Once it was turned back into a pedestrian-friendly street, the Garden Ring started to attract a more diverse set of businesses. According to research into the effects of the renovation conducted by Strelka KB, banks and offices have made space for a greater number of food, retail, and service businesses. Large-scale planting created a stabilizing effect on the microclimate, minimizing road dust and generating oxygen. Pervious paving prevents flooding and improves drainage, and lessens the heat island effect that asphalt can have. Granite paving stones absorb heat more slowly than asphalt. The improvements to the Garden Ring have made the city center more accessible to all citizens and integrated it with the periphery.