

BOOK REVIEW

Pearlmutter D., Calfapietra C., Samson R., O'Brien L., Ostoić S. K., Sanesi G., & del Amo R. A. (Eds.): THE URBAN FOREST. CULTIVATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. – Springer, 2017, 351 p., ISBN 978-3-319-50279-3.

The book declares that it represents a collaborative effort among academics and practitioners who have developed an appreciation for the value of trees in cities. "Green infrastructure" is the main subject of the author's attention. Various kinds of vegetated spaces, ranging from street trees to suburban forests, which provide essential ecosystem services in densely populated areas, could be investigated as interconnected network of urban structures. We can see this approach as the challenge of the hypothesis testing that these ecosystem services are indeed useful and multifunctional, and accepted by the population in an equitable and sustainable way (e. g., Forman *et al.*, 1976; Brabec *et al.*, 1981; Kovář, 1988; 1990). The chapters included may be perceived as evidence that particular aspects of the problematics require knowledge of the physical attributes of urban greenspace, tools for coping with social and cultural dynamics, and an understanding of how these factors can be integrated in more effective policy for the urban environment.

Contents

1 Environmental ecosystem services provided by urban forests and green infrastructure

- Introduction: Urban trees as environmental engineers
- The urban heat island: thermal comfort and the role of urban greening
- Urban trees and their relation to air pollution
- Carbon sequestration by urban trees
- Water regulation and purification
- Soil quality
- Delivery of goods and services
- Biodiversity as support for ecosystem services and human wellbeing
- The cost of greening: Disservices of urban trees
- Case studies: Modeling the atmospheric benefits of urban greening
- Assessing the ecosystem services deliverable: The critical role of the urban tree inventory
- Species-specific information for enhancing ecosystem services
- Conclusions and recommendations

2 Socio-cultural services provided by urban forests and green infrastructure

- Social and environmental justice: Diversity in access to and benefits from urban green infrastructure – examples from Europe
- Recreational use of urban green infrastructure: The tourist's perspective
- The role and value of urban forests and green infrastructure in promoting human health and wellbeing

3 Economic benefits and governance of urban forests in a green infrastructure approach

- Challenges to governing urban green infrastructure in Europe – the case of the European Green Capital Award
- The role of partnerships and the Third Sector in the development and delivery of urban forestry and green infrastructure
- The value of valuing: Recognising the benefits of the urban forest

4 Summary

- Linking the environmental, social and economic aspects of urban forestry and green infrastructure
- Growing the urban forest: Our practitioners' perspective

Nearly 90 co-authors from across Europe participate in this volume, which summarize their collaborative effort. Compilation of "best practices" in three respective spheres of urban forestry: the environmental, social, and governance-related ones, stimulates permanent dialogue between theoreticians and practitioners, resulting generally in renewed knowledge of the role that trees, forests and green infrastructure play in our settled places for life.

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