Characteristics of an **effective green corridor**

Key elements for connecting nature, people and cities and creating more sustainable and healthier urban environments.

Green corridors improve air quality, support biodiversity, mitigate the urban heat island effect and contribute to physical and mental wellbeing.

1 Genuine connection between natural and urban spaces

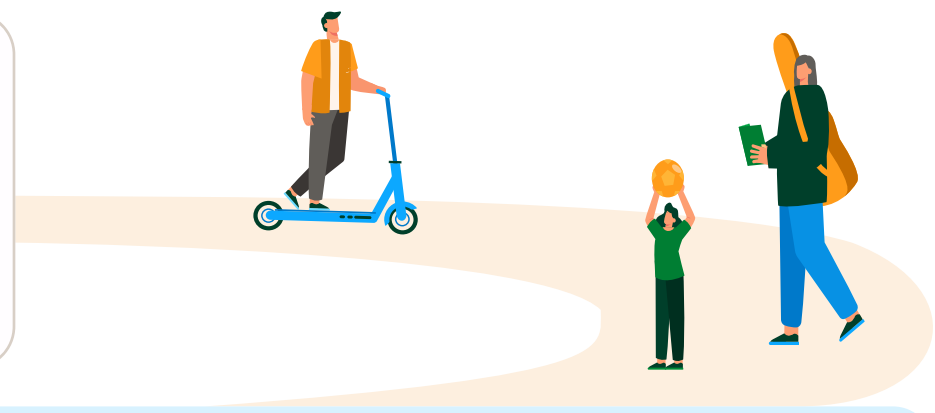
Connect parks, rivers, urban forests and peri-urban areas to create a continuous network that supports biodiversity and climate adaptation.

2 Use of native species

Prioritise local vegetation adapted to the climate and soil. It requires less water and maintenance and supports local wildlife.

3 Pedestrian and cycle continuity

Design safe, comfortable and connected routes that encourage active mobility.



4 Universal accessibility

Ensure that everyone can enjoy the green corridor, without physical or sensory barriers.

5 Sustainable maintenance

Use water efficiently, manage resources responsibly and adopt conservation practices suited to the local environment.

6 Community participation

Involve the community from the design stage through to the maintenance of the corridor to create spaces that are more useful, safe and valued.

7 Integration with public transport and active mobility

Connect the corridor to public transport networks, public bike-sharing schemes and other services to support sustainable, intermodal mobility.

Why they matter

More than **55% of the world's population** lives in cities, and this figure will continue to grow.

Green spaces can reduce ambient temperatures in urban environments by **2°C to 8°C.**

Urban vegetation can reduce air pollution by up to **30%**

Contact with nature improves physical and mental **wellbeing** and reduces stress

Guide to the Design of Urban Green Corridors (Biodiversity Foundation), World Health Organization (WHO)