

Concluding Conference for the Swedish-French

Life Environment Project

URBAN WOODS FOR PEOPLE

(conference incorporating the 7th IUFRO European Forum on Urban Forestry)

Stockholm, Sweden

23rd – 27th May 2004

Conference theme: “Urban woods to be used by everyone”

Conference report compiled by:

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the concluding conference for the Life-environment project “Urban Woods for People” was to **demonstrate ways to increase the recreational benefits from urban woodlands.**

The conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden between the 23rd and 27th May 2004 with most conference activities centred on the Conference Hotel Nacka in a residential district close the city centre. The conference complemented an international urban woods for people workshop held in Paris, France in November 2002.

The conference featured two excursions.

- 📖 The first excursion was held on Sunday 23rd May 2004 and was to the Royal Djurgarden National City Park, located in the east and north of the city.
- 📖 The second excursion was held on Tuesday 25th May 2004 and was to the pilot recreational forests in Huddinge and Haninge municipalities, which form part of the greater Stockholm urban fringe.

The conference was well attended with delegates attending from across the European Union, including the new accession states (representatives from Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania). There were also delegates attending from non-EU countries including Norway, Malaysia and India.



Representatives from the LIFE-environment project played a leading role in the conference organisation, these included:-

- 📖 Regional Forestry Board of Maelardalen
- 📖 Office National de Forets (ONF)
- 📖 National Board of Forestry in Sweden
- 📖 Municipalities of Huddinge and Haninge
- 📖 Royal Djurgarden (Stockholm)
- 📖 Disabled's organisation of Sweden

The conference also incorporated the 7th annual meeting of the IUFRO (International Union for Forest Research Organisations) **European Forum on Urban Forestry**. This well established event ensured that a wide variety of Forest Managers and Forest Researchers were present, hence ensuing a good exchange of research and practice. It also enables follow up discussions to take place at the 8th annual meeting which will be held in Celje, Slovenia on the 9th – 13th May 2005.

Clive Davies from England's Community Forest programme, who attended both the concluding conference and the international workshop in Paris, November 2002, was invited by the organisers to summarise the proceedings, draw conclusions and write a conference report.

WELCOME

Delegates were welcomed to the conference by Monika Stridsman (County Chief Forester for the Regional Forestry Board of Maladarlen) and Goran Enander, Director General of the National Board of Forestry in Sweden.

Goran Enander pointed out that the Greater Stockholm region contains numerous regions where inhabitants can enjoy nature and drew attention to the long established right to public access, which ensures that people have the right to visit these areas freely. Despite the long tradition of people visiting forests in Sweden, society was changing, the population was now largely urbanised and physical inactivity is a growing health concern. Forestry was also changing from one where economic values dominated to one where social values were coming to the fore. Indeed the ambition of the Swedish Forestry Administration is to become Sweden's best authority on questions concerning the social values of the Forest and this conference would be a great help in this process. These include the tools developed by the Urban Woods for People project, namely:-

- 📖 Handbooks
- 📖 Good examples of public participation
- 📖 Recreation adapted green plans prepared for different landowner groups
- 📖 Training courses on the subject 'Urban Woodland Planning and Management'

In order to create the conditions that enable the majority of the population to enjoy the Forest, the National Board of Forestry has set a goal to reach agreement with 80% of Sweden's municipalities with populations in excess of 10,000 persons. These agreements will identify long-term ambitions concerning utilisation of urban forests in order to better meet recreational needs. In this the experience of Office National de Forets in the creation of a charter of Forest areas will be valuable.



Bernard Rey, Technical Director for Office National des Forêts responded saying that the EU-life project Urban woods for People had been a real chance for experimentation in France. Key aspects that he discerned were that Urban Forests should no longer be seen as just a consumer good but something to protect and cherish. That public views can be contradictory and that Europeans should be informed that forests are not natural but managed landscapes. Innovative strategies are needed for the management of urban woodland and continual improvements must be sought. Key issue is to train the next generation of foresters in social sciences, whether they be Forest Workers or Forest Managers.

