



I.A.M. Public Space 2024

Exploring Values of the Management of Public Space -June 3-5, Alnarp

COLLECTION OF ABSTRACTS



Key-note speakers

Why Management?

Dr Alessandro Sancino, University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Business and Law

- Values, reasons and relevance of managing public spaces
- Institutions and governance aspects
- Strategic management, and Leadership

How to Manage?

Dr Nicola Dempsey, Sheffield University, Department of Landscape Architecture

- Operational processes and long-term strategies
- Best practices and smart technologies
- Management for sustainability

Who is Managing?

Simone Borelli, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forestry Department

- Managers and their roles
- Users and user groups – inclusiveness, sense of community
- Managing urban forest in a global perspective

List of Leading Authors

Abdul Aziz, Nor Akmar	4
Aktanius, Emelie	5
Alfengård, Matilda.....	6
Alvarado Vazquez, Sergio.....	7
Bayatli, Semire.....	8
Brinkhuijsen, Marlies	9
Butin, Damian.....	10
Chong, Jose.....	11
Christiaanse, Suzan	12
Duivenvoorden, Eva.....	13
Eisenman, Theodore S.	14
Fongar, Claudia.....	15
Fors, Hanna	16
Hartmeyer, Lea	17
Jansson, Märit	18
Ling, Christian	19
McClellan, Carl	20
McCormick, Kes	21
Mellqvist, Helena.....	22
Mercado, Geovana	23
Moberg, Elin	24
Mottaghi, Misagh	25
Qiao, Xiu-Juan	26
Randrup, Thomas B.....	27
Said, Mozafar.....	28
Sun, Zhengdong	29
Sunding, Anna	30
Tan, Wendy – presented by Arjan Hijdra	31
van der Zwet, Suze.....	32

The Role of Management in Enhancing Urban Park's Contribution to People's Mental Health: A Case Study in Putrajaya, Malaysia

Nor Akmar Abdul Aziz^{1*} & Nur Qistina Abd Rashid;

¹Faculty of Forestry and Environment,
Universiti Putra Malaysia
norakmar@upm.edu.my

Within densely populated urban areas, the management of urban green spaces plays a key role in mitigating the challenges posed by urbanization and promoting the well-being of residents and visitors. This is particularly evident in cities like Putrajaya, Malaysia, where high population densities, reaching approximately 2,215 inhabitants per square kilometer, underscore the importance of effective management strategies. Studies consistently highlight the diverse benefits of urban green spaces, including their capacity to mitigate urban heat islands, provide spaces for recreation, reduce noise pollution, and improve air quality. The success of these endeavors hinges on the efficient management of these spaces, ensuring they fulfill their intended purpose while remaining sustainable and accessible. Putrajaya serves as a prime example of effective urban park management, with its meticulously designed layout featuring a substantial 36% open space coverage and an intricate network of green corridors seamlessly integrating 20 distinct districts. This management approach not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the city but also fosters opportunities for mental rejuvenation, social interaction, and community engagement. Research underscores the critical role of management in promoting mental and physical health through urban green spaces. By implementing strategies that prioritize accessibility, spatial configuration, and proximity to residential areas, park managers can optimize the restorative effects of these spaces and cater to the diverse needs of their users. Passive recreational activities like walking and birdwatching are popular pursuits within urban parks, complemented by active amenities that cater to a broad spectrum of preferences. Effective management ensures that these amenities are well-maintained, accessible, and responsive to the evolving needs of the community. As Putrajaya and other urban centers continue to evolve, the role of management in urban park development and maintenance becomes increasingly vital. By prioritizing sustainable practices, optimizing resource allocation, and fostering community engagement, park managers can harness the full potential of urban greenery to nurture the well-being, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability of densely populated urban landscapes like Putrajaya.

Keywords: Effective management, mental, physical, recreational activities.

Landscapes of Sustainable Wellbeing: Integrating Awareness And Connectedness Through Multiscale Perspectives On Participation In Urban Green Spaces

Emelie Aktanius,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
aktanius@gmail.com

Awareness and Connectedness among citizens is a critical component for achieving sustainable urban coexistence. As urban development is intrinsically linked to the values and priorities of its citizens, ensuring awareness about the environment as an interconnected web of systems and our connectedness with it is crucial. This knowledge and experiences, particularly of how humans, pets, and wildlife are interconnected with each other and their near environments, empowers citizens to act sustainably. We have seen a potential in Urban Green Spaces (UGS) to shape these environments. However, there is a lack of insight into a) definitions of a sustainable lifestyle connected with UGS b) definitions of the attributes that will address a change in behavior and balance the wellbeing of humans, pets, and wildlife c) ways to effectively and realistically present citizens with options and scenarios that allow for new values to take place. Through the understanding of a need of a new societal story we explore how to develop awareness and connectedness through different attributes within UGS. To connect the citizen to UGS we explore multiscale perspectives on participation and several timeframes of such a project and we test citizens' preferences of interaction with UGS in the early planning process to the later stage of management. By designing Discrete Choice Experiments with Illustrations and Virtual Realities, we aim to understand how citizens' preferences change due to the different survey methods. In this way, we generate insights on how citizens and policymakers may engage in the future with UGS.

Keywords: Urban Green Spaces, Sustainable Wellbeing, Multiscale Perspectives, Citizen Participation, Virtual Reality, Discrete Choice Experiment, Citizens' Preferences.

Governance arrangements for developing resilient and social sustainable neighborhoods through social infrastructures

Matilda Alfengård,
Swedish University of Agricultural Science
matilda.alfengard@slu.se

Social infrastructure (SI) described as "the networks of spaces, facilities, institutions, and groups that create affordances for social connection" (Latham & Layton, 2019) is a concept that supports the understanding of the bundle of places that create opportunity for social lives in neighborhoods. Social activities enable people and different groups to meet and have the potential to support social cohesion as well as enduring interpersonal relationships and that can foster social capital – which is considered important in building capacity to meet societal challenges and thus create resilient and (social) sustainable cities (Dempsey et al, 2011). However, there is a lack of Swedish empirical examples of municipalities' prerequisites for SI planning. In one on-going research study, noncommercial meeting places, in two neighborhoods in Helsingborg, are examined based on e.g. how these places originate and how they are managed. By examining what is required to create and manage these places, the understanding of SI in strategic planning and in urban development processes can be developed. The tentative results indicate the municipality being strongly involved in creating meeting places (e.g. financing), and particularly in places that are outdoors or focused on children or socially disadvantaged groups. "Non-profit organizations"-driven and initiated meeting places and activities are also visible, but not to the same extent. Public stakeholders and private stakeholders have different opportunities in what kind of social activities they are supporting and can support, but also different methods and approaches regarding managing and governing meeting places. The tentative result therefore raises questions about how the multitude of stakeholders involved in the establishment of SI could interplay and collaborate in different governance arrangements, but also how to meet the SI need for a particular neighborhood.

