

Urban Forestry as Promising Approach

TEMPUS: Training, networking and capacity building for sustainable forestry in Povolgie

project meeting, April 2007

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"A tree on your doorstep is a forest in your mind!"

Contents

- **Forest/greenspace contributions to quality of urban life**
- **Towards integrative approaches: *urban forestry***
- **Adapting forestry to urban/peri-urban contexts**
- **Urban forestry examples**





Europe as Metropolis



>60 % of Europe's population lives in cities

Expected increase to 80 % by 2025

In Western Europe: 80 %

Urbanisation: spatial, but also social and cultural

Most people live and work in urban environments

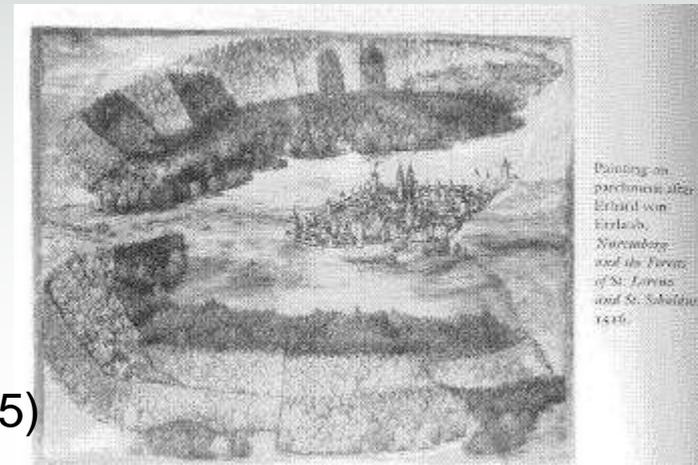
Thus quality of these environments is crucial

Strong need for better cities



Impacts on Forestry

- Urban demands and values are dominant
- More direct contact with urban areas and urban residents
- Need for different skills, concepts
- Partnerships and new approaches



Source: Schama (1995)

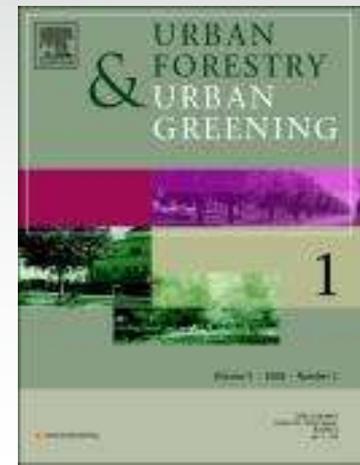
Urban Forestry

- *The art, science, and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological, economic, and aesthetic benefits trees provide society (Helms 1998, based on Miller 1997)*
- **United States**
 - 40 years of history; urban forestry widely accepted
- **Europe**
 - First attention during 1970s/1980s, led by Great Britain
 - European networking during 1990s
- Elsewhere increasing attention (e.g., SE Asia)



Key Characteristics of Urban Forestry

- **Integrative:** all tree resources; planning & management
- **Strategic:** long-term vision, multiple use
- **Inter-/multidisciplinary:** wide range of disciplines
- **Participatory:** stakeholder involvement
- **Urban:** urban conditions, meeting urban demands



