

Summary of the Proceedings  
2005 European Urban Forestry Forum (EFUF)  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005  
Celje, SLOVENIA

## INTRODUCTION AND OPENING CEREMONY

The previous forum had been held in Stockholm in May 2004. EFUF 2005 was based at the St Joseph's Centre in Celje, Slovenia.

The opening ceremony was held at Celje City Hall. After a musical introduction the opening speakers **Bojan Srot (Mayor of Celje), Andrej Kermavnar (Director General of the Slovenian Forest Service, Cecil Konijnendijk (IUFRO), Jasper Schipperijn (EUFORIC)** all spoke about the importance of forests to urban communities. The City of Celje was cited as an example of good practice in Slovenia.

On behalf of the EFUF, **Cecil Konijnendijk**, coordinator of IUFRO "Urban Forestry", thanked the host city and the Slovenian Forest Service. Special mention was made of Robert Hostnik and the local Foresters who had been instrumental in organising the forum.

The context of the Forum was that whilst Slovenia is an extremely forested country with 60% woodland cover and 71 indigenous species, only in the last 14 years had urban forestry been seen as important and that whilst much had been done during that time, further work was required. The presence of EFUF was valuable in focussing interest on Slovenia's urban forests.

Finally delegates were reminded that Forests are the most important eco-system in the world.

---

## SESSION 1 – URBAN FORESTRY, A DIFFERENT TRADEMARK FOR GREEN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Alan Simpson** (England), presented a paper, titled: Can Urban Forestry assist with banishing the City Blues? His paper quoted Castells (1993) that 'Major cities throughout Europe constitute the nervous system of the economic and political body of the continent. The more nation states wane, the more cities emerge as the driving force in the making of a new European society'. He placed urban forestry within the context of the marketing of the city especially in 'place selling' but observed that city regeneration policy was leading to 'child empty' urban cores with families moving to suburbia. Urban forestry can be seen as an integral part of green infrastructure, and quoted from a UK example of this thinking 'The Northern Way', noting that it can:-

- Inspire a positive image and setting for economic progress + investment
- A focus for social inclusion, education, training + human health & well-being

- Reinforcing, enhancing + imaging the regional landscape
  - Increase bio-diversity
  - Develop a multi-functional landscape
  - Enhance natural + historical assets
  - Inspire partnership working
- 

In an illustrated paper, **Cecil Konijnendijk** (Denmark) considered the Urban Forest Brand, the key conclusion being the need to follow a customer orientated service branding with tree & wood association and association of the brand with 'QUALITY'. Key marketing attributes for urban forestry are:-

- Service branding for customer-orientation
  - Internal branding to strengthen organisation and build pride in organisation
  - "Quality stamp" for good practice
  - Build long-term relationships with customers and obtaining their support and feedback
  - Strategies:
    - Differentiator,
      - Segmenting customers, tailoring, one-to-one communication
    - Candid marketer
      - Trust-based, transparent, dialogue, telling not selling
    - Loyalist
      - Lifetime relationships, communication, lower marketing cost
  - Linking up to strategic issues, e.g., at city level (competitiveness, health, social integration)
  - Continue appealing to all senses: sense branding
- 

**Pepper Provenzano** (USA) presented an interactive web and CD based interface under the title: Technology, Synergy, and Urban Forestry - Is our future going to be grey or green? The intention of the interface is to enlighten and influence decision makers. In discussion it was suggested that European 'version' could be a powerful high level marketing tool and it was suggested that this could be produced under the banner of EUFORIC. An online version of the US interface can be viewed at [www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)

---

**Ulrika Akerlund** (Sweden) introduced the new Master's programme in Urban Forestry and Urban greening at SLU/KVL which starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005. She drew attention to leaflets available at the forum and on the internet at [www.nova-university.org/ufug](http://www.nova-university.org/ufug) or [www.slu.se](http://www.slu.se) There was discussion about adapting this course into a distance learning package, possibly over two years, to increase participation levels and maybe to include a summer school.