PRE-CONFERENCE EXCURSION STUDY VISIT TO THE ROYAL DJURGARDEN NATIONAL CITY PARK

Six study stations had been set up in the Royal Djurgarden by conference organisers to consider:-

1. The purpose, possibilities and potential of the National City Park
2. How to run a commercial company inside the park
3. Adaptive management
4. Management planning to handle natural, cultural and recreational values
5. Mountain biking – a new outdoor activity
6. WWF grazing project - an example of urban agriculture.

Despite seasonally poor weather the study visit was well received by delegates and a lot of discussion took place.



The example of the 'north shore' style mountain biking course which had been assembled by the mountain bikers themselves at very low cost (materials only free labour) was unique in Sweden and several delegates appeared intent on translating this to their local areas.

There was a lively discussion on urban agriculture in urban forest settings resulting from the WWF grazing project. Many felt that this was an area that had been ignored previously yet offered a useful management tool for open areas (such as glades and woodland edges) in urban settings. The approach could do much to retain biodiversity and also had sustainable development aspects notably in reducing travel to market miles for grazing cattle.

The ability to run a private company in the park was explored in depth especially the motivation of the owner. It transpired that the owner (who had a background in catering in the centre of Stockholm) was not simply wishing to maximise a return on investment. He viewed himself as an environmental entrepreneur wishing to utilise the natural resources of the area as the setting for a business. The approach was seen as having possibilities in many different countries.

STUDY VISIT TO THE PILOT FORESTS IN HUDDINGE AND HANINGE MUNICIPALITIES

The study visit to the pilot forest areas considered the following issues:-

-  Planning and land management at Gladokvarn; presentation of green management plan adapted for recreation.
-  Paradise (local) nature reserve; presentation of website www.natur.huddinge.se and guided tours targeting children, elderly, new Swedes and disabled



- 📖 Cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGO's)
- 📖 Quantity and quality measurement of recreation
- 📖 Access for disabled persons

A major focus for the study visit was the topic: **access for all**. Delegates were challenged to put themselves in the place of disabled persons and asked to consider forest management from this perspective.

Representatives from disabled persons organisations pointed out that very often Forest Managers consider access for the disabled from the perspective of people in wheelchairs, but that this should be considered as only one aspect of disability. Many more people were disabled by the lack of one of their senses such as sight or sound and a further group are disabled by their social conditions. Examples of this are people who cannot visit forests because they are full time carers or they are poor or suffer from language difficulties or social stigmatisation.

A delegate pointed out that we will all be disabled sometime in life, very often in old age and that access for all is a mainstream matter for urban forest management.

It was demonstrated that access provision for disabled persons need not be expensive. Often all that is needed is awareness and careful thought. An example of this was highlighted at Skultan pilot forest. Delegates in wheelchairs pointed out that the excellent new path provided for their use could be greatly improved and at low cost by providing high visibility edging which could act as 'tap rails' for blind or partially sighted persons.

PLENARY PAPERS

Cecil Konijnendijk – are Urban Woods for Everyone?

Summary: -

- 📖 Urban wood for urban good
- 📖 Woods make people happy and healthy.
- 📖 Why choose Hollywood if you have your Urbanwood?
- 📖 They are our woods – our neighbourwoods – and are open for business 24/7
- 📖 Most EU countries are rainbow nations but still very 'native citizen orientated'
- 📖 Woods must provide entertainment and excitement
- 📖 No barrier to high – access for all
- 📖 Need for special theme forests e.g. Gourmet Forest (BBQ facilities, wild food collecting opportunities etc)

Thierry Moigneu – Urban Woods for People in the Ile de France

Summary: -

- 📖 Major task was to look at participative management AND methods and techniques for improvement (pilot areas Forêt de Senart (South of Paris) and at the county level the Hauts de Seine – three forest areas west of Paris).
- 📖 Overarching theme is to meet local user needs and integrate into wider urban planning.
- 📖 Determine the area of functional influence (which is greater than the forest boundary), make an inventory of these links and break down pre-existing boundaries of involvement through a partnership approach.
- 📖 Stressed the limits set by natural environmental processes, work with nature not against it.
- 📖 Some difficulties encountered e.g. – developed a web site but this was too early in the project
- 📖 Good beginning to activities but problems associated with waste management (key issue for administrators), volunteering (which is new in France)
- 📖 Life funding has enabled Intellectual enrichment for those involved in the project
- 📖 Barriers to be overcome include the reluctance of some foresters to submitting their plans to participants who have no technical knowledge.
- 📖 Art works created in the forest but these are expensive and not seen by budget managers as value for money
- 📖 Good cooperation with association of handicap persons in France

Allan Gunnarson and Lena Palenius - Children and teenagers as creative managers – some useful tools and results.

