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A Survey of Urban Forestry in Sweden

Foreword

The urban forest comprises all the trees and woodlands in and around a town or city. An extensive and well-managed urban forest is a vital resource that can bring a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits that will improve the quality of life for urban dwellers. As concerns grow about the quality of the environment in many urban areas throughout the world, the importance of protecting and expanding our urban forests can only increase.

The management of the urban forest needs to be directed by a comprehensive strategy that will ensure the delivery of a sustained yield of benefits. The first stage in developing that strategy is to conduct a detailed survey of the trees and woodlands to establish the nature and extent of that resource. At a national level, there is also a need for urban forest policy and practice to be directed by some kind of national strategy. Once again, the first stage in developing that national strategy is to conduct a detailed survey to establish how the country's urban forests are currently managed.

Much of the research on urban forestry in Scandinavia has focused on urban woodlands. However, a substantial proportion of many urban forests are the street and park trees owned and managed by local authorities. Now, for the first time in Sweden, a detailed survey has been conducted that focuses on the management of these trees, measuring performance in the areas of planned, systematic and integrated management. The results of the study make fascinating reading and it is hoped that the work will be used to inform future urban forest policy and practice by Swedish local authorities.

Linda Saretok is to be congratulated on producing this valuable contribution to urban forestry literature. The study was undertaken as her honours degree research project at Myerscough College, Britain's national centre for education and training in arboriculture and urban forestry. Linda was, quite literally, a first-class student who achieved the Top Student Award for her year of the BSc (Hons) Arboriculture course. Her considerable drive and enthusiasm ensured that this substantial project was completed successfully.

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