

Making room for nature among the office skyscrapers

Plans to make the Zuidas area greener have been in the making for quite some time. Green space enhances an area's overall quality and helps create a more pleasant – and healthier - working environment. The Zuidas organisation has several short-term and long-term plans to create enough space for nature in the overall design of the Zuidas area. We talked to Bart van Eijk about the green Zuidas.



'It is important to give the city's ecology a boost in the area'

GREEN TRAM STOP

"At the moment, the local council is planting new trees along De Boelelaan to give that part of the area the cachet of an avenue. We did the same on the Europaboulevard and that looks great now," says Bart van Eijk, the manager responsible for water and green areas in the Zuidas district. "We plan to develop the tram terminus near the VU University's main building, where tram lines 16 and 24 converge, as a green leisure space, a mini park where you can sit down during a break or for your lunch. So it will be a very green tram stop, with special flora such as cherry trees."

BIRD AND INSECT BOXES

Van Eijk says there's no need to turn the Zuidas into a nature reserve, but it is important to give the city's ecology a boost in the area. "We have installed insect and bee boxes, and last year we also built habitats for birds, butterflies and bats. Those boxes are distributed across 50 locations around the Zuidas area. This year, we will look at how many of these boxes have been occupied and whether we can add more."

TREE NURSERY

There are plans to plant a lot more trees in the Zuidas area and to make sure they are not all young trees, the organisers have set up a special nursery on a vacant lot. "This will give the trees time to grow so they are sturdy trees by the time we plant them around the Zuidas area. In the future, people will also be able to take a walk around the nursery or even sit down there for a picnic. So we'll be making the most of the green in the area."

Did you take notice of something in Zuidas public space?

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