Summary: -

- 📖 Children and teenagers are creative managers who learn by doing
- 📖 Children are important users but are rarely asked their opinions
- 📖 Children act as small copies of 'Robinson Crusoe' coming to a vast corner of the world.
- 📖 Children have 'spot vision' – look at small places and see the potential, the professional manager has 'overview vision' – both are needed.
- 📖 Woodland is a social arena.
- 📖 Teachers visiting the forest see it as a day of resting their ears and active children slow down.
- 📖 Forests shaped by children and teenagers are not more beautiful but are more interesting.
- 📖 Young dense woodlands are best for children, which dispels the myth that only mature woodland has intrinsic recreational value.
- 📖 The woodland social context can enable children who under-perform in the classroom environment to gain 'respect' from their peers.

Cyril Campana - Living together – the Senart Forest. A laboratory to experiment concerted peri-urban forest management

Summary: -

- 📖 Forest Charter developed to link the actors together
- 📖 Structure adopted is one of a steering committee and seven working commissions
- 📖 Problems of administration load, timing and approach for ONF.
- 📖 Some working groups operate better than others
- 📖 User representatives – some people hoped to get new 'powers' and apply political pressure – some started questioning the legitimate presence of certain people.

- 📖 Operational area is bigger than the area of the forest.
- 📖 Re-establishing trust, bringing together people who do not normally work together, learning about compromise, transparency, mobilisation of partners
- 📖 Consultation is only just participation. ONF feel that they have gone much further.
- 📖 The Charter approach is a philosophical approach driven by users with ONF a facilitator.

Henrik Niklasson – Web-sites a tool to be used in combination with other communication tools

Summary: -

- 📖 Website to be used with other tools.
- 📖 Has educational and interpretative aspects
- 📖 Mapping tool has proved powerful
- 📖 Interpretation includes a flight facility showing the area in the 17th Century and the 21st Century
- 📖 Tracks and routes shown along with a finder facility
- 📖 Restriction is that the website does not reach the ‘information poor’.
- 📖 Current website is essentially an information tool but not yet a communication tool
- 📖 Good idea to provide special reasons to visit websites such as competition and prizes
- 📖 www.svo.se/utiskogen
- 📖 Communication between managers and visitors is possible through e-mail with the managers e-mail address is easily recognised at the web site

Thierry Moigneu – Organising recreation in Urban Forests

Summary: -

- 📖 Since the 1960s ONF had equipped forests for cars
- 📖 1970's led to car closure for some areas and car parking to the perimeters of the Forest
- 📖 Zoning method now introduced and applied at Forest de Senart, this has led to three zones being delineated based on noise intrusion i.e. <40dB, 40 – 50dB, >50 db
- 📖 <40dB zoned as tranquil areas
- 📖 40 – 50dB no car areas
- 📖 >50dB the welcome zone and recreation facilities
- 📖 Forest creation is a growing concern for urban populations but not yet recognised as a trend by politicians
- 📖 Noted in questioning that the urban forests in tropical locations cannot be easily zoned on noise levels as the centre of the forest can be very noisy due to animals.

Lovisa Blomqvist – Immigrants in nature close to urban settings – qualitative interviews concerning views and utilisation and proposed measures to increase usage

Summary: -

- 📖 The aim of this study is to illustrate how immigrants perceive and utilise the Swedish nature and suggest how immigrants can utilise the adjacent nature for recreational purposes.
- 📖 Qualitative interviews, group interviews and participant observations undertaken, based on a sample of 39 immigrants aged from 12 to 61 from 18 different countries of origin.