Picture: Tim Christophersen

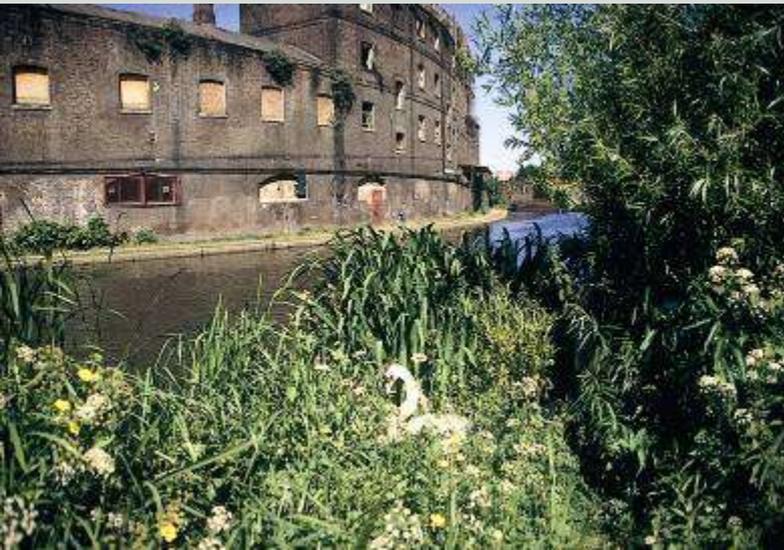


Picture: Jasper Schipperijn



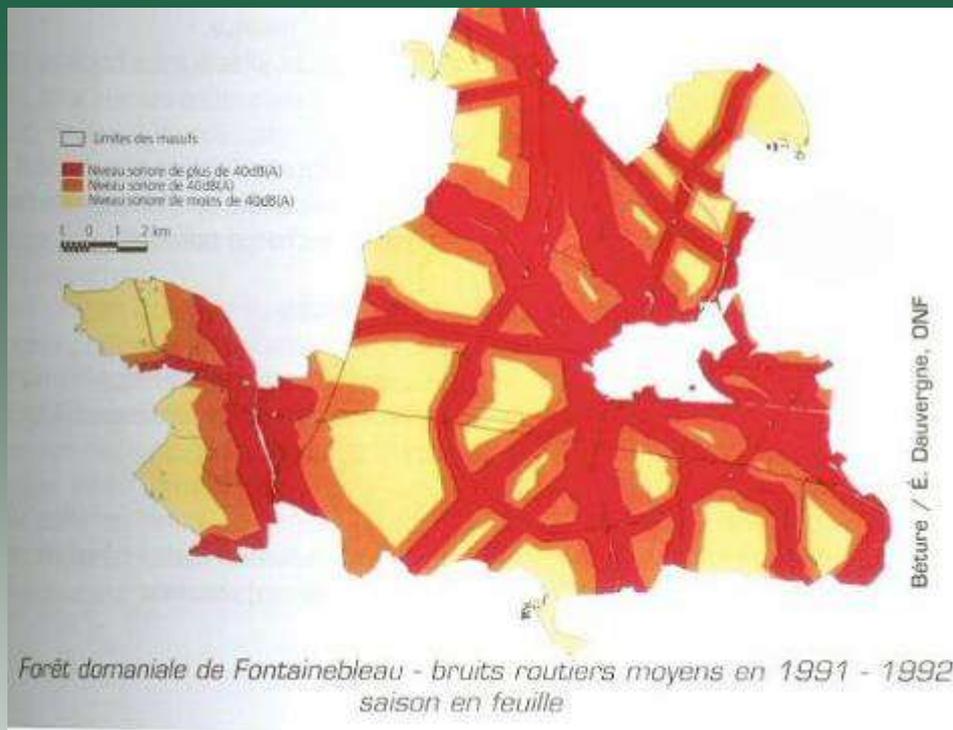
Environmental Values

- Reduce harmful of influence sun, wind and heat
- Protect water resources
- Reduce air pollution
- Sequester CO₂
- Reduce waste(water) disposal problem
- Increase biodiversity



