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Urban Forests in Landscape Structure and Processes

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Message from the Guest Editor

A landscape approach can be regarded as a considerable step forward to offering urban forestry an alternative active role in collaborative planning, shaping and management of urban green spaces. By linking landscape ecology and urban forestry, it is possible to establish the concepts of landscape structure and the preservation of connectivity between forest patches of urban and suburban forests in order to support the conservation of biodiversity and the adaptation of the local environment to climate change. In recent decades, the process of urban expansion and infrastructure-driven development has been affecting cultural landscapes worldwide. Urbanization processes were most strongly affected by the construction of transportation infrastructure and the expansion of commercial and industrial centers in peri-urban areas, while residential urban areas seem to increase regardless of population changes. Analyses of landscape structure and fragmentation due to urban development can provide the landscape ecological reference points, important for the preservation of urban and suburban forests and for the design of urban systems adapted to changing environmental factors and threats.



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