- 📖 Immigrants are a very heterogeneous group and there is no typical immigrant perspective on how nature is regarded.
- 📖 Hindrances include lack of friends, lack of time, poor weather, unpleasant environment, fear of being attacked, insecure in a new environment.
- 📖 Much can be done to improve the situation, information, preferably oral, and increased accessibility is needed.
- 📖 Important to arrange interesting activities to enable immigrants to take part in their environment.
- 📖 It is important that the immigrants find their surroundings safe, tidy and inviting.

Nils Duwahl - Urban Woods for all people

Summary: -

- 📖 Purpose of the EU/LIFE project Urban Woods for People is to increase the accessibility of woodlands situated near an urban area.
- 📖 DHR's role in the project is to ensure that the needs of people with mobility impairments are looked after.
- 📖 Sweden, the right of common access makes sure that all people has a limited right to pass through and make temporary camp on privately owned land. To a large extent, this right has been of no use for people with mobility impairments.
- 📖 The Urban Woods for People project can make the right of common access available even for them.
- 📖 DHR and similar bodies have a key role as advisors and should be seen as stakeholders in urban woodland projects.

Patrik Grahn - Urban Woods for quality of life and health.

Summary :-

- 📖 What values of urban woodland are indispensable and what values can we make use of and develop
- 📖 People's experiences of the outdoor environment can be categorised into a relatively limited number of parameters.
- 📖 Research work has involved developing a language to deal with people's experiences of qualities of urban woods and green areas developing a way to communicate with architects and planners, but also with laymen.
- 📖 This tool eventually proved useful in measuring qualities and also demonstrated that the qualities that people desire and need add to comfort and well-being and in turn, directly affect their health.
New major diseases – largely stress and autonomy dysfunction related.
- 📖 New courses such as Environmental psychology incorporate the psychosomatic effect of green environments.
- 📖 Design of kindergartens can affect children's attention – a woodscape is better than hardscape and this can be related to improvements in motor skills and sit and reach improvements.
- 📖 Also can provide healing environments for those who are burned out, they represent soulful and peaceful places for re-creation.

Simon Bell – so what is so special about urban woodland

Summary :-

- 📖 Physical characteristics and cultural associations provides urban woodlands with significant social value
- 📖 Height of woodlands gives them a kind of space not found in other forms of green environments i.e. gives them volume and thus creates a different world close by the city.
- 📖 Trees have some effect on deadening noise and can add to tranquillity.
- 📖 Urban woods give seasonality back to major cities.
- 📖 Forests represent untamed areas and a place to work with excluded teenagers and youths
- 📖 Community Forests are about environmental capital AND community capital (i.e. created by one generation for the benefit of the future).
- 📖 Woodlands are democratic places, no one group can lay claim to a part, not so obviously sub divided as for instance parks.
- 📖 Woodlands have magical qualities and surveys have shown that they are the green areas least associated with boredom.

Mattias Eriksson – recreation in privately owned urban forests in Sweden.

Summary :-

- 📖 Both private forest owners and municipal officials are positive to be a part in a “recreational contract” where the purpose is to benefit the recreational aspects of the forest.
- 📖 40 % of the private urban forest owners consider that if you own an urban forest, you should have a larger responsibility to manage your forest to make it more recreationally interesting.

Roland Gustavsson - Following the track from Silver Hill, over Buffalo Meadow to the Crocodile Marsh

Summary :-

- 📖 If recreational use, social-aesthetics, an increased engagement of local resources are really something which should be used to empower then there is an obvious challenge to make radical changes in management planning.
- 📖 Conventionally, management planning is based on forestry and conservation traditions, and normally professionals as outsiders enact it.
- 📖 What is needed is to use management planning as a tool to engage local resources, choosing a combined communicative and reference landscape approach, bridging between professionals and locals, supporting local landscape identity and the spirit of the place as something specific, integrating aesthetics, and focusing on the favourite places of connoisseurs.
- 📖 Several complementary methods have been used, to make the process vision-rich, concrete, and communication led, involving groups such as: (a) professional academic experts and leading persons among user groups (connoisseurs), (b) non academic managers, (c) and young people who might want to become managers in the future.

