

PARK

* APPRECIATION

WEEK

A pilot "Park Appreciation Week" was executed in Kampen Park through an investigative approach which included different interventions and activities, whom we tested to find the most effective way to make people more aware of biodiversity in the city and, further, to encourage them to appreciate biodiverse habitats and species more





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Figure 1: Blomsterengen i Slottsparken (Anne Holter-Hovind, 2019)

PROJECT SUMMARY

City parks are largely managed in ways that turn them into "green deserts," and users of parks often pay more attention to park elements that are designed for humans (such as viewspots, grills, and lawns to sunbathe on). These elements reflect people's wishes and needs for green spaces in the city, which are linked to their mindsets regarding nature and its value. Guiding mindset change can therefore be important in achieving environmental goals, and can result from different approaches, such as educational, aesthetic, and interactive ones. This project investigated how to bring attention to the different plant and animal species in Oslo's parks, and spread awareness of the value of biodiversity. It manifested as a "Park Appreciation Week" event in Kampen Park with several interventions occurring both inside and outside the park, from November 30 to December 5. The interventions included a quided walk, a "Dream Tree" installation, signs in the park, a lesson plan proposal for Klimahuset and a stand at the library, as well as social media promotion. They aimed to target as many people as possible through education-based awareness. Following their implementation, the success of the interventions has been measured and analyzed according to people's responses to them. These findings, along with a package of downloadable content, have been made available for environmental organizations and those who can become stewards of the "Park Appreciation Week" sentiment and model.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

How do we make users of parks more aware of biodiversity?

1 - PURPOSE

BACKGROUND

OSLO - A EUROPEAN GREEEN CAPITAL

In 2019, Oslo was voted the European Green Capital, outcompeting 13 other cities. The cities were judged in 12 categories, 8 of which Oslo ranked 1st in (Miljøhovedstaden, 2019, p. 9). One of these categories was "Nature and Biodiversity." Oslo has also been recognized for having the most biodiversity among any municipality in Norway (Nowell et al.). As Figure 1 shows, however, the boundaries of the city of Oslo include vast tracts of preserved land in Nord- and Østmarka. It's important to ask, then, how much of this biodiversity actually lives within the built inner city?

HUMAN-MADE THREATS

Biodiversity in the city is facing several humanmade threats on a global scale. First and foremost, the modification and alteration of land (e.g. by construction) is heavily interfering with the habitats of plants and animals. These habitats are further impacted by pollution and contamination from fertilizers and microplastics, for example. In addition, with the help of people, invasive species have crossed natural boundaries and, in many cases, begin to outcompete native species. Overfishing/overhunting and the changing climate also places acute stress onto different populations. In all of these cases, losing one specie may most likely lead to windfall effects, with consequences for the rest of the ecosystem and other species. (Hudson et al., 2014).



Figure 2: Map of Oslo's Urban and Forest Areas (Oslo Kommune, 2019. p. 1)

Some helpful definitions:

Biodiversity: The number of plant and animal species in a given environment

Species: A group of similar organisms that can reproduce naturally with each other

Green desert: A term increasingly used to describe areas with very low species diversity, often characterized by monoculture

Norwegian Red-List for Species: list of species that are at risk of going extinct in Norway (Compiled by the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre)

GOVERNING INITIATIVES IN NORWAY

Norway recognizes these threats to biodiversity and is currently working on different measurements and approaches to tackle them. Norway's national government wants to ensure the preservation and flourishment of biodiverse habitats for future generations as a foundational aspect of Norway's aspiring "green shift" (Regjeringen, 2007). The goal is to maintain the delivery of ecosystem services through sustainable use and preservation of biodiverse habitats. In addition, Norway's national biodiversity action plan "Nature for life" from 2015 summarizes the benefits of biodiversity clearly: "A huge variety of species, habitats and ecosystems provides us with everything from food and medicines to building materials, opportunities for outdoor activities and aesthetic and spiritual benefits." (Meld. St. 14 (2015-2016), s. 5)

