

GREEN EQUITY SYMPOSIUM

Stonehouse Court Hotel, Stonehouse
13th and 14th April 2026



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION

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WELCOME

On behalf of the Arboricultural Association, I am delighted to be able to welcome you to Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, for the Green Equity Symposium.

We all know that amenity trees bring environmental, social and economic benefits to our communities, and that arboriculture is the sector that makes this happen. It is also increasingly recognised that these benefits are not equally shared across society. There is a clear inequity in the distribution, governance of, and access to trees and green spaces.

Over the course of two days we will be hearing from leading academics from around the world as they present some of their research into this critical topic. We will also be joined by a range of speakers from the UK who will share examples and case studies of how they are incorporating aspects of green equity into their work. With a fantastic lineup of speakers, workshops, activities and networking opportunities, we hope you enjoy this special event.

It is particularly pleasing to be hosting the Symposium in Stonehouse, the home town of the Arboricultural Association. In 2021, Stonehouse Town Council adopted the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan, an innovative and ambitious project to grow a town into an arboretum. Consisting of every tree on public and private land in Stonehouse, the Community Arboretum is intended to promote the value of trees and greenspace, maximise the benefits of trees for all residents, improve the care of trees in the town and encourage public participation.

Green equity and community engagement are key aspects of the project, which has now featured as a positive example of a tree strategy in a number of publications and which in 2024 was awarded a Level 1 Accreditation through the ArbNet Accreditation programme.

Over the course of the Symposium, you will have the opportunity to see various sites and trees in Stonehouse which, thanks to the efforts of the Town Council and community groups such as Stonehouse in Bloom, are helping to make the arboretum project such a success. We hope you find the event informative and engaging, and that you enjoy your visit to Stonehouse.



John Parker

CEO, Arboricultural Association



On Monday evening

Take a walk over to view the Ukraine gallery before joining us for an informal, catered social on Monday evening at the **Woolpack Inn**.

On Tuesday evening

On Tuesday afternoon there will be an optional walk to **Doverow Wood**, led by John Parker, taking in some local tales of green equity and enjoying views of the surrounding area.

The walk will take up to two hours, and involves climbing a hill with some potentially muddy paths and uneven ground.

Wounded. Alive.

An exhibition by Valentyna Okhlopko, a combat photographer in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Dedicated to trees that have become silent witnesses of war. These trees were wounded by shrapnel, scorched by fire, torn by explosions yet they endured. They are still alive and continue to live and blossom despite the injuries they have received.

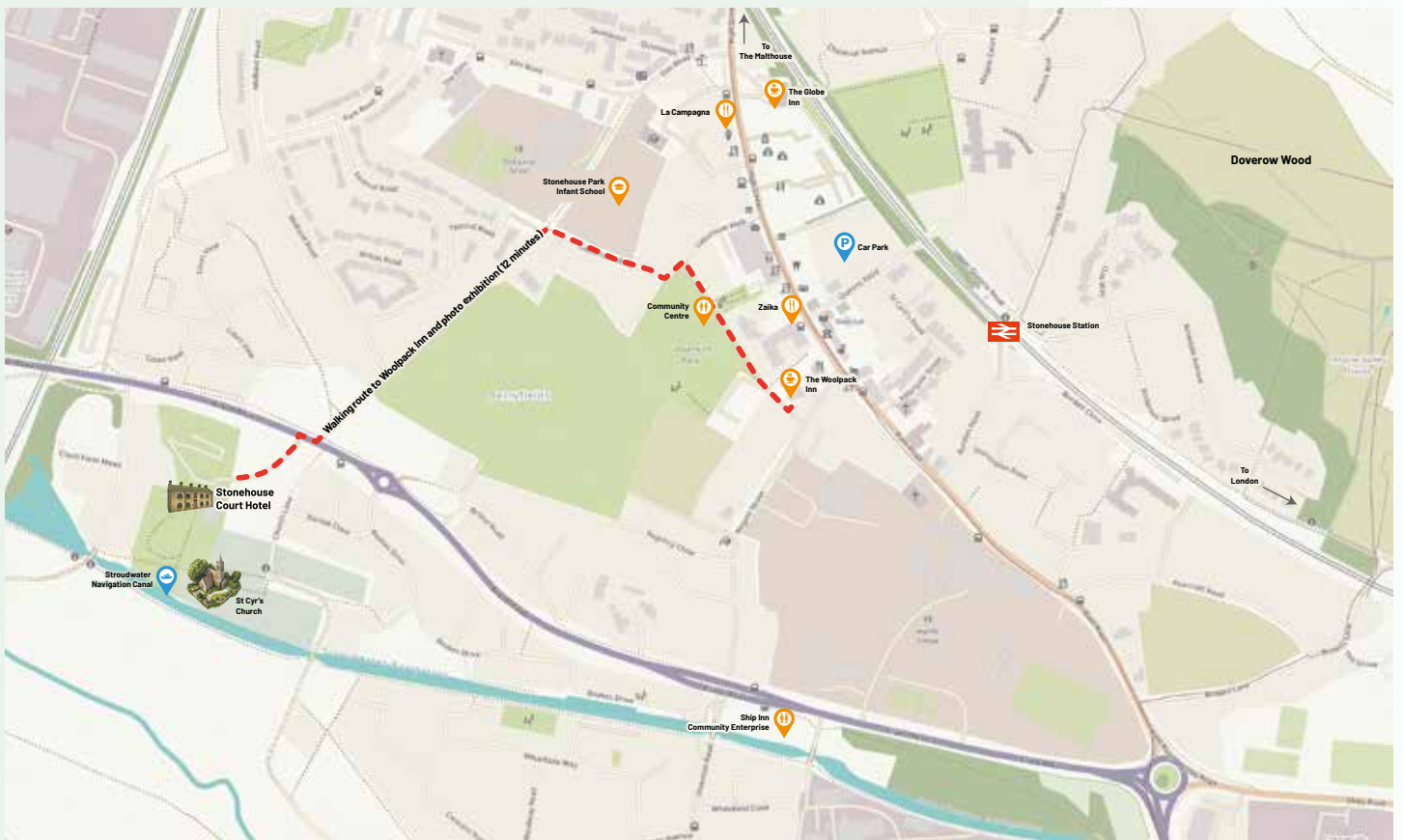
The images show different regions of Ukraine where the fighting has left its mark not only on people's lives but also on nature. Here, the trees are not background, but protagonists. They become symbols of our resilience, memory, and hope.

