

Urban Areas and Open Spaces

With post 2020 Biodiversity in mind

High level description of what the indicator is for and how it will be used

It was proposed that an indicator (s) should be added to complement SDG 11.7.1 to account for the benefits accrued from open green and blue spaces in cities

- Target 11.7
 - By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Indicator 11.7.1
- Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

“Proportion of population (and its characteristics) living within an urban area ((define area)) with access ((define access)) to public blue-green space” (day 1)

or

Average share of the built-up area of cities that is Blue Green space for public use for all, by income distribution, by sub-municipal area (day 2)

Rationale

- The indicator 11.7.1 as formulated is not considered useful by some to account for ecosystems areas and services in urban areas.
- This indicator(s) we propose will provide information on the services offered by Blue Green Spaces (BG spaces)
- Custodian agency already exist (justification for not changing the original too much)
- Basic data likely exists

Concepts

Blue Green spaces include public:

- Recreational areas (parks etc)
- cemeteries
- Urban agricultural areas
- Green belts
- Wetlands (natural, built)
- Streams and other water features
- BG assets that have spiritual, historical, cultural, other values
- Public access greenhouses
- ...

Concepts (cont.)

Blue/green assets provide many services:

- Flood protection (incl Storm water retention)
- Air filtration
- Local climate regulation
- Noise mitigation
- Recreational opportunities, including drinking beers in the park while doing taichi
- Mental health
- Green roof and green walls
- Food
- Water supply
- (Wild)life habitat
- ...

Concepts (cont.)

However, the value of these aspects will vary according to

- distance to BG space;
- Accessibility (distance, fees)
- size of BG space
- Location : absolute (within the city) and relative (who has access to it?, or are its services maximised)
- Condition
- Etc...

“Proportion of population (and its characteristics) living within an urban area ((define area)) with access ((define access)) to public blue-green space” (day 1)

Average share of the built-up area of cities that is Blue Green space for public use for all, by income distribution, by sub-municipal area (day 2)

Fine print:

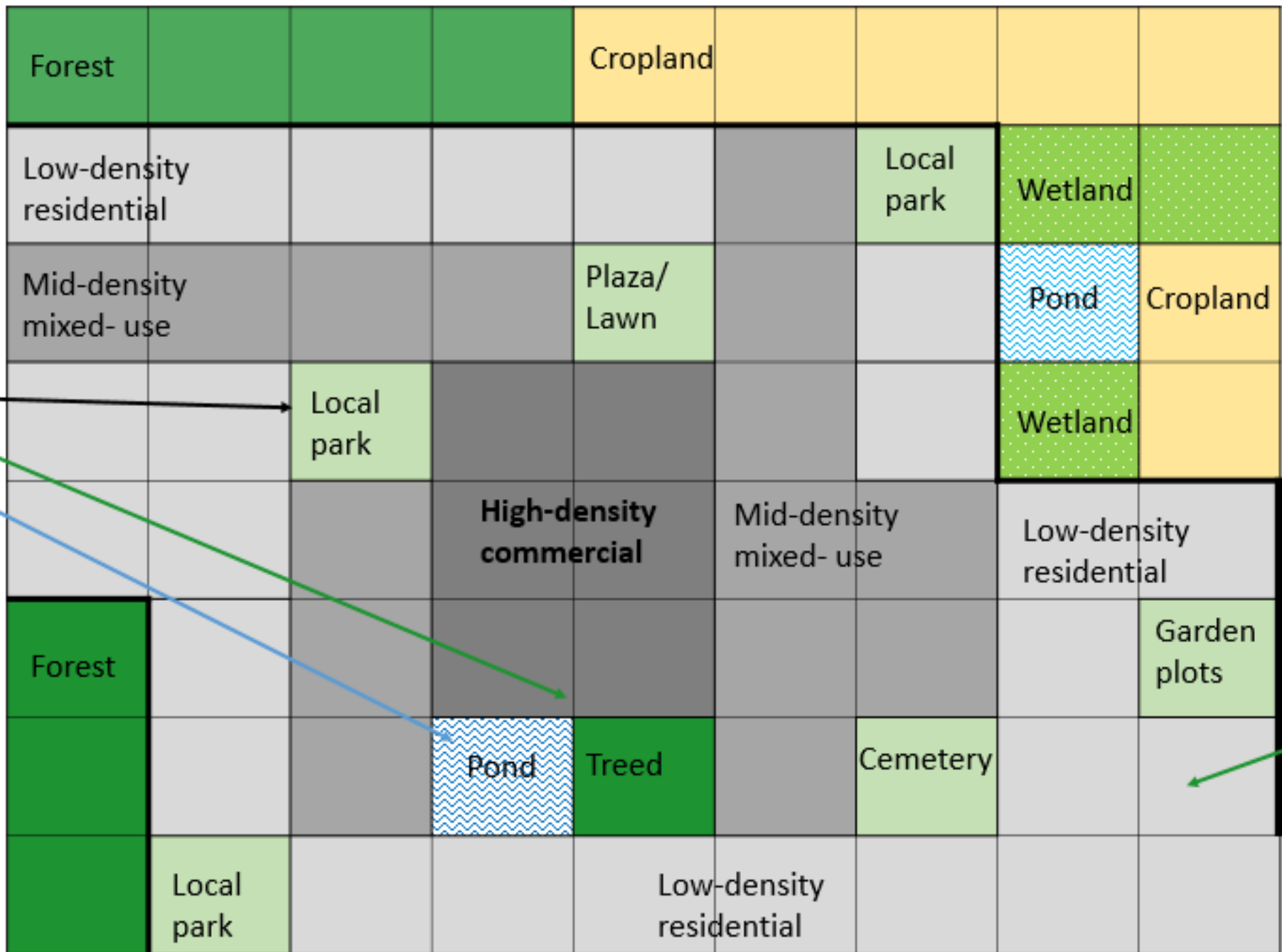
1. Addressing this indicator would be based on SEEA EEA extent, condition and capacity accounts (and underlying data sources including land cover, land use (and other administrative data), citizen science, etc), population and other socio-economic data (walk-score from real-estate, etc)
 - E.g. Not all green spaces are created equal; e.g. Location is an important factor with regards to it providing various services, as well as the value of these services