---

**Francisco Escobedo** presented a paper titled – ‘Using Urban Forest Management in Santiago, Chile as a Cost-Effective Air Quality Improvement Policy’. The research team had found evidence that in the Mediterranean type climate of Santiago, Chile there evidence was that urban forestry was very competitive with other approaches (and when used with other approaches). In conclusion it was noted that:-

- This was the first study quantifying urban forest structure and function in Latin America by
    - Tree numbers, sizes, distribution, cover, composition, for city and each socioeconomic sector
    - Pollution removal, C offsets, Volatile Organic Compounds, Tree-Energy effects, for city and by socioeconomic sector
  - That urban forest management is a Cost- Effective policy when considering
    - PM10 abatement function and costs of trees alone and
    - PM10 abatement function and costs of trees-shrubs-grass.
- 

**Renate Spaeth** (Germany) discussed her paper ‘Wild Urban Forests’ - The social and ecological values of natural regeneration areas in the Ruhr Area. This area is the focus for an ambitious natural regeneration greening programme and how these areas have great educational value, both to children, ecologists and industrial conservationists. The wild urban areas have a variety of important functions for people and for nature and but they are challenge for urban planners. New projects to come include:-

- Network Emscher Park Urban Forestry - which started in April 2005
  - Local forest projects like:
    - Intercultural dialogues on nature and forests
    - Intergenerational forests,
    - NeighbourWoods for deprived neighbourhoods
- 

**Robert Hostnik** (Slovenia) presented a paper titled: ‘Towards a City's Identity - Developing the Urban Dimensions of the Forests of Celje, Slovenia’. In the paper, Robert, talked about the timeline of activity in Celje’s forests noting that the introduction of a Strategy Plan in 1996 was the most decisive move in over 100 years of Celje’s forests. This strategy plan provided:-

- Protection by law.
- Stable financial resource.
- Alteration of ownership structure.
- Adapted forest management.
- Development of recreational infrastructure.
- Public relations.

All of these have been achieved excepting adapted forest management and public relations where further work is required.

---

## SITE VISIT 1 – NEW URBAN FORESTS – GUIDED FOREST WALKS IN THE URBAN FOREST OF CELJE

An excursion was made to the urban forest surrounding Celje. Discussion focused on ‘ownership issues’ and how to ‘provide and manage access’. There was a lively debate about the approach adopted by ‘Landscape Architects’ and ‘Foresters’ especially in terms of aesthetics. Given the very steep gradients some delegates raised the issue of access for people with physical disabilities and how to ameliorate steep gradients by using intermittent flights of steps and ‘hairpin bends’.

---

## SESSION 2 – FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND URBAN SILVICULTURE

**Ivo Kupka** (Czech Republic) talked about Silvicultural methods specific to Prague’s Urban Forests. His conclusions were that:-

- Metropolitan forest areas can be defined by their short walking distance access
  - Management rules and silvicultural methods dependent on:
    - recreational load,
    - forest ecosystem limits,
    - age stages
  - That a clear-cutting silvicultural system seems to be the best option for the central zone of Prague urban forests (based on questionnaire survey) as it brings large openings into the forest
  - Even-aged stands with one crown layer are preferred for walking recreation by most of the visitors.
- 

**Luigi Portoghesi** (Italy) discussed a paper titled: The Systemic Silviculture in the management of an urban forest: the Castelfusano umbrella pine forest (Rome). The paper commenced with a quote by Agnoletti (2003) “Forests within or immediately adjacent to large towns have been transformed by their proximity to large populations from expressions of natural history to exponents of social history”.

The management of the Castelfusano forest needs many integrated tools including: communication, participatory process, education, public safety, fire prevention, archaeological traces conservation, and silviculture.

Two approaches were identified:

Traditional silviculture (profit oriented) characterised by:-

- Even-aged pure stands with homogeneous structure
- Rotation determined in advance

- Fixed sequence of thinning and regeneration fellings (clear cutting)
- Regeneration of stand by clear cutting of pine stand and under layer
- Thinnings maintain regular pattern of the plantations.
- Optimal spacing: from 8 x 8 m to 12 x 12.

