Greening the city

Oslo's Green Heart

The project

Oslo was awarded the European Sustainable City award 2003. The City Government has established and approved a 'Green Belt Boundary' to ensure that forests are not cleared to make way for urban development. The Government also has a plan to conserve existing areas of biological diversity such as wetlands and ponds (City of Oslo City Government, 2002 p. 33). Enhancing the accessibility to green spaces is also part of this sustainable strategy, in an attempt to increase the level of use and interest in Oslo's biological diversity (Figures C.27 and C.28).

Sustainability features

A Municipal Master Plan has been drawn up which states that housing and business developments take place through urban intensification, which will target brownfield sites and strategically situate new housing in relation to employment (City of Oslo City Government, 2002). Alongside this, Oslo has embarked on an Urban Ecology Programme for the period 2002–2014, which targets behaviour: an environmentally efficient public transport system will be established, using renewable energy sources, and environmentally friendly behaviour will be promoted through partnerships with citizens and businesses.

References and links

City of Oslo City Government (2002) *Strategy for Sustainable Development: Environment and Sustainability Status 2002 Urban Ecology Programme 2002–2014*, Department of Transport and Environmental Affairs, Oslo.

Figure C.27
The Oslo Fjord. (*Source*: Samfoto for City of Oslo City Government, 2002.)

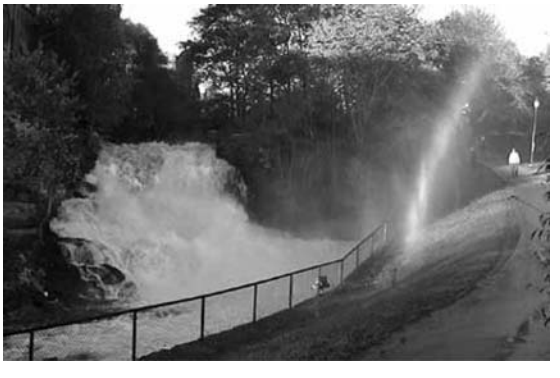

Figure C.28
Well-maintained parks can enhance interest in Oslo's biological diversity. (*Source*: http://www.oslo.kommune.no/the_city_of_oslo/about_oslo/)

Île-de-France

The project

Planning in the Île-de-France city region is a strong catalyst for the integration of green spaces into the existing urban fabric. The Loi Solidarité et Renouvellement Urbain (Solidarity and Urban Renewal law), passed in 2000, requires city-region planning to proceed with revised land use plans, taking into account issues such as social mix and housing as a revision to existing planning tools (COST C11, 2001; Bordes-Pagès, 2002).

Sustainability features

Examples of this green space enhancement includes the creation of 'green arteries' connecting services and facilities to green spaces at Levallois-Perret, building height restrictions to protect views and to maximize natural sunlight at Nogent-sur-Marne and the creation of a mixed-use urban park at Plessis-Trévise (Figure C.29). This is one example of the preference for the provision of green spaces by authorities as opposed to delineating open countryside and urban areas (see also Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, 2002; VROM, no date).

References and links

Bordes-Pagès, E. (2002) *CAHIERS 133–134 Public Living and City Spaces: Public Spaces and Green Space Plans: An Avant-Garde Combination*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web http://www.iaurif. org/en/doc/studies/cahiers/cahiers_133/ uk_PARTIE%20II_C133.134_MIDM.pdf on 25 May 2004.

COST C11 (2001) *Greenstructures and Urban Planning: Spatial Planning in France*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web http://www.map21ltd.com/COSTC11/france.htm on 25 May 2004.

Urban Green Spaces Taskforce (2002) *Green Spaces, Better Places: Final Report of The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce*, DTLR, London.

VROM (Netherlands Ministry of Spatial Planning, Housing and the Environment) (no date) *Urban Regeneration*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web http://www.vrom.nl/international/ on 26 May 2004.

Figure C.29
Green arteries in a mixed-use development, Parc Emile Loubet, in Plessis-Trévise, île de France. (*Source*: http://www.iaurif.org/en/doc/studies/cahiers/cahiers_133/uk_PARTIE%20II_C133.134_MIDM.pdf)