

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | June 2022

[Policy](#)[Best Practice](#)[Principles](#)[AIPH](#)[Activites](#)[Case Studies](#)[Research](#)[Findings](#)

Shortlist Announced for the 2022 AIPH World Green City Awards



AIPH is proud to announce the shortlist of eighteen entries from cities around the world for the first edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards. Congratulations to these leading cities who are demonstrating that they are champions for the power of urban plants and nature. AIPH recognises each shortlisted city as a leader in urban greening, showcasing that local action can have transformative impact for people, for cities, and for the planet.

“We are thrilled to be showcasing excellence in city greening from cities around the world,” said Tim Briercliffe, AIPH Secretary General. “As we reach this very exciting milestone, AIPH is confident that the first ever AIPH World Green City Awards is a resounding success, leaving a legacy that will shine through in future editions. Congratulations to each and every one of the shortlisted cities. We proudly celebrate this amazing achievement with you.”

In each of the six Awards Categories, the [Technical Panel of Judges](#) selected the three top scoring entries for this prestigious list. The shortlist of entries is presented by the Technical Panel to the 2022 Awards Jury who will identify one winner for each category, as well as the overall AIPH World Green City Awards 2022 winner. All winners will be announced at a gala event to be held in October 2022.

[Read More](#)[View the Shortlist](#)

Policy



Izmir’s Strategy for Living in Harmony with Nature

In 2021, the Izmir Greater City Council approved two important strategic plans, the '[Izmir Green City Action Plan](#)' (Izmir GCAP) and '[Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan](#)' (Izmir SECAP), creating a framework for the development of international cooperation and harmonisation of Izmir’s efforts in the areas of nature and climate. These plans, supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Green Cities programme, provide a road map for Izmir’s struggle against climate change and for harmonisation with nature. Together, they form the basis for Izmir’s Strategy for Living in Harmony with Nature.

“The most important goal in this strategy”, says Mayor Tunç Soyer, “is to live in harmony with nature. This philosophy inspires us in everything we do in the city, and, with this roadmap, we aim to inspire the world, beyond our borders.”

To showcase how these plans and strategies are being implemented, Izmir, Turkey, is hosting an [AIPH International Horticultural Expo](#) in 2026.

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Greening the Landscape Research Consortium

Vineland's [Greening the Landscape Research Consortium](#) is a public-private collaboration established in 2021 which is working to build the collective capacity of the urban tree value chain by integrating science and innovation, collaboration, knowledge mobilisation along with operations and delivery to support decision-making capacity. The “[Mapping the Urban Tree Value Chain](#)” project seeks to describe and depict the Canadian Urban Tree Value chain to enable sector wide understanding, identify opportunities and challenges, facilitate communication and enable growth through investment in research to create value for the entire sector. A case study from Ontario provides an illustrative example of the need for stronger connections between the horticulture industry and cities. Cities who join the Consortium benefit from gaining access to innovative data to support the establishment, growth, and resilience of green infrastructure.

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Best Practice

Montréal’s Six Concrete Actions for Biodiversity



As a leader in sustainable urban development, the City of Montréal has developed a series of briefing sheets profiling six bold initiatives in the hope of inspiring many other cities to take action for nature. With biodiversity declining at unprecedented rates, the City of Montreal demonstrates that cities have a critical role to play in restoring human-nature connections. With support from ICLEI, CitiesWithNature, and the SCBD, the development of the six briefing sheets aim to show how the city will

Guidance on the value of urban nature-based solutions



The UKGBC, in collaboration with the Value of Urban NBS task group, has launched guidance to increase the use of urban nature-based solutions through the identification of their holistic value and variety of beneficiaries, which can generate innovative financing opportunities. If NBS are to move beyond being a ‘nice-to-have’ asset or design feature, their value, as well as who benefits from them, must be more holistically understood.

contribute to achieving the 2030 action objectives set out in the Global Biodiversity Framework. Whether your city is interested in embarking on an ecosystem management program, wants to find out how to coexist with wildlife, is not sure what to do with dead trees, or wants to restore the connection between natural habitats, we invite you to take a look at these six inspiring initiatives by the City of Montréal which showcase best practices and promote global biodiversity.

