

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**



IFPRA WORLD CONGRESS

ANTWERP FLANDERS BELGIUM

95

**ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF GREEN AREAS IN URBAN
ENVIRONMENTS**

3 - 8 September 1995

From 3rd to 8th September 1995, the International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration (IFPRA) will hold its 17th World Congress in Antwerp (Belgium) at the invitation of the Flemish Federation of Park and Recreation Administration (VVOG). The theme for the congress will be: 'Ecological aspects of Green Areas in Urban Environments

IFPRA

IFPRA is an International non-profit making organisation, with headquarters in the United Kingdom, that maintains contacts throughout the world with national professional bodies representing parks, recreation, amenity, leisure and related services.

At the present time approximately 40 countries are represented within IFPRA by individual and/or collective membership.

IFPRA's aims and objectives are the advancement of parks, recreation, amenity and leisure services through collecting and disseminating information, promoting the establishment of national recreation and park associations, organizing congresses and meetings, promoting applied research, publishing a bulletin, etc.

THEME OF THE CONGRESS

As the world population constantly grows and people are increasingly crowded into dense cities, the need for understanding how ecological reorientation of urban management can make towns and cities better and healthier to live in, becomes critical.

Plants (and especially trees) play an important role in this matter.

Green areas can heighten livability of urban environments.

So the need for understanding growth of plants (trees) within cities and the effects of plants on human beings becomes more and more important. Also the question, how cities can be made more compatible with their environment, becomes urgent.

The 1995 IFPRA World Congress will deal with ecological concepts to the description, analysis or management of urban environments. During the congress, both academics and practitioners in the field will reflect on the city as an ecosystem and try to find out what's the role and importance of green and amenity areas in this matter.

We will try to formulate answers to questions such as: how can cities be made more suitable for people and plants to live in and how can we manage our cities as durable ecosystems in which our future generations still can live, work and spend leisure time. The hereafter suggested and possibly other items, related to disciplines such as urban ecology, urban horticulture, urban forestry, human ecology, recreation and ecology, urbanisation, environmental economics (especially dealing with or referring to urban green areas) will be addressed by both invited and voluntary speakers.

introduction to the congress
INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY, URBAN ECOLOGY

Lectures on the first day should highlight and describe in general the principles of ecology, urban ecology, urban ecosystems and put these in a wide social context, referring to planning, construction, use, perception and management of urban environments, especially green areas.

These introductory lectures should also introduce the suggested subthemes, each of them referring to a different scientific discipline dealing with ecology: urban ecology, human ecology, plant ecology:

- the city, a place where green areas play important structural elements
- the city, a place for people to live, to work and to spend their time for leisure;
- the city, a place for plants to grow in;

Introductory lectures will give the state-of-the-art on the following and probably other general items:

- ecology in general,
- description and analysis of the city as an ecosystem.
- urbanisation as an ecological phenomenon,
- development of green areas in cities in an historic perspective,
- ...

subtheme 1

GREEN AREAS IN THE URBAN ECOSYSTEM
the city, a place where green areas play an important ecological role in creating valuable urban structures

During the second day of the congress, lectures will start from an urban-ecological approach and should deal with items referring to city-development, nature-development, urban site planning, etc. related to the important role of green areas.

Some aspects are:

- importance of ecologically oriented urban development;
- ecological aspects of urban site planning
- importance of creating greenstructures in cities;
- Environmental-Impact-studies and city-planning
- how to develop green-plans for our cities and have ecological principles in mind;
- what about nature conservation and nature management in urban green areas?;
- how do we manage or prevent woodwaste products in our parks and green areas?;
- how do we manage raw materials in an appropriate ecological way?
- traditional management in green areas in conflict with ecological principles?
- managing historic gardens and urban ecology, in conflict or not?.

subtheme 2

MAN/WOMAN IN THE ECOSYSTEM CITY
the city, a place for people to live, to work and to spend their time for leisure and recreation

During the third day the theme of the congress will be approached from the human-ecological viewpoint. Lectures will deal with the description, analysis, use, perception and management of cities as a place adapted to humans needs for quality of life

Some possible topics for discussion are:

