

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | March 2023

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Calling all Cities: Entries Open for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024

CALLING ALL CITIES



WORLD
GREEN CITY
AWARDS
2024

ENTER THE AIPH
WORLD GREEN
CITY AWARDS

Building on the global legacy of the [2022 edition](#), AIPH and its extensive network of partners proudly announce that entries are officially open for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024. The 2024 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards is offered in [seven categories](#), with three finalists in each category from which one category winner is selected, and with one Grand Winner selected from the seven category winners. Entries are compiled and submitted by cities through an online portal which is open for six months until the submission deadline on **15th September 2023**.

Registering a city profile on the online submission portal is the first step in preparing an entry and provides access to the online entry form, which consists of a series of questions in line with the [six evaluation criteria](#). Now is the time to inspire a global movement for greener cities. AIPH and the growing network of partners warmly invite all cities, large and small, to enter the only global awards for cities where plants and nature are the core focus

[Find out more](#)[Enter now](#)

AIPH Green City Forum

This month on the AIPH Global Green City Forum, Jake Robinson of Flinders University discusses his book on 'invisible friends' - the reciprocal relationship between microbiomes and humans. The shared information talked about how understanding microbes and their dynamics is incredibly important when it comes to restoring ecosystems. View the discussion and resources [here](#).

[Join the Forum](#)

Policy



Forests for Human Health and Wellbeing

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. In 2023, coordinated by the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and partners, the day was marked by the theme “[Forests and Health](#).” Discover the many linkages of forests and human health and read the recommendations for creating an enabling environment in which people can benefit from them in the FAO report titled Forests for Human Health and Wellbeing: Strengthening the forest-health-nutrition nexus. More specifically, chapter 3 on the Role of forests in the health of urban populations and industrialised societies presents recommendations for promoting health and nutrition by harnessing the benefits of forests in and around cities.

[Read more](#)

Climate Resilient Urban Expansion Planning

Municipalities in secondary cities in rapidly urbanising countries face grave climate risks. With limited resources, they will be forced to confront sea level rise, storm surge, extreme precipitation, drought, landslide risk, and other geophysical shocks. These challenges add to existing obstacles, including inadequate service provision, rapid urban expansion, and the proliferation of informal settlements. Rapidly growing cities are primarily expanding into peripheral areas, which are often poorly planned and disorderly. [Cities Alliance](#) argues that municipal governments can take meaningful action to prepare for climate change using the same methodology that is used to help secondary cities plan for rapid population growth – urban expansion planning.

[Read more](#)

Best Practice

How do plants help my city?



Imagine a future...
... where the air is clear and easy to breathe

WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities



The WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities is a global award celebrating and spotlighting transformative urban change. An independent jury of urban

... where city streets are shaded and cool on hot summer days
... where being outside in the city means enjoying a healthier, natural environment

When we plant trees, grasses, shrubs, and flowers where none was growing before, they improve air and water quality, and help in the fight against climate change. The effect is very noticeable in cities where there are more hard surfaces, such as concrete and pavement. [The Green Cities Foundation](#) is a community connecting plants & people for a greener, healthier urban climate. Be inspired by the innovative projects which are building urban green spaces across Canada.

[Read More](#)

leaders selected [Todos al Parque](#) (“Everyone to the Park”), a long-standing parks and public greenspaces project by the Mayor’s Office of the City of Barranquilla, Colombia, as the Grand Prize Winner in 2023 from among 5 finalists. Embodying the Prize cycle theme of “Thriving Together in Turbulent Times,” the City of Barranquilla shows how public investment can achieve a more socially and spatially equitable distribution of public green spaces. A decade ago, Barranquilla lacked quality public spaces. Neighbourhoods with neglected parks and public spaces were prone to crime, poor health outcomes and limited social cohesion. Now, thanks to this inspiring initiative, 93% of Barranquilla residents live within an 8-minute walk of an urban green space.

[Read More](#)

Green City Principles

Creating Community Gardens for People of All Ages: A Toolkit



A recent publication by [AARP Livable Communities](#) with [8 80 Cities](#) explores the connection between community gardens and community development and helps elected officials, government staff, nonprofit organisations and neighbours build and sustain community gardens as inclusive, intergenerational outdoor spaces in cities. A community garden can improve the health of residents, foster economic development, combat social isolation, relieve food insecurity, improve public safety, encourage inclusion and enhance community connectedness. Community gardens can also help revitalise neighbourhoods and incentivize the development of more walkable and transit-oriented places. This publication explains the value of community gardens, provides guidance about starting and sustaining them, and shares examples and suggestions for related public policies and programs.