[Take a Look](#)

According to the UKGBC's Director of Business Transformation, Alastair Mant, "*The current lack of awareness and understanding of the benefits associated with NBS has resulted in their financial value being consistently undercalculated. UKGBC's report seeks to challenges the dominant narratives surrounding urban NBS delivery, providing a broader framing of its benefits, beneficiaries, and value that underpins a more holistic business case.*"

AIPH was very pleased to contribute in reviewing the report, and considers it to be very thorough and of immense practical value.

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Green City Principles

Restoring nature as the backbone to cities' development



The World Economic Forum report on BiodiverCities highlights the pivotal role of integrating nature back into the urban landscape. With nine key messages the report articulates the necessity for urban leaders to transform their cities' relations with nature. The featured case studies highlight the role of diverse plant species selections to create thriving urban spaces.

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Local and Subnational Governments Take Action as COP15 Negotiations Confirmed for Montreal



The Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) have recently announced the venue and dates for Part Two of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15): the UN Biodiversity Conference. This critical meeting will take place from 5 - 17 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada under the Presidency of China. This announcement was made shortly before the 4th Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in Nairobi came to a close.

The Edinburgh Declaration for subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, led by the Scottish Government and a range of partners, sets out the aspirations and commitments of local and subnational governments for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to work alongside CBD Parties in taking transformative actions for nature over the coming decade, to deliver the 2050 vision of 'living in harmony with nature.' The Edinburgh Declaration also calls for greater prominence to be given to the role that subnational and local governments play in delivering a new global framework of targets and affirms their readiness to meet this challenge. Find out how your city can get involved today!

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AIPH Events & Activities



Floriade Expo 2022

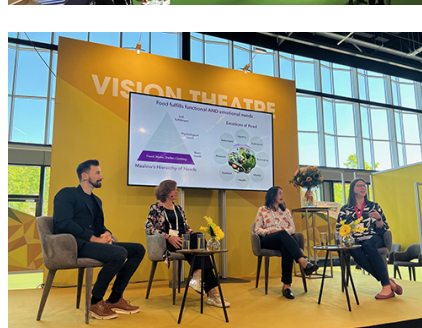
NOTE that the Floriade 'Growing Green Cities' conference scheduled for 4th and 5th July has unfortunately been cancelled. The organisers are in discussions with keynote speakers and partners to reschedule the conference for later in the year. AIPH Global Green City Update will keep you informed of progress.

AIPH supports GreenTech Amsterdam

GreenTech RAI Amsterdam is the global meeting place for horticulture professionals. In June 2022, more than 500 exhibitors from across the globe greeted an international audience of horticulture professionals at this AIPH –approved Horticultural Trade Show.

AIPH Technical Advisor, Dr Audrey Timm, joined a panel discussion on Thursday morning at GreenTech to discuss 'Feeding and Greening the City'. Dr Timm gave an AIPH update on Trends in the Green City Sector, explaining how the ornamental horticulture industry is responsible for supporting urban planners and designers in making informed plant choices for successful urban greening projects. Implementation of green city solutions are evident in case studies from cities around the world. This presentation provides some links to case studies prepared by global organisations, and describes the importance of delivering a sound value proposition that supports planning and policy recommendations.

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Expo 2021 Hatay provides Türkiye's regions a stage to showcase their urban greening achievements

Expo 2021 Hatay is an important global showcase for Türkiye's ornamental horticulture. Many thousands of bedding plants, trees and shrubs in the Expo borders come from local nurseries. In the gardens, there are displays of native medicinal and aromatic plants.

The Eskişehir garden reflects the area's art, aesthetics, and intellectual history under the leadership of Mr Büyükerşen, the president of Eskişehir, who implemented the Eskişehir Urban Development Project in 1999. Included in this project was the rehabilitation of the Porsuk River that flows through the city. Prior to the project, the river was identified as highly dangerous where no living beings





except viruses reside by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. After draining the river and installing flood gates, the Porsuk River now contributes to the city's resilience to natural disaster and provides a thriving green space for citizens to enjoy.

At Expo 2021 Hatay, the Eskişehir garden features a replica of the pedestrian bridge over the Porsuk River, a brightly coloured Odunpazarı townhouse and famous street art, including a tree-planting man and two women gossiping on a bench.