First shown at the Association's 2025 Conference at the University of Warwick, the photographs can currently be viewed at **Stonehouse Community Centre** (behind the Woolpack Inn).

Contacts

For any help from the Association team during the event, please visit the registration desk in the Caroline Suite or email conference@trees.org.uk.

For other on-site support, please contact Stonehouse Court Hotel on 01453 794950.



Parking

Parking is free at Stonehouse Court Hotel.

Stonehouse also has High Street parking spaces plus a free, 95-space car park just off the High Street which includes disabled bays.

Please do not park in the Stonehouse Community Centre car park.

Local Restaurants and Bars

Stonehouse Court Hotel, Bristol Rd, Stonehouse GL10 3RD

Woolpack Inn, 4 High St, Stonehouse GL10 2NA

Zaika, 8 High St, Stonehouse GL10 2NA

La Campagna, 56 High St, Stonehouse GL10 2NA

STONEHOUSE

Stonehouse is a community of approximately 8500 people located in the Stroud District, Gloucestershire, in the United Kingdom. Part of Stonehouse falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Cotswold escarpment is a key landscape feature from much of the town. Within the boundary of Stonehouse is Doverow Hill, on top of which is Doverow Wood. The Cotswold Way passes through the outskirts of the town and the Stroudwater canal runs alongside the southern boundary. Stonehouse is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and became a thriving community from the 17th Century thanks to the wool industry and local brickworks, assisted by strong transport connections to the River Severn and nearby Stroud, Gloucester and Bristol. It is hoped that the Stonehouse Community Arboretum will serve to give the town a unique identity as it moves into the future.

Stonehouse has a proud history of the community defending access to its public green spaces. In the mid-late 19th Century people from all walks of life worked together in different ways – from political lobbying, letter writing and direct action – to fight against plans to close Doverow Wood, thereby ensuring that it would remain open as “a place of resort and pleasure ground for the public” to this day. Another example was when, in 1898, some trees were offered to the Parish Council to be planted on the village greens, but the Lord of the Manor objected. The community instructed the Parish Council to “assert its rights to the control of the village greens and roadside wastes”. In both of these stories, the key points are the same. That it is necessary to appreciate, and sometimes fight for, access to public open green space. And that when the people of Stonehouse today enjoy the pleasures of Doverow Wood, or relax on their village greens, that their rights to do so were achieved by the actions of their ancestors.