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Greening Urban Roadways



Did you know...the typical lifespan of a tree along a major roadside is only 5-10 years? Research trials conducted throughout Ontario and Alberta by [Vineland Research and Innovation Centre](#) scientists over several years have focused on how to build an ecological environment that can withstand lack of water and care, tolerate pollution and weed competition. This led to the development of species selection guidelines and best management practices for soil remediation that dramatically improves tree survival in the urban context.

[Read More](#)

[View the case study](#)

News, Events & Activities



AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/23

The March webinar in the AIPH Green City Briefings series featured the City of Paris, France: the winner of the “Living Green for Social Cohesion” category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. This webinar showcased the role of schoolyards in becoming transformative spaces for social interaction and community cohesion. The City of Paris’ [OASIS Schoolyard Project](#), launched in 2018, seeks to transform existing outdoor spaces through renewing and greening of 770 schoolyards by 2050. The project responds simultaneously to multiple urban issues such as thermal conditions, lack of green areas within the city, and the design of appropriate public spaces for children growing up in the city. The webinar also featured innovative research from [Evergreen](#)’s ‘Climate Ready Schools’ initiative, which is creating green community spaces and has supported over 6,000 schools across Canada.

[Watch the briefing](#)

Register for the next briefing

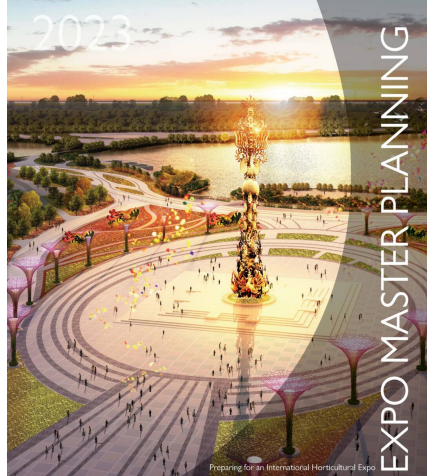
The April briefing will proudly feature the winner of the “Living Green for Biodiversity” category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022: Bogotá, Colombia. “[The greening of Bogotá](#)” is a public policy which aims to improve the quality of the natural, built and regional environment from the perspective of generating well-being conditions for the population and other living beings present in the territory. Agro-ecological urban and peri-urban agriculture takes on special importance as the initiative involves more than 120 plant species in orchards, including fruit trees, shrubs, vines, and even small plants. In 2020, this Urban Agriculture Program gained strength and prominence, resulting in more than 5,000 fortified vegetable gardens. AIPH invites you to register for the April briefing and future webinars in the series.

[Register now](#)



Photo: Luis Carlos Hernández, UPA team, Botanical Garden of Bogotá – 2022

AIPH Launches Expo Masterplanning Guide



AIPH is responsible for approving the world's most exceptional Horticultural Expos, which contribute to the greening of cities across the globe. Critically for the host city, these events draw national and international focus whilst improving the city's environmental reputation and leaving a green legacy that can be enjoyed for many years into the future. At the heart of a great Expo is the Master Plan: a development vision of an Expo project. To help with the complexity of planning these mega-events, AIPH recently launched the Expo Master Planning Guide in collaboration with ARCADIS. With many case studies included, this first-of-its-kind guide helps Expo Organisers learn methodologies and best practices beneficial for the master planning of both the Expo site and its legacy.

[Read more](#)



World Green Infrastructure Congress 2023

The World Green Infrastructure Congress 2023 is set to be the largest congress on green buildings ever held in Europe. Taking place in Berlin and online from 27-29 June 2023, the Congress is a three-day event on all aspects of green buildings (roof, façade and interior greening) with the associated topics (including urban climate, rainwater management, sustainability, city of the future). On the third day of the congress, there will be the opportunity to take part in excursions to special projects in Berlin.