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Case Studies

Native Australian plants proven to be highly effective at removing toxic PFASs from contaminated water

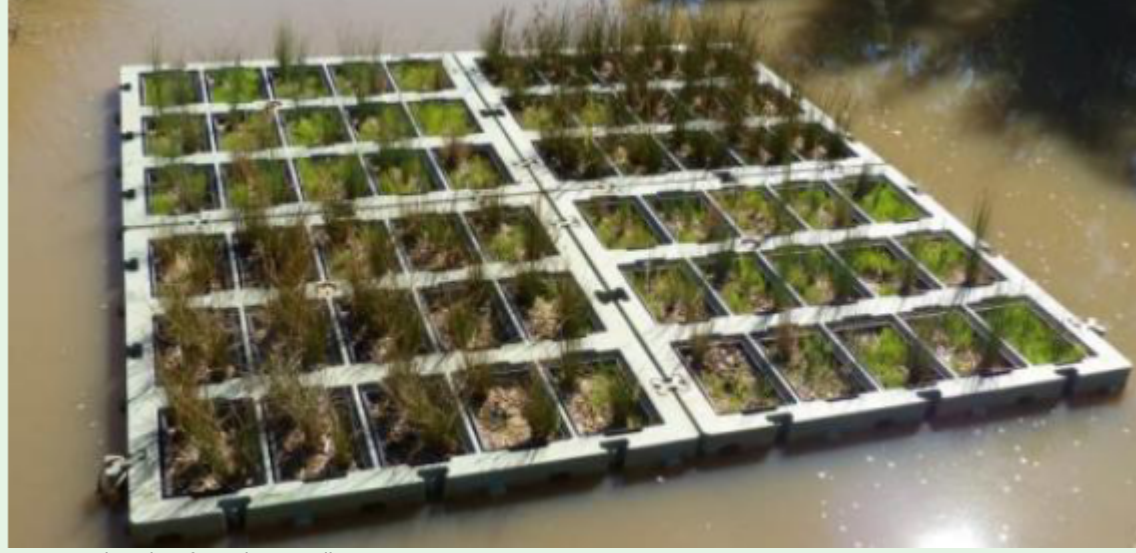


Image: University of South Australia.

The use of constructed floating wetlands in Australia is pushing the boundaries of innovation when it comes to thinking about how nature-based solutions could alleviate health risks for urban residents. Conducted by the University of South Australia, CSIRO and the University of Western Australia, research using native plants has proven to reduce legacy PFAS- or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances- contaminants associated with health effects such as a decline in fertility, developmental delays in children and an increased risk of cancers by 42–53%.

“Constructed floating wetlands can be readily installed into existing urban environments, such as holding reservoirs and retention basins, making them highly manoeuvrable and adaptable to local waterways,” says [Dr. John Awad](#).

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Research Findings

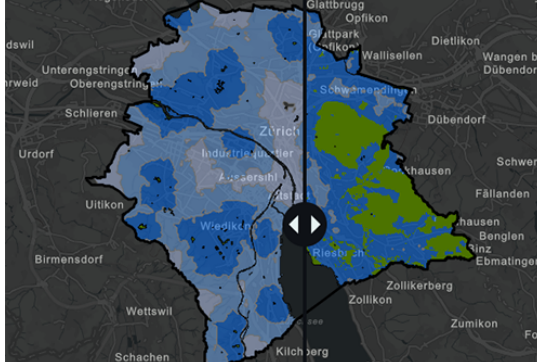
The Value of Green Spaces



It can be a challenge to quantify the recreational value of urban green spaces. Parks in urban areas can be overlooked when business and residential development is in demand. Globally, different research is considering ways to better value the outdoor spaces that provide indispensable opportunity for human and environmental health. In the UK, a sophisticated model is helping policymakers understand the demand for recreational outdoor green spaces.

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Urban Green Space Indicator



Understanding the accessibility and experience of urban green spaces allows decision makers to make informed evaluations of a city's amenities. The method behind creating maps which show real life accessibility (through walking distance) and likely experience (via noise and activity levels) is featured in a series of interactive maps from the University of Zürich. Four maps of two urban areas show the difference in urban green space accessibility for mobility-impaired people and not mobility-impaired people including classification into leisure and recreation spaces.

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International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies, and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.

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