Keywords: governance, governance arrangement, sustainability, stakeholders, social infrastructure

Stakeholder participation and risk communication in the monitoring activities of bridges and quay walls in public spaces

Sergio Alvarado Vazquez¹, Joanne Vinke de Kruijf, Andreas Hartmann;

¹University Of Twente (ITC)

s.alvaradovazquez@utwente.nl

Within the context of asset management in public spaces and the renovation of urban bridges and quay walls (UBQ), risk communication actions need to be implemented to ensure awareness of the actions being taken, avoid creating unsafe environments, or avoid misunderstandings or misinformation. Successful risk communication needs to understand the needs, perceptions and feelings of their audience (asset users) regarding the improvements or renovation actions being implemented for their renovation of the UBQs. Research has stated there are remaining challenges in considering different stakeholders' contributions to asset management processes, which can be reflected in risk communication processes. Particularly, decision-makers from public service bodies (asset managers) align and manage emergency risk strategies based on expert advice, ignoring the local residents' expertise and societal needs and values. Furthermore, values attached to the UBQs, such as social, economic, cultural or environmental values, are usually not considered in risk communication strategies. In order to have precise data regarding the current conditions of the UBQs, different monitoring activities need to be conducted as sources of information, which is also necessary for disseminating the risk associated with the renovation of the UBQs among the general public. Therefore, this study aims to understand the effectiveness of communicating risks derived from the monitoring actions for renovating the urban bridges and quay walls in the central district of Amsterdam and The Hague. Furthermore, it is also necessary to understand how the process of risk communication was developed in Amsterdam and The Hague; how monitoring data was taken into account when informing stakeholders about risk communication, how asset owners and stakeholders interpreted risk perception during the renovation period of the UBQs; and how stakeholder participation can play a role in improving the monitoring activities related to the UBQs. To do so, we conduct a series of semi-structured interviews, documental research analysis and the development of a retrospective case analysis, considering stakeholders and government practitioners. We found similarities in the risk communication process in both cities, such as the use of digital and traditional communication channels, the development of information meetings and the lack of participatory processes that can include stakeholders' input in the early planning stages of the renovation actions of the UBQs. However, we also find differences, such as a more developed strategy in Amsterdam to communicate associated risks of the UBQs through a visiting centre dedicated to the UBQs or the planning approach of the UBQs that is more holistic in the case of The Hague, which include actions of renovations in a broader scale. Our research aims to shed light on the unexplored dimension of stakeholder participation and risk communication in the specific context of the UBQs as public spaces in the Dutch context and contribute with insights that can improve and expand the academic discourse on this topic.

Enhancing Public Park Experiences through Multi-Sensory Placemaking: A Case for Inclusive Design and Management

Semire Bayatli,
Bilkent University
sbayatli@pratt.edu

In contemporary urban landscapes, the design and management of public parks play a pivotal role in fostering community well-being and social cohesion. However, traditional approaches to park design often prioritize visual aesthetics, overlooking the diverse sensory experiences that shape human interaction with public spaces. This abstract proposes a paradigm shift towards multi-sensory placemaking in public park design, emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility for all individuals, including those with sensory impairments.

By considering the holistic range of human senses—sight, sound, touch, smell, and even taste—this approach aims to create enriching and emotionally resonant park experiences that transcend mere visual appeal. Integrating elements such as textured pathways for tactile exploration, aromatic gardens for olfactory stimulation, and ambient soundscape design for auditory immersion, public parks can become vibrant hubs of sensory engagement, inviting visitors to connect with their surroundings on a deeper level.

Central to the success of multi-sensory placemaking is effective management that prioritizes community engagement, maintenance, and ongoing evaluation of user experiences. Through proactive stewardship and collaborative decision-making processes, park managers can ensure that diverse user needs are met, and that public spaces remain welcoming and inclusive for all members of the community.

This abstract advocates for a shift towards a more holistic and inclusive approach to public park design and management—one that celebrates the diversity of human experience and fosters a sense of belonging for everyone. By embracing the principles of multi-sensory placemaking and prioritizing effective management strategies, cities can create public parks that serve as vibrant, inclusive, and emotionally enriching urban oases for all.

Keywords: Multi-sensory placemaking, public parks, inclusive design, sensory experiences, community engagement, park management, accessibility, holistic approach.

Place-keeping between professionals and community: the Wollefoffenpark

Marlies Brinkhuijsen,
Wageningen University & Research
marlies.brinkhuijsen@wur.nl

Many municipalities today enable or even stimulate public space management by citizens and local communities. It raises questions about who has a say on what and about the division of responsibilities and tasks.

In this presentation, I will sketch the biography of a 1980s urban park in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where a local community took over. In 2004 citizens rebelled against the municipality who proposed to finance the necessary refurbishment and renovation by selling a part of the park for housing development. The citizens made an alternative plan for an urban agriculture project in the park and gained support and funding. The common planning process was turned upside down. The citizens became the clients, and the public works department was given the assignment to implement it. Construction was completed in 2014 and from that time the local community group Wollefoffenengroen & Co manages the area. This year, we return to the park and reflect on place-keeping over time: its maintenance, partnerships, governance, funding, and policy. How do they manage? What values have they realised? How does the community collaborate with the public space managers of the municipality? What does the municipality think of this project with a different distribution of tasks and responsibilities?

The presentation will shed light on the practices of community management of green spaces and on public space managers' perspective on community management.

