

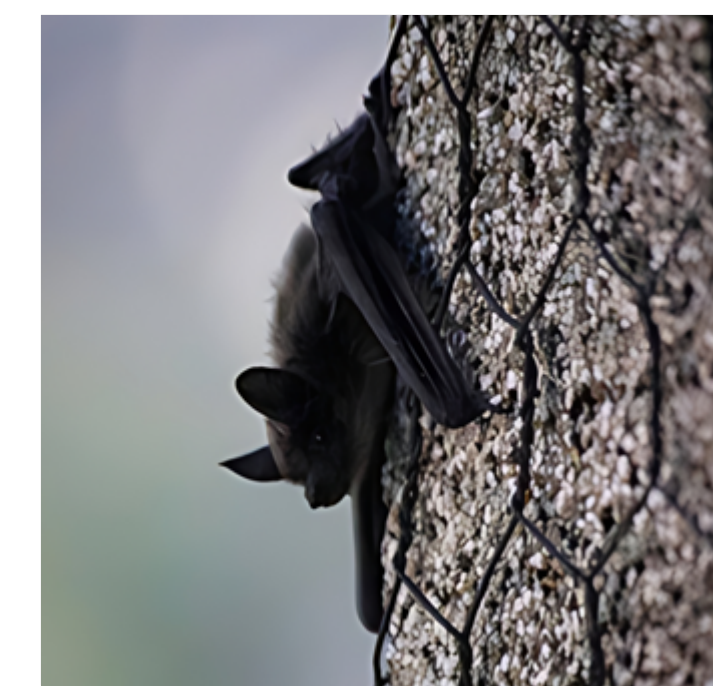
# Nature-based Solutions on our Streets and on the Wish Lists

**Location:** Belgrade (New Belgrade), Serbia  
**Length:** 1.3km  
**Duration:** 2h00  
**Number of visitors:** 14  
**Type of visitors:** NBS Professionals: urban and landscape planners, architects, spatial planners, educators and students. Most of the visitors regularly visit the area, or live in the vicinity



**Intensive Green Roof for Biodiversity and Education**  
 As in the years of transformation (starting in 2000) Block 16 became a renowned business center with intensive construction, there were requests for the implementation of nature-based solutions, both from citizens and tenants of business premises. In 2020, when the business center got its new tower (Ušće Tower 2), an underground garage covered with an IntensiveGreen Roof was built. This roof was used on the ground floor, i.e. at elevation 0 and varies in substrate layer from 40 cm to 120 cm depending on the seedlings, while the extensive green roof was used on the vehicular and pedestrian exits from the garage. It enhances biodiversity and has an educational component as well, especially its pollinator garden, vegetable garden and bee hives.

During construction, a combination of native and pollinator-friendly plants were planted, but since the roof is maintained/mowed only once a year, invasive and wild species also appeared. From the wild plants, Bigroot Geranium can currently be found, known in the local language as Zdravac because of its medicinal benefits.



Vegetable garden is constructed and planted in early May 2024 for educational purposes, and it contains many types of vegetables - garlic, pepper, tomato, cucumber, cabbage, etc. Of course, strawberries are an indispensable fruit in every garden, and there are also basil and parsley known to everyone.



Due to the proximity of the rivers (Sava and Danube), built objects and every smallest opening on their facades represent a haven for bats. Their presence contributes to the regulation of the number of mosquitoes on summer nights, because one bat can consume up to 3000 insects in a single night.



“It shocked me that people see such surfaces as untidy, threatening and unpleasant to be on”



“I was unfamiliar with the process of designing a green roof solution and the details that need to be taken into account, such as the type of plants that are applied and selected, in order not to cause the unintentional spread of invasive species.”



“It is amazing how much our habits can be harmful to the urban ecosystem, and we are known for having a very hard time changing our habits. Mosaic mowing is a very simple change in our habits, and it would do a lot for the pollinators and many other creatures.”

“It is impressive that it is possible to make very small, and affordable, concessions to our own comfort and divide our living space leaving places for kestrel nests, bat habitats, bee hotels and allow nature to provide a whole range of ecosystem services for the entire urban ecosystem.”



“This visit made me realize that no matter how much we progress in terms of architecture, the topic of renaturing the city is necessary as an integral part. It is indispensable to educate more people in this regard, so that as many individuals as possible become aware of the importance and the role of nature in everyday life.”



“Extremely useful for my professional work. The choice of location and topics provided me, as a university teacher, with ideas for the field visits while teaching students, as well as the assignment of topics for their seminars and final papers. Also, I will implement some of the information and ideas gained during the visit in the scientific and research work, and disseminate them to professional, expert and scientific task forces in which I participate.”

“What was particularly useful to me were the challenges (invasive species, sporadic vandalism, misunderstanding and lack of public awareness) faced by a company that maintains such solutions.”