Furthermore, Norway has a Nature Diversity Law. This law aims to ensure that nature, with its biological, landscape and geological diversity and ecological processes, is taken care of through sustainable use and protection. It is also understood as a basis for human activity, culture, health and well-being, now and in the future (Naturmangfoldloven, 2009, §1)

Norway's national government and parliament are not the only ones becoming active. Within Oslo's "Byøkologisk Program" for 2011-2026, one of the main goals is that Oslo shall protect and enhance it's blue-green infrastructures. To achieve this, one of the sub goals states that

"Oslo shall protect and develop biodiversity" (p.14). A strategy within this goal is that Oslo shall take responsibility to reduce the loss of biodiversity by, for example, focusing more on ecological restoration and maintenance. Additionally, SABIMA (Council for Biodiversity) is an organization that proposes political solutions and disseminates knowledge to counter the loss of natural diversity. They also have a database where identify and map out many species, including many of those in Oslo.

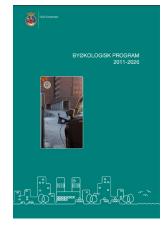






Figure 3: Byøkologisk Program, 2011 Figure 4: Virksomhetsplan for ByKuben, 2020 Figure 5: SABIMA logo

Finally, Oslo municipality has a center for urban ecology, ByKuben, which aims to make the value of nature explicit and works within the city to connect people with nature. In their "Virksomhetsplan" for 2020-2021, they state that "urban ecology is about building a safe and inclusive city, which is sustainable and provides space for all of nature' s lifeforms" (emphasis added) (p.7) Furthermore, ByKuben directly focuses on biodiversity within their discipline of "Nature in the City."

CHANGE OF MINDSETS

The public's perception of biodiversity and their actions are of great importance as well. A study done by Kaltenborn et al. (2016) in Norway showed that loss of biodiversity is recognized by people as a challenge. However, it is perceived as "not yet severe or clear enough to trigger massive concern," which prevents the topic from being pushed into a "governance and more action-oriented phase "(p.6). They argue that "engaging the general public and increasing empathy for the numerous unseen, rare and unknown species" can be very demanding and difficult to facilitate (p.6). Thus, in order to trigger the necessary push, the authors argue for including cultural heritage, aesthetics and physical and emotional experiences into conservation policies. They conclude that affective emotions have a greater impact on people's beliefs and behaviors than logical knowledge.

Of course, government regulation and top-down policies remain extremely important. They are, however, incomplete: lifestyles cannot be influenced on a national level. Linking the issue of biodiversity to personal contexts can ensure the success of other policies and initiatives acting in favor of biodiversity. It can also mobilize grassroots, bottom-up support for the issue (UIA).

PARKS IN OSLO

Urban parks can play an important role for biodiversity in cities. Although some species can survive in human-built structures, like concrete buildings and subway tunnels, others are not suited to these kinds of habitats. In fact, in the big cities, parks may be the only suitable habitat for particular species, like bigger mammals and large trees. But despite this important potential, parks are often designed in ways that serve human desires regarding aesthetics, accessibility, and activities (Miljolare).



KAMPEN PARK ANALYSIS

History and Typology

With it is unique location in the city, the park has played an important role for a long time. Both for Viking settlements, military work, water reservoir, and as a park for public use. The park was finished in 1895 and is a typical landscape style-designed park, which is common for city parks that were established in the end of the 19th century. The park quickly became one of Oslo's most used parks. Because of the interest and use by the inhabitants from the east of Oslo, the municipality decided to grant money for new elements in the park. This inlcuded a cave with a waterfall, a statue called "Svømmeren" and stairs. In the 1930's, a wading pool was created on top of the water reservoir, called Udsigten/Utsikten (viewpoint in English). (Lokalhistoriewiki, 2021).

