

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

SPATIAL DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR METROPOLITAN SPATIAL PLANNING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA: CHALLENGES FOR EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY-MAKING AND MONITORING (2021)

Authors Dühr, S, Gilbert, H & Peters, S

Abstract Comprehensive spatial plans require a wide range of high quality spatial data, but planning requirements are not always considered in the increasing number of spatial data initiatives. This paper presents a framework for systematically analysing the availability and quality of spatial datasets in urban planning, and applies this to the example of the metropolitan strategy for Greater Adelaide, South Australia. The findings reveal significant gaps in important spatial data that are publicly available. This is especially concerning given the need to better understand integrated and multi-scalar planning policies such as for mixed use developments and polycentric urban structures.

Published Planning, Practice and Research

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Cost \$45 (USD)

WHY IS DETERMINING PERI-URBAN AREA BOUNDARIES CRITICAL FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT? (2021)

Authors Mortoja, MG & Yigitcanlar, T

Abstract In the age of climate change, for many cities around the globe seeking sustainable urban development is a key necessity. Nonetheless, many fail to develop effective policies when it comes to peri-urban growth, where these areas experience rapid land use transition, and become urbanized in a short period of time. Such transition poses a risk to sustainable urban development. This study provides evidence on the consequences of not clearly determining peri-urban area boundaries by placing a metropolitan region under the microscope.

The study uses a remote sensing approach to determine peri-urban growth in the Brisbane Metropolitan

Region, Australia. The changes that took place for a period of 30 years (1989–2019) are undertaken to map the level of peri-urbanization of the case study region, and the peri-urban area boundary is compared with the regional plan's growth boundaries. The study findings inform that: (a) There exists a significant contrast between the actual peri-urban area boundary and the boundary estimate upon which the regional plan bases its policies; (b) The lack of a clearly demarcated peri-urban area boundary caused the transition of significant size greenfield sites to urban uses, and; (c) Not clearly determining peri-urban area boundaries jeopardized achieving the region's sustainable development goals.

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INTERNATIONAL

TIME FOR 'GREEN' DURING COVID-19? INEQUITIES IN GREEN AND BLUE SPACE ACCESS, VISITATION AND FELT BENEFITS (2021)

Authors Astell-Burt, T & Feng, X

Abstract We hypothesized that visits to green and blue spaces may have enabled respite, connection and exercise during the Covid-19 pandemic, but such benefits might have been inequitably distributed due to differences in financial difficulties, opportunities to work from home, and localized restrictions in spatial mobility generated by 'lockdowns'. A nationally representative online and telephone survey conducted in 12–26 October on the Social Research Centre's Life in Australia™ panel (aged ≥ 18 y, 78.8% response, N = 3043) asked about access, visitation, and felt benefits from green and/or blue spaces. Increasing financial difficulty was associated with less time in and fewer visits to green and/or blue spaces, as well as fewer different types visited. Financial difficulty was also associated with feelings that visits to green and/or blue space had less benefit for maintaining

social connection. Working from home was associated with more frequent and longer visitation to green and/or blue spaces, as well as discovery of ones previously unvisited. Working from home was also associated with increased levels of exercise and respite resulting from visits to green and/or blue spaces. Residents of Melbourne, a city of 4.9 million who were in 'lockdown' at the time of the survey, appeared more likely to benefit from visits to green and/or blue spaces than residents of Sydney, Australia's largest city at 5.2 million, who were not in lockdown. Residents of Melbourne compared with Sydney reported consistently increased visitation of, discovery of, and greater levels of various felt benefits derived from green and/or blue spaces, including more respite, connection, and exercise. Comparatively shorter distances to preferred green and/or blue spaces and closure of alternative settings at the time of the survey completion in Melbourne compared with Sydney may provide partial explanation, though more acute responses to experiencing green and/or blue spaces within highly cognitively demanding antecedent conditions posed by lockdown are also plausible and warrant further investigation with other health indicators. These results were robust to adjustment for a range of covariates including preferences for natural settings, which were consistently associated with greater levels of green and/or blue space visitation and felt benefits. Collectively, these results indicate that parallel efforts to generate (or renew) felt connection to natural settings, to increase working from home opportunities, and to mitigate financial difficulties may be important to help maximize the population health benefits of urban planning strategies intended to improve the availability of, and to reduce inequities in access to, green and blue spaces. Benefits felt more commonly by people living through lockdown underlines the role previous investments in green and blue space have played in enabling coping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Cost FREE

EXPLORING THE DESIGN, QUALITY AND USE OF COMMUNAL AREAS IN APARTMENT DEVELOPMENTS (2021)

Authors Kleeman, A, Giles-Corti, B, Gunn, L, Hooper, P and Foster, S

Abstract Population growth and urbanisation are contributing to the densification of cities globally, including a proliferation of apartment developments. While many developments include shared spaces and facilities, little is known about their design, quality or use. Using a novel desktop audit approach, we objectively identified communal area design features and examined their association with residents' use of communal areas in apartment developments (n = 113) across Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. For residents with outdoor areas (n = 1039), use was associated with ten features, including greenery, pools and seating. For residents with indoor areas (n = 283), use was associated with four features, including a 'green' outlook and ground floor location. Features were combined into quality scores, where each unit increase was associated with greater odds of outdoor (OR = 1.37, 95% CI = 1.28–1.47) and indoor (OR = 1.91, 95% CI = 1.52–2.42) area use. These results suggest that the delivery of high-quality communal areas can encourage use, which in turn, may have implications for residents' social opportunities and outcomes. The findings also have policy and design implications, suggesting that the provision of communal space alone may not be enough to encourage use without the design features or amenities that appeal to residents.

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STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – SWEDISH PLANNERS' INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY (2021)

Authors Trygg, K & Wenander, H

Abstract This article advocates the need for strategic spatial planning practices to cope with the crises of climate change that confront cities and regions today. Planners face sustainability challenges regarding their ability to plan for the cities of tomorrow. The aim of this article is to analyse how institutional conditions can enable the planners' strategic spatial planning for sustainable development in Swedish municipalities. We will use institutional capacity as a theoretical framework to understand how the planners use planning instruments while planning for sustainable development. Our empirical research builds on four Swedish municipalities where we have set out to explore knowledge resources, relational resources and mobilization capacity for analysing planners' use of planning instruments for sustainable development. Our results indicate that the institutional capacity in the municipalities does not enable the planners to strive for sustainable development. Planners in Swedish municipalities have many ideas, visions and initiatives for sustainable development, but are often not informed of the political agenda or how to prioritize. For achieving strategic spatial planning, the planners will need a more clear political will and mandate to act and prioritize.

Published European Planning Studies

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THE FUTURE OF URBAN CEMETERIES AS PUBLIC SPACES: INSIGHTS FROM OSLO AND COPENHAGEN (2021)

Authors Grabalov, P & Nordh, H

Abstract Public spaces are believed to make cities more liveable, healthy and socially equal. To date, discussions about public spaces have primarily revolved around emblematic types, such as squares and parks, while little attention has been paid to cemeteries. Drawing on a review of public space scholarship and cemetery research, an analysis of strategies for cemetery development in two Scandinavian

capitals, Oslo and Copenhagen, and interviews with stakeholders, this paper elaborates on the cemetery as a special type of public space. Our findings demonstrate the potential of cemeteries' contribution to the urban environment as multifunctional public spaces – the trajectory envisioned by the two municipalities.

Published Planning Theory & Practice

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