

Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | May 2024

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International #PlantHealth and #BiodiversityDay Celebrations



BE PART OF THE PLAN

International Day
for Biodiversity
2024

May has been a month of global celebration for plants and nature. Under the theme, “Plant health, safe trade and digital technology,” the [International Day of Plant Health 2024](#) on 12th May called on everyone to raise awareness and take action to keep our plants healthy and ensure food safety and safe trade for sustainable economies and livelihoods.

Today, on the occasion of the [International Day for Biodiversity](#), observed globally on 22nd May each year, you’re invited to “Be part of the Plan,” with a global call to action for all stakeholders to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by supporting the implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), also referred to as “The Biodiversity Plan.”

Local governments have a critical role to play in urban greening efforts. It is through local action that we will see global impact in securing the health of plants, restoring ecosystems, and enhancing biodiversity. Be inspired by action for plants, nature, and biodiversity with bold case studies from cities around the world.

[See Case Studies](#)

AIPH and GYBN Reveal Shortlist for AIPH Youth Award 2024

AIPH Youth Award 2024 SHORTLIST



GREEN FACTOR TOOL
CITY OF MELBOURNE,
AUSTRALIA



RITA LEE PARK - RIO
OLYMPIC PARK LEGACY
RIO DE JANEIRO CITY HALL,
BRAZIL



CLIMATE CHANGE
STRATEGY
CITY OF JOONDALUP,
AUSTRALIA



AIPH and the [GYBN](#) are proud to announce the three shortlisted entries selected by the [Youth Jury](#) from the list of [21 Finalists](#) in the [AIPH World Green City Awards 2024](#). Each of these cities stands a chance of being named the winner of the AIPH Youth Award for their inspiring urban greening initiatives. The three shortlisted entries for the 2024 edition showcase cities that are demonstrating that, when young people are at the core of urban greening initiatives, transformative change that will leave a legacy for future generations is not only possible but is also within reach.

[Read the press release](#)

[See Case Studies](#)

News & Events

AIPH Green City Briefings



AIPH Green City Briefings

Virtual webinars



The first webinar in the 2024/25 series of AIPH Green City Briefings, with the theme “Flourishing Urban Design with Plants” took place on Thursday 16th May 2024, lead by Jane Welsh of IFLA. The inspiring speakers presented insights on how research, outreach and collaboration helps cities in Mexico improve their biodiversity, and introduced Lurie Garden’s urban model of responsible horticulture. In case you missed it, the session is available for on-demand viewing.

[Watch on-demand](#)

The next webinar, titled “Seeding a Sense of Place in Urban Parks,” is set to take place on 13th June 2024. You’re invited to register and join the discussion on how plants and planting can create a sense of place in urban parks.

[Find out more](#)

[Register here](#)



Future Green City World Congress Programme Develops Further

AIPH is a proud hosting partner of the [Future Green City World Congress](#). The global 4-day event will be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 23-26 September 2024. A highlight of the exciting [programme](#) is the AIPH World Green City Awards ceremony and gala dinner, which is set to take place on 25th September 2024. AIPH is also hosting a series of workshops and interactive sessions. You’re invited to join all of AIPH’s activities in Utrecht.

[Find out more](#)

Call for Nominations: World Green Infrastructure Award

Do you know of a great green infrastructure project or policy? Well, you can now nominate it for the World Green Infrastructure Award 2024. Proudly brought to life by the [World Green Infrastructure Network](#), The call for nominations across 6 categories opened on 15th May 2024. The deadline to nominate a bold and inspiring project or policy is 30th June 2024. Don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity!

[Find out more](#)





Shaping the Greenest Cities in the World: AIPH at the TNOF Festival 2024

A Seed Session hosted by AIPH in the virtual segment of the TNOF Festival 2024 brought together city shapers from different backgrounds, sectors, and contexts who represent the urban greening supply and value chains. They explored ways to better enable bold action and effective delivery of urban greening initiatives that harness the power of plants. If you were unable to attend, we invite you to watch the recording.

[Watch here](#)

Invitation to Contribute: UNECE Study on Urban Food Trees

The UNECE Forestry and Timber Section's Trees For Cities Challenge team is inviting contributions to a new guide they are developing on Urban Food Trees to support experts at national and local institutions and urban practitioners. The team is looking for case studies to be included in the guide. To submit a case study, please complete the one-page online form template before 15 June 2024.

