



**EMBRACE DIVERSITY**

**There is no one size fits all nature-based solution – beauty (and value) is in the eye of the beholder.**

Diversity is what allows nature to thrive. Nature-based solutions that embrace diverse knowledge, values, beliefs and contributions are able to foster both ecological and social diversity. Embracing diversity means allowing different voices and views to be heard, and this may involve creating room for challenging accepted ways of knowing nature and established practices. Learning from diverse experiences across multiple communities and different places can provide a powerful means for recognising the value that nature can bring to the city. Rather than seeking consensus, it may be more fruitful to allow diverse and competing ideas about what nature should be and who should decide what is enabled to co-exist in the urban landscape. Rather than allowing the domination of one form of nature over others, cities can provide fertile grounds for contested and conflicting forms of what kinds of nature are considered valuable, beautiful or necessary. Establishing this diversity will mean empowering those whose voices are not often heard. While creating space for voluntarism and stewardship can be a way to give expression to diverse views, these approaches can often remain confined to those who can afford to provide their time and expertise without compensation. Embracing diversity requires recognising that communities and individuals who are not able to participate still have legitimate concerns and desires for nature and that they need to be empowered and resourced to enable their voices, experience and values to be engaged.