Systemic silviculture (ecosystem stability oriented) characterised by:-

- Indefinite stand structure with pine and evergreen hardwoods
- Natural longevity of species, stand dynamics
- Cautious, continuous and capillary interventions established time by time according to the stand structure and the reaction of the stand to the prior one
- Regeneration by clear cutting on small gaps (1000 to 5000 m<sup>2</sup>) between clumps of adult pines.
- Thinnings break the regular pattern of the plantations.
- Random or by groups stem distribution

In conclusion it was noted that:-

- Silviculture is an important tool for the management of urban forests.
- New concept and methodologies, different than traditional silviculture, are often required for urban forests.
- The systemic approach can be useful for the low impact of treatments which are not affected by profit goals.
- It is a challenge for foresters to contribute to an original type of silviculture for the purpose of urban forest management.

**Mattias Eriksson** (Sweden) paper was produced in the context of the EU Life Project 'Urban Woods for People' with the title 'Strategic goals and planning in an urban context - experiences from Swedish Forestry'. The stated objectives were to (1) increase recreational value of privately owned forest and decrease any inconveniences from recreational use of that same forest and (2) make a recreationally adapted forest management plan with a focus on the users of the plan. The benefits for the landowner were better conditions for management in Urban areas and for the owners "neighbours" a forest with a higher consideration towards multiple values.

**Robert Robek** (Slovenia) paper "Roles of forestry engineering in urban forests" considered what extra engineering measures have to be implemented at policy, planning and operational level in urban forests. The underlying message to urban foresters is that they have to accept associated impacts and costs and that whilst urban forests are a challenge for forestry engineering then engineering is also a challenge for urban society.

**Anders Nielsen** (Denmark) outlined "Communicating about nature-based management - forest development types and profile diagrams" based on work undertaken in Denmark. This paper was set against a movement away from age class to 'nature class management' which was a change in a 250 yr

tradition. The first question to arise was from stake-holders was 'what on earth' is it. There was a need for a framework and this resulted in a publication which identified 19 different types. This process was undertaken through 'Learning by doing', engaging both researchers and practitioners and mixing the fields of knowledge. It also involved, successfully, stake-holders 'thinking in pictures' and resulted in illustrations.

---

**Jan Sestak and Dana Hladikova** (Czech Republic) working at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences were investigating 'creative management in young landscapes' in particular asking the question – why wait for the forest to be 'old' before they become enjoyable. A particular focus had been on creating landscape laboratories and to experiment with public perception. A particular opportunity related to landscapes for children's education. There was discussion about the cost of landscape laboratories which are intensively managed but it was thought the ideas could be replicated in other areas.

---

### SESSION 3 – TREES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS AND GREEN AREA DESIGN

**Paolo Semenezato** (Italy) presented a paper titled: 'The Management of the Urban Forest in Small Communities of the Veneto Region, Italy'. The purpose of the approach was to develop 'guidelines and tools which will lead to a standard urban tree management plan to reflect the fact that the benefits of urban trees are directly linked to the quality of tree management. This involved the development of a tree manual which (1) contains tools to promote the use of best practices and to allow for quality control in public works (2) updates knowledge on arboricultural and forestry techniques (3) develops standard specifications for maintenance and new planting and (4) gives technical foundations for tree ordinances. The tree ordinances being to:-

#### PROTECT EXISTING TREES

- Protection of public investments
- Protection and enhancement of historic trees, large trees, trees with high environmental value

#### CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE URBAN FOREST

- Landscape guidelines, standards and requirements for new urban development
  - Design of adequate planting areas for trees in new developments (i.e. size of planting pits and median isles, quality of planting soil, irrigation etc.)
- 

**Primoz Oven** (Slovenia) outlined his work on arboricultural practices, vitality and safety of urban trees in Slovenia. His paper highlighted that significant stress is applied to urban trees e.g. compaction, improper pruning etc. His conclusions are that :-

- The vitality of city trees and hazard potential is primarily affected due to anthropogenic factors.

