

1 Faculty of Economics, University of Gdansk Urban Rewilding Expert Survey (Poland) To participate in the survey, you must currently work for a local government in Poland. You confirm that you are currently employed by a local government and meet the eligibility to participate in this survey.



2 Position / Role:

Senior Specialist for Greenery

Senior Inspector

Specialist in the Greenery Maintenance Department

District Councilor of District V Krowdrza in Kraków

Deputy Director of the Municipal Greenery Department in Katowice

Specialist

Manager

Environmental Protection Inspector

Dyrector

Inspector (Greenery Department)

Inspector

Head of the City Gardener Department

Senior Specialist

Inspector

Secertary

Head of the Greenery Maintenance Department

Senior Inspector in the Environmental Protection Office

Senior Specialist and Deputy Inspector (two people completed the survey)

Senior Specialist for Green Space Maintenance

Specialist

Department Manager

Manager

City Councilor of Sopot

Specialist

Dyrector

Inspektor

Inspector

Inspector

Deputy Mayor of Sopot

city treasurer

Chief Specialist for Urban Green Spaces

Senior specialist in the Forest and Nature Team

3 How would you define the term 'rewilding'?

Natural restoration of nature without human intervention.

Creating protected areas, tree planting, ecosystem restoration

Restoring natural balance and processes occurring in the environment through the protection of particularly important habitats and species.

Restoring the original natural state. For example, greening parks or revitalizing lawns, including new plantings.

The term reminds me of "IV nature" (a concept related to natural processes). Rewilding is about supporting solutions that enable the succession and development of spontaneous vegetation, including ruderal species. I believe it involves allowing plant succession.

Actions to increase biodiversity by rewilding areas.

Restoring the potential for natural development of nature.

Ensuring the self-recovery of ecosystems destroyed by human activity, stopping biodiversity loss, and preserving existing ecosystems.

Restoring areas taken over by humans to nature

"Rewilding" – The process of restoring an environment, including vegetation, soil, water elements, etc.; aiming to reinstate the natural processes characteristic of a given area.

Protection of biodiversity

Restoring valuable and ecologically desirable species that are compatible with the habitat to areas from which they were displaced due to human activity or other natural phenomena such as disasters or the emergence of invasive species.

Rewilding is the process of allowing areas that have been altered by human activity to naturally regenerate without further intervention in the ongoing processes.

The process of restoring natural ecosystems and wildlife by reintroducing native plant and animal species and rebuilding natural ecological processes.

Withdrawal of human activity and giving areas back to natural processes

Return to natural forms of greenery

Renaturalization of the land, restoring self-sustaining ecosystems with minimal or zero human impact.

Protection of wild areas to prevent degradation, for example, due to ongoing urbanization. Protection through appropriate provisions in local land use plans and by applying forms of nature conservation. Planting greenery: filling gaps or creating new green spaces where possible, and enriching biodiversity.

Limiting maintenance practices, introducing native species

Restoring habitats to their original natural form

Restoration to a natural state while preserving biodiversity

Stopping all work on a particular area

The process of afforestation of flora and fauna

Revitalization/renewal and restoration of ecosystem functionality

Reversing human activities that have caused damage to the natural environment

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Introducing natural elements into cities and letting vegetation grow "wild"

Allowing nature to regenerate on its own

Restoration of wild nature

Actions aimed at increasing or spatially allocating areas in cities that represent as much of the original nature as possible.

As recognizing the value of natural plant succession processes

Intentional actions leading to the creation of various habitats/microhabitats for native organisms.

4 How would you define the term 'urban rewilding'?

Designating urban areas free from human interference and allowing nature to undergo natural regeneration in these spaces.

Creating protected areas, tree planting, ecosystem restoration

Increasing biodiversity and reducing human impact in designated city zones (habitat protection zones); ecosystem restoration and ecological compensation.

New plantings, lawn revitalization, green spatial planning.

Taking actions aimed at developing spontaneous vegetation.

Introducing secondary habitats and species into urban environments by incorporating greenery and biologically active surfaces.
Reducing human impact on urban nature.

Developing guidelines and policies for creating and designating urban spaces that allow for natural succession and growth without human intervention.

This includes the creation of green roofs and walls, planting trees, establishing urban parks, restoring natural ecosystems, planting native plant species, creating flower meadows, environmental education, and improving water and air quality.

Restoring ecosystem balance in urban areas

"Restoring Wild Nature in Cities" – Actions aimed at reconstructing areas that have lost their former ecological function due to human activity.

Not applicable

Restoring valuable and ecologically desirable species that are compatible with the habitat to areas from which they were displaced due to human activity.

Due to the mobility of animals and human pressure, it is not possible to restore "wild nature" in urban environments. However, it is possible to designate areas that will be cared for in collaboration with specialists, where ecosystem degradation can be halted, and conditions for regeneration can be created.

Creation, restoration, or protection of habitats for wild plants and animals in urban spaces, such as parks, gardens, rooftops, or even abandoned industrial areas. The goal is to increase biodiversity, improve residents' quality of life, and create a sustainable and environmentally friendly urban landscape. Activities within this process may include planting native plant species, creating green zones, cleaning and renaturalizing rivers and canals, and constructing special shelters for wildlife, such as birds, insects, or small mammals. Rewilding in cities also aims to educate the public about environmental protection and promote a more ecological lifestyle.

Withdrawal of human activity and giving areas back to natural processes in developed areas

Return to natural forms of greenery

Designating green enclaves free from human interference to increase biodiversity in urbanized areas.

Protection of wild areas to prevent degradation, for example, due to ongoing urbanization. Protection through appropriate provisions in local land use plans and by applying forms of nature conservation. Planting greenery: filling gaps or creating new green spaces where possible, and enriching biodiversity.

Limiting maintenance practices, introducing native species

Limiting maintenance practices, introducing native species

Renaturalization of anthropogenic areas through natural succession

Remediation of natural areas like parks, etc., increasing biodiversity

Reforestation of areas that will not be subject to ongoing maintenance

The process of reclamation and increasing the density of flora and fauna in cities

Reevaluation through the improvement of ecosystem functionality

Limiting human activities

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Introducing natural elements into cities and letting vegetation grow "wild"

