

Waltham Forest Sutherland Road - Street Garden



In a bold move to reimagine urban spaces, Riney partnered with Waltham Forest Council to deliver a landmark public realm transformation on Sutherland Road, London. This collaborative project aimed to create a sustainable, biodiverse, and community-focused environment in a previously vehicle-dominated area.

Challenge

Sutherland Road, like many urban streets, was heavily dominated by vehicles and lacked green infrastructure. The area suffered from limited biodiversity, poor air quality, and minimal public space for community interaction. The challenge was to transform this underutilised space into a vibrant, sustainable, and resilient public realm that could serve both environmental and social needs.

Solution

Riney led the delivery of a visionary scheme that introduced the UK's longest residential rain garden, spanning 450 metres, alongside a suite of green infrastructure enhancements. Key elements included:

- A biodiverse green boulevard replacing parking spaces with lush planting
- Installation of 3,000 plants and shrubs and 68 newly planted trees—the first on the road since WWI
- A state-of-the-art irrigation system to support long-term sustainability
- Integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water, reduce flood risk, and improve air quality
- Community engagement through resident participation in planting and future maintenance

Benefits

The transformation of Sutherland Road has delivered wide-ranging benefits:



- Environmental Impact: Improved air quality, reduced noise pollution, and enhanced biodiversity through pollinator-friendly planting.
- Flood Resilience: SuDS features help manage rainfall and reduce surface water flooding.
- Community Wellbeing: The new green spaces provide sociable, welcoming areas for residents, encouraging outdoor activity and community interaction.
- Sustainability: The project sets a new benchmark for sustainable urban design, with long-term maintenance supported by local involvement.