[Submit a Case Study](#)



Planning New Regenerative Cities: International Conference for New Cities

The formal Call for Congress Contributions is now open for the 1st International Conference for New Cities. This is the first event of the International Society of City and Regional Planners' 60th World Planning Congress Diamond Anniversary Series. Set to take place from 10-13 September 2024 in New Clark City, Philippines, you're invited to contribute to the exciting programme. You can do so by submitting an abstract before 9th June 2024.

[Find out more](#)

Youth Blog Series: Amplifying Youth Voices from Around the World

Are you a young person who cares deeply about the natural world and securing the future of wildlife and nature? Then Conservation Optimism wants to hear from you! A new blog series, set to be published in July 2024, aims to celebrate and amplify youth voices from across the world. Complete the questionnaire and stand a chance to be featured in this series of blogs. This questionnaire will close on the 31st May 2024.

[Complete the questionnaire](#)



Horticulture and Green Cities

AIPH is the world's champion for the power of plants. AIPH represents the global horticulture industry: a key roleplayer in the delivery of urban greening initiatives. This section highlights the contributions of the horticulture industry in building a greener, healthier, and more resilient urban future.



Perennial Mixes: Planting Concepts

The Association of German Perennial Gardeners (BdS), a collegial network of 100 perennial gardening companies, has, through its Plant Use Working Group, developed a series of informative leaflets and brochures which present planting concepts for perennial mixes that are suitable in various contexts. A dynamic tool allows the user to identify the best species mixes based on a site's climatic, soil, and lighting conditions.

[Find out more](#)

Enhancing Tree Species Knowledge to Promote Resilient New Planting

The Greater Lyon Authority is supporting its campaign to increase tree planting in the private realm with the creation of a public arboretum showcasing species resilient to future climate changes and suitable for small private gardens. This project, which has achieved remarkable species diversification, builds upon a strong collaboration between public officials and local tree nurseries, who are key strategic partners in all urban forest management decisions.

[Read more](#)



Case Studies



Living Green for Health and Wellbeing



Between March and September 2024, AIPH will proudly showcase the Finalists in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024, with a focus on one category per month. This month we highlight the 3 Finalist entries in the "Living Green for Health and Wellbeing" category.

Growing Food, Feeding People *City of Denver, USA*

A coalition of Denver Parks and Recreation City Park Greenhouse and 15 nonprofit organisations is working to increase food resiliency across the City of Denver. In response to COVID-19's effect on food insecurity, the coalition is teaching gardeners how to grow and prepare healthy foods for their families and communities. Since 2020, over 386,000 pounds of fresh and nutrient dense food has been distributed to those who need it most.

[Read more](#)



Green and Healthy Environments Programme *City of São Paulo, Brazil*

The Municipality's Green and Healthy Environments Programme (PAVS) aims to strengthen public policies and improve environmental health, with the active participation of the community. The initiative currently has 330 Environmental Promotion Agents working with over 9,000 community health agents and various other actors in the

area to develop their actions with a focus on environmental health.

[Read more](#)



Plant-Based Lifestyle Medicine Programme New York City, USA

For decades, New Yorkers' top three leading causes of death have been preventable chronic illnesses, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. In light of this crisis, New York City has pioneered a plant-forward policy strategy, encompassing the implementation of numerous plant-based initiatives within city agencies alongside comprehensive food education programmes and citywide campaigns which promote healthy lifestyle behaviours.

[Read more](#)



Research Findings

Landscape Architecture Solutions to the Biodiversity Crisis



The American Society of Landscape Architects Fund's recent research publication shows the pivotal role landscape architects play in increasing biodiversity in the urban context. Creating diverse and varied green spaces through careful and appropriate plant selection is shown to better support ecosystem functioning and habitats for wildlife. This publication features the key aspects of planting design that effectively harness the multiple benefits of biodiversity.

[Read more](#)

Small but Powerful Urban Oases



This research brings together case studies to explain the vital role of small urban areas. It presents findings on aspects of plant structure, size, and layout that are key to providing unique environments for species diversity, urban temperature regulation, and value for urban communities. It explores the key themes needed to achieve a healthy urban future through critical nature-based solutions in small green spaces.

[Read more](#)



Book Review: Research Handbook on Urban Design

The Research Handbook on Urban Design offers a comprehensive exploration of urban design, supported by a diverse range of international case studies. Editors Marion Roberts and Suzy Nelson have compiled chapters from across different disciplines to present a perspective on both the visible and invisible aspects of urban spaces.