Reforestation

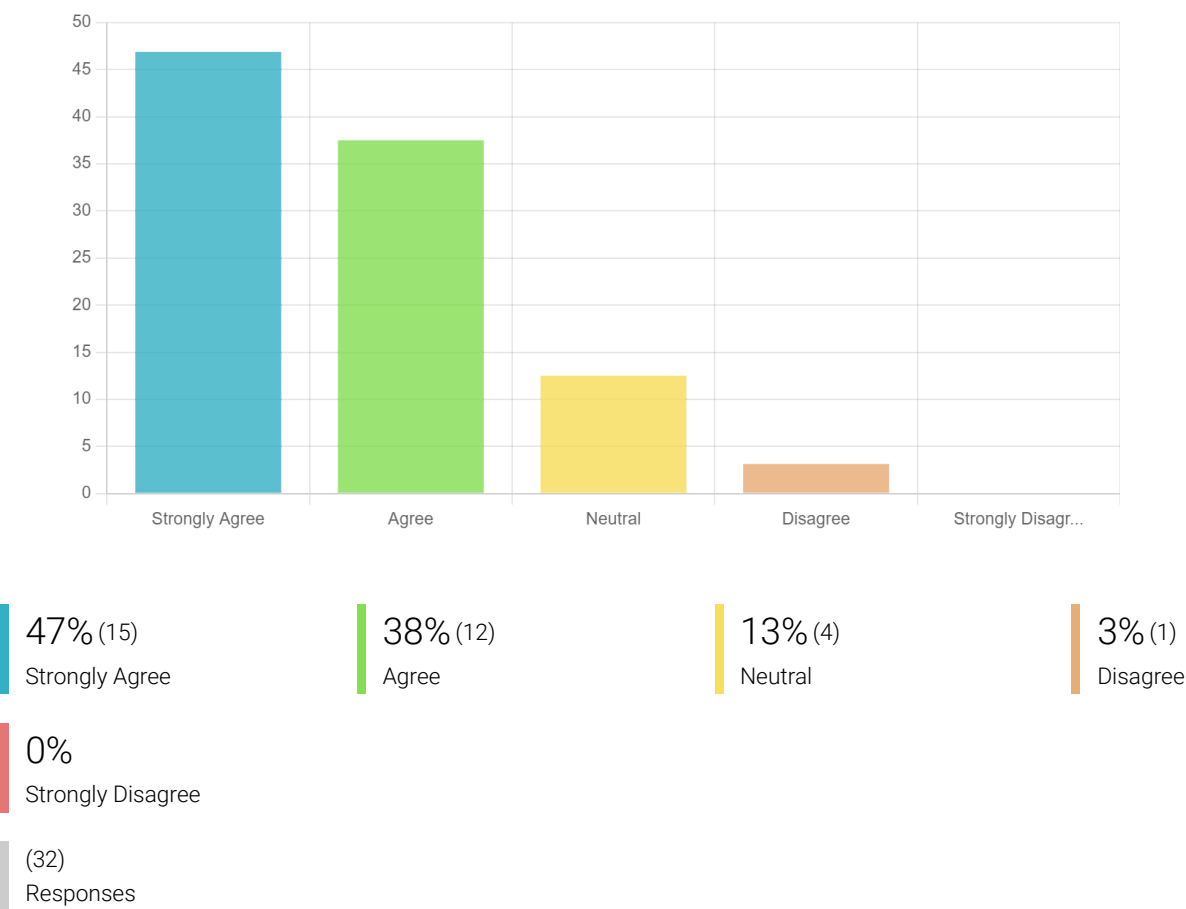
Restoration of wild nature in cities

Actions aimed at increasing or spatially allocating areas in cities that represent as much of the original nature as possible.

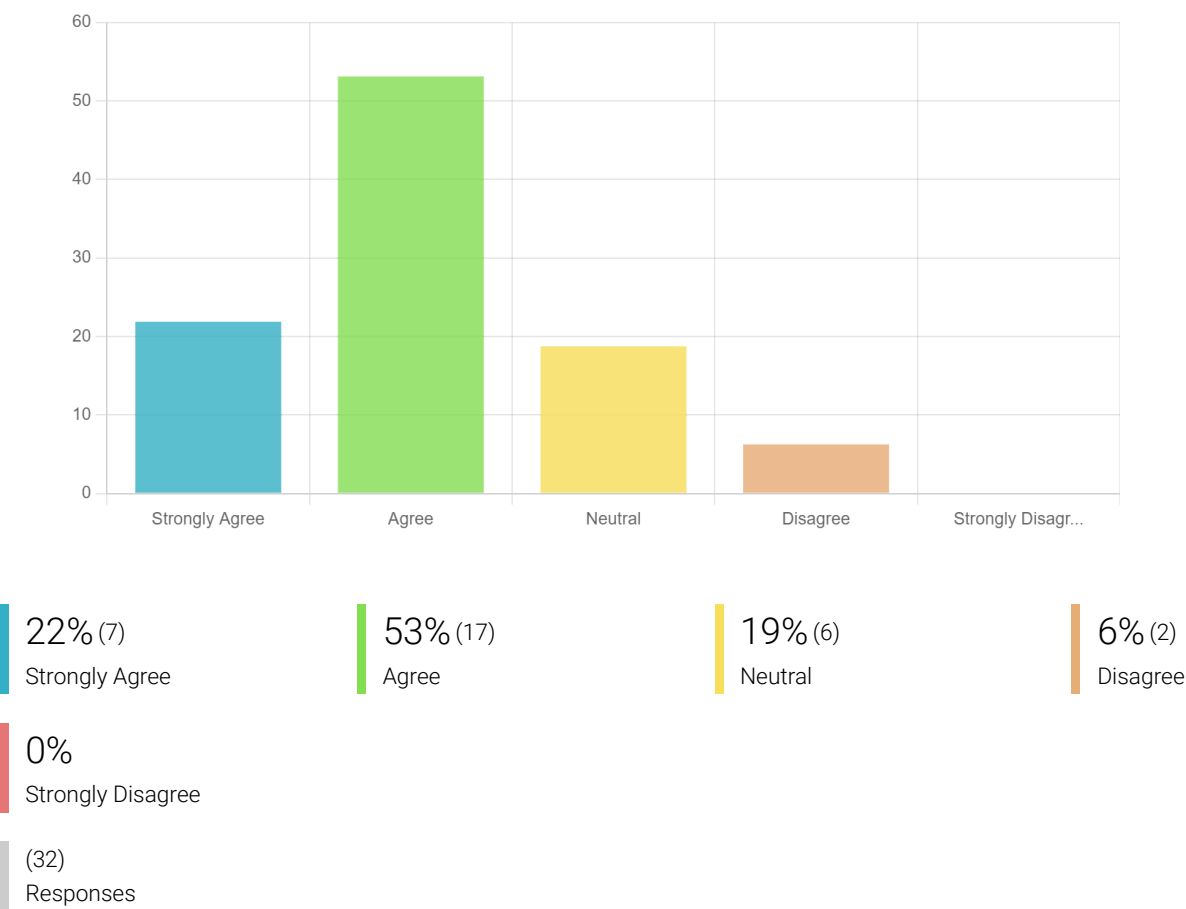
As recognizing the value of natural plant succession processes

Intentional actions leading to the creation of various habitats/microhabitats for native organisms.

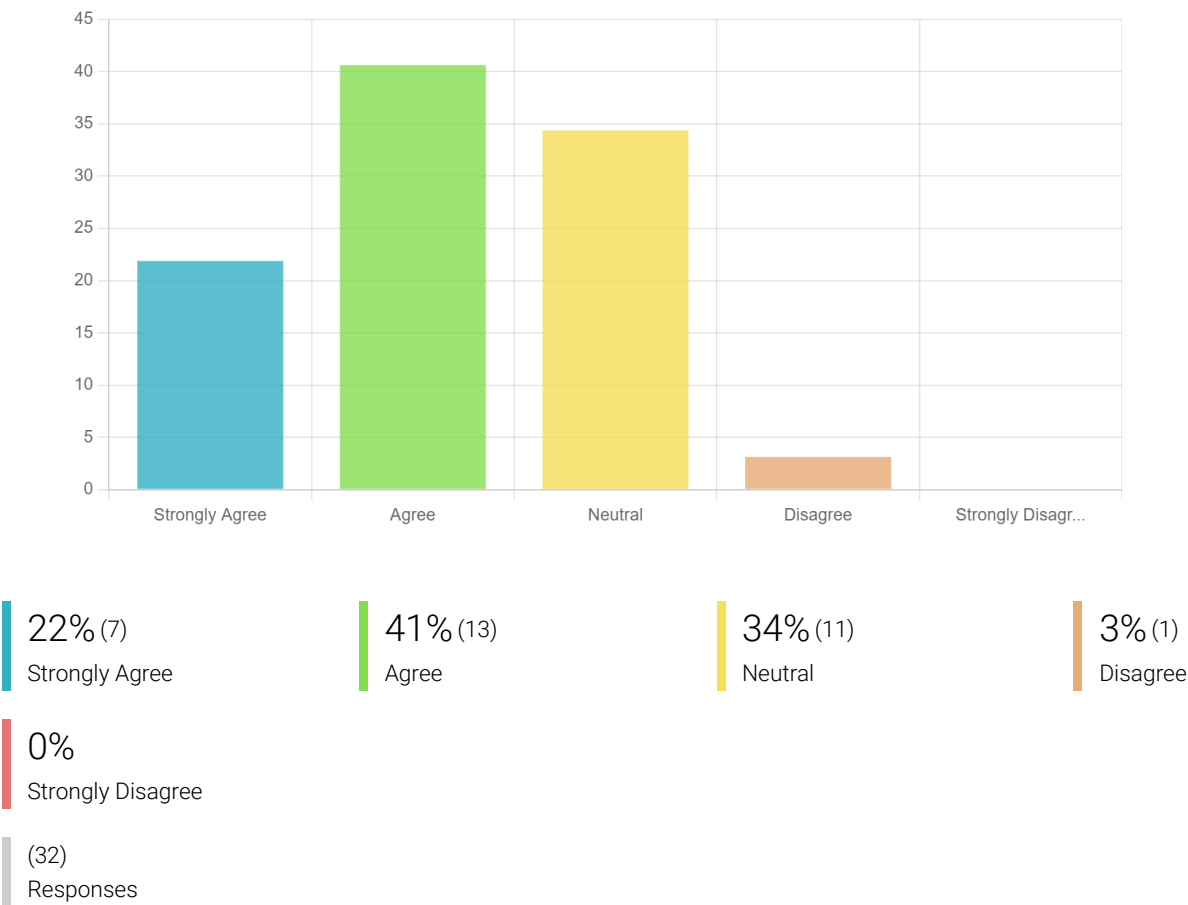
5 Rewilding has many meanings. They usually share a long-term goal to maintain or enhance biodiversity while reducing the impacts of current and past human interventions through species restoration and ecological processes (Lorimer et al. 2015):



