

WEEDER'S DIGEST

KZN BRANCH NEWS LETTER

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SPLASH PADS ARE THE NEW PUBLIC POOLS

Cities have traditionally bankrolled larger warm-weather investments in the form of pools, while others struggle to find resources to build these facilities let alone the hefty maintenance and insurance.

At first you hear the shriek of children then you see the rippling surface of fountain, spouting ribbons of water into the air. Kids of all ages race between the jets, followed by parents and grand parents who slowly wade behind them. At the fountain edge a man in a shirt and tie kicks off his shoes and rolls up his trousers to wriggle his toes in the water.

This scenario is set to be come more common in a world where heat /extreme heat is the norm.

These facilities have a lower cost, recirculate water after filtration and are more sustainable besides being used by all ages.

A. WALKER.

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THE ZHUHZI DECLARATION(8 April,2016)

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/44550-0cef5e6519c03c9779c0f1ba18e543d69.pdf>

We the representativeswish to send a message expressing our concerns, calling for action, proposing solutions and reaffirming our belief that forests and trees in and around cities are the key elements to make cities in the Asia-Pacific region greener, healthier and happier and more resilient to climate change.

We submit the following recommendations for consideration, awareness raising, and expressing our willingness to work together with policy-decision makers, practitioners and other stake holders: **Something South Africa should think about !**

Recommendation 1 –Raise awareness of the functions and benefits of urban forests and trees by enhancing advocacy, communications, and public education, which in turn may increase urban forestry investment by diversifying funding resources.

Recommendation 2 - Improve the legal environment for urban forestry by enhancing policy support at international, regional, national and local levels, in particular , reduce land use conflicts between urban green and grey infrastructures by integrating urban forestry planning into urban planning.

Recommendation 3-Strengthen urban forestry education and research in the region by increasing funding support, facilitating knowledge and information exchange, and prioritizing the needs.

Recommendation 4– To ensure sustainability, increase public participation and community involvement by making urban forests more accessible and creating diverse interactive programmes and activities.

Recommendation 5-Improve environmental quality in the Asia-Pacific region in the next two decades by creating new urban greening spaces and optimizing the functions and benefits of existing urban green spaces.

Recommendation 6– Protect and restore forests between cities, enhancing rural-urban linkage through landscape planning and design, build interconnected regional eco-corridors, protect forests for urban water supply, limit unplanned urban expansion, and promote integrated ecological planning of neighbouring cities.

Recommendation 7– Strengthen urban forestry regional networking on information sharing, knowledge exchange, and resource mobilization and further develop regional cooperation through periodical meetings such as the APUFM and other joint activities.

Recommendation eight over the page.

WHAT DOES

URBAN ORCHARDS

MEAN ?

It means that the community will be getting fruit to supplement their diet and food needs. These trees will also become part of the city canopy.

Why are we not planting up more orchards in our cities??

ZHUHAI DECLARATION CONTINUED

ARBORICULTURE

NEEDS

In a research paper delivered in 2014 and appearing in the Journal of Green Economy and Development.

It was established that there is a need for Arboriculture in South Africa.

ARBORICULTURE

SURVEY

A further survey will be circulated to members through the IERM . It is essential to assess the needs in this field in South Africa .

Recommendation 8– Develop common tools (including methods, models and indicators) to address research questions, fulfil education needs and develop urban forestry solutions adapted to the needs of individual cities and countries.

We firmly believe will promote sustainable urban development aiming at a greener, healthier and happier future.

*The question that needs to be asked is what are we as South Africans doing to ensure that our beautiful country and cities are greener, healthier and happier and more resilient to **climate change**.*

Why are we not leading the way in Africa?

SEATTLE’S LONG –NEGLECTED TREE CANOPY IS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH DEVELOPMENT.

A fight is on between the Wallingford Community Council, Urban Forestry Commission and the City of Seattle as their new proposed Comprehensive Plan allows for the building of higher and wider buildings even up to the boundary line. Thereby leaving little or no room for trees on properties.

This must be seen in light of the fact that 58% of the urban forest is located within the urban residential zones. These trees were previously protected and authority had to be obtained prior to internal trees being removed. A,KAPLAN.

SOUTH AFRICIAN CITIES EXCEED WHO AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES.

The air we breath in our cities is not good for us. Air pollution is a major problem in most urban centres around the world.

The scale of the crisis is evident in the World Health Organisation (WHO) latest urban air quality database. The organisation points out that” more than 80% of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits” and the population in low-income cities are the most impacted”.

The annual means for all thirteen sites in South Africa fall above the WHO guidelines with the worst being Johannesburg and Tshwane , 4.25 times and 3.15 times higher respectively. A. WILSON-SPATH.

IF IT DOESN'T HAVE A BENCH IS IT STILL A PARK

TO BENCH OR NOT TO BENCH?

Other than trees it is hard to find something more intrinsic to people in a park than a bench. Do we want the park to be used or not? Do we want the resident to “linger longer” or you’ve got to move”. Especially when it comes to using playground equipment or just relaxing or watching other activities such as sport.

If we have a loitering problem, drinking, drugs fighting or even prostitution these problems need to be addressed at the cause but not by removing the benches.

We have to decide do we want parks or do we want pieces of open land?

In Baltimore in the United States the Friend of Patterson Park encourage the residents to use benches for strength building by distributing a booklet called “101 Things to Do on a Park Bench”.

Care must be taken in the bench placement , it must make sense with the flow of the park , high traffic areas and along pathways.

P.HARNIK & A.HIPLE.

PRESS RELEASES

Protect bees from pesticides by using bee precautionary ratings.—University of California.

Ratings fall into three categories—

I. RED—pesticides should not be applied or allowed to drift onto plants that are flowering. Crops and Weeds.

II. YELLOW—Pesticides should not be applied or allowed to drift to plants that are flowering , except when the application is made between sunset and midnight– if allowed by p/label and regulations.

III. GREEN—Pesticides have no bee precautions except when required by p/label or regulations . Minimum Precautions as required by label and regulations. **22/8/2016**.

Sustainable alternative to methyl bromide—American Society for Horticultural Science.

With the phasing out of methyl bromide tests using non chemical alternatives such as anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD) is considered to be one of the most promising methods against several soil borne fungal and bacterial plant diseases, plant-parasitic nematodes and weeds. **25/8/2016**

Contact Us

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