SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T14h

Urban Ecosystem Services for Age-friendly Cities

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host (s):	Marcin Spyra	Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg	marcin.spyra@geo.uni-halle.de
Co-host(s):	Luis Inostroza	Mendel University in Brno	luis.inostroza@mendelu.cz
	Daniele La Rosa	University of Catania	dlarosa@darc.unict.it
	Christine Fuerst	Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg	christine.fuerst@rektorat.uni-halle.de

Abstract:

Cities worldwide are facing the twin challenges of demographic ageing and growing pressures on land use. The decline and neglect of urban open spaces further reduce opportunities for health, recreation, and social interaction, especially for older residents, who are considered among the most vulnerable subjects to different urban issues. Urban ecosystem services provide powerful pathways to address these challenges. Regulating services such as cooling, air purification, and noise reduction can improve health conditions of vulnerable populations. Cultural services—accessible green areas, community gardens, and recreational landscapes—support mental well-being, social cohesion and active lifestyles. Provisioning services, including urban food production, can enhance food security and autonomy among ageing communities.

This session will examine the role of ecosystem services science in developing and implementing urban adaptation strategies that foster age-friendly and resilient cities. The session welcomes innovative research, planning tools, and practical case studies from diverse contexts that make use of ecosystem services science to support age-friendly cities and neighbourhoods for elderly people and other vulnerable social groups. By bringing together researchers, urban planners, practitioners, and policymakers, the session aims to advance dialogue on how to integrate ecosystem services into the planning and governance of age-friendly urban environments that respond effectively to the needs of different age groups worldwide.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Explore how urban ecosystem services can support adaptation strategies for age-friendly societies, contributing to a people- and nature-positive future (Challenge 2).
- Showcase innovative case studies, methods, and tools from different urban contexts that demonstrate how ecosystem services enhance urban resilience under demographic and land-use pressures (Challenge 3).
- Discuss approaches for ensuring equity, justice, and inclusivity in the planning and governance of urban open spaces, with a focus on meeting the needs of older residents (Challenge 4).
- Foster dialogue among researchers, urban planners, practitioners, and policymakers on integrating ecosystem services into strategies for age-friendly, inclusive, and resilient cities.

Planned output / Deliverables:
A synthesis paper.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group:
TWG 14 – Application of ES in Planning & Management