Keywords: community management, place-keeping, public space, urban park, The Netherlands

Landscape policy for a green and sustainable city

Damian Butin
Bordeaux Métropole
d.butin@yahoo.fr

Throughout history, the landscape has often responded to distinct and controversial disciplines in which the aesthetic and the artistic were paramount.

At a time when the planet is warming up, the city is called upon to reinvent itself, to combat the artificialization of land and to rebuild on itself by greening it. In this context, the status of the landscape is evolving: it is now recognized as a heritage to be preserved and developed, but also as a natural ecosystem with scientific implications, guaranteeing the future of the living world of which humans are a part.

As an object of public policy, the landscape is part of an organization in which biodiversity must permeate all areas of public intervention so that territorial development rhymes with resilience, preservation of the environment and the well-being of citizens. This vision is prompting public decision-makers to question the paradigms they have adopted and to reinvent the practices that landscape plans can describe as they reshape our territories with a view to ecological transition.

This presentation proposes a method of global analysis of the "great landscape" and its ecology on the scale of a conurbation, proposing strategic orientations for evolution and transformation through an action plan, and then focusing on localized action through the realization of a nature park project based on the principle of renaturation as discredited in the new book.

Combating climate change and the loss of biodiversity, improving public health and developing social cohesion: these are the challenges that the inhabited areas of the 21st century must meet in order to mutate and adapt to these new risks.

Management and maintenance of public spaces for under-resourced countries

Jose Chong
UN-Habitat
jose.chong@un.org

Chiara Martinuzzi
UN-Habitat
chiara.martinuzzi@un.org

Managing and maintaining public spaces is a fundamental step to ensure that the quality of public spaces remains unchanged throughout their life cycle and under the threats that cities are continuously facing. Local governments and urban actors must integrate management and maintenance mechanisms at the projects' offset and not leave it as an afterthought. However, various aspects limit the successful implementation of place-keeping, such as lack of political interest, limited knowledge and literature, lack of technical and financial resources, unclear responsibilities distribution and privatisation. When it comes to under-resourced countries, these challenges increase considerably due to the already pressured public administration. In such contexts, a lack of political interest in management and maintenance remains the primary obstacle that limits financial and technical commitments. It is crucial to advocate for effective management and maintenance of public space and share its potential socio-economic implications. For instance, poor management and maintenance tend to reduce the life cycle of public spaces, requiring supporting implementation costs. It also reduces the trust among citizens toward the elected bodies and increases the sense of civic disempowerment and an overall person-place detachment.

Effective management and maintenance of public spaces comes with adequate governance arrangements, leveraging resources and expertise for all stakeholders, including public, private and civil society entities. Delegating management and maintenance tasks to civil society and recognising their role as active citizens promotes social cohesion, provides livelihood opportunities and limits pressure on local authorities. Finally, cities are increasingly utilising Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for the management and maintenance of public spaces, promoting community empowerment, reducing time and costs, and improving the overall quality of public services while boosting the digitalisation and accountability of under-resourced cities and communities.

Keywords (4-8): management and maintenance, public space, under-resourced countries, advocacy, governance, ICT

Co-design of waste management solutions – using social practice theory to inform policy

Suzan Christiaanse,

Britt van den Berg

Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Rotterdam

b.vandenber@essb.eur.nl

Waste placement and litter in public spaces is a persistent urban problem that has many faces (Merkelbach, Dewies & Denktas, 2021). Many interventions only have a temporary effect, only work in neighborhoods with high social cohesion, or seem to focus more on fighting symptoms rather than on eliminating causes. In this paper we present a novel design-led research approach, that aims to gain insight into underlying causes of, and solutions for waste management in the municipality of The Hague (Netherlands). We use a combination of qualitative research using the lens of 'social practice theory' for a holistic view of this issue, and co-design interventions to include the valuable input of users. Social Practice Theory is a theoretical lens that is very suitable for this problem, because the focus is not on individual behavior, but on how certain current routine actions follow from historically formed patterns. The following elements shape how a social practice is expressed: materials, competencies and meaning (Watson, Pantzar & Shove, 2012). The living environment also falls under the 'material infrastructure' available to certain groups of people. Examining these elements in their social context provides further insight into the nature of waste disposal behavior in a public setting (Perry, Juhlin & Normark, 2010). These insights can then be used to explore possible collaborations, ownership and shared responsibility through action research. In this paper we present several ways in which social practice theory can inspire action-oriented co-design, by providing insight into underlying social aspects that must be considered in effective and legitimate waste management (Gutberlet, 2015).

References

- Gutberlet, J. (2015). More inclusive and cleaner cities with waste management co-production: Insights from participatory epistemologies and methods. *Habitat International*, 46, 234-243.
- Merkelbach, I., Dewies, M., & Denktas, S. (2021). Committing to keep clean: nudging complements standard policy measures to reduce illegal urban garbage disposal in a neighborhood with high levels of social cohesion. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 660410.
- Perry, M., Juhlin, O., & Normark, D. (2010). Laying waste together: The shared creation and disposal of refuse in a social context. *Space and Culture*, 13(1), 75-94.
- Watson, M., Pantzar, M., & Shove, E. (2012). The dynamics of social practice: Everyday life and how it changes. *The dynamics of social practice*, 1-208.

Keywords: co-design, waste, litter, social practice theory

Shifting from Asset-Centered to User-Centered Public Space Management in practice

Eva Duivenvoorden,
Wageningen University
eva.duivenvoorden@wur.nl

Public space management has become a critical issue in contemporary urban realm, due to fragmented actor structure, urbanisation and major transition challenges that increase pressure on public spaces. This complexity requires coordination between different stakeholders to meet the changing needs of the users of public space. Preliminary findings suggest that a remarkable shift is currently taking place in the values pursued by public space managers, with the emphasis no longer on asset-centered values, but on a more user-centred values. However, this change in value does not yet seem to lead to significant changes in the way these spaces are managed. This indicates that the wicked problems cannot be solved within the current policy because of the entrenchment of traditional values in social structures and institutions (Dirven et al. 2002; Rittel and Webber. 1973; Rotmans, J. and Loorbach, D. 2009).