THE STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY ARBORETUM

An arboretum can be defined as a collection of trees intended for people to enjoy, and to be studied for scientific purposes. Most arboreta are clearly-defined areas, often surrounded by fences and accessible only with a ticket. The Stonehouse Community Arboretum is rather different. Its boundaries are the boundaries of Stonehouse, and it is free to visit. It includes all of the trees on public and private land (although Stonehouse Town Council only have management responsibilities for relatively few trees, and private trees will of course remain the responsibility of the landowner), in the urban and rural parts of Stonehouse. Ultimately its intention is to create a diverse collection of trees, responsibly and sustainably planted and cared for, which will deliver a wide range of benefits to the Stonehouse community and encourage people to visit the town. It is there for everyone – for current and future generations, regardless of gender, race or socioeconomic factors. It is a long-term project, not a quick fix, and those involved in implementing the policies presented in this management plan will do so knowing that they will never see it completed in full.



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THE STONEHOUSE
COMMUNITY
ARBORETUM
MANAGEMENT
PLAN



THE ASSOCIATION

The Arboricultural Association (the Association) is the leading organisation in the UK for tree care professionals.

These include individuals working in contracting, consulting, local and national government, management, production, supply, policymaking, training, education, research and the charitable sector. The Association is dependent on its members, volunteers – including those on the Board of Trustees, working groups and branches – and a dedicated staff team.

With more than 3,000 paying members from all areas of arboriculture and urban forestry based in the UK and beyond, the Association is the leading professional voice for our industry. The Approved Contractor and Registered Consultant Schemes help raise standards in arboriculture, as do a wide variety of training courses, events – including the annual Conference, ARB Show and Wednesday Webinars – and publications such as the ARB Magazine and Arboricultural Journal.

OUR VISION

inspiring, supporting and promoting the tree care community for a society that better appreciates and cares for trees.


The Arboricultural Association's 2025–2027 Strategic Plan builds on previous progress, addressing ongoing challenges including lack of regulation, resources, and professional recognition.

To achieve our goals, we rely on member support and volunteer effort across various projects and initiatives.




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THE ASSOCIATION'S
STRATEGIC PLAN



 **Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION**
The home of tree care

Double your impact for trees this April



To donate
scan the QR code or visit:
bit.ly/DonateGreenTrees

**Where you live shouldn't
determine how many trees
you have.**

From **22–29 April**,
your donation can go
twice as far.

#EarthRaise

For one week only, every
donation to our Green Equity
campaign will be doubled.

Earth Raise

BigGive

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026

Time	Activity	Speaker
08:30	Arrival and Registration	
09:30	Welcome	
09:40	Co-creating just, green cities: Beyond metrics, towards community empowerment	Lorien Nesbitt
10:20	From metrics to meaning: Delivering green equity through community-led urban forestry	Kenton Rogers
10:50	Questions	
11:00	<i>Break</i>	
11:30	Just, green, healthy cities: Beyond population health outcomes	Margarita Triguero-Mas
12:10	Nature for all: Reimagining cities through green equity	Saira Ali
12:40	Questions	
12:50	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:50	How can community engagement in urban greening strengthen equity and justice in cities?	Arjen Buijs
14:30	Deciding the future of the National Trust's oldest tree	Luke Barley
15:00	Questions	
15:10	Close	
	Radical community engagement: Storytelling as a method to enable recognitional access to urban green space	Lotte Dijkstra
15:15	Choice of session	
	Tree walk around Stonehouse Court	Tony Kirkham
	Canal boat ride from Stonehouse Court to the Ship Inn site, a new local community green space.	Cotswold Canal Trust and Ship Inn Community Enterprise
18:00-	Viewing of Ukraine gallery at Stonehouse Community Centre Social at the Woolpack Inn (food from 19.00)	

DAY TWO

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2026

Time	Activity	Speaker
09:00	Arrival	
09:30	Welcome	
09:40	The potential of the 3+30+300 principle for promoting green equity and biocultural diversity	Cecil Konijnendijk
10:20	What does securing green equity mean for Hartlepool?	Roddy Shaw
10:50	Questions	
11:00	<i>Break</i>	
11:30	Plumbing and poetry: Aligning housing and urban green space agendas, applying ethics of care	Jessica Quinton
12:10	'We could do with a few more trees': Bringing data, people and trees together in Newark, Nottinghamshire	Adam Cormack
12:40	Questions	
12:50	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:50	Beyond tree equity: Green spaces as sites of social integration – From counting trees to cultivating belonging	Ayanda Roji
14:30	Old oaks and ancient rights: A perspective on trees, public access and arboreal justice from the Right to Roam campaign	Jon Moses
15:00	Questions	
15:10	Close	
15:15	Optional walk to Doverow Wood	John Parker



ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES



LORIEN NESBITT

Lorien Nesbitt is an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of urban forestry, environmental justice and climate resilience. Her research focuses on co-creating more liveable, equitable and sustainable cities through participatory, justice-orientated approaches grounded in urban social-ecological systems. She examines recognitional justice, green

gentrification, civic stewardship and the role of urban nature in human health and well-being, with attention to power and inequality. She leads the Urban Natures Lab at the University of British Columbia, partnering with communities, governments and scholars to advance just and transformative urban futures.

