Stockholm’s Green Wedges
– Concepts, learning and collaboration on urban and peri-urban forestry in Sweden
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Content

- Urban forestry in Sweden
- The Green Wedges of Stockholm – creating a common image
- Filling the concept with content
- Strategies for development
- National support to local initiatives
- Awareness raising and development of qualities
- Concepts, learning and collaboration
Urban and peri-urban forestry in Sweden

Sweden is a country where:

- Forest cover 75 %
- The urbanisation rate is 84 %
- 28 % of the urbanised area is forest (502,000 ha, which is more than double the area of protected forest in the whole country)
- Visiting frequencies in urban woodlands are estimated to be 250 times higher in than in other forested areas
- More than half of all forest visits in Sweden are estimated to take place in peri-urban and urban forests.
Urban and peri-urban forestry in Sweden

Urban and peri-urban forestry on a national level is a joint responsibility by:

- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Nature conservation)
- Swedish Forest Agency (Forestry)
- National Board of Housing, building and planning (Spatial Planning)
The Green Wedges of Stockholm – creating a common image

Stockholm Region is:
- one of the greenest urban regions in the Nordic countries.
- one of most rapidly expanding regions.
- comprising of 26 municipalities
The Green Wedges of Stockholm – creating a common image

A key challenge – enable population growth while creating the most attractive urban region in Northern Europe.

How to establish effective and coordinated development work in the region with 26 independent municipalities and many different stakeholders?
Land-use plan 2030

- polycentric structure
- regional green structure with green wedges
- new cross-regional transport infrastructure
- dense and attractive urban areas close to train stations
Creating a common image

The concept of the ten wedges:

- communicates that these green areas are a common responsibility.

- calls for collaboration between municipalities and between planners, users, landowners and forest managers.

- creates a platform for common goals

- now form an integrated part of the regional spatial plan

- is implemented in all Stockholm’s 26 municipal comprehensive land-use plans
Filling the concept with content  
- mapping social values in the Green Wedges

Seven different social values within the green wedges:

- Untouched green space,
- Woodland harmony,
- Open views and open landscapes,
- Biodiversity and lessons from nature,
- Cultural history and living environment,
- Activities and challenges,
- Facilities and meeting places.
Distribution of social values throughout the region, showing:
- Regional imbalances
- Conflicts of interest – urban development and untouched green space.

Basis for:
- Spatial planning
- Forest management
Regional strategies for urban green areas

- Regional green structure
- Values and functions
- Accessibility and social values
- Interaction with built-up areas
- Image and attraction
- Develop new knowledge RUFS
- Co-operation Green Links and Regional Cores
Awareness raising and development of qualities – National support to local nature conservation projects

- National programme supporting local initiatives for nature conservation.
- Started in 2004
- 1513 projects in almost all of Sweden’s 290 municipalities
- Of these more than one third concerns peri-urban or urban forests.
- Only in the Stockholm County there are more than 200 projects. Many of them within the green wedges.
Collaboration within the Rösjö wedge

- Collaboration in the Rösjö wedge – 6 municipalities, several NGO’s

- Excursion map of the whole wedge – cultural and natural landscape.

- Awareness raising – bus tour through the whole wedge with politicians.
Collaboration within the Rösjö wedge

“It is vital that knowledge about the possibilities in these areas is available both internally within the municipality and externally – particularly now that we’re all building more densely on the periphery of Stockholm. Everyone has been working on ‘their own’ part of the wedge, but if you want to see the big picture it is essential that all the municipalities involved collaborate. Green zones are one thing; green zones with quality are quite another. We know that large areas with continuity attract people. They are also one of the reasons why some people move to a particular municipality.” (Erik Andersson, municipal councillor in Täby, one of the politicians on-board the bus)
A concept as a successful tool being a platform for learning and collaboration between different professions and stakeholders.

Filling the concept with content – developing the concept and develop the qualities by local management and awareness raising – is a key to its eligibility.

Local initiatives need support from regional and national level. In order to truly contribute to sustainable urban development, new ways of co-operation and collaboration in urban forestry both horizontally and vertically, are necessary.
Thank you for your attention!

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