Pictures: M. Shaler, K. Nilsson



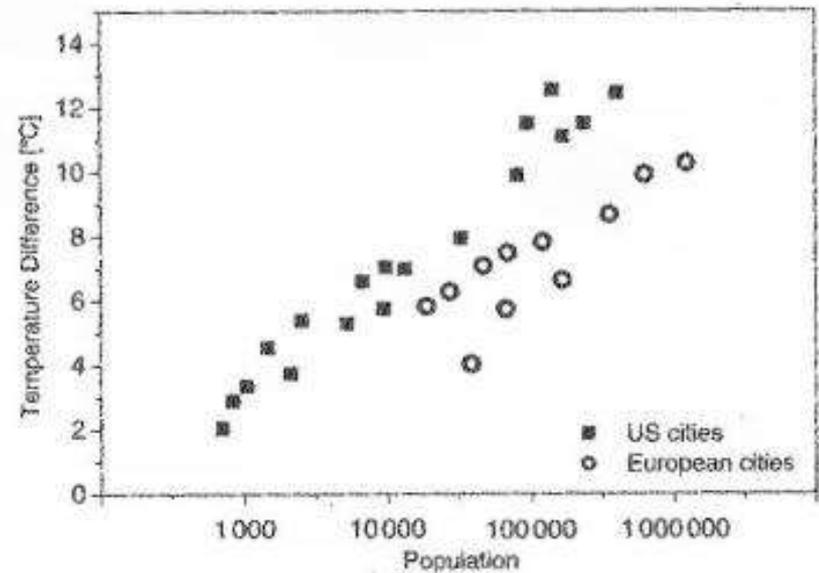


Noise pollution

Moigneu (2005)

Urban Heat Islands

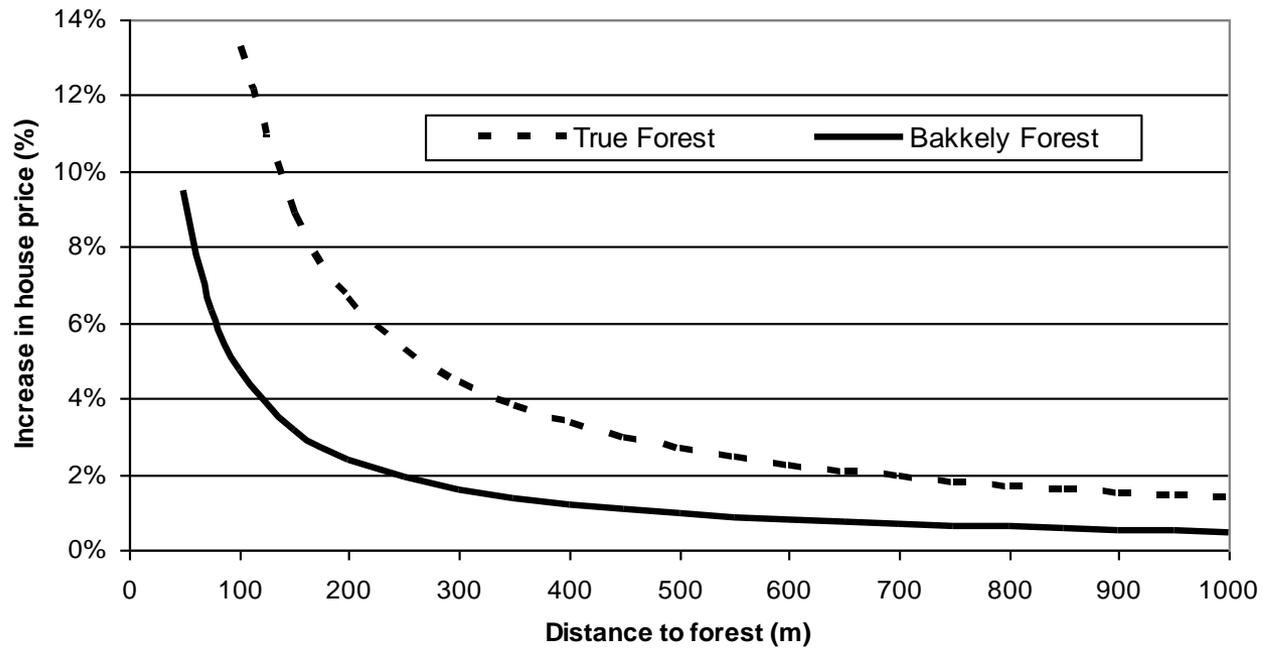
Oke (1994), in
Sieghardt et al. (2005)