Co-creating just, green cities: Beyond metrics, towards community empowerment

In this presentation, Lorien explores how cities might move beyond narrow, metrics-driven approaches to urban green equity toward more just, inclusive and context-sensitive pathways for urban greening and climate adaptation. While quantitative tools and indicators have been important for identifying uneven access to urban nature, they often fail to capture the lived experiences, values and relationships that shape how people interact with green spaces in everyday life.

Drawing on interdisciplinary research at the intersection of urban forestry, environmental justice and climate resilience, Lorien reflects on the limitations of technocratic, top-down approaches to urban sustainability. She examines how well-intentioned greening initiatives can become entangled with broader social, political and economic dynamics, sometimes reinforcing existing inequalities or producing unintended consequences.

Lorien argues for the importance of recognitional justice in urban greening and planning – centring plural values of nature, diverse forms of stewardship and the knowledge embedded in local practices of care. Examples from participatory action research conducted with communities in both the Global North and Global South illustrate how engaging lived experience can deepen understandings of vulnerability, resilience and adaptation, while opening new possibilities for more responsive and equitable interventions.

Ultimately, Lorien calls for the co-creation of social and institutional infrastructures that support networks of care for green, healthy cities. By fostering collaboration across communities, governments and disciplines, her presentation outlines pathways toward urban greening and climate adaptation efforts that are not only environmentally effective but socially just and transformative.



KENTON ROGERS

Kenton Rogers is both a Chartered Urban Forester and Chartered Environmentalist with a master's degree in Forest Ecosystem Management. During his 25-year career he has worked on a wide range of commercial, urban and community forestry projects in the UK, Europe and North Africa. Kenton was a Trustee of the International Tree Foundation for 10 years, and he is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Kenton is also Co-Founder of Treeconomics, an employee-owned social enterprise headquartered in Exeter which

specialises in urban forest assessment, valuation and management across the UK and Europe.

Kenton has written many popular articles and scientific papers on the role and benefits of trees and urban forests in creating better places to live and work. He was also a contributing author for the Urban section of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and the Springer handbook *The Urban Forest*. Most recently he co-authored the Arboricultural Association's *Tree Care Manual*.

From metrics to meaning: Delivering green equity through community-led urban forestry

Green and tree equity is often framed through data: canopy cover, access metrics and indices such as the Tree Equity Score. While these tools are valuable for highlighting spatial inequalities, they can only tell part of the story. Kenton's presentation focuses on what equity looks like on the ground, through community engagement undertaken as part of the Belfast and Birmingham Tree and Woodland Strategies.

In most cities, equity cannot be understood without acknowledging history, identity and place. The city is richly diverse, yet diversity does not necessarily equate to integration. Communities may live side by side while remaining socially and culturally disconnected, shaped

by legacy issues of division, trust and representation. In this context, trees and green spaces can either reinforce existing inequalities or act as shared civic infrastructure that helps bridge them.

Drawing on practical engagement with communities across Belfast and Birmingham, Kenton's presentation explores how inclusive processes – not just equitable outcomes – are critical to delivering meaningful green equity. He reflects on how listening, co-design and locally rooted conversations reveal very different perceptions of trees: as symbols of pride, neglect, safety, memory or exclusion, depending on context. These insights challenge assumptions that increasing

canopy cover alone will deliver equitable benefits.

The presentation makes connections between tree equity, wider green equity agendas and social inclusion, arguing that trees can provide neutral, non-threatening spaces through which relationships between people, place and institutions can begin to change. Projects centred on trees can create opportunities for dialogue, shared stewardship

and long-term trust – particularly in cities where integration cannot be taken for granted.

This case-study-led contribution suggests that achieving green equity and sustainable tree-scapes requires moving beyond metrics towards approaches that recognise trees as social as well as environmental assets, embedded in the lived realities of diverse urban communities.



MARGARITA TRIGUERO-MAS

Margarita Triguero-Mas holds a degree in Environmental Sciences, a master's degree in Public Health and a doctoral degree in Biomedicine. She is a Ramon y Cajal senior researcher at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya's Faculty of Health Sciences and

a member of teaching staff for the master's degree in Planetary Health. She is also an associate researcher at the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ, ICTA-UAB) and the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).