[Find out more](#)

2nd World Forum on Urban Forests (WFUF)

Urban forests and green spaces are key components of sustainable and resilient urban development, providing a wide range of ecosystem goods and services. The 2nd edition of WFUF will take place in Washington DC, from 16 to 20 October 2023 with the overall theme of Greener, Healthier and Happier Cities for All. The aim of the Forum is to continue to highlight positive examples of planning, design and management approaches that cities with diverse cultures, forms, structure and histories have implemented to optimise the contribution that urban forests and green infrastructure can provide in terms of economic development, environmental conservation and resilience, improved social cohesion, and increased public involvement. [Save the date.](#)



[More information](#)

AIPH Member's 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 proudly features projects and initiatives from [our members](#).



The Japanese Landscape Contractors Association (JCLA)



In 1990, the Organization for Landscape and Urban Green Infrastructure and The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co., Ltd. awarded the Green Design Award in hopes of helping to “create a green urban environment, improve the quality of life, and foster communities”.

In 2009, the award was renamed the Green Environment Design Award in order to further respond to the needs of the times, such as consideration for the environment. In 2016, the [Dai-ichi Life Foundation](#) joined the organisers, and the name was changed to the Green Environment Plan Grand Prize. In addition, for five years from 2015 to 2019, the foundation provided subsidies to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government for a limited-time program to welcome tourists with flowers and greenery, the “Hospitality Garden,” as part of a limited-time program in preparation for 2020. The "Green Environment Plan Grand Prize" aims to contribute to the creation of a prosperous next-generation society by further strengthening efforts to improve the quality of life and foster community. actively promote the preservation and regeneration of the urban environment, the formation of local communities, and the improvement of the quality of life, which are important social issues for the city. In 2022 applications were invited in two categories: the Symbol Garden category, which subsidises up to 8 million yen, and the Pocket Garden category, which subsidises up to 1 million yen.

[Read more](#)

Val Hor, France

VALHOR is the French horticulture, floristry and landscaping interprofession. It brings together professional organisations representing the sectors of production, horticultural distribution and trade, as well as landscaping and gardening.



In 2022, Val Hor proposed a new communication tool focusing on the essential key ideas for a greener city : Les Essentiels. Published in French, the report delivers evidence for ways in which greenery in the city improves air quality, reduces heat islands by reducing temperatures locally, offers solutions to rainwater management and maintains, or even increase biodiversity. The report presents statistics such as the UN estimate that 90% of French residents will live in cities by 2050 and that 78% of the French consider that giving more importance to green spaces must be a priority.

[Read more](#)

Case Studies

Improving Living Conditions in Poverty-Stricken Areas Through Green Infrastructure

City of Amman, Jordan



Improving Living Conditions in Poverty-Stricken Areas in Amman (ILCA) is an urban regeneration project set up to pilot the improvement of existing, and introduction of additional green infrastructure (GI) elements in selected sites in East Amman. The project aims to create ownership and enhance residents’

quality of life through community participation in the research, design, and management processes of the newly created or revived green infrastructure networks. At the neighbourhood level, the aim is to counteract the degradation of urban spaces, improve social cohesion and foster interaction between different population groups. On a higher level, the infrastructure networks showcase a comprehensive planning paradigm, filtering air and water pollutants, preserving local biodiversity, decreasing the impact of urban heat waves, and stabilising soil to reduce erosion.

[Read More](#)

Planting a Tree for Every Child
City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, United Kingdom



This initiative is one of the headline projects from the City of Bradford's programme of activities to engage their communities in building a more sustainable future for the next generation. The City of Bradford is planting a tree for every primary school child in the Bradford district as part of an ongoing commitment to take Climate Action. As well as helping to tackle climate change mitigation and adaptation, a further innovative aspect of this initiative lies in how it engages the local community. The initiative is driven by the desire to engage young children and develop a better relationship between them and their landscape environment, thereby inspiring them to help address the challenges that the impacts of climate change bring. Working together with Trees for Cities, a range of partners, and the community, 55,000 trees have been planted between 2020 and 2023.

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Research Findings

Three themes influence children's play in the built environment



Young children's outdoor play, especially in nature, has been linked to wellbeing and social development benefits. This literature review from researchers at the University of British Columbia presents three themes which influence how the built environment affects children's play. The themes focus on the spaces for play, routes and social factors.

[Read More](#)

Urban biodiversity and carbon sinks – do they overlap?



Governments across the world are looking at ways to reduce their carbon emissions, with some countries aspiring to achieve net zero emissions targets. Recent research from Helsinki, Finland has found urban green spaces in densely urban areas could contribute to achieving these targets.

[Read More](#)



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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