Dealing with the problems of today and the future requires more than just a change of mindset among pioneers but an entire transformation of the organisation. A change of dominant practices and structures, or their institutional environments at different scales (Grin 2018). For the translation of the new value into the dominant practice of managing public space, research is needed into the current embedded value in the institution and the barriers and opportunities they pose

This qualitative study, conducted in the Netherlands, aims to explore the implications of these shifting values on public space management practices of Dutch municipalities. Specifically, it examines how managers discuss and prioritize values throughout the policy, programming, and execution stages of public space management. Through observation and document analysis, the research aims to provide in-depth insights into how the values pursued are embedded in the behaviour, interactions and decision-making processes of stakeholders within the municipality involved in the management of public space. The findings of the observational study are presented, discussing the alignment between evolving values and current management practices in public spaces.

“Beyond the 'golden shovel': recommendations for a successful urban tree planting initiative”

Theodore S. Eisenman¹, Lara A. Roman, Johan Östberg, Lindsay K. Campbell, Erika Svendsen;

¹ University of Massachusetts-Amherst/Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences
teisenman@umass.edu

Large-scale tree planting initiatives (TPIs) have become a prominent form of urban greening that has the potential to increase the livability and sustainability of cities. However, if not sufficiently resourced and thoughtfully planned and implemented, these high-profile programs may fail to achieve intended goals. To promote successful implementation of TPIs, we offer recommendations organized around pre-planting, installation, and post-planting phases. During each of these phases we present five cross-cutting themes: ensuring adequate funding for all project phases; cultivating place-based landscape design; engaging and investing in communities; implementing sound planting practices; and evaluating performance and adapting over time.

Keywords: urban greening, urban forestry, green infrastructure, environmental justice, climate change adaptation

Collaboration in green space management processes – a Norwegian example of New Public Governance

Claudia Fongar,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
claudia.fongar@gmail.com

Green space management is inherently dealing with conflicting demands from society, multiple responsibilities for space and a general lack of resources. In Norway, public green space management is relying to a large degree on volunteering in the operational maintenance of spaces.

To gain a deeper understanding of how local governments manage and maintain green spaces, we focus on the actions taken in the actual managing and maintaining of green spaces. We applied the Policy Arrangement Approach focusing on the stories told by central local actors, the formal and informal rules relating to the space, and the resources used.

In a single case study of a green space in a small Norwegian municipality, we explored the new governance arrangement, through the applied co-management, the organizational structures and specifically, the role of the public manager.

Based on the stories told, we found that the motivation to actively change a public space is rooted in the local actors childhood memories and bonds to place. However, the long-term management of a space is inevitably connected to the public organizational structure and the adaptive role of the green space manager. The new public governance arrangement changed from providing primarily ecological expertise, to become a facilitator for volunteers, and to actively seeking out cross-sectoral collaborations and utilizing social competences on people within as well as outside of the formal organizational structure.

Tree-related structure variables for biodiversity and ecosystem service provision: a comparative framework for urban and rural forests

Hanna Fors,
Swedish university of agricultural sciences
hanna.fors@slu.se

As a consequence of climate change and habitat loss, sufficient biodiversity levels and broad ranging ecosystem service (ES) provision are currently heavily threatened on local, national and global scales. Both urban and rural forested landscapes are of key importance in solving this crisis. A central challenge is how to manage forested landscapes in a way that enhances biodiversity levels and balances between provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural ES, rather than favouring only few ES. Although extensive literature exists on the topic, many studies are limited to either rural or urban forests and only deal with a single or few ES. Hence, there is a lack of studies that take a holistic approach to sustainable tree management by including both rural and urban forested landscapes and their potential complementarity in terms of biodiversity support and broad and balanced ES provision.

The literature was searched for review articles dealing with urban or rural temperate or boreal forests in the northern hemisphere to explore which tree-related 'structure variables' that support biodiversity and provide which ES and ecosystem disservices (EDS). Based on this, a comprehensive framework of structure variables for biodiversity support and broad and balanced ES provision in both urban and rural forested landscapes is presented. The structure variables 'multi-layered vegetation', 'old trees', 'broadleaved trees', 'dead wood' and 'horizontal variation within the area' were found to support biodiversity and lead to the highest number of ES in both urban and rural forests. Further, the placement of the structure variable seems to be of greater importance in cities, in order to provide ES of importance on local scale and not to cause EDS to local green space users. For biodiversity support and broad ES provision, local authorities could focus on the central structure variables identified here when managing urban green spaces.

Keywords: Urban green space management; Ecosystem services; biodiversity, ecosystem disservices, tree-related structure variables

A question of care: Exploring care as a critical concept for the future of the urban forest, the case of Parkstad (NL)

Lea Hartmeyer,
TU Delft
l.j.hartmeyer@tudelft.nl

In light of climate change and urban densification, humans are becoming increasingly dependent on the ecosystem services urban forests provide. However, as temperatures continue to rise and weather events become more volatile, the future of the urban forest is in turn exhibiting a growing need for human care interventions. The climate crisis, or more universally the Anthropocene, reveals the deeply rooted interdependence of humans and their environment. Here care emerges as a critical concept for developing flourishing relationships between humans and other than humans, which are capable of creating liveable worlds.

This paper establishes a preliminary framework for care in relation to landscape architecture generally and the urban forest specifically. By comparing definitions and disseminations of care within a multi-species world and care and design with current themes and challenges within the Dutch spatial planning and design practice, three thematic threads for developing a caring landscape architecture practice are established: repair, relate, reduce. These threads are contextualized through a research by design project for afforestation in Parkstad, The Netherlands, in order to understand challenges, but also action perspectives for a caring planning, design, and management practice of urban forests. Ranging from regional to local scale the project addresses the conceptualisation and representation of the urban forest as a base for a more thorough integration of woodland spaces into metropolitan territories (1), private, public and collective stakeholder involvement according to forest type and maintenance intensity (2) and the integration of forest care regimes into neighbourhood structures and the urban metabolism (3).