- recreation and ecology in an urban context;
- role of green areas in satisfying the need for recreation of urban inhabitants;
- social significance and multifunctionality of green areas in cities.
- improvement of the use of urban green areas;
- how cities can be made safer and healthier for people to live in;
- perception of public green areas in cities;
- green areas and vandalism;
- influence of plants on the psychological welfare of man;
- influence of plants on the physical quality of the urban environment;
- innovative solutions to organize urban green areas satisfactorily with respect to the competing aspirations of different users
- human ecology and the need for men/women to live and to spend leisure in acceptable conditions in the urban environment,

subtheme 3

PLANTS IN THE ECOSYSTEM CITY
the city, a place for plants to grow in

During the fourth day there will be a plant-ecological approach of different subjects. Lectures should deal with the description, analysis and management of plants in urban environments and how people can positively improve plant's growth and living conditions. In urban settings plants are grown alone or in small groups in constantly changing environments and have to cope with and survive challenging and sometimes stressful growing conditions.

Some possible topics are

- How do plants react to the stressful growth conditions in cities?
- Breeding plants that are better able to withstand the negative conditions mentioned above;
- biodiversity in urban green areas;
- description of marginal environmental conditions in urban environments;
- creating optimum (artificial) growing conditions for plants (trees) in cities;
- how we can let plants grow on roofs?;
- how can we improve moisture conditions for our plants
- applying positive symbiotic effects (such as mycorrhizae) to benefit the growth of trees and other plants in urban environments;
- adaptation of plants to urban circumstances;
- managing wild flora (and wild fauna) in cities.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE / STEERING COMMITTEE

This announcement is prepared by the present programme-committee:

ir. G. De Buysscher, Director Green Dept. City of Antwerp
ir. Y. Decuypere, Assistant-Manager Green Dept. of the Flemish Government
Dr. R. Ceulemans, Dept. Biology, Lab. Plant Ecology, University of Antwerp
Drs. D. Devuyst, Dept. Human Ecology, University of Brussels
ir. J. De Wael, Office-manager VVOG, Brugge

A Steering Committee will advise the organisers on the realisation of the congress-themes and subjects, the possible guest-speakers, the acceptance of proposed contributions, etc.

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL SPEAKERS

The organising Committee of the 17th-IFPRA-World Congress wants to take contact with both academics and practitioners in the field to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues from all over the world.

Proposals for key-lectures of guest-speakers, introducing the general theme and/or the 3 different subthemes, mentioned above, are welcome.

Proposals for lectures at the IFPRA-World-Congress 95 must be received by the Congress-Secretariat no later than 31 May 1994

CONGRESS-SECRETARIAT

IFPRA-CONGRESS-95
c/o VVOG
St Jansstraat 7
B-8000 BRUGGE / Belgium
tel. ++ 32/50/33 21 33
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CONGRESS VENUE

Conference Hall Province of Antwerp

LANGUAGE

The official and only language will be English.

Abstracts, papers and proceedings will be published in English

SOCIAL AND ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAMME

A special programme is being prepared for accompanying persons as well as a lot of social happenings for all delegates

POST-CONGRESS ACTIVITY

A one-week post-congress-tour in Belgium and some neighbour countries is planned.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please contact the Congress-secretariat
attn of Mr J. De Wael

INFORMATION FORM



IFPRA WORLD CONGRESS

ANTWERP FLANDERS BELGIUM

3 - 8 SEPTEMBER 1995

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Title ☐ Prof. ☐ Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. Other

Last name

First name Initials . .

Mailing address
(2 lines only including postal code)

Country

Firm/Institute/Organisation

Function

Tel. - (0) From AM/PM till AM/PM

Fax. - (0)
country

INFORMATION ABOUT PRESENTING A PAPER

☐ I wish to present a paper and would like to receive advice about the possibilities.

Proposed Paper Title :

Subtheme : ☐ 1. Urban ecology ☐ 2. Human ecology ☐ 3. Plant ecology

Main issue of proposed paper : ☐ Strategic ☐ Practical ☐ Developmental

INFORMATION ABOUT ATTENDING THE CONGRESS

☐ I want to receive further detailed information about the IFPRA World-Congress in 1995.

☐ I intend to participate in the Congress accompanied by persons.

— ATTENTION : THIS IS NOT A REGISTRATION FORM —