



Seminar held on 8th February 2023 - Why plant a tree?

The presentations and access to the recording are available here - <https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html>

There wasn't time to answer all the questions or discuss all the interesting comments, but many raised issues that will be the subject of other seminars in this series and others could form the basis for further exploration.

Everyone is welcome to contact Emma or Sue with topic suggestions.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Canopy cover targets

Are we setting our targets far too low in the UK for TCC in our cities if the optimum suggested by Cecil here is 30%?

Is there a link between geography/climate and appropriate canopy cover percentages?

Should coastal cities be aiming for 30%, in the past 15% had been suggested?

Defining neighbourhoods

Is there any clear definition of neighbourhood? Could you please better specify how we can identify this buzz area?

Cecil's response:

This is an important point. The Cobra people have used a 1000 m radius from the centre of every dwelling as a proxy for neighbourhood. Others have used e.g., postal codes. It should be locally appropriate. The important thing is to move away from city-wide canopy targets.

Is it fair to say that 'neighbourhoods' are not easy 'circles'?

Cecil's response:

Yes, definitely. I would prefer to work with actual neighbourhoods, but this has still been a bit challenging for the GIS analysts

Defining green space

What's your definition for greenspace concerning the 300-metre walking distance? Is there a minimum size?

3:30:300 accessibility and safety?

Also, how do you take into account the accessibility and safety of these areas in relation to the 3:30:300?

Changing the use of streets

How did Barcelona manage any conflict with car owners and loss of car space for green space...or was it not a problem?

Did we fail to grasp the Covid 'opportunity' to reapportion street space in the UK...just a comment really

Maintenance and management

What increase in maintenance is required when these rules are implemented? Are there any results on the effect due to the increase.

"Management is the tool by which design never ends." Banking that one for future meetings!

Costs and funding

The Future Parks Accelerator in the UK is looking at having other departments such as Public Health fund green spaces due to their benefits, is this something commonly used in 3-30-300?

How much does it cost to create an Urban Forestry Master Plan for a city with 500,000 Urban trees?

Commuted sums

Do you have commuted sums in place for adopting new street tree planting in new developments as part of s.38 adoptions?

Response: TDAG is looking at tree planting costs in different types of street location along with the real costs for establishment and ongoing maintenance and management towards a proposal for national guidance on commuted sums.

Action – please email Sue James if your local authority has a methodology for establishing commuted sums sue.jamesriba@gmail.com

Tree planting and success rates

It is important to close the gap between planting and longevity in the landscape so - quality not quantity of new tree planting...

TDAG is now talking 'tree establishment' rather than 'tree planting'

Replacing mature trees with young trees?

I'm writing from an unnamed country and need some help with explaining the obvious - I'm facing policy makers who advocate planting young trees as a sustainable substitute to mature trees lost under the heavy influence of 'development'. I'm trying to show that planting new trees (even by big numbers ratio) is of no substitute to losing established, matures or older age classes. Would be happy for any reference or idea that comes to your mind with regard.

One response:

See this reference:

<https://theconversation.com/why-keeping-one-mature-street-tree-is-far-better-for-humans-and-nature-than-planting-lots-of-new-ones-154114>

and this:

it is written for the UK audience, but the principles should be the same

<https://www.tdag.org.uk/first-steps-in-trees-and-new-developments.html>

and this:

<https://theconversation.com/large-trees-are-essential-for-healthy-cities-183017>

Tree planting constraints

As designers there's always a balance in planting trees in developments/ neighbourhoods with the various constraints such as clashes with foundations, lighting, services, etc.

Also noting the increasing costs of tree pit construction to provide adequate topsoil volumes.

In response to the above:

If trees were treated as critical infrastructure with the same importance as the other elements of infrastructure that you have listed i.e., these things need to cooperate and work together - it is possible - see Trees in Hard Landscapes. For foundations, there is positive work looking at foundation design for new builds to make trees acceptable.

Tree benefits

How do you factor in and deal with the time lag between planting trees and the benefits that come with well-established trees?

Environmental justice

Justice it is important. Although recent research - about green gentrification - mentioned a new theory about "green orthodoxy" meaning that usually green plans are becoming common on a daily basis from local governments, but a single tree can increase the economic value of the area and creates gentrification. How do you take into account that? Participatory planning? Citizen's science?

Utilities

How do we influence utility companies to help allow space for urban tree planting?

I'm writing from an unnamed country and need some help with explaining the obvious - I'm facing policy makers who advocates for planting young trees as a sustainable substitute to mature trees lost under the heavy influence of 'development'. I'm trying to show that planting new trees (even by big numbers ratio) is of no substitute to losing established, matures or older age classes. Would be happy for any reference or idea that comes to your mind with regard

Trees in plant pots

Are you exploring above ground solutions for tree planting, in areas where pre-existing constraints preclude the use of planting pits?

Response: TDAG doesn't advocate this. If above ground pots are to be used then other more appropriate planting is recommended.

Species selection and landscape layers

Could we emerge a planting palette to the main component (TREES) in terms of trying to deliver a wider variety of plants to achieve a more diverse planting scheme because every category has its own benefits when we consider the biodiversity issues and its effects on soil and plants needs as well as its reflection on our holistic environment and so?

Response: this refers to landscape layers. Work by Michael Raupp showed how landscape layers can also impact on reducing pests and diseases (<https://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/mitgc/article/1993223.pdf>) and a survey of London garden squares demonstrated that these layers increased biodiversity.

Question alongside the above response: how do you link landscape layers in public places and issues of safety etc?

FURTHER REFERENCES

3:30:300 Evidence

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bbd32d6e66669016a6af7e2/t/6101ce2b17dc51553827d644/1627508274716/330300+Rule+Preprint_7-29-21.pdf

Cecil Konijnendijk (NBSI):

We are working on more guidance for implementation and monitoring, but this will take a few months.

EFUF:

<https://app.evenea.pl/event/efuf2023?lang=en> 2nd World Forum
info@worldforumonurbanforests.org

Health and healthy resilient places

Evidence-based guidelines for greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods:
Introducing the 3–30–300 rule

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11676-022-01523-z>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/feb/01/planting-trees-cities-cut-deaths-summer-heat-study>

3:30:300 and mental health

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935122017145?casa_token=mFDIHU6CfUgAAAAA:XC0R4ht1YTV1zVRtK_WNkLkmpAxCdMoLvYGHIFXS2-H0hLFJ6SoCfmIHL7Zsy-HQT-TfRQE

Equity and environmental justice

Read more about Birmingham's plans to use include environmental justice in green space management here:

<https://theconversation.com/plan-will-put-everyone-in-england-within-15-minutes-of-green-space-but-what-matters-is-justice-not-distance-198938>

Natural England GI Framework

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

For all future TDAG events see: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/events.html>