

WILD FLOWER SANCTUARY



The Jerusalem Wildflower Sanctuary in Neve Yaakov began in 2001 as an attempt to rescue the many beautiful native plants which flourished in French Hill before a massive new construction project destroyed their habitat. The same procedure was repeated in 2012-2013 when over 400 units of apartments were constructed in Neve Yaakov. Thousands of plants found a new home in the Sanctuary.

The native trees, bulbs and seeds which have been planted in this formerly neglected and barren spot became the focus of an educational research and recreational center.

At the present time over 270 species have been identified in the Wild Flower Sanctuary, 30 of them protected species.

As a resource, the Wildflower Sanctuary can provide material (seeds, bulbs and cuttings) for open spaces in Jerusalem, thus enhancing BIODIVERSITY.

We seek assistance and support in order to conserve and develop the Wildflower Sanctuary, and to accord it legally protection and official public recognition in Jerusalem.

Previous participants and sponsors: The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Neve Ya'akov Community Center, SHELI Foundation, The Blue&White Charitable Foundation, Jerusalem Municipality, Jewish National Fund, Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Intel Clubhouse, Ministries of Environment, Immigrant Absorption, Housing& Construction , volunteers from the Israel Electric Company

and the Belorussian Community with the Belorussian Embassy, thousands of activists, and the residents of Neve Ya'akov and Pisgat Ze'ev.

There is a comprehensive catalogue of plant species in North Jerusalem, selected through scientific research for landscaping and fast greening.

We did this research during 2004-2017, in the framework of the projects with the Hebrew University (Faculty of Agriculture), SPNI, KKL, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Housing and Constructions, Jerusalem Municipality.

We designed techniques applicable for fast landscaping with native species, according to the local topography, the soil type, lighting conditions, many able to flourish seasonally through stabilization of rainwater run-off. Methods for creating sustainable long-lasting flowering compositions throughout the vegetation season were also elaborated. A seed bank has been created and maintained, and the sanctuary is home to a collection of living plants suitable for landscaping and fast greening, with a high level of biodiversity.



Dr. Anna Godneva. Main curator of the project

Curator&advisers



Naomi Tsur. Founder and Chair
Jerusalem Green Fund



Uri Gelfand. Agronomist.
Municipality of Jerusalem.



Ori Fragman-Saphir. Scientific
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Professor Yosef Rayov. Faculty
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Amanda Lind. SPNI Jerusalem.



Herschy Katz. תכנון פיזי
Community center, Neve Yaakov



Haim Sahar. KKL-JNF land
conservation and drainage
planner

Some Flowers in the Wild Flower Sanctuary



Iris vartanii

אירוס הסרגל



Salvia judaica

מרוות יהודה



Asphodeline lutea

עיריוני צהוב



Allium ampeloprasum

שום גבוה



Phlomis viscosa

שלהבית דביקה



Achillea biebersteinii

אַכִילֵאָה עֶרְבֵתִית



Colchicum stevenii

סתונית היורה



Euphorbia hierosolymitana

חֶלְבֵּלֹב מְגַבֶּשֶׁשׁ



Seedling in the Sanctuary.

Purpose of the project

Restoration and establishment of sustainable vegetation ecosystem of high aesthetic value aiming the attention of various segments of the population to the problems of biodiversity conservation.