- The condition of urban trees could be improved by the application of contemporary arboricultural practices and sustainable management of city trees.
  - This could be achieved with strong cooperation among municipality management services, practitioners and research institutions.
- 

**Jialei Xu** (China) has done a comparison of the quality of urban street trees in contemporary landscape practice in Berlin and Shanghai. This has revealed a great variation in quality control, with Shanghai's ambitions outstripping current technical and practical competences. In conclusion it is possible to say that the hustle and bustle of urban green development in Shanghai is accompanied by problems. These problems involve disciplines of landscape architecture, tree care, ecology, and social moral considerations, etc. The solution includes enhancing the communication and cooperation in urban green between Shanghai and Berlin, and many other cities.

---

**Matej Demsar** (Slovenia) presented a paper titled *Trees in an urban environment – the Bond between Forest and City: the Protection of Exceptional trees in the Celje Municipal Area*. He stated that trees in the urban environment are the bond between town and countryside. Protection of these trees is not enough, there is a need for the active management of protected trees. Protected trees are models for maintenance of other trees in urban environment and can provide the general education for people about tree characteristics and raise public awareness about trees and nature protection as whole. Words like stepping stones, increased biodiversity, mitigated climate conditions, raised public awareness, symbol of life growth, etc. lead to a hypothesis that trees, especially protected ones are the bond between forests at the symbolic, ecosystem and educational level.

---

**Francesco Ferrini** (Italy) outlined the ecological and functional values of standard typologies of urban and peri-urban green areas based on a multi-task approach to help realise project plans for managing urban forests as part of 'sustainable communities'. The goals of the project being (1) Characterisation of standard typologies of urban and peri-urban green areas (TSV) (2) Monitoring of habitat biodiversity in terms of vegetation and animals species (3) Evaluation of the relationship among vegetation/microclimate/environment (4) Evaluation of the relationship among vegetation/pollutants/environment. His paper discussed a simplified empirical approach useful for the resolution of a practical problem (the evaluation of minimum and maximum temperature of sites located in the urban area of Milano) was presented as an example. He concluded that it is important to have a shared "language" to exchange data and experiences and to have a first set of standards regarding ecological and functional values.

---

**Danko Diminic** (Croatia) discussed pest and disease related problems in the urban forests in Croatia, he concluded that due to the stressing of urban trees the insect and pest situation can be regarded as dynamic and is in need of ongoing research. The negative impact of pest and that disease is leading to problems with determining the financial and organisational inputs required for management.

---

---

**Ka-lok Colette Yan** (Hong Kong) presented a paper titled: Safety in the urban forest: a comparison of the PICUS Sonic Tomograph and the Digital Microprobe in accurately detecting decay and cavities in trees. She has investigated two instruments for detecting decay in trees – the PICUS Sonic Tomograph (PST) and the Digital microprobe (DMP). The PICUS Sonic Tomograph (PST) is a relatively new tool in decay detection. A study by Gilbert and Smiley (2004) showed a high correlation in area and location of decay between visual inspection and PST results. The paper compared the accuracy of the PST and the Digital Microprobe (DMP) in detecting decay and cavity (size and location). Results show that Tomograms tend to overestimate the actual size of decay and cavity. In conclusion there is a:-

- 50% chance that the location and size of cavity/decay was located close to that indicated on tomograms
- Green areas on tomograms very likely to have incipient, or even more serious decay
- PST provided very visual results but brown and green areas may not be solid wood
- DMP is more invasive but provided very straight forward and reliable results, especially in locating cavity wall

---

**Arne Saebo** (Norway) focused on composts highlighting that the use of good quality compost can improve establishment and reduce management costs in the longer term.

---

## **SITE VISIT 2 – TRADITIONAL URBAN FORESTS – EXCURSION TO THE URBAN FORESTS OF LJUBLJANA**

An excursion was made to the urban forest surrounding Ljubljana. Geographically this is very close to the city and it is possible to walk across the city centre from one forest to another in only 20 minutes. The Forest areas are well used and have a more ‘parkland’ feel and facilities than those at Celje. There was ample evidence of public use with joggers and family groups notably present. Gradients whilst steep were manageable and paths were largely of high quality, although many entrance points are said to be difficult. A number of delegates suggested that it would be possible to create more vistas overlooking the city by the felling of selective groups of trees.

