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.

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.

How do plants help my city?

Imagine a future…

The WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities is a global award celebrating and spotlighting transformative urban change. An independent jury of urban experts chooses the winners based on criteria submitted by cities, including innovation, impact, sustainability, and replication potential.
Green City Principles
Creating Community Gardens for People of All Ages: A Toolkit

A recent publication by AARP Livable Communities and AIPH explores the impacts of community gardens on the health and well-being of people of all ages. The report highlights the benefits of community gardens, such as enhanced social connections, improved health outcomes, and increased access to fresh produce. It also provides guidance on how to start and sustain community gardens as inclusive, intergenerational outdoor spaces.

News, Events & Activities
AIPH Launches Expo Masterplanning Guide

The March webinar in the AIPH Green City Briefings series featured the City of Paris, France. Focus on the topic of “Growing Urban Roadways” with AARP Livable Communities, Evergreen and the City of Paris, France. The webinar highlighted innovative projects and policies to green urban roadways and public spaces for children growing up in the city. The webinar also featured a discussion on how public investment can achieve a more socially and spatially equitable distribution of green urban roadways and public spaces.

Register for the briefing:
The April briefing will feature the work of the "Living Loving for Billion" campaign of the AIPHG World Green City Briefings 2022/23. Focus on the topic of "Growing Urban Roadways" and how to build an ecological environment that can withstand lack of water and remediation that dramatically improves tree survival in the urban context.

Register now
APfH is responsible for approving the world's most exceptional landscape projects, which contribute to the greening of cities across the globe. Currently, in the City of Amman, these projects have maximum international and financial support, while 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 journey to be 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 guide provides methodologies, best practices, and case studies. Upon approval, these projects will contribute to greening cities in the future.
Placing 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, it is a further innovation 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 helping them to address the challenges that the impact of climate change brings. 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 young children's play. The themes focus on the spaces for play, routes and social factors.

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 that urban green spaces in densely urban areas could contribute to achieving these targets.

Researcher

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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