Just, green, healthy cities: Beyond population health outcomes

Cities around the world are engaging in greening interventions to improve population health – among other goals. A significant body of research suggests that socially underprivileged residents may experience greater health benefits from exposure to natural outdoor settings compared to privileged groups. However, the existing scarce research on the interlinks between environmental gentrification and health indicates that environmental gentrification negatively impacts underprivileged residents.

Growing research highlights that cities that are engaging in greening interventions continue to face socio-environmental injustices that hinder socially underprivileged residents' lives. Indeed, research indicates that planning for greening interventions inadequately acknowledges the profound injustices embedded in most past and ongoing development

processes. That is, planning is usually tailored to the preferences and needs of groups in power (typically middle-class white men holding full-time jobs) and to (re)produce segregation, exclusion and inequity. Cities rarely consider injustices beyond uneven geographical distribution of greening interventions. However, those in varying positions of power may hold distinct perceptions, values, needs, experiences and risks associated with re-naturalising interventions. How these differences are included and valued as rich knowledge in planning decisions may have relevant implications in the health of marginalised populations.

In summary, there is a growing imperative for planners and policymakers to adopt novel frameworks that address the enduring socio-environmental injustices in cities implementing re-naturalising interventions, in order to move towards just, green, healthy cities.



SAIRA ALI

Saira Ali FLI is an award-winning Landscape Architect and President Elect of the Landscape Institute, leading Landscape Design & Conservation at Bradford Council. She champions landscape-led regeneration that tackles health inequality, climate resilience and green equity in one of the UK's most diverse and youthful cities. Her work has received national and international recognition, including Excellence in

Place Regeneration at the Landscape Institute Awards 2025, Infrastructure Project of the Year at the National Construction Excellence Awards 2025 and honours from the International Healthy City Design Congress. Saira also serves on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and contributes to national advisory and professional panels.

Nature for all: Reimagining cities through green equity

Green equity is increasingly recognised as a critical challenge for cities, yet access to high-quality green space remains unevenly distributed, often reflecting wider social and health inequalities. In her presentation Saira will explore the role of landscape practice in addressing green equity, moving beyond tree numbers and green space provision to focus on quality, access, lived experience and long-term social impact.

Drawing on practice-based examples from Bradford, one of the UK's most diverse and youthful cities, Saira

will demonstrate how landscape-led approaches, integrating public realm design, blue-green infrastructure, community co-design and child-focused interventions, can improve health, wellbeing and climate resilience in underserved neighbourhoods. The presentation will also reflect on the Landscape Institute's role in championing green equity and strengthening collaboration between landscape, arboriculture and urban forestry to create fairer, healthier places for all.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES



ARJEN BUIJS

Arjen Buijs is an Associate Professor in forest and nature conservation policy at Wageningen University, Netherlands. He is interested in human-nature

relationships, community engagements, relationships between communities and governments, and environmental justice across Europe.

How can community engagement in urban greening strengthen equity and justice in cities?

Greening cities isn't just about planting trees – it's about who benefits and who decides. In this presentation, Arjen will explore how greening cities through nature-based solutions can serve all communities equitably, particularly those historically left out of planning decisions.

Arjen will look at the opportunities and challenges of a 'Mosaic Governance' approach – a collaborative effort to bring together local governments, community members and grassroots groups – and set out six potential pathways through which this governance model advances environmental justice.

Mosaic Governance may contribute to better inclusion of stakeholders and marginalised groups, as well as the recognition of their preferences and the way they use urban green, ensuring projects reflect and respect the values, cultural practices and aspirations of diverse communities rather than imposing standardised solutions. For practitioners, the approach provides

an evidence-based framework for moving from top-down programmes to genuine partnerships that give communities a say in decision making.

The six pathways offer concrete strategies for ensuring our urban forest work doesn't inadvertently fuel green gentrification or deepen existing inequities.

This research pushes us to expand our professional lens beyond ecological outcomes to embrace social, cultural, economic and political equity. Arjen will argue for the need to understand the concept of justice broadly, recognising that fair access to green space connects to wider patterns of inequality in our cities and offers opportunities to increase equity and inclusiveness beyond the environmental realm.

How we govern urban greening matters as much as what we plant. Fostering authentic collaboration and recognising diverse community needs can make urban forestry a tool for advancing both environmental and social justice.



LUKE BARLEY

Luke Barley is a senior adviser on trees and woodland for the National Trust, providing leadership, guidance and support across the charity's 250,000-hectare landholding. He has particular interests in ancient

woodland and ancient trees. He is also closely involved with the Trust's ambition to establish 20 million new trees by 2030 and its system of tree safety management.