Ecosystem Accounts for urban areas

Or, ***putting the horse back in front of the cart***

- Building such accounts would provide metrics on the number and characteristics of BG spaces over time, and reflect impacts of some urban policies.

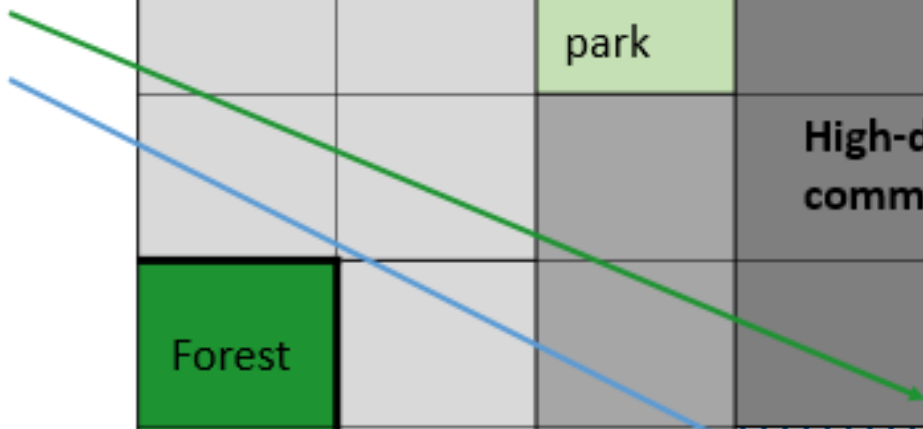
Natural and semi-natural on periphery



Continuously built-up area



Urban green/blue or natural and semi-natural?



Delineate green space in private yards?



	Ecosystem types											
	Urban/Built-up types				Natural and semi-natural types							Total area
	High-density	Mid-density	Low density and periurban	Total urban	Cropland	Grassland	Shrubland	Forest	Barren	Wetland	Inland water	
Opening extent (km2)												
Additions to extent												
Reductions in extent												
Net change in extent												
Closing extent (km2)												

		Ecosystem types											
		Urban / Built-up types				Natural and semi-natural types							Total area
		High-density	Mid-density	Low density and periurban	Total urban	Cropland	Grassland	Shrubland	Forest	Barren	Wetland	Inland water	
Example indicators of condition													
Population density	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Infrastructure density (e.g. site coverage, floor space ratio)	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Vegetation (e.g. % canopy cover, street tree or hedgerow length)	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Average distance to green space	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Soil sealing (% impervious cover)	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Soil (e.g. pH, metals, etc.)	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Water quality (e.g. stormwater discharge, turbidity, etc.)	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												
Air pollutant concentrations	Opening condition												
	Closing condition												

Benefits

- The accounting approach allows for the derivation of complementary indicators and uses:
 - “Gini index” for the distribution of green space
 - May lead to resilience indicators (and many others)
 - Amenity values (recreational values)
 - Could support other accounts, such as Tourism Satellite Accounts
 - Could be used as a planning tool
 - Etc

“Measure once, report twice”