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Challenges of urban green space management in the face of using inadequate data

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Highlights

- Urban authorities often focus on a fraction of urban green spaces
- They refer to those for which they are formally responsible
- Agricultural land, private and informal green spaces are left out of their scope
- Meanwhile all green spaces count in light of green infrastructure and ecosystem services concepts
- Many datasets which provide a more complex picture are freely accessible to public institutions

Abstract

Effective urban planning, and urban green space management in particular, require proper data on urban green spaces. The potential of urban green spaces to provide benefits to urban inhabitants (ecosystem services) depends on whether they are managed as a comprehensive system of urban green infrastructure, or as isolated islands falling under the responsibility of different stakeholders. Meanwhile, different urban green space datasets are based on different definitions, data sources, sampling techniques, time periods and scales, which poses important challenges to urban green infrastructure planning, management and research. Using the case study of Lodz, the third largest city in Poland, and an additional

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