Farouk Stemmet – Putting the ‘urban’ back into the ‘urban forest’



Summary :-

- 📖 A city is the outcome of an infinite number of negotiations of which the parties are seldom equal in power, so that the outcome always resembles more the way that one group sees or needs it than another. Professionals involved in the making of cities, including urban ecologists, are subject to the same process.
- 📖 While for most urban forest advocates, more forest is better, for urban sustainability, this is not necessarily so.
- 📖 The notion that Brownfield land must be left alone to evolve into wild urban forest so that 'nature claims it back' is romantic sentimentality, rather than practical urban management.
- 📖 Urban dwellers both need, and are entitled to, urban forests but the key word is not 'forest', but 'urban' since urban is both a kind of geography and a kind of reality.
- 📖 Health, transport, leisure, work, trade, administration, etc., all have to happen within the same geography. That creates a special kind of reality—one for which the first priority of each urban endeavour must be the well-being of the city itself.
- 📖 The way forward, not only for urban forests, but also for all endeavours in the urban realm, is a willingness to negotiate with all other endeavours.

Terry Hartig - Walk in the woods or stroll on the street; the choice appears to depend on the need for and likelihood of psychological restoration.

Summary :-

- 📖 Research shows that adults tend to prefer natural scenes to urban scenes.
- 📖 Building on an expectancy-value model of attitudes toward behaviour, analysed the attitude toward walking in a given environment into two components: the evaluation of particular psychological changes that could occur while walking, and the likelihood of those changes occurring while walking in the given environment.
- 📖 Through experiment have found a more positive attitude toward the forest than toward the city centre.
- 📖 Difference was substantially larger among those who had a greater need for restoration
- 📖 The results may show why many people prefer preservation of local natural areas over allowing the land to be used for housing or commercial development.
- 📖 Results suggest, those preferences reflect on the need for psychological restoration, and their expectations about achieving restoration with a walk in nature.

Erik Sandstrom - Designing Urban Woods for People as a response to EU environmental policies

Summary :-

- 📖 Identified a partner country that complements the Swedish situation and a lead partner in that country that is a very strong institution. France, with our long-time friends in Office National des Forêts.
- 📖 Two complementary workshops followed by development and testing of training sessions in English focussing more northern Europe and in French focussing southern Europe.

Johanna From – Urban Woods for People – the deliverables of a EU-life Environment Project

Summary :-

- 📖 Urban woodlands serve an important function for urban people of today. For many people these woods form the only contact with nature.
- 📖 The Swedish-French Life Environment Project *Urban Woods for People* demonstrates ways to enhance, encourage and improve recreation for the general public in urban woodlands. Pilot urban forests in Sweden and in France are used to demonstrate different ways to stimulate forest recreation.
- 📖 Production of handbooks, examples on multi-management plans, courses and excursions are examples on activities targeting urban foresters and urban planners.
- 📖 Guided tours, development on nature trails, educational programs, different types of public participation and creation of web-sites for communication between users and managers are examples of activities targeting the general public.
- 📖 One focus is on private urban forest owners and ways to increase the recreational values of their forests and at the same time minimise any negative impact by visitors.
- 📖 To incorporate the knowledge and experience of other disciplines and of other countries, the project have hosted two international conferences.
- 📖 For Europe the project will offer ways to stimulate and improve forest recreation in urban areas.
- 📖 More people will hopefully visit the forest and discover it's multiple values to the possible effect of a higher well-being and better health of many people of all ages.
- 📖 The project will finalise its work in 2005 with a total budget of 3 million euro partly financed by the EU Life-Environment fund.

SESSION PAPERS

On days 1 and 3 of the conference, the conference split into three streams. 50+ delegates attended each stream and each of these had an overarching theme. A total of 27 papers were given in these sessions. Abstracts of the papers are included in the conference report.