---

## **SESSION 4 – SOCIETY RELATIONS MANAGEMENT**

**Giovanni Sanesi** (Italy) presented a paper titled ‘Citizens’ Perceptions and Behaviours towards Urban Forests. He stated that the urban forest improves quality of life and should be a basic public service. Quantity is a key to satisfaction rather than quality, high frequency use is associated with extreme quantity indeed high quality e.g. too many trees can even be seen as a deterrent. Urban green space nowadays represents and is perceived as an element which upgrades city life; as such it is a basic public service of the same value as others such as provision of water, solid waste collection, public transport

etc. For this reason it is necessary to know what to provide the citizens with, according to the needs expressed and the means available. How can we know what the citizens want from and perceive in the environment in which they are living? Through opinion polls, research and surveys which are moreover able to distinguish the level of customer satisfaction regarding a service or facility provided.

Green space in cities is a sector in Italy which, despite a long tradition in this field, has only recently come to the forefront of technical and scientific debate. Experts in different fields (Urban forester, Environmental psychologist, sociologist, urban planner, etc.) have concentrated their own particular interest in the issue on the characteristics of green spaces, on citizens' behaviour patterns and on the attitudes and perceptions expressed by the citizens in relation to urban green space and the descriptions they give of them. Through time Italy has progressed away from a typically sectoral vision and has reached a multidisciplinary framework to which each research worker can contribute their own specific skills. The study demonstrates the need to further promote this enrichment of expertise and try to combine urban forestry, environmental psychology sciences and other sciences in a single and holistic framework (i.e., fully ecological), thus illustrating how the presence of green areas within urban settlements affects the inhabitants' perception of urban environmental quality, as well as the health of citizens. It is, however necessary to promote an improvement in information concerning green space in that the quality of the present data base (i.e. ISTAT) which does not allow an objective analysis on a national level (see REFER project).

Giovanni concluded that it would also be interesting to give a certain priority to the standardisation of survey methods which would, amongst other things, allow the promotion of the activation of efficient customer satisfaction services. It is also important to stress how considering urban green areas as "transition zones" between the city and its surroundings can be crucial to ensure continuity between urban, peri-urban, rural, and wild areas. Therefore, the systematic study of the diverse social psychological modalities by which inhabitants relate to urban and peri-urban "nature" could be important for promoting biodiversity conservation both within and outside urban areas. Promoting sustainable lifestyles among city-dwellers may in fact help in spreading "sustainability" outside cities as well.

---

**Arne Arnberger** (Austria) compared the recreational use pattern in Viennese urban and suburban forests. The results of which showed the pattern of diurnal and annual variances. The conclusions were:-

- Four main user groups (walkers, cyclists, joggers, dog walkers)
- User mix (inner urban) to one dominant group (suburban)

Annual visitation pattern:

- Similar use pattern across all forests; May peak; December low
- More variation in use pattern in the urban forest due to high share of cyclists
- Different yearly use pattern of user types: cyclists (temperature-sensitive) –walkers– joggers– dog walkers (other needs); May

Similar yearly use pattern of user types across all forests except of walkers (urban) and joggers (spring peak (inner urban/forest structure) vs. throughout warmer season) (Limitation: variations due to the weather)

Weekly visitation pattern:

- Different weekly use pattern; more weekend use in the urban forest, high work day shares in the inner urban forest
- Walkers are more weekend users; joggers are more work day users
- Daily visitation pattern:
- Different daily use pattern across forests, inner urban forest more evening and morning use (peak 1-2 hrs. later)
- Differences more pronounced at work days; midday high (suburban), midday low (inner urban, urban)
- Different daily use pattern across user types (two use peaks: joggers, (dog walkers); one use peak: walkers); joggers off-peak users
- In the inner urban context more evening and morning use due to high share of commuting cyclists, joggers and walkers

Use density:

- Suburban - urban - inner urban per ha (4.5x ~ 187.3x ~ 41.2x)

Inner urban forest:

- High-use density (settlements), use pressure throughout the day, week, year → reduced use peaks, midday depression, user mix with a high share of joggers and dog walkers (settlements), commuting cycling (work sites/schools) → high chance for user conflicts (late afternoon, dog walkers!)

