



# Strategy for the climate in the Urban Environment and Green Infrastructures (The case of the Municipality of Thessaloniki)



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## Introduction

Strategy for the climate in the Urban Environment and Green Infrastructures sets as a basic management object urban trees and urban green areas, within the administrative limits of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, including both public and private areas (parks, squares, gardens, museums, cemeteries and churches, botanical gardens etc.). Green spaces are an important structural element of the urban ecosystem that contributes to sustainability, connecting residents with nature, biodiversity. It helps cities to adapt to climate change. These areas need adequate care to ensure their growth, their health and ability to continue to thrive in future climate extremes conditions. An effective strategy starts from a correct and complete general framework. LIFE ClivUT (LIFE18 GIC/IT/001217) is going to use their valuable data and results to compose the Climate Strategy. The strategy and therefore the principles that govern it must be linked to 3 basic Principles: 1. Management of the existing green infrastructure, with the aim of protecting, highlighting and exploiting it, in order to be able to face environmental challenges, looking for solutions that combine efficiency with economic efficiency. 2. Develop a plan considering the role of urban vegetation and its contribution to mitigating climate change and addressing its impacts on citizens and the urban environment. 3. Citizens engagement in order to obtain a better knowledge about urban green infrastructure and the contribution of urban trees to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The main objectives of urban green management for the formulation of the Climate Strategy are presented below, in order of priority: 1. Mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change 2. Reduction of the Urban Heat Island effect 3. Planning urban green spaces for the improvement of health and well-being of citizens 4. Creating healthy ecosystems 5. Planning for the sustainability and promotion of urban greenery as a cultural heritage 6. Awareness of water and water economy

The Strategy was presented to the public in order to express their opinions which were incorporated into the final text approved by the Municipality of Thessaloniki and adopted for its Urban Greening Strategy. However, it must be installed at regular self-assessment intervals, mainly every 10 years.

**Conclusions** The success of the Strategy is based on the commitment of citizens and local businesses in order to support and improve the work of the local government, via their support or participation in actions which are related to the protection of urban greenery. Thessaloniki intends to be an example of how citizens' awareness is cultivated, through scientific data and tools - multimedia, for the benefits of urban greenery, seeking the increasingly intense participation of citizens in its protection, management and improvement for the next generations.

## Materials and Methods

In order to properly complete the urban green Strategy, dendrocomic characteristics of 1430 trees were measured and their health was assessed in 10 typical open green spaces in the Municipality of Thessaloniki via the software Green Tree (Software for recording the characteristics of urban greenery and measures the absorption of the CO<sub>2</sub>). The open green spaces are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Sampling areas in the Municipality of Thessaloniki

Site Number	Site Name	Owner	Category (ISL 2001)	Area (ha)
1	YMCA Park	Thessaloniki Municipality	1. Equipped Green 2. Urban Parks	4.30
2	Patrikion Kritis Park	Thessaloniki Municipality	1. Equipped Green	0.64
3	Church of Kyrillos & Methodios	Thessaloniki Municipality	4. Gardens	0.93
4	Floral Exhibition Park (Pedion Areas)	Thessaloniki Municipality	1. Equipped Green	2.20
5	Cemetery of Evagelistris	Thessaloniki Municipality	9. Cemeteries 3. Historic Green	2.99
6	Tellogleion Foundation of Art (Gallery)	Aristotle University	4. Gardens	3.02
7	Helexpo	Helexpo	4. Gardens	1.91
8	Nea Helvetia Park	Thessaloniki Municipality	1. Equipped Green 2. Urban Parks	3.02
9	Zoo Park	Forest Service	8. Zoo	4.78
10	Pashas's Gardens	Thessaloniki Municipality	2. Urban Parks 3. Historic Green	2.45

