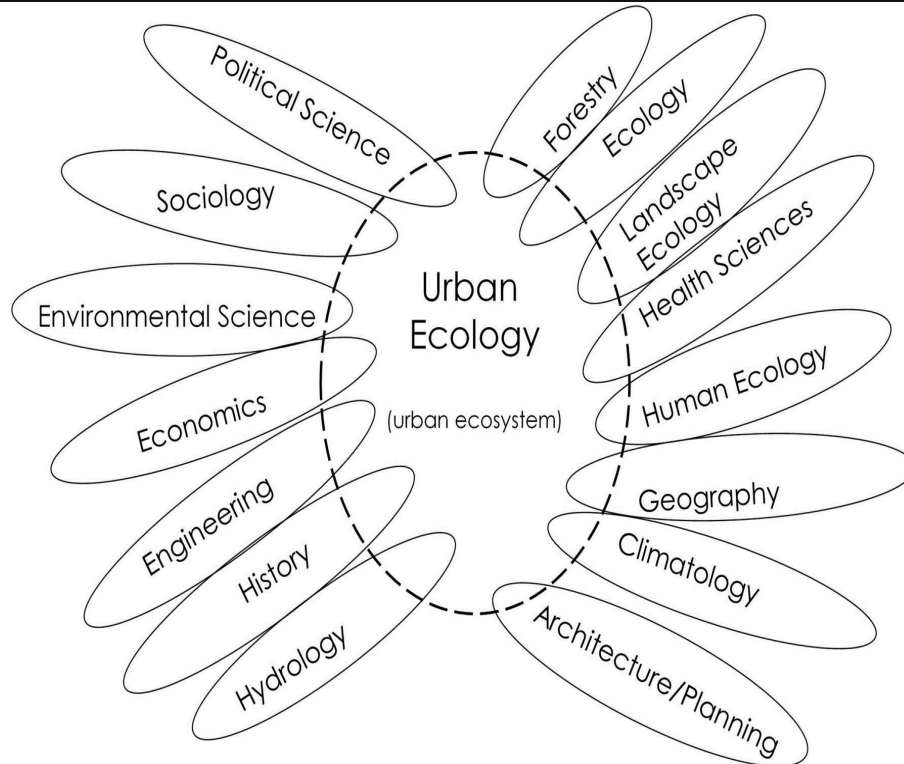


# WEEDER'S DIGEST

KZN BRANCH NEWS LETTER

SPRING 2015



*“Are we using the Social Media platforms available to sell ourselves and services to the residents about what we are doing .Why Not!.”*

## URBAN ECOLOGY

Urban Ecology has developed over the last 30 years because of the fusion of disciplines .It originates in ecology but is aligned to the new discipline of landscape ecology and the long established discipline of geography. and soil science.

The bulk of the research in this field has come from North America, Europe and Asia but little from Africa.

Research Material is sort :- in the filling of existing and yet undiscovered knowledge gaps: Better integration of the social and ecological sciences as well as the bridging of the communication gap between scientific knowledge and practice.

The options for B-Tech research has just increased tremendously and the possibility of publishing these findings..

### In This Issue

- Urban Ecology
- Arboriculture in South Africa
- New Development in Playground Equipment
- Public Orchards
- Bits and Pieces

## ARBORICULTURE

With the XIV World Forestry Congress having taken place in Durban and the publications it produced and concerns raised. Plus their being only two papers from two South African Councils being presented.

Plus publications such as "NASA explains Why you should live on a Tree Lined Street and Tree Lined City" and FAO "World's Forests Faring Better" plus the Guardians "Three Trillion Trees, but not for long".

A recent arboriculture survey undertaken with fifty Municipalities in South Africa, made up of Metro Councils and local municipalities. Where they were faxed, circulated by the IERM as well as correspondence sent to the City Managers of each entity. With a request to provide copies of policies and views on eleven sub-section of the field of arboriculture. This information would be used by to be identified B-Tech Students to develop policies in their geographical areas and within a national policy framework.

It was concerning to note that the Metros acknowledged receipt of the correspondence but did not submit any returns.

One local municipality submitted a comprehensive return while eight others admitted that they did not have such a policy but would willingly assist any student who wanted to do research on arboriculture in their region.

Contributions from the Conservancies has been a lot more positive and they are committed to this process.

In terms of the Municipal Systems Act the Councils are required to establish what the wants and needs of the citizens are regarding shade trees and fruit trees especially around new housing developments.

Has these tree needs been captured within the Integrated Development Plan or not?

Do Community Street Tree Master Plans exist in our towns and cities???

Do Councils provide/allow trees to be planted in memory of a love-one?

Are trees and shrubs being planted as noise barriers?

Is cut down trees being used by local Wood Turners for the manufacture of items like park benches and signs?

What about the Bathe Pele Policy?

## Public Orchards

Public Orchards are an important community resource.

Not only do fruit trees benefit the local ecosystem and urban canopy, but also play an important role in supplying fresh produce into the local food system.

As part of this development leads to the appointment of orchard steward/s who with training and resources provided will commit to at least 20 hours of volunteer service per year .

These stewards can learn and understand the needs of the community.

Where are we in this im-

## ARBORICULTURE

### OPINION

With the problems associated with climate change and the high loss of natural forests and street trees especially in Africa. We should collectively be doing something to reverse this process.

## URBAN ECOLOGY

Allows for the following sub fields to be re-searched and published.

- Saltwater and fresh-water aquatic systems
- Ecology of urban soils and below ground processes
- Making connection between urban ecology, landscape design and art
- The role of citizen science and public participation in gathering information and guiding decisions
- And many more

Allowing for a start to be made on a particular subject under the B- Tech banner and continuing this into a Master qualification.



Combo Swing - NRPA August 2015

## BOOM IN TREETOP PARKS LETS VISITORS LEARN THE ROPES.

Fun in the trees was once reserved for the likes of Tarzan, but aerial rope courses now offer the thrill for everyone. These treetop attractions, originally developed in Europe in the late 1990's involves trails of increasing difficulty and height some as high as fifteen metres. With a growth fifty per cent growth and a fifty to sixty per cent return rate.

Challenges can include zip lines, swinging logs and even large fisherman's nets that have to be conquered while crossing from one tree.

For safety, parks use what is known as a smart belay system in which climbers are in a harness and cannot be disconnected unintentionally.

Some aerial courses are designed for young children, others have age, height or weight requirements. **New York Times.**

## BITS AND PIECES

The RUAF foundation has produced three guidelines for the following:-

- Guideline 1: Methodological guidelines for monitoring of runoff and infiltration of storm water.
- Guideline 2: Methodological guidelines for monitoring of temperature effects.
- Guideline 3: Methodological guidelines for calculating climate change related indicators of urban /regional food production and consumption.

Available from [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)

### APPLICATION HELPS LOCALS REPORT PARK DAMAGE

Appleton Residents in the USA can download an application from the Councils web-site to report damages and other problems within Parks and Recreation Sites.

---

## Contact Us

Articles for publication can be sent to:- The Editor Weeder's Digest, P.O. Box 1878, Pinetown 3600

Or E-mailed to :-  
MichaelGLeech@gmail.com

Editor -Dr.M.G. Leech

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

ADDRESS BLOCK