Keywords: Care, Landscape Architecture, Spatial design, Multi-species world, Urban forestry, The Netherlands, Planning, Management

Strategic un-management for densification: the values behind abandoning public space

Märit Jansson,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
marit.jansson@slu.se

There are several reasons for reducing the management, including maintenance and upkeep, of public and semi-public spaces. These reasons may include a lack of allocated funding or strategies aimed at increasing biodiversity or preserving the natural character of green spaces through varied maintenance levels. However, another increasingly recognized reason for low management levels is the concept of replacing open spaces through densification infill projects. Zalar and Pries (2022) illustrate this in the case of Rosengård, Sweden, where management issues were used to frame planning problems. They note that "unkempt green spaces were no longer seen as mundane areas easily improved by modest design interventions, but rather as 'unused places and surfaces' requiring radical transformation to reshape the entire area's typology" (p. 62). Low management levels have become arguments for the densification of public and semi-public spaces, ultimately resulting in the removal of these spaces and their functions. In this study, I examine two cases of densification in Sweden: a small town in the Scania region and a city district in Uppsala. Through these cases, I explore how the values underlying un-management are linked to densification. Un-management is either employed in areas where densification is desired or perceived as a major problem connected to planning. Among residents living in densely populated infill areas in the city district, high maintenance levels were among the few positive aspects mentioned. The rationale behind strategically abandoning public spaces through un-management can be discussed in relation to the conflicting values between management and planning, as well as the discourse on the values and risks associated with varying maintenance levels.

Reference:

Zalar, A. & Pries, J. (2022) Unmapping green space, *City*26:1, 51-73, DOI: 10.1080/13604813.2021.2018860

Keywords: densification, green space, infill, maintenance, maintenance levels, planning

Big strategy, small projects: Strategic management of playgrounds

Christian Ling,
Landscape engineer and land manager Malmö Stad
christian.ling@malmo.se

Purpose: Strategic tools in the implementation of small-scale projects linked to playgrounds. By every day management showing how seemingly small initiatives and projects linked to well-planned playgrounds, when strategically planned, can contribute to overall climate, sustainability goals and societal improvements together.

Big strategy overview: A strategy that emphasizes and works with overall goals of society's well being, inclusion and environmental sustainability. The set goals from politics and administrations are used strategically as a tool and serve as a guiding framework for the management of playgrounds and describe priorities.

Small projects: Within the grand strategy framework, the abstract explores the concept of undertaking manageable, small-scale projects. These projects are designed to address specific aspects of environmental impact and play values in the design of a playground. By breaking down the governing documents, laws and goals, the strategy is to create manageable task and practically feasible projects.

Strategic prioritization: The importance of strategic prioritization when selecting small-scale projects. By identifying initiatives that align with the overall goals and priorities of the grand strategy, managers can maximize the impact of limited resources, time and manpower.

Adaptability: The adaptability of Big Strategy, Small Projects lies in the recognition of the dynamic nature of public spaces and requires continuous assessment and adaptation. Through interactive processes, managers and administrators can refine strategies and projects based on real-time feedback. Whether through increased biological diversity, play values or improved community satisfaction, the approach aims to deliver quick tangible results. Working step by step towards the disruptive overall goal.

Conclusion: Through a strategic management of playgrounds that combines overall goals and visions, Big Strategy, Small Projects, you can make a difference. You can step by step improve the playgrounds both for green issues, and for play value. Which ensures a positive and lasting impact and change in the communities they serve.

Safer Parks for Women and Girls

Carl McClean,
Green Flag Award
carl.mcclean@keepbritaintidy.org

Parks and green spaces are celebrated for their proven benefits to health, wellbeing and quality of life - for all. However access to these places is not as equal as you might think. UK Government statistics show that women are three times more likely to feel unsafe in Britain's parks compared to men (ONS 2022). This means that women and girls visit parks less frequently and for shorter stays - effectively limiting their access.

Research in 2022 by Dr. Anna Barker at the University of Leeds in West Yorkshire asked the views of over 100 women and girls, as well as professionals from various sectors - to better understand what makes parks feel safe and unsafe, and why. The study used Q-Methodology to cross-reference different viewpoints, and found consensus in several key areas.

For this presentation former parks manager and international parks expert Carl McClean (Green Flag Award) will present the research findings, and showcase new guidance that has been produced by Green Flag Award and University of Leeds, in partnership with the charity Make Space for Girls and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The new guidance in itself will not create change. It needs to be acted upon through leadership - to ensure that every aspect of parks design and management, now and in the future, takes the safety and security of women and girls into account.

Presenting this topic at the 2024 International Academic symposium on Managing Public Space Congress will help the voices of women and girls in parks will be heard and amplified - in the hope that parks in Sweden, Europe and around the world will start to become more universally welcoming, accessible and fun places to visit.

Keywords: Equality, Access, Safety, Parks, Women, Girls, Gender, Fairness

Urban Greening Plans – Enhancing nature and biodiversity in European cities across public and private spaces

Kes McCormick,
Department of People and Society
kes.mccormick@slu.se

Cities can play a crucial role in restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity, which in turn can positively impact our physical, mental, and emotional health and increase the resilience of our socio-economic, urban and green infrastructure. The European Green Deal and the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 lay out ambitious goals to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, including calling on all cities above 20,000 inhabitants to develop Urban Greening Plans (UGPs) as a key action. Green urban spaces, from gardens and parks to green roofs and urban farms, form a significant part of the overall natural habitat in cities, and spread across both public and private spaces, buildings and infrastructure. A key challenge to address to realise the potential of UGPs is to define skills and training needs at local and regional levels, and to significantly build capacity within city authorities, planners and consultants for integrating goals for biodiversity and ecosystems into UGPs, as well as how to navigate the complexity of working across public and private spaces and interests in cities. This paper/presentation explores how to develop a program for capacity building on the management and governance of UGPs in European cities.

Keywords: Urban Greening Plans (UGPs), cities, nature, biodiversity, public and private spaces, management, governance

The Connoisseur method – an alternative strategy for managing green spaces in peri-urban settings

Helena Mellqvist,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Helena.Mellqvist@slu.se

In one of Sweden's smaller municipalities, Ronneby, local societal associations have since the early 2000 had the opportunity to apply for beautification money. It started with smaller projects but during the years more people got interested and the financial support has grown. Based on this project, Ronneby and the involved researchers introduce a new approach to public participation; the Connoisseur method.

The study focused on three issues of public participation:

(i) Participatory processes of landscape development are often questioned from a long-term perspective, (ii) vulnerable parts in practice-oriented projects is often successful based on the degree of participating actors, and (iii) local organisations are often sceptic to government led planning processes.

