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Contemporary interpretation of the meaning and heritage of early 20th century private gardens: From an historical reflection to a future outlook in planning

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Highlights

- Arguments for gardening were similar in early 20th century Flanders and Sweden
- Heritage and meaning of private gardens are overlooked resources in planning
- Widened historical reflections on gardens support contemporary planning processes
- Early 20th century gardens in Flanders and Sweden were strategic policy elements
- Private gardens have potential to support ecosystem services

Abstract

This article examines the strategic role played by private gardens in meeting societal challenges in urbanized environments in the late 19th-early 20th century. These gardens represented a means to provide food, a healthier living environment and, by implication, improved living conditions for the growing urban population. This strategic role was embedded in spatial and urban planning policies, as exemplified here in two case studies: the residential area Rostorp, Malmö (Sweden) and the region of Flanders (Belgium). With the case studies' results as starting point their historical narratives were written. These narratives were then confronted and the cases were qualitatively compared to demonstrate how, over time, the idea and materiality of the private garden have created value and meaning. These values include the strengthening of family values, establishing and

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