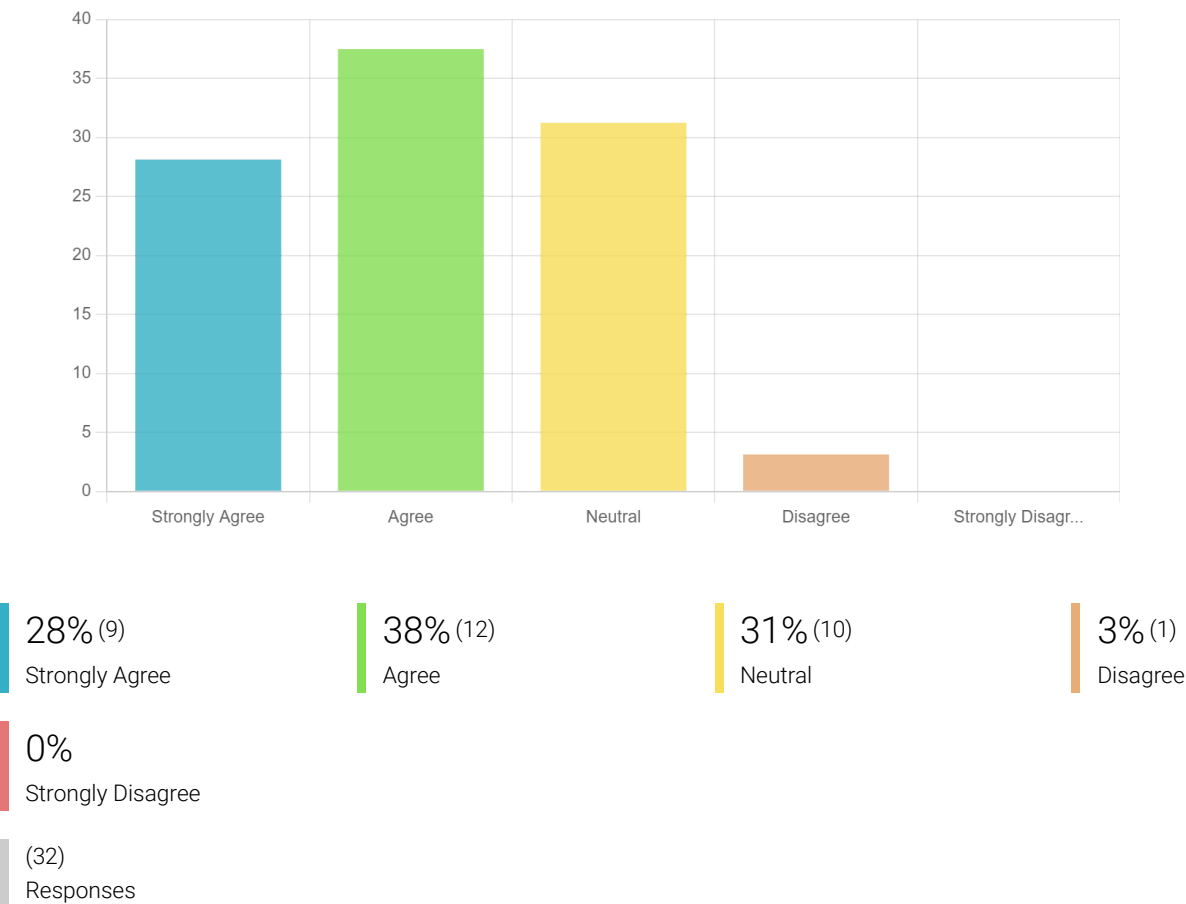
6 “The reintroduction of extirpated species or functional types of nature of high ecological importance to restore self-managing functional, biodiverse ecosystems – emphasizes the reintroduction of species to restore ecological functions” (Naundrup and Svenning 2015):



7 Rewilding implies returning a non-wild area back to the wild (Corlett 2016).



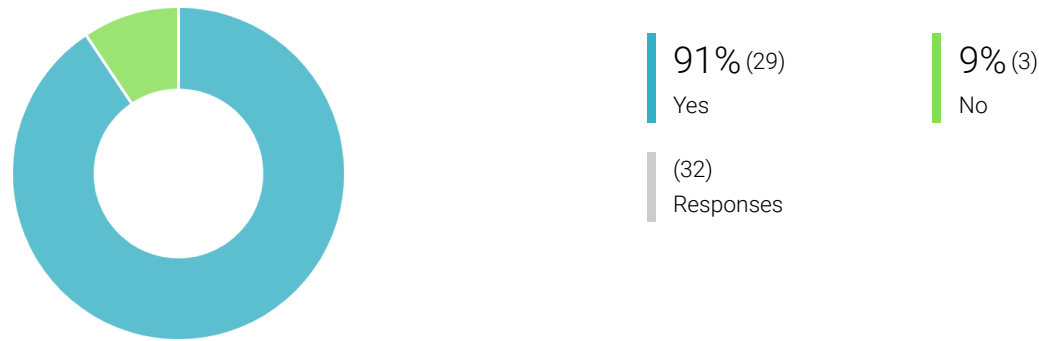
8 "... restoring natural processes and the complete or near complete food-web at all trophic levels as a self-sustaining and resilient ecosystem using biota that would have been present had the disturbance not occurred...The ultimate goal of rewilding is the restoration of functioning native ecosystems complete with fully occupied trophic levels that are nature-led across a range of landscape scales. Rewilded ecosystems should - where possible - be self-sustaining requiring no or minimum-intervention management (i.e. natura naturans or "nature doing what nature does"), recognising that ecosystems are dynamic and not static" (IUCN CEM Rewilding Thematic Group; Carver et al., 2021).



9 "Rewilding is the reorganisation of biota and ecosystem processes to set an identified social-ecological system on a preferred trajectory, leading to the self-sustaining, provision of ecosystem services with minimal ongoing management" (Pettorelli et al. 2018)



10 Are you taking rewilding initiatives within your local authority, even if the term is not used?



- 11** What forms of rewilding are you undertaking within your Local Authority area? Please consider both the location and approach of rewilding efforts. By 'forms' we intended to encompass both the location (roadside, parks and gardens, nature reserves, etc.) and the approach (wildflowers, species reintroduction, habitat restoration, etc.).

Creating parks on unused land, reducing the frequency of mowing grass in urban green areas, and sowing nectar-producing plant seeds in green spaces.

Restoration of roadside alleys, land reclamation, planting of trees, honey plants, native species, increasing biologically active areas, reducing mowing

Protecting biodiversity by reducing mowing; planting trees; species and habitat protection; removing invasive plants from our ecosystem.

Creating green urban zones, such as community gardens. New plantings in parks.

Using a mix of species, both horticultural and wild, such as ruderal species.

