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## Street trees as cultural elements in the city: understanding how perception affects ecosystem services management in Porto, Portugal

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### Highlights

- Socioeconomic variables affected perception of benefits and costs / losses
- Values of different social groups may generate conflicts if overlooked
- Most deprived area of the city potentially less favorable to greening initiatives
- Information access influenced perception across all classes academic levels

### 1. Introduction

Mainstreamed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as the benefits human populations obtain from ecosystems (MEA, 2005), ecosystem services (ES) emerged as a metaphor to highlight public awareness on our dependence of nature, in order to foster biodiversity conservation (Gómez-Baggethun et al., 2010). However, the concept has been on the verge of stripping the human-nature relationship of the highly complex social-cultural drivers that define it (Chan et al., 2012). Ecosystems are not only shaped by

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