[Find out more](#)

Green City Principles

The Living City: Conversations on City Greening



Take a look at [Urbis's](#) 5-part conversation series, The Living City, which explores the importance and benefits of City Greening initiatives. Let this simple series inspire you to shape a greener future in which human wellbeing and the environment are in harmonious alignment. In each part, there are projects, articles, and videos to explore, which are all brought together in a [report](#) where you can find more detail.

[Read more](#)

A Practical Guide to Using Co-production for Nature-based Solutions



[Connecting Nature's](#) Guidebook offers a practical approach and toolbox for designing and implementing co-production processes for city-led urban greening initiatives. It presents co-production as a new governance approach for working on nature-based solutions in cities and offers a practical framework for designing a co-production approach in your city.

[Read more](#)

Best Practice



Biodiverse Green Spaces in Saint-Lazare, Canada

The City of Saint-Lazare is using resilient planting and green infrastructure techniques as tools to provide a healthier environment by enhancing biodiversity and adapting the effects of climate change. This added green space, which is made up of a variety of native, non-invasive, edible, and drought resistant plants and trees, has improved water quality and filtration, reduced rainwater runoff and soil erosion, and mitigated the heat island effect.

[Read more](#)

The Greenest of the Green Block - Helsinki, Finland

"The Block" is a life-size scientific research design on real buildings. The project aims to investigate future possibilities and gain insights into the most tenacious and resilient native plant species. By piloting a wide selection of different species and their cultivated varieties, the project explores the functionality of green areas on the roofs of apartment buildings to gain insight into the impacts green roofs may have in the urban context.

[Read more](#)



Green Spaces in Los Angeles Transform the City into a "Sponge"

In recent years, the City of Los Angeles has been transforming into a "sponge city" by



replacing impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, with permeable surfaces, such as soil and plants. It has also built out “spreading grounds,” where water accumulates and soaks into the earth. With its new “spongy” infrastructure, the city recently captured enough rain over the course of just 3 days to provide water to 106,000 households for a year.

[Find out how](#)



Policy

INTERLACE Hub and Urban Governance Atlas

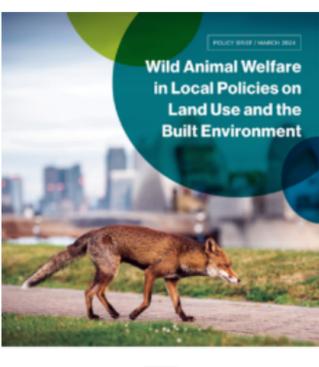
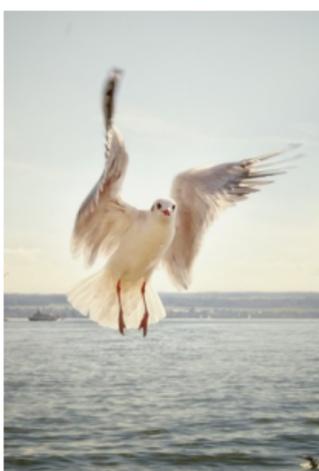
The Urban Governance Atlas (UGA) is an interactive online database on the [INTERLACE Hub](#) comprising over 250 good practice policy instruments that support nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration. Developed as an output of the [INTERLACE Project](#), the Atlas particularly focuses on the factors making the instruments successful, lessons learned in their design and implementation, and their approaches to governance.

[Read more](#)

The Investment Case for Nature

KPMG’s new report makes the case for scaling up business investment in nature by making biodiversity an official asset class. It provides a clear business case for the need to invest in nature, an up-to-date overview of the current landscape of strategies for financing and investing in this space (both from a public and private perspective), an analysis of the current challenges in scaling funding in nature, and clear steps for moving forward.

[Read more](#)



Wild Animal Welfare in Local Policies on Land Use and the Built Environment

Experts increasingly agree that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are interlinked. This first-of-its-kind policy brief describes how local governments can incorporate wild animal welfare considerations into their institutions, planning processes, and policies on land use and the built environment.

[Read more](#)

AIPH Global Green City Forum

Connect with green city practitioners from around the world and benefit from a diverse range of tools and resources on the AIPH Global Green City Forum. You can also share your work, events, news, and more.

[Join the Forum](#)



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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