"Debetonization" - removing hardened surfaces and introducing greenery in the form of trees, shrubs, and perennials, such as in so-called pocket parks. Eco-mowing - a developed method of minimizing mowing in urban lawns. Lawns are mowed at different times to benefit insects. Less frequent mowing increases the water retention capacity of lawns, enhances biodiversity, lowers temperatures while maintaining the functional use of lawns. Introducing rain gardens. Revitalizing parks, establishing new ones. Reducing intervention in managing urban forests, including the absence of economic exploitation. Introducing pollinator-friendly plants in parks, planters, squares, bus stops, etc. Green bus stops - adding greenery wherever possible. Installing nesting boxes for birds and bats. Creating flower meadows. Actions aimed at increasing water retention. Establishing ecological sites within city limits. Combating invasive species.

Reducing mowing in urban areas, creating flower meadows.

Planting trees, planting native plant species, creating flower meadows, improving water and air quality.

Parks, squares, green belts

"1) Rewilding Initiative: ""Naturally, in the City!"" The form of rewilding we have undertaken in our city is this year's edition of the Green Budget, titled ""Naturally, in the City!"" Its goal is to identify and preserve areas that are as close to their natural state as possible. This edition focuses on urban areas that have naturally developed and possess special natural, landscape, environmental, and aesthetic values. It also includes areas that are habitats for specific wild plants and/or animal species that deserve attention and protection or can serve educational and research purposes. Planned forms of rewilding in such areas include: Significant reduction of human intervention, Leaving the area wild (with possible mowing of main paths), Providing or designating resting areas made from natural materials, Utilizing existing elements in the space (e.g., piles of tree branches as shelters for hedgehogs, stones as seating areas, fallen tree trunks as educational elements emphasizing the role of deadwood in enhancing biodiversity in urban green spaces), Creating safe zones for plants and animals. In addition to the above, we would like to install informational boards and signage about the nature of these areas. The aim of this year's Green Budget is to protect ecologically valuable areas and promote them through markings in descriptions, projects, brochures, maps, or local guides. Locations suggested by residents (through online forms) and the proposed program varied greatly (sometimes completely missing the mark). After a substantive evaluation, the following locations were selected: Wild groves, Thickets, Riverside areas, Forest clearings, Green areas with wild vegetation and interesting plant communities, Undeveloped parks, Woodlands, Vegetated slopes, Ravine areas. 2) Extensive Meadows Another form of rewilding undertaken by our city was the creation of extensive meadows. These extensive meadows, in addition to grass species, included a mix of herbaceous and leguminous plants, making them more drought-resistant, providing food for insects, and increasing biodiversity in the urban ecosystem. The selected mix of 22 plant species included, among others, yarrow, cornflowers, daisies, and sage. Chosen locations for sowing the meadow include: Mainly road strips (roadside green belts, median strips), Roundabouts. 3) ""We Mow Less Here"" Program In selected areas, mowing was limited to 1-2 times per season for ecological reasons, primarily to protect the soil from drying out. Of course, this limitation did not apply to main roads and areas around intersections, roundabouts, or pedestrian crossings, which should be mowed as a priority for safety reasons. The principle of the ""We Mow Less Here"" program was also to zone and adjust the height of the mowed grass to current weather conditions. This year, over 85 hectares of lawns were excluded from mowing. Locations: Wide roadside green belts, Slopes, Median strips, Meadows with rich species composition. 4) Surface Permeability Enhancements The project aimed to increase green areas in the vicinity of the city center, where infrastructure, predominantly paved surfaces, and increasing traffic have become increasingly burdensome for residents. The living conditions of the trees previously growing there were severely limited due to

the tightly paved surfaces around the trunks. To improve their growth conditions, cobblestones were removed in favor of planting new trees and shrubs. This action significantly increased the biologically active area where it was previously lacking. Locations: Sections of pedestrian pathways along streets in the city center. 5) Restoration of Degraded Areas Former green spaces that had completely lost their function due to years of illegal driving and parking were rehabilitated: contaminants were removed, the soil was replaced, vegetation was planted, and protection was installed to prevent vehicles from driving over them again. As a result, in are

Planting native tree species along roadways and on large parcels of land, creating flower meadows, reducing mowing, and protecting monumental trees.

Passive protection of the 'Kępa Redłowska' reserve. It does not fully qualify as rewilding, as we are observing natural succession processes rather than the restoration of wild nature. It's a good example of a natural system that, left to itself, evolves in a roughly predictable direction, but it doesn't have much to do with the restoration of wild nature.

Valuable natural fragments of the city are being covered by forms of nature protection (ecological sites, natural and landscape complexes), environmental education and the promotion of establishing flower meadows, reducing the intensity of mowing green areas, promoting so-called "IV nature," maintaining ecological corridors within the expansion of blue-green infrastructure, and cooperating with other municipal and governmental units in the protection of natural resources.

Planting wildflowers: Introducing native flower species on roadsides and green strips to increase biodiversity and support pollinators such as bees and butterflies by creating wildflower meadows. Reducing grass mowing: Allowing lawns to grow naturally, which promotes the creation of habitats for insects and small animals. Controlling invasive species: Removing invasive species that threaten local flora and fauna to restore the natural balance of the ecosystem.

Wildflower meadows in the city

Excluding parts of parks and green areas from maintenance and minimal intervention in such areas, discontinuing mowing of large areas on road plots, limiting or excluding many lawn areas from maintenance.

-

Protection through appropriate provisions in local land use plans, and by applying forms of nature conservation (e.g., nature and landscape complexes, natural monuments). Planting greenery: filling gaps or creating new green spaces where possible (roadside strips, parks, pocket parks), enriching biodiversity, reducing mowing and raking of lawns, creating flower meadows, installing pollinator hotels, bird feeders, hedgehog houses, swift boxes, and implementing green space protection requirements during investments through a Mayor's Decree.

Limiting maintenance practices, introducing native species

For example, establishing flower meadows, reducing or limiting mowing, alternative reclamation of forest areas, reducing anthropogenic pressure and its impacts

For example, the lack of reforestation, natural watercourse channels in forest areas, areas valuable for nature conservation

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Nature and parks, wildflowers, tree planting, prohibition of tree cutting

Wetlands - ditches, coastal forests, habitat restoration, dune areas, coastal forests, restoration of bird habitats, reserves - intervention areas

Protection of trees and dunes

-

stripping out concrete and replacing with more greenery

Green spaces, flower meadows, planting along neighborhoods

Flower meadows, forest reserves

"1.Reduce built-up areas by adding more tree plantings. 2.Create flower meadows. 3.Avoid mowing green spaces."

Creating a recreational area on a degraded site (former clay quarry) based on existing pioneer vegetation. A significant reduction in all "maintenance" activities in this area. Utilizing the specific water conditions in one of the post-mining landscapes to establish a 500 m² sedge meadow (with approximately 9 protected species). Gradual and consistent reduction of mowing in areas covered with perennial plant communities (so-called wastelands, large areas between apartment blocks, and similar locations).

Creating ecozones in parks—areas with limited or only interventional maintenance, where the space is primarily intended for natural processes. As a pilot project, native plants from nearby forest areas are introduced to city parks, along with the transfer of some forest litter (leaves, wood). Dead wood is left on the surface, especially in the form of so-called witnesses to natural decomposition. Alien and invasive species are removed from naturally valuable areas, including partially protected areas like ecological zones and NATURA2000 sites. In forest areas, tree stands are reconstructed, replacing foreign species with communities dominated by native species. A program to increase the city's forest cover is implemented. Native trees are planted in non-forest green areas using forestry techniques, including the creation of Miyawaki forests. Lawn mowing is limited to transform habitats into meadows.

12 What are the motivations for your rewilding strategy as a Local Authority?

Greening the city, universal access to greenery.

Improvement of residents' quality of life by increasing green areas, parks, squares, which in turn improves air quality.

Nature protection and improving living conditions for current and future generations.

Increased quality of life for residents.

Lower costs, e.g., fuel, maintenance, and protection.

Managing green areas through actions for ecology and sustainable development. Combating the urban heat island effect. Adapting the city to climate change. Enhancing systems to prevent heavy rainfall and drought periods.