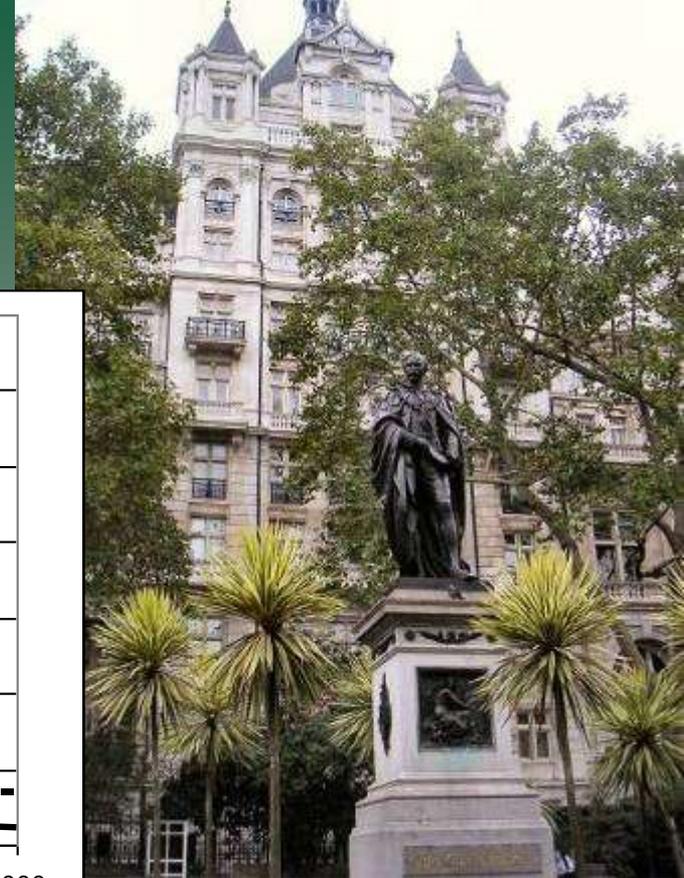
Economic Values

- **Production of food & fodder (also: dacha culture)**
- **Production of timber & fuelwood**
- **Pleasant working environment**
- **Pleasant living environment**
- **Setting for new development, new businesses**
- **Higher property values**





Effect of afforestation on urban house prices, Denmark. Source: Anthon and Thorsen (2004)



Socio-Cultural Values

- **Stage for social activities**
- **Pleasant living environments (dachas!)**
- **Recreation and health**
- **Keeping people in contact with nature**
- **Community building and empowerment**
- **Education & training**

Picture: K. Nilsson



Refuge, Recreation, Inspiration

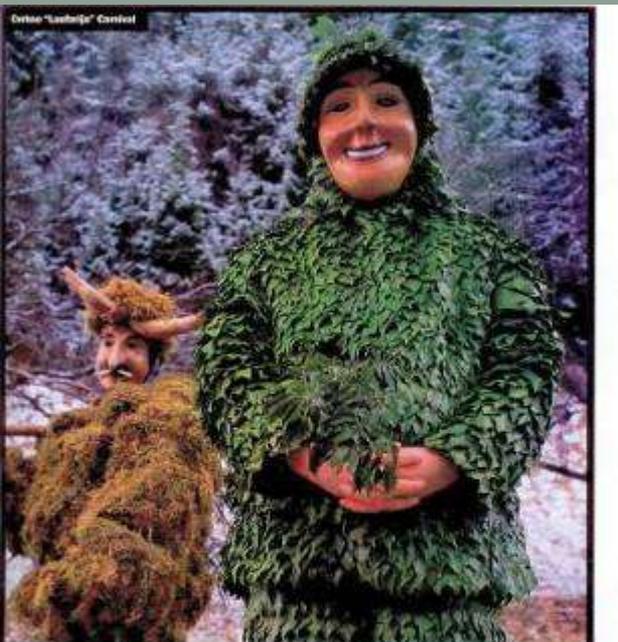


Photo: Jasper Schipperijn



Myths, Folklore, Fairytales, Worship

Source: National Geographic



Source: "Lushnja" Festival

HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN
A MYTH GO
GREEN?