Using an in-depths case study approach, the focus is on Svenmanska Park in Ronneby. The park was planned, planted and managed by a chore group of local users in a process led by the local government. Public participation and active citizenship emerged from self-organisation and know-how within the local society. This project was one of several dialogue planning projects initiated by Ronneby during 2014-2016. This was a truly dialogue-based approach, involving planners, politicians, local stakeholders as well as researchers from the local university.

The study describe how the beautification money made it possible for the local associations to succeed in realising their park project using local knowledge based on both local residents and local experts, while also creating a co-management plan together with the municipality. Today, the initiative illustrates how a top-down initiative actually facilitate the European Landscape Conventions' aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking on a local landscape level. Further, the study describe how it is possible to aim for sustainable and locally anchored solutions. The value of long-term perspectives, and local expertise developed the concept of Connoisseurs to support co-development processes.

Keywords: The connoisseur method, co-development, local knowledge, long term solutions, sustainable planning

Towards inclusive urban space management: identifying blindness towards community-led organization through decolonial lenses

Geovana Mercado, Lisbet Christoffersen, Ingrid Altamirano;
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
geovana.mercado@slu.se

Recent studies expose significant obstacles in Urban Green Infrastructure (UGI) management in Latin America. Findings reveal a lack of context-sensitive approaches to informal settlements and socioeconomic segregation; and a management discourse that conflicts with urban practices by indigenous and local communities (Breen et al. 2020). Urban parks and urban agriculture initiatives are often community-run and long traditions of bottom-up community management prevail, yet there seems to be a certain 'blindness' towards community-led organizations, and a lack of communication between governments and community initiatives (Betancurt et al. 2017; Contesse et al. 2018; Anguelovski et al. 2019). Studies indicate the dismissal of alternative rationalities supporting self-governance practices by indigenous peoples (Pabello and Nasupcialy 2019). Other findings show not only blindness towards local organizations, but also their landscapes, enabling the appropriation of landscapes that appear unorganised, informal and unplanned in the eyes of more powerful land-users and planners (Christoffersen 2018). There is a call to enhance the comprehension of social collectives where the primary focus on UGI management is not in the resources provided by nature, but rather in the recovery, restoration or defense of spaces for the reproduction of collective life (Pabello and Nasupcialy, 2019). We argue that decolonial lenses are needed for such analysis. Decolonial studies aim to critically analyse and challenge the legacies of colonialism, in terms of their ongoing effects on societies, cultures, and individuals. We conduct a critical re-reading of a set of reviewed papers in UGI management (Breen et al. 2020). Through decolonial lenses, we aim to develop a framework to identify and visualise the clash between seemingly different management discourses and practices, and how the influence of colonial processes affect current UGI management in the Global South. From an urban governance perspective, this type of analysis can open spaces for new practices to emerge.

It's not me, it's not you. It's us.

To go from separate squares to connected puzzle pieces.

Elin Moberg,
Green Urban Developer
elin.moberg.swe@gmail.com

I have been working with outdoor managing for many years and have discovered some challenges in the field. First and foremost, I am a gardener and I have worked from spring to autumn with tasks such as weeding, mowing lawns, cutting hedges and different types of cleaning.

Even though the importance of functional greenery is undeniable gardening expertise is rarely used to the extent it could be. Just because you can do the practical tasks, it does not mean that you are able to make the green space thrive well over time. A gardener has the competence to do just that.

I am well aware of the strict budget situation that maintenance companies have, and the situation with the competition of getting commissions. These factors make it difficult to hire the expertise you actually need and to keep it. It is a big challenge for me and my gardener colleagues to connect with those who create the green spaces and to communicate how these are to actually manage. In turn, we who manage need to get a chance to have insight in the planning and construction processes.

Everyone involved in managing or designing public spaces have their challenges to tackle and we all need to respect each other's positions. Including gardening expertise early in the planning process and continuously evaluating the qualities of the green spaces would be beneficial for their enhancement. Together we can make green spaces thrive, become cost effective and provide reliable ecosystem services.

We can't afford to be separate squares of expertise next to each other anymore. We need to invite each other and become connected puzzle pieces.

Caring Nature-Based Transition of Public Space

Misagh Mottaghi,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
misagh.mottaghi@slu.se

As urban populations grow and cities become denser and more compact, adopting sustainable approaches becomes crucial for addressing challenges such as climate change adaptation and mitigation in urban areas. The implementation of nature-based solutions (NBS) in urban areas (i.e., to deal with flooding) is one of those approaches. However, assigning space to NBS can be challenging in already existing, dense urban areas and, in many cases, results in the transformation of public spaces such as urban squares and parks. Public spaces play an important role in our daily lives, and it is important that their societal functions are not limited by nature-based transitions. This research focuses on everyday life in the Augustenborg neighborhood of Malmö. Adopting the perspective of care and using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, the study examines how urban life is shaped and given meaning in relation to NBS over time and by the context in which they are implemented. The research argues that the nature-based transition of public space alters the socio-materiality of the environment and forms and transforms human concerns and expectations. It also reveals the importance of applying a more-than-human perspective in the transitions of urban open spaces and emphasizes the significance of effective public space management in sustaining life (as a whole). Additionally, the research highlights the necessity of a long-term approach to public space management in urban planning and design to ensure that the environment remains responsive to future needs.

Maintenance of low impact development facilities: A case study of pilot sponge cities in China

Xiu-Juan Qiao, Chao Han;
Northwest A&F University
qiaoxiujuan@hotmail.com

The concept low impact development (LID) has been provided for over five decades for achieving sustainable stormwater management. However, once installed, LID facilities often suffer from a lack of maintenance, resulting in impaired functionality and substantial wastage of financial resource. Since 2014, many LID facilities have been constructed in Chinese pilot sponge cities. However, to date, there is little knowledge about the postconstruction status of these LID facilities. In response, we investigated the current status quo, common problems needing maintenance, and residents' attitudes towards maintenance of LID facilities. The results showed that, among 467 bio-retention facilities in three surveyed pilot sponge cities, approximately one third of the bioretention facilities were in a good state; However, more than one thirds are facing issues of decreasing vegetation coverage rate, a deteriorating vegetation growth situation, and the slight silting or blocking of water inlets or overflow ports. Thus, regular maintenance is necessary, but the starting maintenance time can go through in the fifth year after construction. Unfortunately, public participation on the maintenance would be difficult. Even those respondents who willing to pay for the maintenance fee or possessing previous knowledge exhibit reluctance to engage in maintenance practices. The paper provides decision makers with a comprehensive overview of the status quo and common maintenance problems associated with LID facilities in the Chinese pilot sponge cities. It can also equip governments with insights to effectively address maintenance and management issues related to LID facilities.

