

Special Issue

The Role and Value of Trees in Urban Landscapes

Message from the Guest Editors

According to the 17 SDGs of the UN Agenda for 2030, it's important to spread the culture of sustainable development in society by ending the loss of biodiversity, and preserving and restoring ecosystems to improve the provision of ecosystem services.

The current projection of the growth of the urban population poses critical challenges from the socio-ecosystem perspective; meanwhile, there are plenty of opportunities to design and define more livable and resilient cities.

Green infrastructure, which is a strategically planned network of natural, semi-natural areas with other environmental features, provides a wide range of ecosystem services, i.e., water purification, air quality, recreation space, and climate problems. Vegetation, especially tree species, is effective in reducing air pollution levels. Furthermore, urban trees mitigate urban heat islands and the related health risks. The European Union identified nature-based solutions as fundamental actions to counteract the current challenges of climate change and air pollution.

This SI aims to highlight the role and value of urban, periurban forests in improving environmental quality and the wellbeing of citizens.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 May 2022)



Forests

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CiteScore 4.6



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