

# Global Green City Update

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

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## #BiodiverCities Gear Up to Showcase Action at a Dedicated Summit and Pavilion at COP 15



The second part of the 15th UN Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place 7 to 19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, under the Presidency of China.

- Why is it important?
- What does this mean for Cities?
- How will cities be represented at the upcoming COP15?
- How can my city showcase its biodiversity commitments?
- How can my city showcase and celebrate its biodiversity actions?
- How will my city monitor progress?

Find the answers to these questions and more on the AIPH website.

[Read More](#)

On the 14th December, CitiesWithNature partners, including AIPH, will co-host a session in the pavilion which will aim to showcase city commitments to urban biodiversity and how these commitments manifest as meaningful and ambitious action.

### Will your city be in Montréal?

Let us know by writing to [timothy.blatch@aiph.org](mailto:timothy.blatch@aiph.org) so we can provide further details on how your city can get involved in these fundamentally important activities. The coming month is a pivotal moment for biodiversity, and you can be inspired by the action showcased by finalists in the Living Green for Biodiversity category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. [View the case studies from these leading cities.](#)

## Events & Activities

### Global lessons on Greening School Grounds and Outdoor Learning - a Salzburg Global Seminar programme



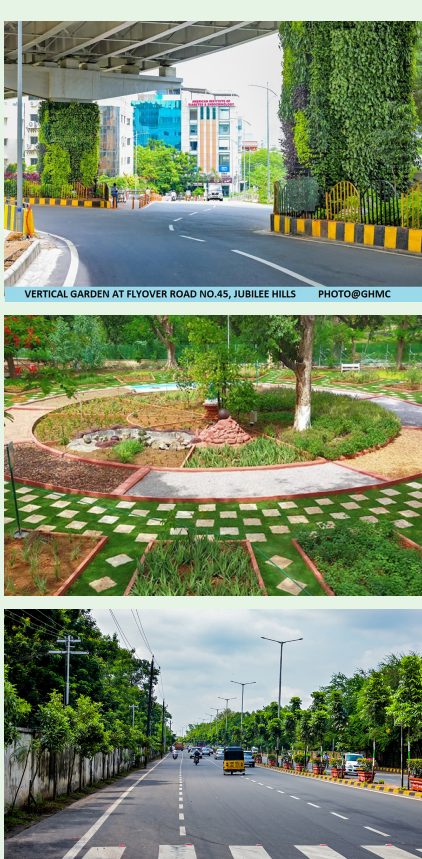
AIPH Technical Advisor, Audrey Timm, participated in person in the inspirational final session of a year-long programme in which experts from around the world came together to share best practices around holistic approaches to education and climate change awareness in schools and their communities.

Six virtual sessions throughout 2022, invited discussion on why there is a need for green school grounds, shared approaches and innovations, global barriers, geographic and climate considerations, commented on research insight and gaps, and identified partners and advocacy tactics needed for global implementation. The final session was hosted by [Salzburg Global Seminar](#).

School grounds can provide important green space at the heart of a city community. The presence of green space in cities may not be the only thing that matters: actual visits to nature are important for better health and well-being. Research suggests that two hours of visits per week is the minimum to maintain good health and well-being. Incorporating nature into children's play and school activities is a powerful solution for mental and physical health of our future communities.

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## AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/23



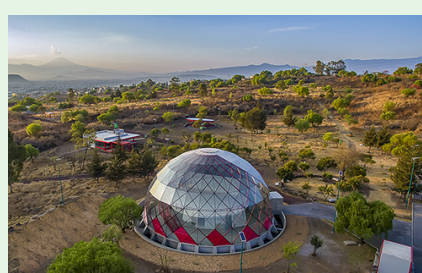
### Watch the November Webinar: Hyderabad, India, Grand Winner of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022

Creating partnerships and community connection is integral to the success of urban greening and accomplishing change. In case you missed it, last month's AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/23 featured Bishop Ngobeli, Manager of Protected Areas and Enforcement at Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, and Arvind Kumar IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, Government of Telangana. The webinar features an interesting discussion and presentations on the creation of unique partnerships and bring communities together to achieve sustainable strategic urban planting.

[Watch the Briefing](#)

### Next Up in December: Feature City: Mexico City - Winner of the 'Living Green for Climate Change' category in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022

The next webinar in the series is set to take place on 6th December 2022 and demonstrates how nature-based solutions are being put into practice for climate change adaptation in cities. AIPH is proud to feature the "Living Green for Climate Change" category winner of the inaugural AIPH World Green City Awards: Mexico City, Mexico. Their winning initiative, titled 'Mexico City's Environmental and Climate Change Program' inspired the development of parks for its citizens, native wildlife and future generations.