I don't have an opinion

Environmental protection.

Increasing biologically active areas

Demonstrating to residents the role of urban wastelands, expanding awareness that not every area needs to be developed, and that maintaining greenery is not just about mowing lawns and creating ornamental shrub beds, but also involves conscious actions to limit human intervention in nature, initiating and guiding natural processes, and sometimes refraining from any actions. This is also motivated by the need to respond to climate change, improve water retention, and increase biodiversity.

Social and environmental

Minimal. The primary issue is the lack of areas where this process could be implemented. It is limited to water retention purposes.

Preserving valuable areas and restoring degraded lands is important for public education, enabling residents to interact with nature under certain conditions, and adapting the city to climate change.

Improved air quality and microclimate: Green areas, such as parks or green roofs, help reduce the urban heat island effect, improving air quality and overall living comfort. Raising ecological awareness: Rewilding projects can serve as educational tools, teaching residents about ecology, nature conservation, and sustainable development. Climate change adaptation: Rewilding can help increase urban ecosystems' resilience to extreme weather conditions, such as floods or heatwaves, by increasing green spaces and water retention. Natural control of invasive species: By restoring natural predators or competing species, invasive species populations can be effectively managed.

As a secretary, I do not have the authority to fill out this category, but as a person, I agree with the idea and identify with it—ethical motivations

Trends in maintaining green areas, expectations of some residents.

agree-Urban revitalization improves access to green spaces and well-being in cities, but in my opinion, it is contrary to rewilding. I understand revitalization as urban planning activities aimed at bringing an area back to life, mainly in a social and economic context. Therefore, urban revitalization does not have to be associated with the renaturalization of green areas. Rewilding, on the other hand, aims to restore an area in terms of ecology, focusing on "rewilding" it, which is not related to improving access to that area for residents.

Care for nature for the city's residents, visitors, and future generations.

Preserving the natural character of the area (where possible)

Preserving the natural character of the area (where possible)

Restoring ecological functions, supporting natural processes

Minimizing human activities in areas valuable for nature conservation

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Reduction of temperature in the city during the summer

Maintaining natural environmental systems and nature in areas directly affected by human and animal activities (on pedestrian and bicycle paths)

Protection against the loss of the natural environment

-

Improving the quality of life for residents

Caring for the climate and species diversity, reduced flood risk

Restoration of biodiversity, tree protection, flood prevention

"1.Improving the experience of urban areas. 2.Reducing temperatures. 3.Enhancing residents' well-being through exposure to green environments."

Creating a recreational area on a degraded site (former clay quarry) based on existing pioneer vegetation. A significant reduction in all "maintenance" activities in this area. Utilizing the specific water conditions in one of the post-mining landscapes to establish a 500 m² sedge meadow (with approximately 9 protected species). Gradual and consistent reduction of mowing in areas covered with perennial plant communities (so-called wastelands, large areas between apartment blocks, and similar locations).

The Preservation and increase of biodiversity that will have a positive impact on the stability of ecosystems.

13 Are these motivations different in urban/urban fringe/rural contexts?

Yes, cities are often dominated by excessive concrete.

I don't know

Our actions are taken only in an urban context.

no

There is a greater need in the city for supporting such actions.

no

I don't know

yes

Yes

They differ because in rural and peripheral areas, undeveloped green spaces are more common and widespread. In urban areas, the landscape is dominated by urbanization and is heavily transformed, with very few wild natural areas. This creates the need to reclaim such natural areas and provide access to them. The differences also stem from the different needs of urban society regarding greenery compared to the expectations of rural residents.

yes

yes

Yes, due to various conditions and the availability and residents' attitude towards green areas.

No

no

Definitely yes. The emphasis on returning to nature mainly occurs in urban areas and perhaps does not concern city centers as much as neighborhoods outside them.

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No

Yes

No

Yes

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Yes, In cities, this is a preventive measure to limit temperature and increase biological diversity

Differences in the scale of surface area and the amount of work and resources required

No

Yes

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No

There are differences

Yes

No, the difficulty of implementation can vary.

Yes

14 What are the challenges of implementation in the medium term?

Convincing residents to accept the appearance of "neglected" green areas and taking steps to change residents' attitudes.

Reduction of green areas in cities, service and residential development, the need to build roads, which often leads to landscape fragmentation.

Various, often negative, public attitudes toward forms of protection.

Budgetary issues. Chaotic general plans (spatial development plans).

Insufficient education.

Anthropoppression. Natural city development through population growth and accompanying infrastructure. Allocating appropriate financial resources. Continuing to work on raising public awareness. Maintaining continuity of thought despite changes in decision-making structures.

I don't know

Securing financial resources for nature conservation.

Limited resources for action

A challenge is the varying expectations of residents regarding frequently visited green spaces—often, restoring wildness to certain areas is perceived by residents as neglect rather than intentional action. Another challenge is related to safety aspects—not all areas can be returned to their natural state due to factors like limited visibility (from leaving areas unmown) or the discomfort of users in wild areas (concerns about safety, lack of monitoring in wild, remote places).

not applicable

Currently None

Urban areas have lost most of their valuable zones, making the aforementioned actions much harder to implement—there are few areas available for regeneration. Additionally, due to numerous conditions, including residents' mentality and potential conflicts, extensive public consultations would be necessary.

Technical, social, economic, and administrative aspects.

Raising awareness among both authorities and residents

In city centers, there is not enough space for areas that could be left in a wild state.

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Securing appropriate financial resources.

Public expectations

Public reception, education, planning, identifying locations and their potential, needs analysis, incorporating strategies into the design process

Educating residents, creating ideas and locations, selection, analysis of possibilities and achievable outcomes, and financing

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Limited areas for new plantings

Dissemination of the problem and design of districts, increased funding for education

Education

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Conflicts with residents, restrictions in some parks

Planting trees and shrubs, establishing green areas

Financial issues and land ownership issues

Balancing the expectations of residents and potential investors

The main challenge is the lack of public awareness regarding the necessity of changes in this direction.

Depending on the initiative undertaken, these are most often activities that require the involvement of employees and resources at the expense of other activities. The threat is a lack of sufficient financing from the authorities, who could treat rewilding activities and its effects as unnecessary or even posing a threat to users in green areas.

15 What are the longer-term/management challenges experienced or projected?

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Hard to say

Financial limitations.

Budgetary issues. Chaotic general plans (spatial development plans).

Establishing educational and promotional activities about the concept.

Balancing economic development with the emergence of new business spaces. Housing development. Infrastructure development such as roads and public transportation.

I don't know

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Systemic change in the approach of higher authorities

The expansion of urban areas, dense developer construction, and the construction of transportation routes and roads all contribute to the reduction of green spaces, which in turn limits the possibilities for rewilding efforts. The challenge is finding a compromise, a balance between ongoing urbanization and environmental benefits.

not applicable

Permeabilizing surfaces and retaining rainwater, restoring natural watercourses. Not entirely consistent with the definition of rewilding.

Challenges include securing appropriate financial resources, finding social consensus, and ensuring the sustainability and coordination of actions undertaken by different municipal units with varying competencies.

Long-term ecosystem stability, Climate change, Variability in social support, Competition for resources, Long-term financing, Human resources, Changes in policies and regulations.

Allocating financial resources. Translating it into actions by decision-makers

The challenge is to properly select locations so that instead of returning to nature, we do not end up with a landfill site or an area that looks frightening.

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Enforcing the provisions of the Mayor's Decree on green space protection during investments and securing financial resources.