Urban forest:

- High weekend use; peaks at Sunday afternoons, high shares of walkers and recreational cyclists  
→ more chance for peak loads (peak day: 2.3%)  
→ user conflicts only at peak times (afternoon) between cyclists and walkers (with similar use pattern)

Sub-urban:

- Low use loads, use pressure throughout the year, peaks at Sunday afternoons, no extreme peak loads; high use levels between 11:00-13:00 due to gastronomy; one dominant user group (walkers), recreational cycling → reduced user conflicts (midday, early afternoon)

Accurate knowledge about amount of use, user types, and temporal use levels demonstrates the → different recreational use pattern and → different challenges for forest management (permanently high use area vs. peak use area; multi use vs. mono use)

**Janez Pirnat** (Slovenia) has undertaken an analysis of access to urban forests for people with disabilities and elderly citizens using Ljubljana as a case study. Contextually he says that disabilities describe all limitations and it is normal. Among the issues encountered in Ljubljana were (1) slope inclination (2) Forest entrances some distance from transport nodes (3) paths that are steep and slippery (4) entrances hidden behind houses with fierce barking dogs. In respect of children it was noted that researchers in education point out that for children with disabilities:

- There is a significant correlation between motion skill and thinking.
- Moving (walking, tree climbing...) in natural environment should be strongly encouraged.
- Walking on nature trails (with tree roots, stones..) will help these children and adolescents to develop a sense for their own movement.

---

**Roland Gustavsson** (Sweden) has studied how to empower the management planning process. To call it empowerment there is a need to increase the links between:

- individuals and the local landscape (appreciation, engagement, sense of belonging to; compare to gardening)
- local organisations and landscape
- the user groups; including the unorganised etc.
- politicians
- managers
- users and managers

AND change the role and attitude of professionals: professionals as insiders rather than outsiders; (professionals and the local people, identifying and developing the contextual landscape knowledge; avoiding standardisations and over-simplifications).

Techniques advocated include - doing the thinking outdoors, working with the connoisseurs (working with leading local knowledge holders), reference landscapes and seeing young people as managers.

---

**Johanna From** (Sweden) presented a paper derived from the EU Life Project 'URBAN WOODS FOR PEOPLE' which aimed to demonstrate new ways to increase the recreational benefits of urban woodlands. The five key findings were:-

- Waste management based on public involvement 'works'
- Guided nature tours are a feasible tool for multi-cultural integration
- A forest charter creates a productive link between the forest and its stakeholders
- A multi-purpose forest management plan is a tool for efficient forest management
- People centred handbooks are beneficial.

The next step is cooperation agreements for urban woods as part of sustainable development.

---

## SESSION 5 – CITY AND REGION PERSPECTIVES

**Julien Dellier** (France) presented a paper by posing the question “What type of forests for the ‘average’ European City. His paper used Limoges, France as an example. – he believes that cities need several types of woodland accessible to all inhabitants, such as urban Forest parks and that urban forests need integrating with the cities green infrastructure. His paper sub-divided type into four categories; Peoples needs, diversity, proximity and global response.

### People’s needs

- Forest is the symbol of wild nature whereas agricultural space is not
- Forest must be domesticated and managed while preserving the illusion of nature
- There is no ideal forest for the whole population
- The forest has to aim at fulfilling people’s needs which are sometimes contradictory

### Diversity

- Cities need several types of woodland to be accessible to all inhabitants
- From urban spaces with green spots to green spaces with urban spots
- From the urban forest park to the «natural» forest
- The aim is to answer everybody’s needs, diversity is the rule
- All these kinds of forests maybe located in a larger one, but then the proximity may become a problem

### Proximity

- People want green space close to their home
- The accessibility, one of the key for a good management
- Developing public transport from city to recreation forest
- Developing green ways (foot path, cycle way...)