[Register](#)[Read the Case Study](#)

## Nature For Life Hub



The UN CBD, UNEP, UNDP, and partners proudly present the Nature For Life Hub, A virtual event on transforming our relationship with nature – for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and a nature-positive future, for people and the planet. The Nature for Life Hub will offer a virtual venue for multiple events over three days, which will take audiences on various thematic journeys, delving deep into specialist topics, practical solutions and ambitious actions that are paving a path towards a nature-positive future. The virtual hub will be an opportunity to hear bold announcements and calls to action from political and corporate leaders, the world's youth, Indigenous and community leaders, local authorities and cutting-edge thinkers, leaders, and practitioners.

Follow @UNDP and #NatureForLife for more announcements, shareable content, and calls to action and make sure to join the conversation on social media!

[Find out more and see the agenda](#)

## AIPH Members Green City Reports

AIPH requests its members from around the world to provide an annual Green City Report that presents an update on developments in the green city sector in their region. The reports describe industry-led initiatives, major green city projects, policy developments, community activities, and research publications. In this section, AIPH will feature projects and initiatives from our members.

### Polish Nurserymen Association

The [Polish Nurserymen Association](#) is the association of tree, shrub and perennial as well as fruit plant manufacturers in Poland. Its main goals are: the representation and protection of interests of associated nurserymen, promotion of greenery and plants as well as popularisation of knowledge of trees, shrubs and perennials, and dissemination of modern production methods and knowledge needed for conducting a nursery enterprise. In their Green City report they describe many examples of translating resources into Polish to make these available to their growers and urban practitioners. One of these is a promotional video that presents outstanding urban greening projects in Europe.

### AmericanHort

[AmericanHort](#) is the AIPH member representing the USA, collectively supporting over 2.32 million full- and part-time jobs and contributing \$348 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The AmericanHort Mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. Community gardens continue to thrive in the United States. For example in Charlotte, NC there are over 20 community gardens available. In New York City, NY there are over 135 new gardens with 10 new ones being added per year.

## Research Findings

### Street Trees help Cities “Beat the Heat”



New simulations and measures have captured the optimal positioning of street trees for pedestrian heat comfort in cities. Trees planted along streets without any shade were found to provide 1.5-2 times as much radiative cooling as trees planted on a street where the sidewalk already benefited from tree shade. As outdoor heat stress continues to be a challenge in cities, maximising the solutions provided by shade trees is important.

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### Ecologically Just Cities Framework



A team of researchers from across the globe have developed a framework to support urban planners in creating urban development plans which actively consider ecological deprivation. This diagnostic tool assists in identifying areas of ecological deprivation and suitable nature-based planning actions.

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## Policy

### The Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The Edinburgh Declaration sets out the aspirations and commitments of the Scottish Government, Edinburgh Process partners, and the wider subnational constituency of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in delivering for nature over the coming decade. The Declaration emphasises the key role that subnational governments, cities and local authorities already play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and in delivering actions across planning, implementation, and monitoring. The local and subnational government constituency, by signing the Declaration, collectively commit to raising their ambition and action in the coming decade and issue a strong call to action to Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the lead up to, at, and in the decade following COP 15.

Has your city signed the Edinburgh Declaration? These are the last days to add your city’s voice to what is poised to be the “Paris moment for nature.”

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### City Voices at COP 27

World leaders recently met for the 27th Conference of the Parties at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh from 6th-18th November 2022. The Multilevel Action Pavilion provided a home and a voice for local and regional governments throughout the two weeks of COP27 and featured 70+ sessions which succeeded in



pushing the advocacy agenda for cities and regions forward. Find out more about how cities and regions demonstrated that multi-level action has the power to drive transformative change in delivering the Paris Agreement. You can also [read the joint COP27 Press Release of Networks of Local and Regional Governments](#) compiled by the European Committee of the Regions.

[Read More](#)



## Best Practice



**WORLD  
GREEN CITY  
AWARDS  
2022**



Following the announcement of the Finalists for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022, AIPH is proud to demonstrate best practice by profiling the shortlisted entries in each category. This month we proudly present case studies from the three finalists in the “Living Green for Social Cohesion” category. These cities demonstrate how they are encouraging people to spend more time in outdoor spaces, improving social interaction and community cohesion and how greener environments foster a sense of belonging, trust and inter-generational as well as cross-cultural relationships to prevent exclusion, marginalisation and violence.