Public expectations

Defining a policy, implementing assumptions

Action strategy, focusing and identifying problems

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Ultimately, the area under restoration, surface restoration can be complicated

Education

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establishment of reserves

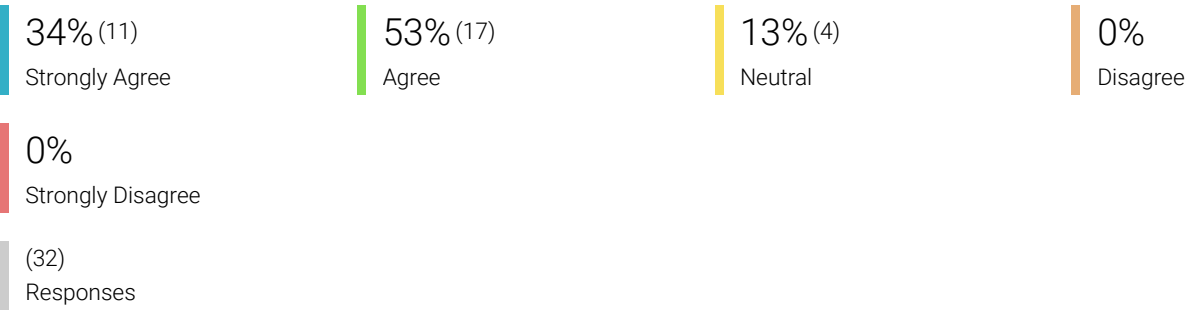
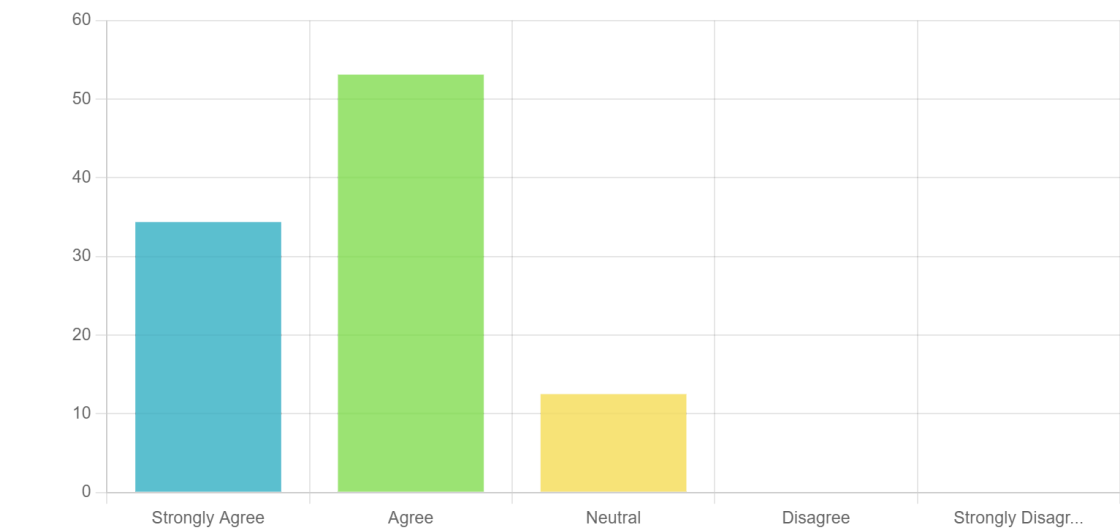
Financial issues and land ownership issues

Identifying suitable or possible locations for such activities. Funding.

I'm not sure, but I believe that progressive climate changes could be a factor: today's wild plant communities might not survive tomorrow due to changes in habitat conditions. Native species that thrive now may struggle with future conditions. Introducing non-native species today with the hope that they will become native in the future disrupts trophic chains. The situation is challenging due to dynamic climate changes.

Depending on the initiative undertaken, these are most often activities that require the involvement of employees and resources at the expense of other activities. The threat is a lack of sufficient financing from the authorities, who could treat rewilding activities and its effects as unnecessary or even posing a threat to users in green areas.

16 To what extent do you believe urban rewilding can improve green space inclusivity and wellbeing in cities?



17 What do you see as the most promising opportunities for urban rewilding in your Local Authority area?

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creating protected areas, planting trees, restoring ecosystems.

Increasing the number of revitalized urban areas.

Purchasing green plots by the municipality to create ecological sites, thus protecting these areas from development.

Social Gardens

Balancing economic development with the emergence of new business spaces. Housing development. Infrastructure development such as roads and public transportation.

I don't know

Reduction of mowing on grass-covered areas, designation of unmowed areas, and limitation of interference with tree stands in naturalistic areas.

Vegetation areas, restoration of pollinator insect populations

"Continuing to promote areas with wild, undeveloped nature Removing paving stones, expanding tree pits Creating perennial flower meadows Reducing mowing Rooftop gardens"

not applicable

Related to water retention.

Renaturalization of the coastal zone, conducting a comprehensive field analysis of resources to identify other areas where actions can be implemented while ensuring their sustainability.

Restoring natural river and canal banks can improve water quality, increase biodiversity, and create recreational spaces for residents. Establishing community gardens where residents can grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs fosters social integration and education on sustainable urban agriculture. Designating areas for natural development without human intervention allows for natural plant succession and attracts local fauna. Creating urban wildflower meadows on wastelands, roadsides, and parks promotes biodiversity and is visually appealing. Establishing rain gardens that capture rainwater and help with water management in cities, while also creating microhabitats for local flora and fauna.

Possibly pilot projects

Thoughtful transformation of squares and parks as well as small fragments of road plots

Despite the fact that rewilding offers significant ecological benefits, due to the lack of available space to create natural ecosystems in previously urbanized areas, potential benefits for our city's areas are not analyzed. However, considering passive rewilding, i.e., simply leaving areas previously covered with natural, unmanaged vegetation without human intervention, such practices offer opportunities to improve air quality through pollution filtration and air circulation, as well as reducing the city's temperature. Such practices are applied in our city's areas.

Ochrona np. poprzez stosowne zapisy w miejscowych planach zagospodarowania przestrzennego, obejmowanie formami ochrony przyrody (np. zespoły przyrodniczo – krajobrazowe, pomniki przyrody), wykonywanie nasadzeń zieleni: uzupełnianie ubytków lub tworzenie, jeżeli jest taka możliwość nowych miejsc z dużą ilością zieleni (pasy drogowe, parki, parki kieszonkowe), wzbogacanie bioróżnorodności, ograniczanie koszenia i grabienia trawników, zakładanie łąk kwiatnych, hotele dla zapylaczy, karmniki dla ptaków,

domki dla jeży, budki dla jeżyków, wprowadzenie Zarządzeniem Prezydenta Miasta obowiązków ochrony zieleni podczas realizacji inwestycji.

Public expectations

Expanding green areas, "de-paving," reclamation of degraded areas

Revitalization of areas valuable for nature conservation

I do not see the value

Afforestation of green areas on existing lands

Educational and landscape value

More landscapes

-

Tree gardens

Planting trees and shrubs, establishing green areas

Challenges related to climate change force could force action into rewilding projects

In Sopot, there is no such pressing need since it is a very green city.

Restoring the status of a 300-hectare area of afforestation to that of a forest. Renaturalizing a small river flowing through Zabrze–Bytomka. However, this seems unlikely due to the division of responsibilities between the municipality (for the areas along the river) and the Water Management Authority (for the riverbed). We are looking for ways to protect the floodplains outside the dikes and concentrate recreational areas along the river, while the Water Management Authority is working to raise the flood defenses and potentially fill in the floodplain.

Actions can be implemented on a larger scale in forested areas and large parks on municipal and State Treasury lands. Environmental education efforts can increase awareness among private landowners, encouraging them to take action on their own properties.

18 Do you cooperate with others (institutions, local governments) to achieve rewilding and nature restoration goals?

Yes, the Municipal Services Management – the entity responsible for managing urban green spaces.

No

Yes

We work closely with other District Councils in Kraków and the City Council of Kraków, including the Municipal Greenery Management.

No

Yes

I don't know

no

yes

Most of the actions related to rewilding and nature restoration have been carried out independently. The cooperation we have engaged in includes collaboration with the Sendzimir Foundation (designing rain gardens), cooperation with the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (obtaining funding for new plantings), cooperation with specialists in greenery, spatial planning, and landscape (during the substantive evaluation of Green Budget applications), and also collaboration with universities (projects for green space development prepared by students under the supervision of academic staff).

Yes, Forest Districts, The General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDEP)

No

Yes

With associations.