Deciding the future of the National Trust's oldest tree

The Ankerwycke yew is the most ancient tree in the National Trust's care at around 2,000 years old. In 2021 a disagreement emerged around its management following observations of movement in its trunk. Some stakeholders advocated loudly for an intensive bracing system to be installed, while others – equally vocal – felt the tree should be left to develop naturally. The local Trust team felt caught in the middle, unable to figure

out the best way forward for the tree and doomed to alienate one group or another. Representatives from the different groups, along with other key stakeholders, were invited to a facilitated, participative workshop where everyone's viewpoint was heard and different options explored. After listening to one another's perspectives, the group arrived at a consensus view around the immediate future management of the tree.



LOTTE DIJKSTRA

Lotte Dijkstra is a landscape architect, researcher, storyteller and artist. Her interdisciplinary work explores intersectional environmentalism, radical community engagement and place-based creative methods in landscape architecture and urban forestry. Through research and teaching at Newcastle University and her company Studio PLACES, she facilitates

and delivers community engagement between cities and their more-than-human citizens. She writes and edits stories on landscape, architecture and the built environment for academia, practice and the public. She completed her PhD by Creative Practice entitled Urban Forest Stories at Newcastle University in March 2026.

Radical community engagement: Storytelling as a method to enable recognitional access to urban green space

The urban forest is nature close to home for many city dwellers. Yet, engagement with and access to

the urban forest are unequal. Quantitative research indicates that human age, ethnicity, health and

LOTTE DIJKSTRA
CONTINUED...

socioeconomic deprivation exacerbate this unequal access. Further research suggests that equitable access can only be achieved when three specific dimensions of access are addressed: the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens, of procedural access through meaningful engagement in decision-making, and of the recognition of lived experiences. Community and stakeholder engagement is key to ensuring such inclusion, especially procedural and recognitional access. Such community engagement needs to be radical: connected to place, accessible to all (including historically marginalised voices), and allowing communities to foster a sense of ownership and attachment to the landscapes we are inviting them to. Recognitional access starts with fostering a sense of belonging.

Radical community engagement can be facilitated through storytelling. In this interactive and collaborative workshop, we will together explore the grounds of the Stonehouse Court Hotel. The methodology, developed throughout Lotte's PhD Research, includes prompts and principles of more-than-human storytelling, storylistening, storycrafting and storysharing. Together, participants will notice, engage, associate and respond to the stories embedded in place, practising this mode of radical community engagement to enable a sense of belonging, facilitating recognitional access to urban green space.



TONY KIRKHAM

Tony Kirkham was the Head of the Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, responsible for the management and curation of over 14,000 trees and hardy shrubs in the collections. He retired in July 2021 after 43 years' service at Kew, for which he received an MBE and the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour.

He is the author of many popular and technical books and papers on trees, and he lectures in the UK and overseas on the subject, making regular television and

radio appearances including most recently in *The Secret Life of Trees* on Channel 5. He co-authored the Arboricultural Association's *Tree Care Manual*.

Tony is Vice President of the Arboricultural Association, Patron of the Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG), and sits on the Royal Horticultural Society's Council and its Woody Plant Expert Group. He is a trustee of the Tree Register of the British Isles and the International Dendrology Society, chairing Trees and Shrubs Online.



CECIL KONIJNENDIJK

Cecil Konijnendijk co-directs the Nature Based Solutions Institute, a think tank for the evidence-based greening of cities and communities. He is also an honorary professor of urban forestry at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

The potential of the 3+30+300 principle for promoting green equity and biocultural diversity

The 3+30+300 principle is an evidence-based guideline that promotes the visibility, proximity and access of urban trees and urban green spaces. It calls for all of us to be able to see at least 3 mature trees from our homes, schools, workplaces or places of care. It also sets a recommended minimum tree canopy cover of 30% at the neighbourhood level. Finally, it also states that we should all have a high-quality, publicly accessible urban green space within a 300-metre walk from where we live.

The principle, launched by Cecil in February 2021, is based in some of the latest evidence on the public health and climate benefits of trees and green spaces. It has a strong focus on (distributional) environmental

Cecil has done research and advised governments and organisations in more than 30 countries. In February 2021 he proposed the 3+30+300 principle for greener and healthier communities.

equity, calling for all people to have good visible and physical access to trees and green.

