

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (20782) - URBAN BIODIVERSITY – CHALLENGES AND CHANCES FOR PLANNING

Dörte Martens¹; Öyküm Öztürk¹; Lara Rindt¹

1 - Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

Background and objectives

Urban greenspace provides important functions for the climate such as heat control and air exchange. Besides, it provides increased health and well-being, e.g. shown by attention restoration and stress reduction. However, the role of biodiversity in this relation is not yet clearly analysed. The given study addresses 1. perception, 2. health effects and 3. activities to support urban biodiversity.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

Face-to-face questionnaires were conducted in four districts of Berlin. In order to reach people who might not use greenspace regularly, the interviews took place in parks as well as on markets in the same district. In order to reach a broad audience, questionnaires and staff provided German, Turkish and Russian questionnaires (N = 432).

The perception of urban biodiversity was measured by photos manipulated with low, medium and high biodiversity scenarios. Participants were asked to rate their favourite scenario. Nature relatedness, perceived restorativeness, stress reduction and health were rated on four-stage-scales. Additionally, participants rated their willingness to take part in given activities to support urban biodiversity such as urban gardening or sponsorship for trees.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Result show a clear preference for the high biodiversity greenspace presented on the photos (48 % of the participants). This result is consistent for all groups, controlled for the density of their living environment, research setting (park/market), age, gender and migration background.

A factor analysis on the activities to support urban greenspace reveals four different factors, which correlate with nature relatedness, perceived restorativeness and stress reduction differently. This implies that the activities to support urban biodiversity should be looked at closely in addressing and effecting city dwellers.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

Results reveal the importance of urban biodiversity for health, restoration and the relatedness to nature for city dwellers. Chances and challenges of given activities to support biodiversity are discussed in an intercultural context and get developed further.

Palavras-chave : urban greenspace, biodiversity, nature relatedness, attention restoration, stress reduction