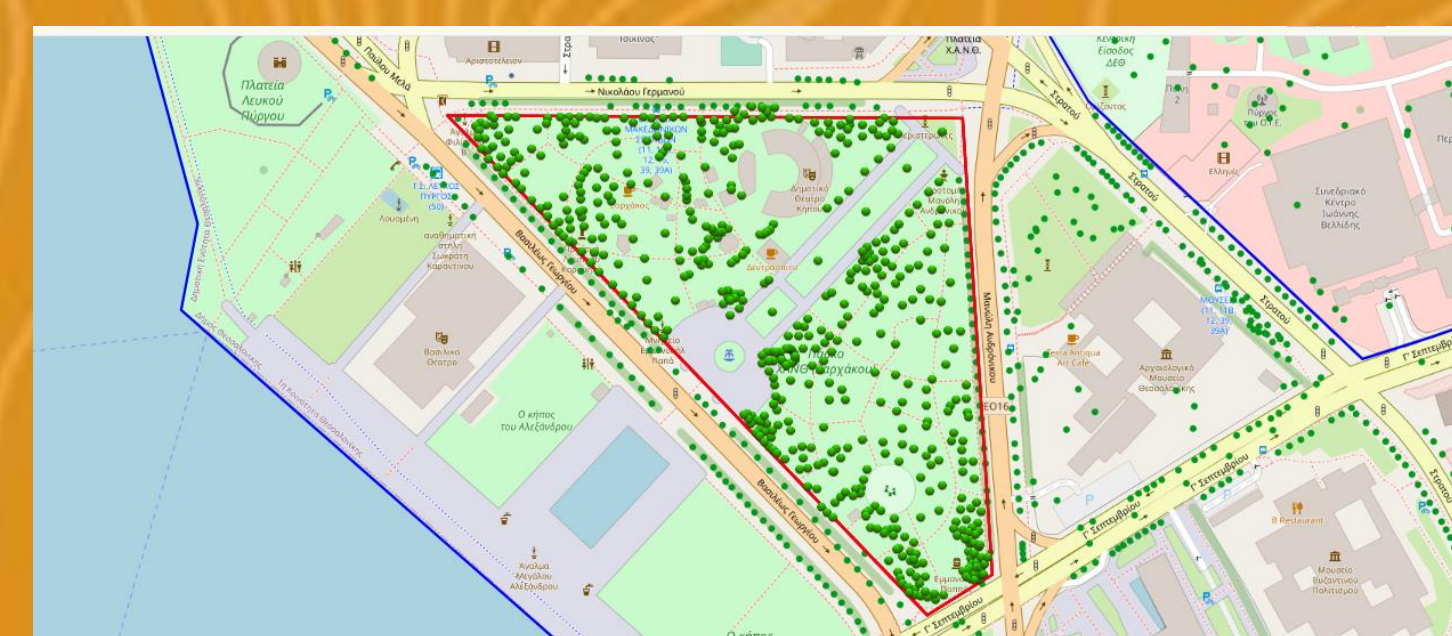


Figure 1. YMCA Park

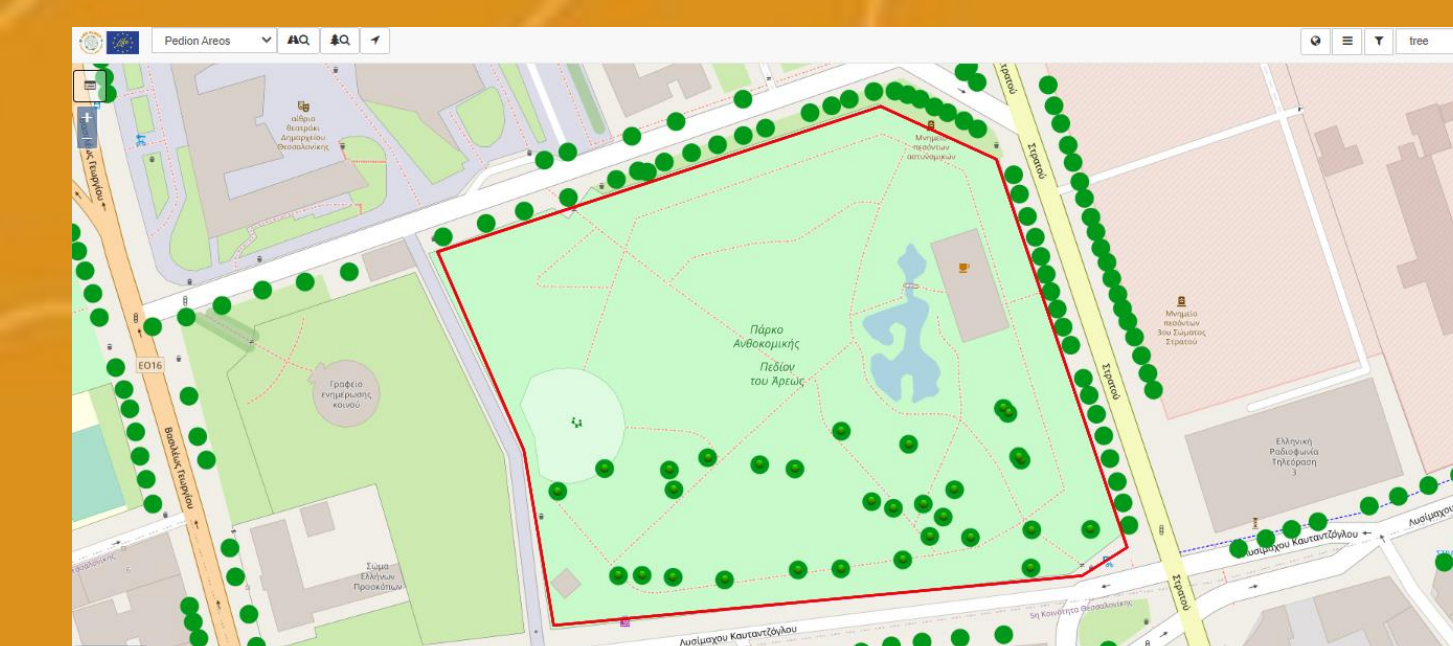


Figure 2.. Pedion Areas Park

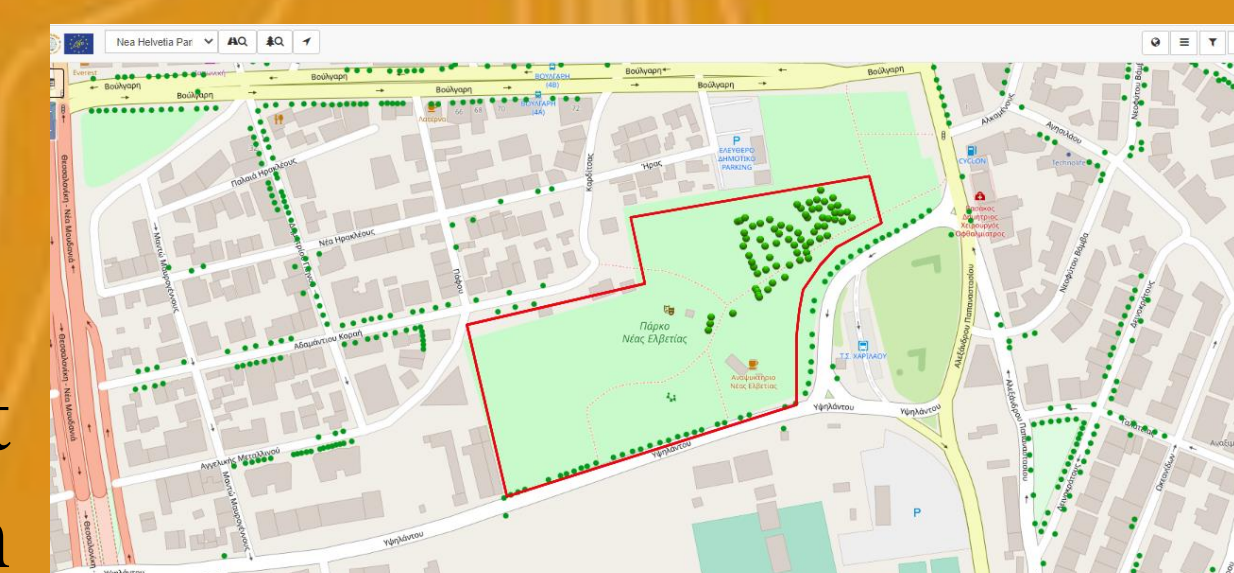


Figure 3. Nea Helvetia Park