This presentation discusses the role the 3+30+300 principle can play in promoting green equity by careful implementation in different contexts, by recognising green equity's multiple dimensions and by linking it with the biocultural diversity concept. The latter sees urban forests as co-created by humans and other parts of nature, recognising the need to connect cultural with biodiversity aspects. Cecil will analyse experiences from implementation of the 3+30+300 principle to date and highlight some of the associated opportunities and challenges.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES



RODDY SHAW

Roddy Shaw is the Strategic Lead for Tree Equity at Trees for Cities and a Churchill Fellow. Having worked in urban forestry in the UK for over seven years, his Fellowship research is exploring the governance frameworks and model of urban forestry in the USA and what lessons there are for the UK in better structuring

itself for urban trees. A long-standing nature enthusiast, he holds a first-class degree in Zoology and Conservation and has taken his passion for the natural world through to producing and hosting one of the top-rated nature podcasts in the UK.

What does securing green equity mean for Hartlepool?

Tree Equity for Hartlepool is the first project in the UK to take a whole-town approach to tree equity, aiming to work across an entire townscape and kickstart a green movement in the town. Bringing together a suite of partners to answer the questions of where trees should go, where they can go and where they are wanted, the project aims to take the second lowest tree equity scoring town in England on a journey from no action on its urban trees to Tree City of the World status. Now at the halfway point, the project has shown how the

Tree Equity tool can act to bring people together and enthuse a population to take action for their trees – having hit its community engagement target before reaching the halfway point. Roddy's presentation will share success alongside ongoing obstacles regarding the reality of tree planting efforts in the face of significant socio-economic challenges, and thoughts on the next steps for this Tree Equity partnership model will be discussed.



JESSICA QUINTON

Jessica Quinton is an Assistant Professor of Parks and Recreation at Arizona State University's School of Community Resources and Development. She holds a PhD in Forestry from the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on theoretical and

applied contributions related to environmental justice, governance, and public perception of urban forests and green spaces. This has included topics such as green gentrification, cemeteries as urban forests and more recently, ethics of care and young adults.

Plumbing and poetry: Aligning housing and urban green space agendas, applying ethics of care

Ensuring the provision of abundant, accessible urban green space requires aligning urban greening goals with other priorities. This demands both 'plumbing' (essential, functional systems, processes and logistics) and 'poetry' (vision, inspiration, values and meaning). This talk first examines urban green equity from a 'plumbing' perspective of aligning housing and greening to avoid issues like green gentrification. It then explores some 'poetry': applying ethics of care to urban green space management.

by, greenspace. These relationships are complex, non-linear, context-dependent and sometimes contradictory. Canadian and American urban greening plans reflect these tensions. For example, many portray rising property values as beneficial, but recent plans express concerns about gentrification. Despite this, many plans use housing development to fund/accommodate greenspace, entrenching this very green-gentrification dynamic.

Local governments face fiscal constraints, leading to 'commonsense' approaches to urbanisation: densify housing, require developers to 'pay their fair share', and increase property values to bolster tax revenue. Such strategies often generate uneven development and threaten greenspace. Ensuring residents have affordable housing and abundant, accessible greenspace requires holistic planning that recognises the interdependence of these systems: what Jessica terms the 'housing-greenspace nexus'.

We need to implement/evaluate housing affordability measures alongside greening; fund greening independent of development; develop/evaluate innovative strategies to green densifying areas; and sustain collaborations with housing, land-use and/or social services organisations.

Jessica reviewed existing literature and found six housing factors (policy, location, tenure, costs, form and development) that influence, and are influenced

by, greenspace. These relationships are complex, non-linear, context-dependent and sometimes contradictory. Canadian and American urban greening plans reflect these tensions. For example, many portray rising property values as beneficial, but recent plans express concerns about gentrification. Despite this, many plans use housing development to fund/accommodate greenspace, entrenching this very green-gentrification dynamic.

We need to implement/evaluate housing affordability measures alongside greening; fund greening independent of development; develop/evaluate innovative strategies to green densifying areas; and sustain collaborations with housing, land-use and/or social services organisations.

For a shot of poetry, Jessica ends by asking: what if we applied ethics of care to urban green spaces? Caring is defined as 'everything we do to maintain, continue, and repair our "world" so that we can live in it as well as possible'. How can we apply care (including attentiveness, responsibility, competence, responsiveness, and solidarity) to urban green space management?



ADAM CORMACK

Adam Cormack is Director of Supporter Mobilisation at the Woodland Trust where he has been leading the Trust's work on urban trees, community engagement and tree equity. He has worked in conservation for 20+ years in a range of roles and before that he worked as

'We could do with a few more trees': Bringing data, people and trees together in Newark, Nottinghamshire

Adam will present a case study of a pilot project in Newark, Nottinghamshire, where a partnership of the Woodland Trust, Reach Learning Disability, Newark & Sherwood District Council and Greenwood Community Forest is targeting work in a low-tree-canopy community. The project is part of the Trust's wider Trees For All programme and has combined data from the Tree Equity Score UK with community

a musician (and many other things). He is fascinated by the relationship between people and nature, particularly in towns and cities, and the way that our urban treescape reflects who we are.

engagement and a partnership with a local charity that works with adults with learning disabilities. It focuses on Hawtonville – a neighbourhood in Newark where tree canopy cover is as low as 5–6% in places. This presentation will cover how the partnership has identified planting locations around the community and is working to engage local residents with tree care and establishment.