### Global response

- Create a global network of green spaces for landscape improvement, recreation and leisure facilities
  - Urban forests must be integrated into the «green infrastructure» of cities
  - Three key words : diversity, proximity, woodlands
-

**Ole-Johan Saetre** (Norway) outlined the sustainable management of the nature environment and resources of the Trondheim Municipality, these being to:-

- To secure and protect all arable-, forest-, mountainous-, seashore-, and riverbank land against encroachment and use for construction and city enlargement
- To manage the forests and all nature so that the biological diversity is restored where necessary, and secured through sustainable management for generations to come
- To register and manage the cultural heritage, and the cultivated landscape
- To adapt the forestry to the recreational values.
- To create an eternity forest in Trondheim
- To spread the outdoor activities to all forests and outfields of Trondheim
- To open up for anglers in all lakes and rivers in the municipality
- To reduce the use of motorised vehicles in the forests
- To motivate the families and the children to be active in Friluftsliv
- To reduce the conflicts between sport activities and nature recreation

The overarching objective is that by 2010 all inhabitants of Trondheim will have full access to (1) Clean soil, clean air and pure water (2) Urban recreational areas (3) Urban forests and nature.

---

**Clive Davies** (England) discussed the emerging policy environment of “Green infrastructure” and noting that green infrastructure should be balanced with grey infrastructure in a genuinely sustainable city.

Green infrastructure should be planned for in tandem with planning for growth and new built development. He used the following definition of green infrastructure – “the green spaces which when connected together (e.g. forests, water, parks, urban landscapes, nature reserves) are required for sustainable healthy living”.

Connectivity of ‘green infrastructure’ is all important, hence the need for ecological reservoirs – ‘HUBS’- and landscape corridors – ‘GREENWAYS’

The contents of a city region green infrastructure plan were outlined namely:-

- Overarching aim
- Objectives
- Policies
- GIS based map plan
- Delivery plan with regular reviews
- Evaluation framework

- Results of public consultation
- 

**Mike Batley** (Scotland) presented a paper titled “Securing multiple benefits from the woodland environment in urban west Scotland”. Remnant urban forests in west central Scotland have been an under-used resource with effort placed on the creation of newly regenerated landscapes. There has been a move towards accruing benefits from existing woodland and this has led to re-inventing their purpose and value to local people and not to rely on more traditional forestry attributes. Identifying this new set of values can establish a new culture or trademark for the socially excluded communities who typically fringe these woodlands. Whilst the creation of new landscapes in the Central Scotland Forest has been very successful these new woodlands take time to grow. Existing woodlands offer the chance to change hearts and minds now rather than wait for their maturing along with the trees.

---

**George Borgman** (Netherlands) presented the results of an urban forestry project in the City of Wageningen. He started by outlining some mistakes (1) No communication strategy (2) No communication plan (3) a Dutch mountain! The context for the project was the existence of a Mountain management committee (Bergcommissie), 20 years of minimal management and a lot of demands by locals. A very good management plan had been produced but implementation demanded a communication plan which was OPEN and TRANSPARENT and - Identified Stakeholders - Listening to citizens views. The key communication success factors being:

- Excursions
  - Information gatherings
  - Formal and informal
  - Simple website
  - Being available for any question
  - Availability of email / telephone number
- 

### **SITE VISIT 3 – ALPINE VALLEY LANDSCAPE – EXCURSION TO LOGARSKA DOLINA**

Logarska Dolina is a renowned beauty spot with impressive views to the Alps. It is a popular tourist destination and many recreational visits are made to the valley woodlands. The purpose of the visit was to compare and contrast management techniques between protecting natural heritage and public enjoyment and recreation. In turn delegates were invited to compare this with urban forestry management.

---

### **POST CONFERENCE SEMINAR – CLOSE TO NATURE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SLOVENIA: 40 YEARS OF PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCES**

Four renowned Slovenian speakers were invited to host the seminar – Professor Dusan Mlinsek, Professor Bostjan Anko, Professor Jurij Diaci and Zivan Veselic.