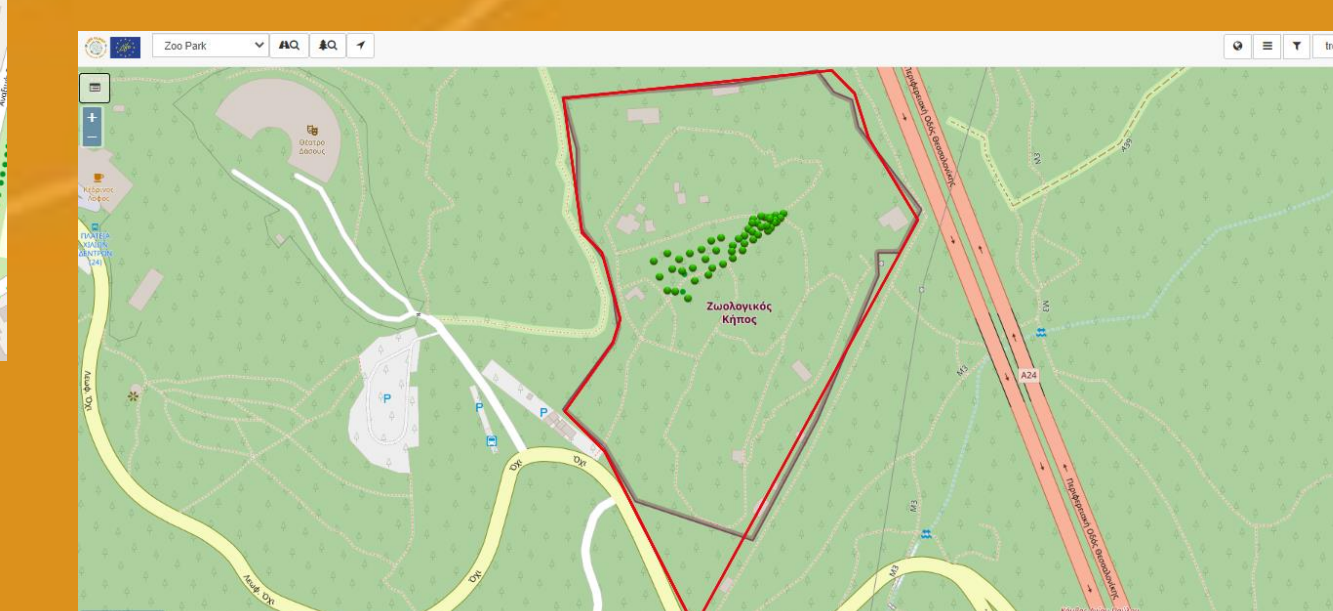


Figure 4. Zoo Park

### PARTNERS



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### Coordinating beneficiary:



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