With over 1000 years of history, Slovenia is a land of legends and myths. It takes a long time for the myths to be brought to life and seen by the eyes of the world. One week for a month and all Slovenians are invited to celebrate. One year for the world from the forest to the sea and from the mountains to the sea. One week of work for the world to see the Slovenian myths and legends. There is no other place where this is done as naturally as in Slovenia.

www.slovenia.info



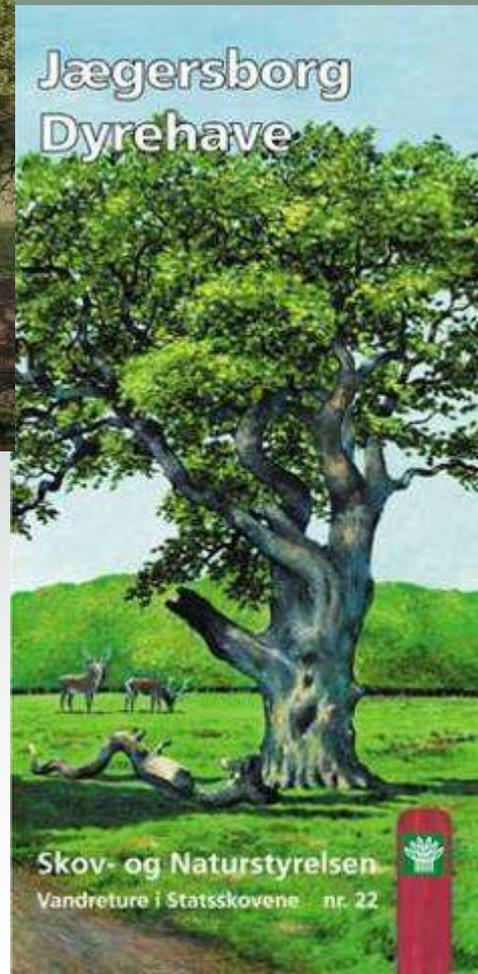
Source: Schama (1995)



A Different “Forest”



Structure



Different Functions in Focus

- ***Social services, and especially recreation come first***
 - 2000 visits/ha/yr or more is common
 - More than half of all forest visits in Sweden to urban woodland
- **Environmental services are close second**
 - Water protection
 - Increasingly also other services
- **Often limited focus on production of goods (at least in West)**
 - Alternative products

