



SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION **FOR**
SUSTAINABLE
LIFE

Urban Nature Plans?

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Recent change in terminology ...

- Urban Greening Plans are part of the Biodiversity Restoration Strategy for 2030 calling on towns and cities of at least 20,000 inhabitants to design “measures to create biodiverse and accessible urban forests, parks and gardens; urban farms; green roofs and walls; treelined streets; urban meadows; and urban hedges.”
- The European Commission decided to rename ‘Urban Greening Plans’ as ‘Urban Nature Plans’ to avoid confusion with the Green City Accord and the European Green Capital Award – which cover environmental and sustainability topics beyond that of nature and biodiversity.



Agenda

- Context – Nature-based solutions (NBS) in Europe and at SLU
- Project – Urban Nature Plans Plus (UNP+)
- Deliverable – Capacity building programme



Nature-based solutions (NBS) are interventions designed to use the properties of nature to address multiple sustainability challenges. There is a significant policy and investment push for NBS both in Europe and internationally.



NBS and SLU ...

- SLU is positioned to take a leading role on NBS in Sweden, and in European projects and activities, over the coming decades. SLU has a long history of working on agriculture, forestry, water and landscapes as well as the interconnections between urban and rural contexts.
- The potential and possibilities for SLU to provide both detailed knowledge and expertise on NBS in practice as well as planning, design, governance and management insights and approaches for NBS is enormous.



Project background

- Cities can play a crucial role in restoring and enhancing nature and biodiversity, which in turn can positively impact our physical, mental, and emotional health and increase the resilience of our socio-economic, urban and green infrastructure.
- Green urban spaces, from gardens and parks to green roofs and urban farms, form a significant part of the overall natural habitat in cities, and spread across both public and private spaces, buildings and infrastructure.



Project goals

- The aim of UNP+ is to create a multi-scale framework that helps local authorities ...
- ... to integrate existing policies, measures and strategies related to urban greening across multiple scales (urban, peri-urban, and landscape) ...
- ... and mainstream biodiverse urban nature as a priority across municipal departments and sectors (housing, mobility, utilities, and public health).
- Bringing nature back into our cities!



Urban Nature Plans?

- Urban Nature Plans (UNPs) are an overarching approach that establishes bringing biodiverse nature into urban areas as an inter-departmental, cross-sectoral undertaking.
- UNPs can effectively and efficiently weave nature into the physical structure of a community, and ideally are linked to relevant planning processes, from a new school yard to a public transit line.
- **These no-regret measures offer cities an actionable and relevant strategy for addressing the impact of ecological degradation and climate change on human health and the environment.**



Capacities and skills

- A key challenge to realise the potential of UNPs is to define skills and training needs at local and regional levels, and to significantly build capacity within city authorities, planners and consultants ...
- ... for integrating goals for biodiversity and ecosystems into UNPs, as well as how to navigate the complexity of working across public and private spaces and interests in cities.



Steps towards a capacity building programme

- Survey of skills, capacity and training needs
- Review of existing capacity building programmes
- Develop a concept note with vision and overarching framework
- Iterative implementation and testing process

Initial plans for a capacity building programme

- Potentials, principles, processes, practices and performances
- Governing and policy
- Planning and routines
- Financing and collaborations
- Justice and well-being
- Assessment and monitoring



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