POSTER SESSION

A poster session was held on Day 3 of the conference at the Nordiska Museum of Cultural History in Stockholm. Topics covered:-

- 📖 Outdoor environmental education
- 📖 England's Community Forests; Their achievements and measuring public benefit
- 📖 The peri-urban forest dynamics in the European average city, proposal of a method of analysis
- 📖 How can urban forestry research progress be applied in management planning
- 📖 The demand for forest recreation in France from 1960 – 2003: a major stake for the future.
- 📖 Greening strategies for a city
- 📖 Schoolforests – an agreement between forest owners and schools about the use of a specific forest area.
- 📖 New recreational activities in Urban Forests



- 📖 Valuing community engagement in the North East Community Forests, England – a quantitative approach

WORKING WITH NEIGHBOURHOODS: TOOLS FOR BETTER URBAN WOODLANDS

A seminar was held within the conference to discuss the findings of the Neighbourhoods project. Publications associated with the project were distributed and mini-presentations were made on the contributing cities/regions.

The neighbourhoods approach suggests a hierarchical approach based on the following tools :-

- 📖 Promotion and informing tools (e.g. Peck Respect and Bossa Nova marketing in Flanders)
- 📖 Public and expert involvement tools
- 📖 Children's involvement tools
- 📖 GIS based tools

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND KEY POINTS ARISING

“He who plants trees loves others besides himself”

taken from Thomas Fuller; *Gnomologia*, 1732

1. SCALE

Urban woodland area is growing for example 300,000 hectares of urban woodland in Sweden. In less wooded countries such as England and the Netherlands major urban reforestation taking place. Urban woods are a major contribution to sustainable development especially when it is linked to education and urban agriculture. Urban Forestry now a pan-European issue as witnessed by the wide representation at this conference.

2. USEFUL SOUNDBITES

- 📖 Urban wood for urban good
- 📖 Woods make people happy and healthy
- 📖 Why choose Hollywood if you can have Urbanwood
- 📖 Open for business 24/7
- 📖 Its about entertainment and excitement

3. RAINBOW NATIONS

European countries are now rainbow nations but urban forestry is still orientated to the indigenous citizen. No barrier can be too high if we are to create access for all, we must address issues of race, gender and disablement vigorously.

4. DELEGATION OF POWER








Do foresters really like submitting plans to participants who have no technical knowledge? Change management needed for foresters to prepare them to be facilitators of people's wishes. A key role for education establishments training urban foresters, delivery of the social sciences as much as the natural sciences.

5. KIDZ R US



Children can be our as creativity managers, they have ‘spot vision’ – look at small places and see the potential. Professionals have acquired ‘overview vision’. Urban woods created by children are not more beautiful but they are more interesting and young dense woodlands are best.

6. THE LIFETIME OF THE URBAN FOREST

-  Plant a tree for birth
-  Playground as a child
-  Adventure to the teenager
-  Courting ground for the adolescent
-  Recreation ground for families
-  Tranquillity for old age
-  Ashes in the mature forest.

7. WHERE DO THE FORESTS END

The area of the Forest is bigger than the area of the forest, its footprint can extend for kilometres beyond.

8. PARTICIPATION IS MORE THAN CONSULTATION

There is a hierarchy of public participation and we need examples of good practice at all levels.

9. FOREST WEB

The Internet offers exciting possibilities for the future but a characteristic of society is that the multiply deprived are also ‘information poor’. Furthermore the Internet should be more than a one way information tool it should be a multi-user communication tool

10. ZONING

Take care when zoning as this can destroy the democracy that urban woodlands uniquely provide as urban green space. Noise alone is too narrow a measure for zoning, but the potential exists for multiple indices for example including air quality and dark skies








11. RESPECT

We should respect different interest groups equally, identify potential conflicts beforehand and undertake a risk analysis prior to public participation.

12. SMALL (BUDGETS) IS BEAUTIFUL

Urban Forests are cheap ways to create green areas and maintenance is cheaper too. It takes 1min 23sec of time to maintain 1sq metre of lawn a year; 5min 32sec of time to maintain shrubs a year, annual flowers 26min 40sec of time to maintain annual flowers per year. We MUST know soon how long it takes to maintain urban forests and then we should talk about ‘life cycle costing’.