No

No

We do not conduct this type of cooperation

Yes

Yes

exchange of experiences

To some degree yes

No

No

Yes

Yes

-

yes

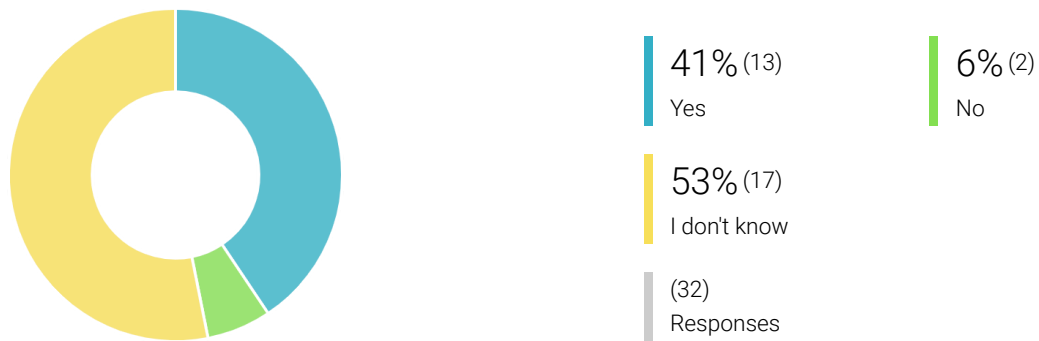
Yes

Yes

I don't know

Conceptually, sometimes yes; in practice, no.

Yes

19 Does your local authority have plans to include rewilding initiatives in the future?

20 What are the main reasons for your local authority's decision not to pursue rewilding initiatives at present?

-

Not applicable because we undertake such initiatives

Improving access to green spaces.

Financial reasons

I don't know

I don't know

I don't know

Insufficient budget funds.

Lack of available land for investment and residential development

-

not applicable

No such needs.

I don't have such information

Limited financial and human resources.

Other priorities—actions related to green areas are rather aimed at taming nature

Residents' expectations

No actions are being taken to reintroduce species because no research is being conducted in this area. It should also be noted that Brodnica is a city with relatively small size and dense development, with its administrative boundaries unchanged for nearly 40 years. Therefore, the proportion of wild areas that have been urbanized and could today be restored to nature is quite minimal.

Not applicable

-

I don't know

I don't know

I don't know

Lack of complete knowledge about these processes

Beauty and EU financial support

Urban development

-

not applicable

-

not applicable

-

It is not true that the authorities have decided not to undertake such initiatives.

A lack of knowledge and experience on the part of both those commissioning tasks and the companies carrying out the work in the field, along with insufficient awareness of the issue among the general public and city residents.

21 If your local authority is not currently implementing rewilding initiatives, please describe the alternative land use strategies you have adopted to enhance biodiversity within your area.

Creating new parks on unused land.

-

not applicable

-

Using plants from industrial areas to make the city more green

So far, this includes the establishment of new ecological sites, care for Natura 2000 areas, participation in nationwide nature conservation projects, and combating invasive species. Climate change mitigation.

Reducing mowing, flower meadows.

not applicable

Revitalization of post-industrial and concreted areas

" In addition to rewilding efforts in urban green spaces, the following are being arranged: Pocket parks Flower beds Planting climbers on noise barriers Climbers in pots in the Old Town Rain gardens Flower meadows Green bus stops Parks"

not applicable

Projects aimed at water retention: rain gardens, weirs on the Wiczliński Stream, restoration of urban forests with native forest-forming species compatible with the habitat.

Valuable natural fragments of the city are being covered by forms of nature protection (ecological sites, natural and landscape complexes), environmental education and the promotion of establishing flower meadows, reducing the intensity of mowing green areas, promoting so-called "IV nature," maintaining ecological corridors within the expansion of blue-green infrastructure, and cooperating with other municipal and governmental units in the protection of natural resources.

Systematically implemented small projects.

Revitalization of green areas, parks, and wildflower meadows

-

It is difficult to designate new areas within the city that are completely free from human intervention, but we strive to manage green spaces rationally in developed areas and do not interfere with unmanaged areas. Additionally, within the city's administrative boundaries, there is the Drwęca River Ichthyological Reserve, the Natura 2000 PLH280001 Drwęca Valley, which is a special area of habitat and species protection, and the Natura 2000 PLB040002 Drwęca Valley Mire, which is a special bird protection area, where any interventions are minimized. Areas where the river naturally floods are not exploited because they are not only protected areas but also serve as natural retention reservoirs reducing flood risks during high water levels in late February and March. Furthermore, when introducing new greenery in developed public areas, we strive to adapt to habitat conditions as much as possible to minimize later care for the vegetation. We also limit grass mowing; most areas not used for ornamental lawns are mowed a maximum of four times per season, and roadside areas on the city's outskirts are largely excluded from green management. We strive to create good conditions for birds, bats, and insects in public green spaces by installing nesting boxes, insect hotels, and planting species that provide food for birds and pollinating insects

not applicable

-

Flower meadows, rain gardens, areas with reduced mowing frequency, expanding street tree areas

Creating green spaces for recreation and improving the quality of life for residents, restoration of watercourses, de-paving of cities

