Special Issue

Climate-Ready Urban Park Forestry: Managing Tree Species for Measurable Carbon Benefits

Message from the Guest Editors

Mitigating the negative impacts of climate change in cities is now essential to protecting public well-being. Urban trees are among the most effective interventions for reducing the urban heat-island effect and improve microclimates. Beyond shading and evapotranspiration, their cooling can be expressed as CO_2-equivalent avoided emissions, complementing direct carbon sequestration. To support credible planning and management, there is a need for more accurate site- and species-specific estimation of these climate benefits, together with robust measurement, reporting, and verification. Trees themselves are vulnerable: climate change is altering species composition, functioning, and distribution. Managing urban parks and municipal forests therefore requires climate-adaptive approaches that anticipate heat, drought, pests and pathogens, and changing disturbance regimes, while safeguarding multiple ecosystem services. This Special Issue seeks contributions on climate change adaptation through the management of urban parks and municipal/urban forests, with links to planted and natural forests where relevant.

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