13. A SHOPPING LIST OF SOCIAL VALUES

-  Untouched mystery (undisturbed places – wild silent and pristine)
-  Woodland harmony (multi-sensory)
-  Open views and open landscapes
-  Biodiversity and lessons from nature
-  Cultural history and living rural environments
-  Activity and challenge
-  Facilities and meeting places

14. THE URBAN IN THE FOREST

We should look through the lens of urban living in addition to considering Urban Forests as a land-use. This could provide us with different answers to some key questions.

15. (REAL) ACCESS FOR ALL

Requires a mind shift in thinking for all professionals and a reminder that “no barrier can be too high if we are to create access for all”.

16. CONSUMER GOODS

Urban Forests are not just ‘consumer goods’. They have deeper spiritual qualities and deserve to be protected and cherished. Public views can be contradictory however consultation may show that people understand wildness but when visiting the Forest they can prefer tidiness.

17 MANAGED LANDSCAPES.

Forests are managed (not natural) landscapes, as such they can be compared with agriculture. Agri-environment schemes now pay farmers to maintain the farmed landscape, foresters deserve an equal deal to maintain the forested landscape.

18. THE NEW MAJOR DISEASES

Largely stress and autonomy dysfunction related and this points to a greater role for Urban Forests in the future than in the past. We need concise information to challenge accepted medical norms and advocates in the medical world who recognise what Forest can do to overcome stress and autonomy dysfunction diseases.

19. DISTANCE TO BENEFIT

Compelling evidence now available that the benefits of urban woodland decreases rapidly with distance from residential areas. Usually 1,000 metres or less, it is proximity that is important not the size of the woodland.

20. GREENSTART

WE need children to have a greenstart if they are to benefit most from exploratory play, this can set the tone for future years and may avoid AHD in later years.

21. THE NATURE OF SPACE

Height gives Urban Forests, uniquely, another dimension - it gives them volume and creates a different space close by the city.

22. CAPITAL VALUES

Community Forestry is practiced in urban forests, this is a summation of environmental capital PLUS community capital, the latter being created by one generation for the benefit of the next.

23. DEMOCRATIC PLACES

Woods are intrinsically democratic places as no one group can lay claim to a part. However we should take in zoning policies as this inevitably reduces democracy in woodland perhaps to the extent seen in other forms of green spaces such as public parks.

24. FOLLOWING THE TRACK FROM SILVER HILL OVER BUFFALO MEADOW TO THE CROCODILE MARSH.

Increase understanding of users and involve the connoisseurs



Build bridges to professionals and politicians
Respect the local identity, place and landscape
Understand that Urban Forest managers are also people
Help them come out of the shadows so they can be urban heroes.

25. SOCIAL VALUES

Research has shown that for adults the most important value of Urban Forests is (1) beautiful landscape then (2) peace and quietness. Next we must understand what the most important values for children and teenagers are.

26. LAND VALUE CONFLICT

In extreme cases the value of development land over urban woodland can be 180:1, we must have strong planning controls in our toolkit to protect what we have, extend it and create new woodland in the urban context.

27. HOUSE PRICES

Work in Drastrup (Denmark) has shown that new urban afforestation has pushed up house prices by 20% creating a net present value of 100Mn DKr compared to neighbouring areas not within the footprint of the new forest, for a public investment of 30Mn DKr. Nevertheless in Drastrup the most potent political argument is the protection of groundwater not recreation or biodiversity.

28. OUR AMBITIONS

- 📖 We must have them, but they must be credible
- 📖 We must address social exclusion in all its forms
- 📖 We should believe that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole
- 📖 We should communicate that our FORESTS ARE FOR THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL

EVALUATION

A conference evaluation completed by delegates showed that the conference was well organised, useful to their professional areas of interest and will stimulate follow up activities.

IUFRO EUROPEAN FORUM FOR URBAN FORESTRY 2005

The next IUFRO European Forum for Urban Forestry will be an excellent opportunity to build upon the findings and discussions from the Concluding Conference for the Swedish-French Life Environment Project, URBAN WOODS FOR PEOPLE.

The forum will take place in the city of Celje, Slovenia on the 9th – 13th May 2005. The theme for this conference is **URBAN FORESTS – trademark for a good place to live.**