-

Protection of coastal dunes

-

-

-

not applicable

-

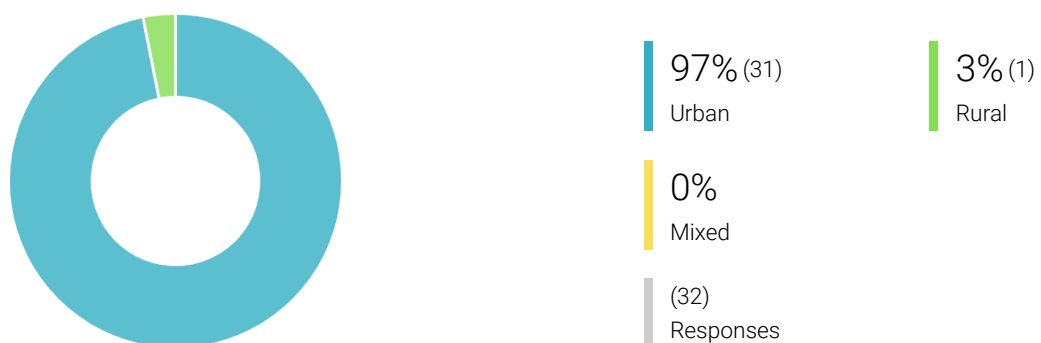
not applicable

-

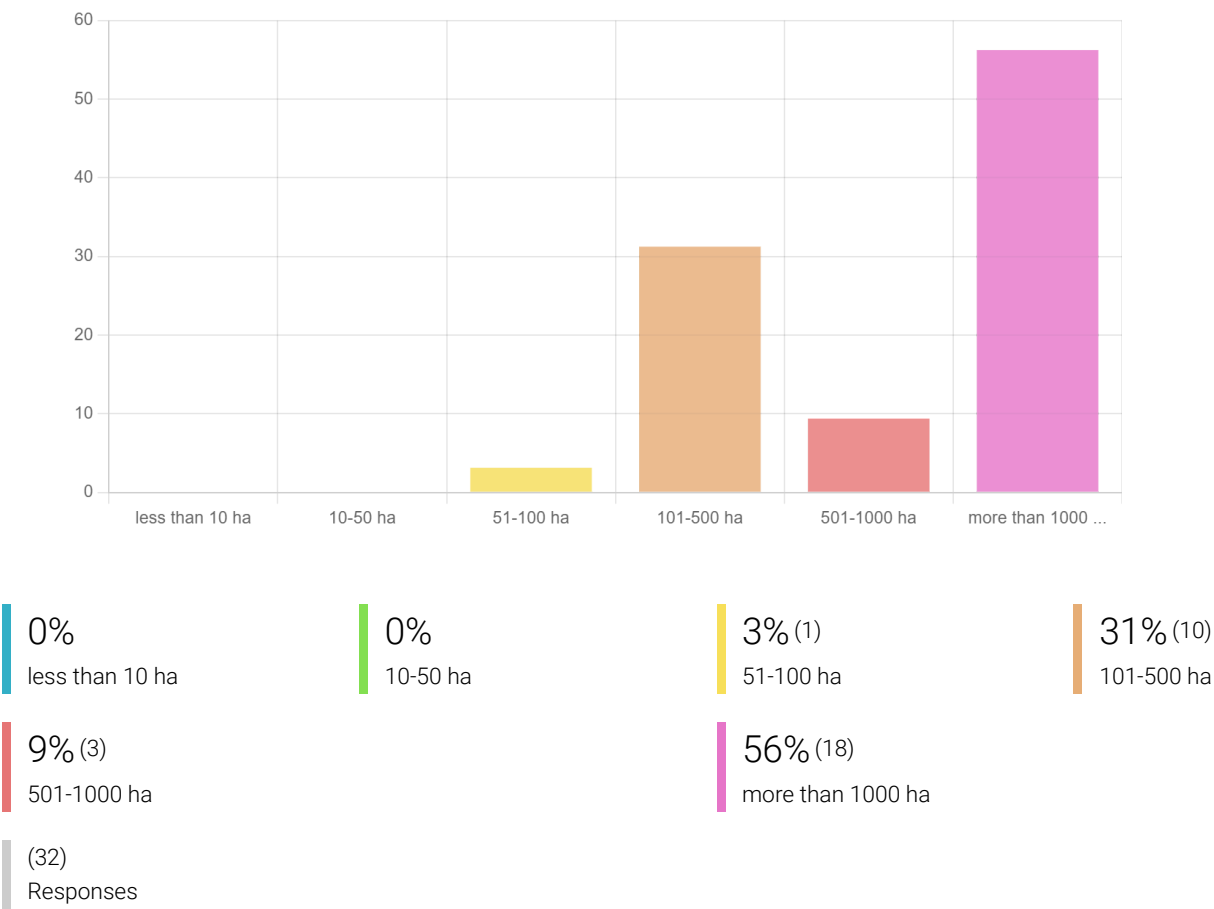
I don't think the municipality is taking over any areas for the purpose of increasing biodiversity or implementing rewilding initiatives; at least, I'm not aware of any such actions.

Initiatives are being undertaken, but passive protection measures are also being implemented, particularly in relation to established forms of nature conservation.

22 Where is your local authority located? Please select the option that best describes the location of your local authority.



23 Where is your local authority located? Please select the option that best describes the location of your local authority.



24 Which type best describes your Local Authority?

City Municipality

City with distrcit rights

City with distrcit rights

City with district rights

City with district rights

City with district rights

City with district rights

town/ municipality

-

City with distrcit rights

Rural municipality

City with district rights

City with distrcit rights

town/ municipality

urban/rural municipality

City with distrcit rights

city

city

town/ municipality

town/ municipality

town/ municipality

City with distrcit rights

City with distrcit rights

City with distrcit rights

City with distrcit rights

town/ municipality

town/ municipality

town/ municipality

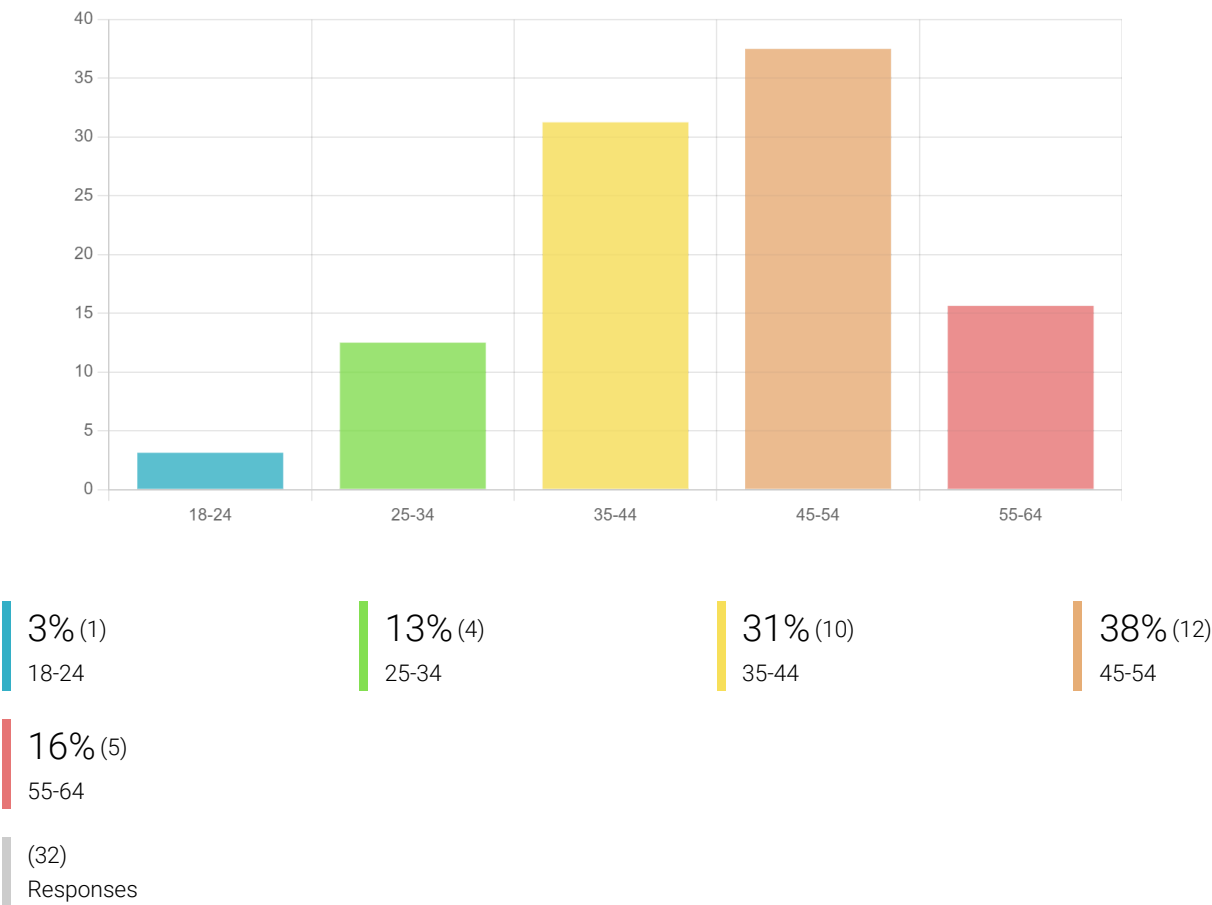
City with distrcit rights

City with distrcit rights

I don't think the municipality is taking over any areas for the purpose of increasing biodiversity or implementing rewilding initiatives; at least, I'm not aware of any such actions.

City with district rights

25 What age range group do you fit into from the following?



26 What gender do you identify as?

F

F

F

M

F

M

F

F

M

F

F

F

M

F

M/F

M

F

F

M

F

F

M

F

M

F

M

M

M

M

27 In which region of Poland do you work (voivodeship):

- West Pomeranian Voivodeship
- Pomerania
- Warmian-Masurian
- Lesser Poland
- Silesia

28 What is your educational background? Please indicate your highest degree / title (if achieved) and your field of study.

Higher

Higher education, major in Environmental Protection

Higher Education – Landscape Architecture

Higher education

Higher education

Higher education in biology

Master of Science in Landscape Architecture

Higher education, environmental protection, horticulture.

Transport/traffic engineering

Higher Education – Landscape Architecture

Higher forestry education

City with district rights

Masters Degree

Master of Science

Environmental protection

Higher education in forestry

Master of Science in Landscape Architecture

Higher

Higher – specialized

middle education, currently studying in the field of engineering

Higher technical education

Higher technical education

Higher education

Higher education in biology

Higher education in architecture

Enviroment

Higher education

master's degree in environmental protection

higher education in proctology

Higher education in economics

Master of Science in Management, Landscape Architecture Engineer

Forestry / horticulture, Ph.D. Eng.

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