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Course

Date

Urban Greenery

Cities keep on growing all over the world, having more residents as well as problems. According to Ayre, it's been estimated that urban areas will more than double in size by 2030. With proper measures in place, this growth can greatly improve the quality of life for those living in cities (Ayre, 2012). Kambirigi believes that urban forestry initiatives can help mitigate some of the negative effects of rapid urbanization and poverty and stresses that such initiatives need not be complicated, although the urban framework is complex and has not traditionally integrated forestry considerations into its planning and development (Kambirigi, 2006).

Some of those measures are to increase parks, trees, and rooftop gardens and greenery. These actions can, somewhat surprisingly, go a long way towards decreasing city pollution, as well as helping to protect local plants and animals. This is considered especially important in rapidly growing nations like China and India, where city growth can occur practically overnight.

“Rich biodiversity can exist in cities and is extremely critical to people’s health and well-being,” wrote Thomas Elmqvist of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, scientific editor of the *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook*.

Urban populations throughout the world are expected to dramatically rise in the coming years, from around 3.5 billion currently to over 4.9 billion by 2030, according to the assessment by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Ayre, 2012).

FAO forestry expert Michelle Gauthier points out that the economic benefits are numerous: tree

cover reduces air temperature, resulting in energy savings for city dwellers, and trees can increase property values and protect roads and buildings against landslide, flood and sand encroachment.

Vegetable gardens increase and guarantee available household food; fuel wood from local forests helps reduce household energy costs and timber can be used for basic household furniture.

Irrigation of urban forests with appropriately treated wastewater can help cities challenged with wastewater disposal – disposing through utilization, thereby preserving urban water supply. Such recycling and conservation of already scarce water supplies have proved especially valuable in arid and semi arid areas.

For many, the benefits of urban forestry cannot be overemphasized. According Dr. Kamel Mahadin, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Jordan in Amman, there should be a single basic rule governing our understanding of urban forestry: “Plant as many trees as you can.”

(Kambirigi, 2006)

Bibliography

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Kambrigi L. *Urban Greenery Key For Future Happiness in Cities*. 2006. Web