition does.

### What formats help most

#### **A photo (required for this section)**

A real-world image of an NbS in your city or region. No professional photography needed — clarity and recognisability matter more than polish. We are looking for places your residents would encounter in daily life, not award-winning flagship projects. No aerial or landscape-scale photography, please.

#### **A 'Did you know?' fact (optional)**

One sentence. A local statistic, a surprising result, or something residents might not know about the NbS is shown.

*Example: This restored riverbank reduced peak flood levels by 30% during the 2022 storms.*

#### **A link (optional)**

A URL to more information about the project, the organisation behind it, or related research.

### Specifically looking for

- Renaturalised rivers and riverbeds, restored floodplains, and river restoration projects
- Extensive green roofs and walls integrating native species and biodiversity-sensitive design
- Tree canopy, street trees, green belts and green corridors
- Rewilded areas
- SuDS with biodiversity-enhancing features — vegetation and nature features for water management, not just manicured green spaces
- Urban wetlands
- Biodiversity-sensitive park redesign and green space design
- Pollinator habitats: flower meadows, flower strips along transport corridors, street tree pits, microhabitats for threatened species
- Urban farming, food forests, permaculture, regenerative farming, agroecology

### Image criteria

Please make sure your images meet all of the following:

- Place-based and real — no AI-generated visuals

- Recognisability over exemplarity: typical, not spectacular or “award-winning”— images residents would encounter in daily life
- No distant landscapes or aerial perspective unless the type of NbS is clearly recognisable
- File formats: JPEG or TIFF · Max size: **10 MB** · Minimum resolution: **2000px on the longest side**

**For each image, please also provide:**

- Caption (required): what is shown, the NbS type, and where it is
- Credits: who took the picture, make sure you have the dissemination rights
- Node selection: which of the four storylines this relates to (tick all that apply)
- Before/after flag: is this a before or after image?
- URL for more information (optional)
- QR code for a local project page (optional)

## Section 2: Portraits and Stories of People Behind NbS

We want to show that NbS are not just the domain of experts and engineers. The design, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of urban nature is a team effort — and it involves ordinary people making real choices about their cities. We are looking for emotionally-resonant, inspiring portraits and personal stories.

### What formats help most

We welcome contributions from: landscape architects, farmers, green space planners and managers, forest managers, water managers, community groups involved in urban farming, food forests, citizen science for biodiversity or pollinators, and many others.

#### **A portrait or working photo (optional)**

A high-resolution headshot or working photo of a person or group — a landscape architect, farmers, community gardener, land or green space manager, river warden, forester, food forest steward, etc. or groups/communities (community-based initiatives in urban farming, food forests, citizen science for biodiversity or pollinators, etc.) about their work with NbS, how they feel about it and why they care.

#### **A personal quote (strongly encouraged)**

A paragraph in someone's own voice about their work with NbS — why they do it, what it means to them, what they have seen change. Emotionally motivating is better than technical. *Example: I have been maintaining this meadow for six years. The first summer the butterflies came back, I cried.*

#### **A short written story or interview excerpt (optional)**

A paragraph or two from an interview, project report, or other available material — written for a general audience.

#### **A short video or audio clip (optional)**

A recording under 3 minutes of a person or group talking about their work with NbS, or a place they care for.

## Section 3: Science, Research and Evidence Insights

We want to supplement the four storylines and character perspectives with grounded, accessible science — not full reports, but specific insights that help a curious visitor understand what NbS actually do. Please do not submit complete reports or literature reviews — we cannot process them within the scope of this project.

### What formats help most

#### **A 'Did you know?' fact (most useful)**

A single sentence distilling a key scientific result for a general audience. Something a visitor could read on a panel and still remember on the way home.

*Example: A 10% increase in urban tree canopy can reduce local temperatures by up to 2°C on hot days.*

#### **A graph or data visualisation (very useful)**

A ready-to-use chart, infographic or data figure showing an NbS impact — biodiversity outcomes, microclimate effects, flood reduction, health benefits, etc. Please include the source.

#### **A link to a key study or dataset (useful)**

A URL to a specific paper, dataset or evidence summary relevant to one of the four storylines. One link per submission, with a one-sentence description of why it matters.

#### **A short explanatory paragraph (optional)**

If you would like to go further: 2–3 sentences condensing the key insight for a lay audience. We may edit and integrate this into the exhibition text.

Please link your contribution to one of the four character perspectives if possible:

 **Drop of Water** ·  **Bee** ·  **Leaf** ·  **Elderly Person**

And indicate which storyline node it relates to most closely.

## Section 4: Interactive NbS Tools and Instruments

The exhibition includes an interactive zone where visitors can explore and try things for themselves — alongside NbS comics, games, and planning tools. We are not trying to explain benefits through charts and indicators. We want tools that let people notice differences and make choices for themselves.

### What formats help most

#### **A link to a ready-to-use digital tool (most useful)**

A URL to an open-access, open-source interactive tool — an NbS decision-making tool, impact visualisation model, scenario planner, green space design tool, or biodiversity map. Please confirm it is publicly accessible without a login.

#### **A screenshot or preview image (optional)**

A visual showing what the tool looks like in use — helpful for us to assess how well it fits the exhibition context.

#### **A one-sentence description of what the tool lets visitors do (encouraged)**

*Example: lets users place different NbS types on a city map and see the predicted impact on temperature, flooding, and biodiversity.*

### What we are looking for in tools

- Ready-to-use or adaptable digital tools
- Dashboards, maps, models, scenario tools, or visualisation platforms
- Outputs that show social, environmental, or economic impacts
- Tools that allow users to compare scenarios, places, indicators, or interventions
- Open access materials that can be embedded, linked, screenshotted, or adapted for exhibition use

#### **Please also let us know:**

- Can the tool be embedded, linked, screenshotted, or adapted for exhibition use?
- Any licensing or attribution requirements we should know about?

### How to Submit

All contributions are submitted through our online form. The form walks you through each section and lets you upload files, paste links, and add text.

→ **Submit your contribution:** <https://thenatureofcities.typeform.com/to/pJkdZkM2>

Questions? Contact Bettina Wilk: [bettina.wilk@thenatureofcities.eu](mailto:bettina.wilk@thenatureofcities.eu)

**Thank you !!!**