Keywords: Maintenance necessity; Maintenance time; Maintenance responsibilities; Low impact development

ParkLIV – an approach to increased accessibility through day-to-day maintenance

Thomas B. Randrup,
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
thomas.randrup@slu.se

Urban green spaces are important for human health and well-being, as all have the right to feel welcome, safe and to use these without fear, anxiety or stress. However, the term 'accessibility' is still primarily used in relation to technical requirements, and not as much for the social dimension to urban forests. Methods and tools for universal design and management are needed, especially when these departs from different peoples perceived experiences, and in which both users and potential users participate as own experts.

In Sweden, the public is not sufficiently engaged in the development of urban green spaces. Local governments have the will, but lack resources and appropriate methods in order to do so. As a part of this project, further engagement of users was described as an unleashed potential in relation to planning and management of urban green spaces and urban forests (Fors et al., 2021).

The 4-year project had three dimensions; (1) A *theoretical dimension* to deepen the steering knowledge about actors, resources, rules of the game and discourses (governance aspects). (2) The *development dimension* which suggested concrete solutions, (a process model and a toolbox), and (3) An *experimental dimension* in which the tools were tested in practice.

Based on three cases we developed a model for longsighted, inclusive and low resource development of urban green spaces with users. The model balances what is theoretical optimal and what is practical durable: A pragmatic model which can form the basis for future planning, design and management, as well as being usable even with limited management resources. The model itself consist of three phases (analysis, design, and implementation), seen as a cyclic process, rather than as a project. Between each phase is an evaluation phase to keep the process on track.

This presentation will (i) present the model, (ii) the results of the actual tests, and (iii) discuss its further potential development

Fors, H., F.Aa, Hagemann, Å. O. Sang & T.B. Randrup (2021) Striving for inclusion – A systematic review of long-term participation in strategic management of urban green spaces. *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, section Urban Greening.
doi:10.3389/frsc.2021.572423

Key-words: universal design, social accessibility, governance & management, long-term perspective

Collaboration across administrative boundaries in the transformation of public space

Mozafar Said^{1,2}, Barbara Tempels², Robbert Biesbroek²

¹ Department of Urban Management, municipality of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

² Wageningen University

mozafar.said@wur.nl

The transformation of existing public space is a complex issue which is governed with high degree of decentralization of powers and responsibilities between planners, designers, managers, and other actors. Dealing with such cross-cutting policy issues poses a significant challenge for decentralized governance systems. The decentralization of governance often results in the compartmentalization of tasks and services within rigid departmental 'silos,' where responsibilities, expertise, and finances are splitted into subsystems. While subsystems offer practical operational efficiency by assigning responsibilities and forming tightly defined teams, they foster a 'silo mentality.' This mentality inhibits the sharing of skills, knowledge, and information among different groups, teams, or departments within the same organization.

This study delves into the analysis of managing public spaces, by examining collaboration among key actors involved in the transformation of public spaces in the Netherlands. Utilizing an analytical framework focusing on organizational structure, collaborative processes, and the individuals quality involved, the research analyses the decision-making process of Public Roof Park Rotterdam West in the city of Rotterdam. This case study involves repurposing public space to align with the city's goals, including climate adaptation, greening and recreation. Findings underscore the importance of clear organizational structure and individual qualities for establishing and sustaining collaboration. The study highlights challenges arising from a focus on dividing tasks, roles, and responsibilities, rather than reaching agreements on collective interests, for establishing and sustaining a collaborative process. Additionally, it reveals the significance of interpersonal relationships and personal drive in fostering collaboration.

By analysing how Dutch civil servants involved in different decision-making rounds, collaborate across departments to address cross-cutting urban challenges, such as transformation of public space, this paper fills a gap in the existing literature concerning intra-organizational collaboration, particularly within decentralized governance systems. It sheds light on navigating administrative boundaries for effective collaboration within a single organization. Furthermore, the paper offers insights into how key actors successfully navigate and transcend administrative boundaries within a decentralized governance system.

Keywords: Transformation of public space, Managing public space, Organizational collaboration, intra-organizational collaboration, common objectives

Decision Support Tools of Sustainability Assessment for Urban Stormwater Management – a review of their roles in governance and management

Zhengdong Sun^{1, a}, Johanna Deak Sjöman^a, Godecke-Tobias Blecken^b, Thomas B. Randrup^a

^a Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

^b Luleå University of Technology

zhengdong.sun@slu.se

Urban areas face growing sustainable challenges arising from stormwater issues, necessitating the evolution of stormwater management (SWM) concept and practice. This transformation not only entails the adoption of a multifunctional, holistic, and sustainable approach but also involves the integration of water quality and quantity considerations with governance and management aspects. A means to do so is via decision support tools (DSTs). However, whilst existing studies using the tools by employing sustainability assessment principles or as indicators to plan blue-green infrastructures and strategies, uncertainties remain regarding how DSTs encompass governance and management dimensions. The aim of this review study is to provide much-needed clarity on this aspect, in doing so, a systematic review of DSTs used in sustainability assessment within the SWM context is conducted, focusing on their abilities to include governance and management. Findings encompass governance aspects, such as actors, discourses, rules, and resources considered, and explore how these relate to long-term management. The results reveal the recognized potential of DSTs in facilitating governance and management for sustainable SWM, however, future research and efforts need to be allocated in: (i) Exploring practical challenges in integrating all sustainability assessment pillars with consistent criteria into DSTs. (ii) Understanding how to engage diverse stormwater actors with future DST, to secure ownership and relevance. (iii) Using retrospective (ex-post) sustainability assessments to provide more tangible knowledge and to support long-term management.