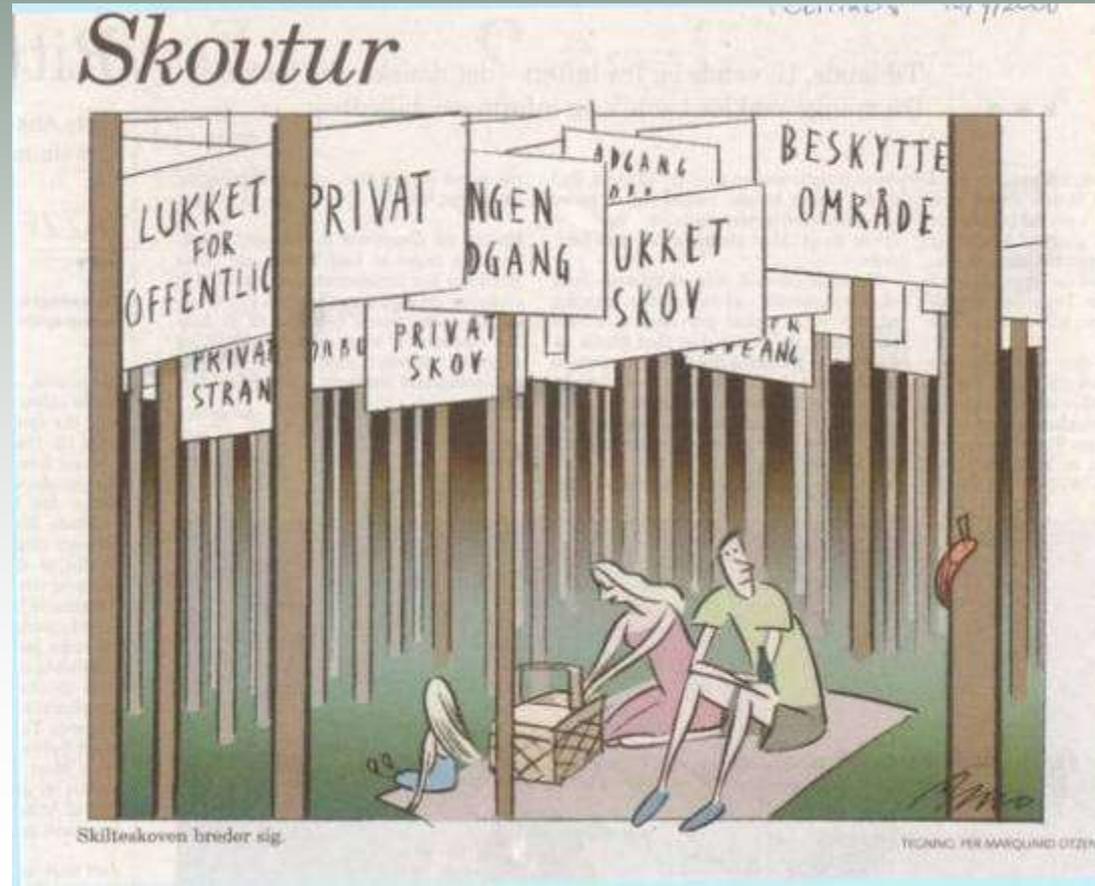




Public Access



Source: Politiken (2006)



Power and Conflict

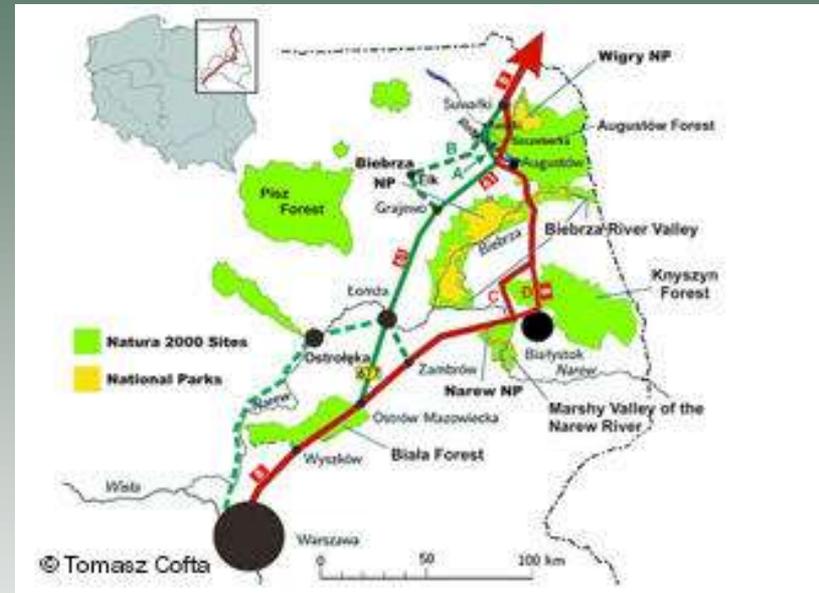


Sources: Lappersfort, De Gordel, Natuurmonumenten

(Urban) Forest Conflicts

Rospudy river valley, Augustow Forest, Poland

Pictures: Damien Moran / Indymedia; Bankwatch network; AFP; Deutsche Welle

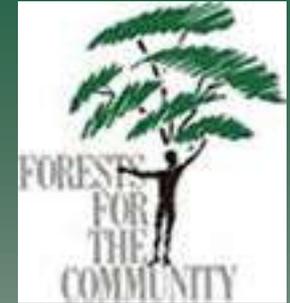


Many Interests and Stakeholders

- **Small green resources, many demands**
- **Demands change rapidly, “fashions”**
- **Urban green seen as obvious public service**
- **More people ask to be involved in decision making**
- **Local interests, national policies & laws**
- **Networks of stakeholders**



