

Planning future cities for people and nature



Prof. Dr. Leonie Fischer

Universität Stuttgart

ILPÖ Institut für Landschaftsplanung und Ökologie

Ecolopes Talk, online / TUM, 05.03.2024

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EXCERPT FROM THE PRESENTATION SLIDES

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The projects presented in the following were developed and done with many colleagues:

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Current challenges:

- Urbanization
- Climate change
- Biodiversity crisis

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Many pieces of a puzzle ...

- Grey vs. green infrastructures
- Greening vs. biodiversity
- Cultural & social aspects
- ...

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Access to green and use of green

nature cities



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44284-023-00020-6>

Global disparities in urban green space use during the COVID-19 pandemic from a systematic review

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Check for updates

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The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted urban resilience and challenged the use of urban green space (UGS). Previous studies lack consensus on whether UGS use increased or decreased during and after lockdowns and how this related to policy, economic conditions and UGS types. In a systematic review, we screened >3,000 articles in 5 languages, identifying 177 articles on UGS use changes in 60 countries. The cities studied show diverging changes in UGS use. Generally, decreases occurred where COVID-19 policies were stricter and the gross domestic product per capita was lower, including in most of the few studied areas of the Global South. All studies on private gardens and 60% on forests and other natural areas showed increases, while 77% of studies conducted on public parks indicated decreased use. The global disparity in UGS use was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the need to enhance green infrastructure for healthy cities and to extend it beyond public parks.

By 2050, the global urban population is projected to grow by 2.2 billion people¹, posing a challenge to creating green, healthy and resilient cities. While there is growing recognition that being outdoors benefits the physical and mental health of urban people^{2–4}, green spaces within and near cities are often under increasing pressure due to densification and accelerating urban growth. The unequal distribution of urban green spaces (UGS) within cities raises concerns about environmental inequity, as less privileged people often have less

Numerous local studies on UGS use during COVID-19 have revealed multidirectional changes, leading to elevated discussions about the importance of UGS⁵. Many studies reported that COVID-19 has profoundly impacted the use of green spaces in cities worldwide, with evidence for both decreased use during lockdowns^{6,15} and increased use during and afterwards^{16–18}. However, it remains unclear whether these changes were consistent across different world regions, user groups and types of public and private green space. In parallel, access

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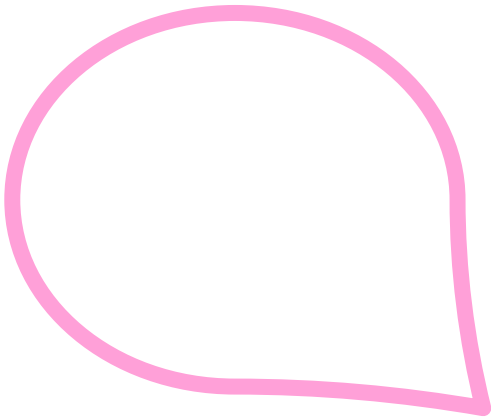
Green streets

Pop-up bike lanes,
interim playgrounds,
open streets, etc.
during the pandemic



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Green streets



Results in relation to greening:
People prefer trees and low landscaping elements.



Download:

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Nature-based Solutions

Technical Handbook Factsheets



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Nature-based solutions



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Nature-based solutions



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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Informing the design of urban green and blue spaces through an understanding of Europeans' usage and preferences

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Abstract

1. In light of global climate change and the biodiversity crisis, making cities more resilient through an adjusted design of urban green and blue spaces is crucial. Nature-based solutions help address these challenges while providing opportunities for nature experiences, and providing cultural ecosystem services that support public health. The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated stressors highlighted the interrelated socio-ecological services provided by nature-based solutions like urban green and blue spaces.
2. This pan-European study therefore aimed to enhance the socio-ecological understanding of green and blue spaces to support their design and management. Using an online survey, green and blue space preferences, usage, and pandemic-related changes in greenspace visit and outdoor recreation frequencies were examined.
3. Greenspace visit and outdoor recreation frequencies were associated with respondents' ($N = 584$ from 15 countries) geographical location, dominant type of neighbourhood greenspace and greenspace availability during the pandemic, but not greenspace perceptions or sociodemographic background.
4. Greenspace visit and outdoor recreation frequencies were generally high;



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Nature-based solutions

<https://jetztklimachen.stuttgart.de/klima-innovationsfonds-projekt-klimaoasen>

<https://www.ilpoe.uni-stuttgart.de/forschung/projektuebersicht/Oasen/#>



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Nature-based solutions



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Projects: Biodiversity façade & WiKliWa

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Projects: Biodiversity façade & WiKliWa

- To find out about the biodiversity potential of existing façades
- To develop a façade system that supports biodiversity
- Integrate the knowledge of:
 - Engineering / building physics (IABP / IBP, Fraunhofer)
 - Gardening practice (Helix Pflanzensysteme GmbH)
 - Landscape planning / urban ecology (ILPÖ)

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Projects: Biodiversity façade & WiKliWa



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Conclusion

Starting point

How do we currently plan and design urban green spaces?

How should we plan them to make cities livable places for all?

Current challenges:

Urbanization
Climate change
Biodiversity crisis



Multifaceted aspects:

Grey vs. green infrastructures
Greening vs. biodiversity
Cultural & social aspects, etc.

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