AYANDA ROJI

Ayanda Roji is the Convener of the Centre on African Public Spaces (CAPS), a continental knowledge exchange platform dedicated to public and green spaces, developed as a partnership between the City of Johannesburg, UN-Habitat and GIZ. As Head of Environmental Education and Research at Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, she works to promote awareness, behaviour change and shared stewardship of urban green spaces. In March 2025, Ayanda coordinated the 2nd African Forum on Urban Forests on behalf of the City of Johannesburg in partnership with FAO and UN-Habitat, bringing together over 400 delegates from 35+ African countries. This resulted in the adoption of Johannesburg Declaration and the launch of the Afrika Mazingira Collective, a network that connects

urban stakeholders across Africa to promote the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions for city urban resilience, biodiversity and liveability. In May 2025, she received an award from the European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) for promoting regional cooperation on urban forests between Africa and Europe.

Ayanda holds a master's degree from the International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands, where she specialised in Local and Regional Development. She is passionate about connecting African indigenous knowledge systems with contemporary urban planning practices and learning from city practitioners globally to advance spatial justice and equitable access to green spaces.

Beyond tree equity: Green spaces as sites of social integration – From counting trees to cultivating belonging

Urban greening is never neutral. It is political. In South Africa, trees and parks were weaponised as tools of exclusion under colonialism and apartheid, deliberately shaping who belonged where. Across its cities, the urban landscape still bears these scars. The presence or absence of trees is not accidental. It reflects a history of strategic planning that privileged some whilst dispossessing others. Green suburbs for the few, barren townships for the many.

Today, urban forests can help undo that spatial injustice, but only if we are honest about what we are confronting. This is not a technical challenge. It is a political one.

Quantitative tools have been valuable for mapping uneven access to urban nature. But they risk reducing justice to a formula – hectares per capita, canopy cover percentages, distance to parks. These metrics make inequality visible, but they also make it manageable,

contained, depoliticised. They tell us how much exists and where it is distributed. They cannot tell us who belongs, who feels safe or who has power to shape these spaces. A city can claim impressive green coverage whilst entire neighbourhoods experience nature as distant, inaccessible, unsafe or culturally irrelevant. Coverage metrics alone cannot dismantle exclusion. They can only measure it

During the COVID-19 lockdown, when access to green spaces became essential for survival and sanity, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo ran a survey exploring how residents experienced these spaces. Its team found three distinct motivations. Low-income neighbourhoods primarily sought basic public infrastructure – seating, shade trees, toilets, water. Others sought respite – calm, beauty, solitude, escape from stress, connection with nature. Still others sought social and active experiences – exercise, walking the

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

AYANDA ROJI
CONTINUED...

dog, taking children out, meeting friends and family, having a picnic. Across all groups, the need for safety was universal.

Managing green spaces has taught Ayanda and her team that inequality manifests not just in distribution, but in the collision of diverse uses and needs within shared space. For too long, urban green spaces have been designed for comfort, leisure and aesthetic pleasure: the priorities of those with economic and spatial privilege. Low-income communities, meanwhile, have been left with vacant lots, polluted buffers and parks without toilets or water.

Cultivating belonging requires intentional stewardship that acknowledges and accommodates this diversity, even when uses clash. Recentring green infrastructure around equity means asking certain questions. Whose daily survival depends on this space? Who has been excluded? And how do we redistribute not just trees but power over their planning, design and governance? Ayanda will explore these questions in her presentation.



JON MOSES

Jon Moses is the co-director of the Right to Roam campaign and co-editor of *WILD SERVICE: Why Nature Needs You*. He holds a PhD in historical geography and

Old oaks and ancient rights: A perspective on trees, public access and arboreal justice from the Right to Roam campaign

Around 35% of the ancient trees listed on the Ancient Tree Inventory are inaccessible to the public. Many of these trees provide the 'taproot' for the stories, myths and heritage of our landscapes, so what are

has published essays, features, profiles and reviews for publications including the *Guardian*, *Businessweek* and *The Lead*.

the implications of their remaining out of reach of the public? Jon talks through arboreal trespass and the campaign to unlock public access across England and Wales.

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