[View the case study library](#)

### OASIS Schoolyard Project *Paris, France*



Paris, as one of the most symbolic capital cities worldwide, and an attraction pole for multi-cultural exchanges, is a pioneer on innovative actions for developing public policies. One of the city's flagship programs is the Oasis Schoolyard's project, launched in 2018, and powered by the City of Paris. The project seeks to renew, dynamize and green existing public schoolyards while responding simultaneously to multiple urban issues such as the lack of green areas within the city, the design of appropriate public spaces for children growing up in the city and in general the enhancement of citizens' quality of life. The initiative stands as a leading example of how urban greening can lead to community cohesion improvement, improving social networks between each school's community and their surrounding neighbourhood. By December 2021, 72 schoolyards had been transformed, and the City's goal is to reach all 770 kindergarten, elementary and middle schools by 2050. Oasis schoolyards have attracted the attention of many cities in and out of France who are looking to replicate it in their urban contexts.

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### Suncheonman Bay Wetland Conservation Project *Suncheon City, South Korea*



In 1996, the Suncheonman Bay Conservation Movement began as a campaign by local NGOs and academia to actively oppose various projects which were at risk of undermining efforts to conserve the Suncheonman Bay wetland. The wetland comprises various habitats such as a river's brackish water area (where rivers enter the sea and mix with seawater), salt marsh, wide reed field, and tidal flat, and 239 observed species of birds. Of them, 33 species are rare, endangered birds worldwide and live on the nature of Suncheonman Bay. The Suncheonman Bay Conservation Movement provided an opportunity to newly recognize the value of reed fields and tidal flats, and Suncheonman Bay has become a representative ecological resource in Suncheon. As a result, Suncheonman Bay's ecology has evolved into a world-class ecological tourist destination beyond Korea.

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### Socio-urban integration in the midst of an ecological reserve: The case of Rodrigo Bueno *Buenos Aires, Argentina*



As with most of the existing vulnerable neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires City, by 2016 Rodrigo Bueno faced severe housing, urban, and socioeconomic challenges, including the fact that 40% of houses were under the flood zone and there was a lack of public utilities and public spaces.

However, unlike all other vulnerable neighbourhoods in the city, Rodrigo Bueno adjoins the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve, which extends over 350 hectares. The Reserve brings together the largest amount of biodiversity within the City of Buenos Aires and is included by RAMSAR in the list of wetlands of international importance. As a result of an extensive participatory process, an integrated approach to the sustainable development of the neighbourhood was co-developed to ensure access to decent housing, infrastructure and public services while linking the social economy to environmental practices that take care of the Ecological Reserve and generate awareness and lower settlements pollution levels. The City demonstrates a profound and sustainable approach to integrated urban greening which has transformed the neighbourhood.

[Read More](#)

This programme was presented to a global audience in the first of the AIPH Green City Briefings 2022-23. [The recording is available for on-demand viewing here.](#)

The City of Buenos Aires was recently host of the C40 Mayors Summit, at which participants, including Mayors and environmental champions from around the world, were immersed in workshops and visits to the Rodrigo Bueno neighbourhood.

## Green City Principles



### 14 Patterns of Biophilic Design

Biophilia in Context looks at the evolution of biophilic design in architecture and planning, and presents a framework for relating the human biological science and nature. 14 Patterns of Biophilic Design articulates the relationships between nature, human biology and the design of the built environment so that we may experience the human benefits of biophilia in our design applications.

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## Case Studies

Urban Agriculture Strategy  
*City of Montréal, Canada*





Urban agriculture practices contribute to greening Montréal, as well as providing greater access to fresh local food and improving the city's resilience to climate change. With several initiatives in place and committed partners who have helped make the city a hub of social and environmental innovation in this area, urban agriculture in Montréal is alive and well and forms a core part of the city's identity. Whether it is practised in private, institutional, school or collective vegetable gardens, whether it takes root in community gardens or on commercial farms, urban agriculture helps make Montréal a city recognised worldwide for its vibrancy and innovation. The City developed an integrated vision of urban agriculture in collaboration with local stakeholders from the community and has since launched the 2021-2026 Urban Agriculture Strategy to consolidate and strengthen existing practices, to facilitate the implementation of new projects as well as citizen and entrepreneurial initiatives, and to create partnerships whose collective actions will have greater impact.

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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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