English Community Forests



Source: English Community Forests



‘Mainstreaming’ of peri-urban green lands

Create better environments

Long term

Partnerships





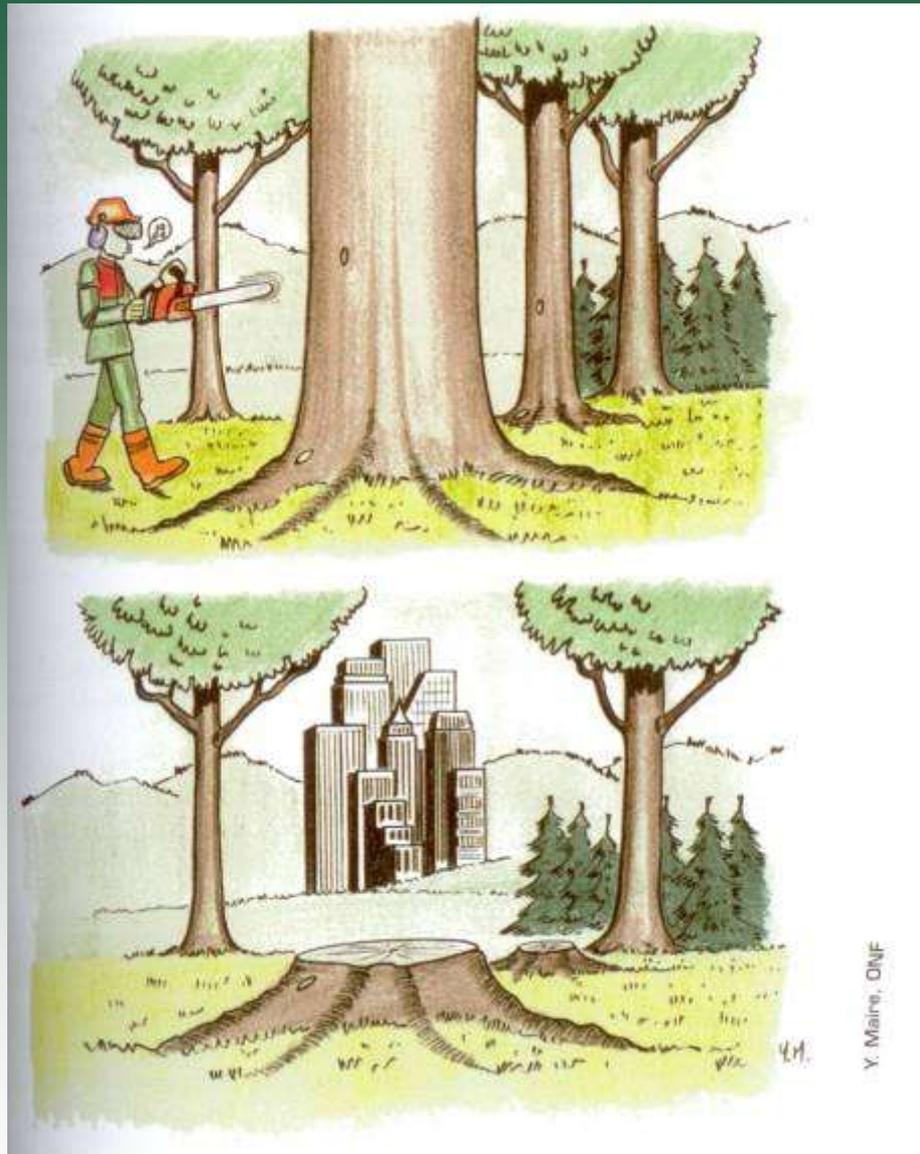
White Rose Forest

A strategy for urban and rural renewal
in West Yorkshire using trees and woodland

Sources: National Forest Company,
White Rose Forest



Outline Strategy



From: Moigneu (2005)



Silvicultural Interventions

- **More attention to aesthetic values and biodiversity**
- **No clear-cuts, more selective cutting**
- **More thinning**
- **More natural regeneration, close-to-nature forestry**
- **Safety issues**



Demonstration



Management demonstration and referencing (von Gadow 2002)

- Test and demonstrate silvicultural practice, provide reference
- Data about forest dynamics
- Education, training, communication
- **Landscape Laboratory (Gustavsson et al.)**
- **Examples of demonstration urban woodland:**
 - Demonstration forest of Toxovo, St Petersburg
 - Forest of the Future, Umeå
 - Management referencing in Lübeck and Göttingen
 - Forest Promotional Complexes, Poland



Conclusion

- **Recognise urban dimension of our profession**
- **Urban forestry as ‘marketing tool’ for forestry**
- **Focus on marketing multiple benefits**
- **Partnerships**
- **Political attention (see Greenbelt issues)**



Thank you!

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