Prof Bostjan Anko said that in the old days there was only one forestry but there are many branches including urban forestry and in the future landscape forestry too. The common denominator in the future will be the relationship between man and the forest. Multi-use forestry has the longest pedigree; however it has been historically eclipsed by the production of timber. As we become more urbanised forests are appreciated not for their timber first. Landscape forestry is a relative newcomer mixing landscape ecology and forestry and scale. Forestry is more than a science it is also a craft. The economic driver now makes little sense in GDP terms and timber interests have an undue influence over policy. Do we want to change our mission statement from growing and cutting (or else drift into oblivion as glorified lumberjacks) or be quality of life providers for many stakeholders. Can landscape forestry be part of the solution (art of organising forest landscapes to produce designed goods ordered by space and design and time - Boyce). Are there parallels between urban forestry and landscape forestry – YES – landscape forestry is built upon ecological principles and urban forestry is built on social principles.

Prof Dusan Mlinsek said that we need wisdom as a permanent value of the human way as expressed by close to nature forestry. We need to sit around the table with all nature and not dictate to it. The overview of forest functions is (1) the protection of life (2) social functions (3) wood production (as top natural multi-functional substance). Foresters must resist short-term thinking as Einstein said “man has wasted the greatest value of nature its slowness”. It should be observed that until 1945 agriculture and forestry were both organic, but now forestry is organic alone, this is important as we are keeping true to the ecological balance sheet.

Prof Jurij Diaci said that the structure of Slovenia forests is changing with time. There have been problems present for the last four decades and that these are enduring. Solution may lie in rationalisation of forest management systems, diversification of silviculture, education of private owners, stable subventions, and a CE in multi-purpose forestry. Is nature based forestry applicable in urban forestry? Nature based silviculture has many advantages – naturalness, low environmental impact, but has disadvantages such as poorer quality.

Zivan Veselik outline the Slovenian national forest development programme and its implementation, noting the importance of urban forestry.

---

## **POST CONFERENCE SITE VISIT – FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE; VISIT TO SMOLNIK NEAR VITANJE**

This visit to was to high Karst, sub-alpine, (limestone substrate) forest area with high bio-diversity. The purpose of the visit was to look at practical examples of forest management and to encourage debate, sharing experience, problems and applicability to urban situations.

---

## **POST CONFERENCE SITE VISIT – LEARNING FROM NATURE; VISIT TO KRAKOVSKI GOZD AND RAJHENAVSKI ROG**

This visit was to study close to nature forest management and included visits to a lowland primeval oak forest and a dinaric primeval beech/fir forest. Both forests are surrounded by protective forest buffer areas and routes have been created along with interpretation to discourage access to these rare primary woodland areas.

---

### **EUFORIC BUSINESS MEETING**

Jasper Schipperijn convened the business meeting of the European Urban Forestry Research & Information Centre (EUFORIC) at the Hotel Plesnik, Logarska dolina. The objectives of EUFORIC are to be:-

- First-stop-shop for urban forestry in Europe
- Disseminate research results and other information
- Enhance networking
- Bring researchers and practitioners together
- Promote urban forestry research, education, policy and practice

In 2004/5 EUFORIC's work had included:-

- Master of Science programme in Urban Forestry & Urban Greening
- First European textbook on Urban Forest and Trees
- Urban woodland management course

There was a presentation relating to a proposed new urban forestry information service which could include:-

- Monthly newsletter
- Annual conference (in conjunction with EFUF)
- International courses and training seminars
- Subscription to Urban Forestry & Urban Greening
- Additional website functions, e.g. a database of publications

However improved information services cost money, how can we finance this? It was agreed that a membership based approach to EUFORIC was the best way to secure the necessary finance.

---

### **EUROPEAN FORUM ON URBAN FORESTRY (EFUF) 2006**

Offers to host the 2006 European Forum on Urban Forestry had been received from Florence (Italy) and Bozen (Italy). A presentation on both possibilities was given. A vote was held of delegates present at which the invitation from Florence was accepted. The offer from Bozen was gratefully acknowledged. **EFUF 2006 will be held in Florence.**

---

Conference summary prepared by Clive Davies, North East Community Forests, ENGLAND 18 May 2005