

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is not planning direct measures relating to addressing inequalities in access to green areas. However, the Nature Restoration Regulation¹ will promote the greening of urban development in the future. Moreover, the Commission has already produced guidance² on how to develop urban greening plans as called upon by the Biodiversity Strategy³ for all cities with populations over 20 000. Such guidance strongly promotes working with citizens on developing a vision for cities and promotes addressing inequality.

No specific guidelines are planned in relation to investments in neighbourhoods with a greater deficit of urban green areas and to prevent ‘green gentrification’. However, the question of how and where to prioritise urban green space will be addressed in discussions on how to establish a ‘satisfactory level’ of green space under the post 2030 rules in the Nature Restoration Regulation.

As regards common access indicators to allow for comparable monitoring of cities, EU wide data is already publicly available on green space and tree cover in urban areas⁴. Furthermore, these data can be combined with population data by Member States or local authorities to study access to green space. In addition, under the Green City Accord⁵, an EU initiative supporting cities committed to environmental improvement, signatories already report data on urban greenery using standardised indicators: percentage of protected natural areas on public land in a municipality and percentage of tree canopy cover within the municipality.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bdb452c0-901c-11ef-a130-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en.

⁴ <https://land.copernicus.eu/en/products/urban-atlas>.

⁵ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en.