Keywords: Decision support tools; Sustainability assessment; Stormwater management; Blue-green infrastructure; Governance and management; Policy arrangement model

‘Design-by-management’ for the long term? Organizational challenges to addressing complexity

Anna Sunding¹, Nicola Dempsey²

¹ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

² University of Sheffield

anna.sunding@slu.se

Global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and health inequities increase demands on urban green infrastructure (GI) to provide increasingly wider ranges of functions and services. Consensus across academia, policy and practice calls for a long-term perspective to ensure the sustainability of GI, calling for collaboration to utilize approaches based on, and inspired by, nature. Among planning and design approaches with long-term ambitions, suggested strategies include experimentation to promote innovation. However, meaningful integration into ongoing management routines often fails, hampering the scaling up of experiences. Meanwhile, current trends in contract-based green space management result in a strong focus on technical maintenance tasks, maintaining stasis of urban GI.

This paper explores these challenges by focusing on the case of a planned park in Täby municipality, Sweden which is employing vegetation dynamics to underpin the park’s development. The park represents an attempt to integrate design, construction and management of high biodiversity GI through a ‘design-by-management’ approach with establishment over 8 years. Workshops with responsible project managers, park management and nature management, provided insight into the main challenges and views of the current situation and future demands.

The results reveal differences in contract management approaches depending on landscape typology – namely, ‘parks’ and ‘forests’. The parks group work with a ‘hard’ contracting approach to collaboration: a transactional relationship with contractors, based on strong adherence to increasingly rigid formal documents and understanding dynamics and uncertainty as liabilities. This is in stark contrast to the forests managers, who work with strategic plans and development goals as a foundation for a joint view with the contractors.

The case shows that introducing GI management in early design phases offers opportunities to address these challenges not only as technical problems, but as strategic organizational issues, embracing the complexity and uncertainty of the intended processes and ensuring long term development.

Keywords: Park management and maintenance, design by management, Intra-organizational interfaces, multi-functional GI

Perception of participation in the management public space: Case of the provinces of the Netherlands

Tjibbe Omvlee, Ton Hesselmanns, Wendy Tan;
Wageningen University and Research, Foundation of Managing Public Space
wendy.tan@wur.nl

The management of public space have a direct and immediate impact on the communities within our cities, villages, and rural areas. Often, the process of maintenance is framed and viewed as necessary inconveniences by citizens. Accompanying participatory actions from local governments tend to also be limited to communicating and informing efforts (Willems et al., 2020). Most participatory actions are often attributed to spatial planners and designers from local governments who are more comfortable with community engagement than managers of public space or are implemented at municipality levels. This research presents findings from a survey and focus groups conducted with managers of public spaces of the 12 provinces of the Netherlands, examining their perceptions and experiences of citizen participation in their management processes.

The survey focused on the perceived application of participatory methods and the involvement of relevant provincial governmental stakeholders. The survey showed that the approach to participation is quite diverse across the 12 provincial organizations. The frontrunners are convinced of the value of engaging in timely and appropriate participatory actions. Some have even appointed dedicated participation coaches. However, most responses indicate that it is beyond the scope or process that a manager of public space is involved in. After the survey, two focus groups were carried out to discuss the state of participation amongst these managers. Findings were analysed according to Arnstein's ladder (1969) reveal a discrepancy between the current application of participation and the perceived value of participation among managers. These insights are particularly relevant given impending changes to the spatial planning act, which will mandate citizen participation in all projects (Tan et al., 2019). This research contributes to a broader understanding of the value of managing public space and the potential impacts of increased citizen participation for more effective and inclusive management of public space strategies.

References:

1. Arnstein SR (1969) A Ladder Of Citizen Participation. *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 35(4): 216–224.
2. Tan WGZ, Levelt M and Stapper M (2019) Ladder op, ladder af: 50 jaar participatie. *Rooilijn* 52. *Rooilijn*: 160–167.
3. Willems, J., Molenveld, A., Voorberg, W., & Brinkman, G. (2020). Diverging Ambitions and Instruments for Citizen Participation across Different Stages in Green Infrastructure Projects. *Urban Planning*, 5(1), 22-32.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v5i1.2613>

Keywords: Citizen Participation, Community Engagement, Perception of practitioners, Provinces, the Netherlands

Exploring Sustainable Urban Coexistence in Umeå, Sweden: Citizens' Preferences Regarding Policy Interventions to Balance Dogs, Wildlife, and Human Welfare

Suze van der Zwet¹, Adan L. Martinez-Cruz, Linda Keeling, Therese Rehn;

¹Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

suvt0002@stud.slu.se

Pets and wildlife are overlooked in sustainable urban planning, and at the same time, densification and expansion of cities increase pressure on green spaces and their users. Urban green spaces (UGS) can be planned to support the welfare of humans, and potentially that of wildlife and pets. Here, we use a discrete choice experiment (DCE) to explore citizens' preferences and willingness to pay for several policy interventions that can potentially balance dogs, wildlife, and human welfare, in Umeå, northern Sweden. We document that Umeå citizens value the connectedness of UGS as much as implementing compulsory dog owner education - expressed in terms of tax on gross income, 1.688% vs 1.669%. Additionally, we report a positive willingness to pay (WTP) for increased UGS coverage, and for including dogs' needs in UGS planning - 0.396% (for a 24% increase in UGS coverage), vs 0.393%. We found an overall WTP for the tested interventions equivalent to an additional yearly tax of 4.146% for 10 years (14 377 SEK per person per year) when citizens were not asked to increase the level of engagement in the decision-making process for UGS planning. Otherwise, if asked to participate more, the overall WTP was 3.568% (12 322 SEK per person per year). This case study contributes to the literature that explores more-than-human-tailored urban environments, presenting how citizens would like to see animals' needs included in urban planning in the growing, middle-sized city of Umeå. The WTP presented in this study can inform urban planning and policy-making with actual budgets for the presented policies. Thus the additional tax can be compared with UGS costs, to see whether this would be sufficient to realize the preferred UGS options. Ultimately, this study aims to move us one step forward toward a sustainable urban coexistence between dogs, wildlife, and humans.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Coexistence, Citizens' Preferences, Urban Green Spaces, Dog Welfare, Wildlife Welfare, Human Welfare