The English landscape garden style

The English landscape garden style originated in England in the 18th century. This style is characterized by coherent, undulating grasslands with naturalistic water surfaces and groups of deciduous trees. This is then surrounded by open tree plantations with open views of the surrounding landscape with some noticeable elements, such as statues (Bruun, 2020)







Figure 7: Map of Kampen Park, Kommunekart.no Figure 8: Kampen Park (Lokalhistoriewiki, 2021) Figure 9: Historical picture from Svømmeren in Kampen Park (Lokalhistoriewiki, 2021)

(Kampen Vel, 2019



Kampen Park users

In order to learn more about this, the team conducted various interviews in Kampen Park in November 2021. The interviews revealed that most people paid attention to the cultural aspects in the park. People's favorite activities to do in the park included strolling with kids or friends, barbecuing, sunbathing, and enjoying the view of the city from the top of the hill. While some people did not find it interesting at all, others paid attention to the nature in Kampen Park (particularly the big, old trees).

When asked specifically about biodiversity, a few people responded that they felt they already knew a lot about it, but most answered that they did not know much. The latter group either wanted to learn more but did not exactly know how, or thought it was a low priority in their lives. Most of the people interviewed said they would be interested in low-involvement educational interventions, such as signs. (See appendix A)

	The CityStudio 5 S's				
1	Staff/strategy	Staff Andreas Haugstad and Halfrid Hagemoen from ByKuben, Oslo's center for urban ecology (housed under the Agency for Planning and Building Services), were this project's main contacts. Renate from Bymiljøetaten, was an important city staff who gave approval for the Park Appreciation Week at Kampen Park. City Strategy: Byøkologisk Program 2011-2026: also known as the Urban Ecology Plan. Target 5.1 in this program states that: "Oslo's goal is to protect and enhance biodiversity."			
2	Support	 Material costs for coffee + snacks were covered by team Gigi Lish, ecology student, provided voluntary hours of help Interventions required poster boards + laminated tags. These were printed at UiO, and the costs were covered by CityStudio. 			
3	Site	Kampen Park, Kampen			
4	Stewardship	 Lesson plan proposal sent to libraries and schools, as something they could facilitate Downloadable content package shared on Facebook, with instructions for how to get in contact with a park's forvalter, insider tips and PDFs of all the dream tree cards and posters Content package and printed posters shared with ByKuben 			
5	Scalability	The "Park Appreciation Week' ' is made to be a recurring event, hosted in different parks around Oslo and Norway. This can be done by reading through the content package that is free to download for everyone. Information about how an appreciation week can be hosted is provided in this package. Both ByKuben and Klimahuset has showed interest in creating similar projects.			

2 - PROCESS

TIMELINE

This timeline gives a general overview of how the project developed, both when it comes to changing problem statements and milestones along the way

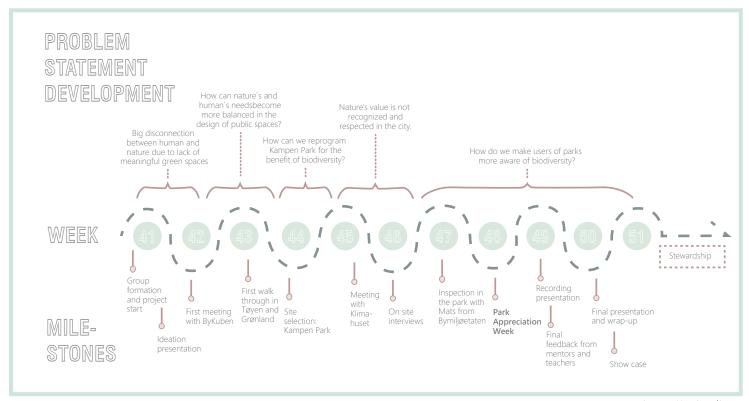
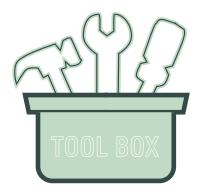


Figure 11: Timeline

3 - Outcome

The "Park Appreciation Week" was created to address the lack of awareness of biodiversity among users of city parks. It was an urban intervention model that aimed to engage people of all ages and backgrounds, including people who were already interested in nature/parks/biodiversity, and those who were not.

A pilot "Park Appreciation Week" event was executed in Kampen Park through an investigative approach. Different interventions and activities were tested to find effective ways to make people more aware of biodiversity and, further, to encourage them to appreciate it more. These interventions took place between November 30th and December 5th. Some occurred inside the park and others happened outside the park, and some were actively facilitated while others were passively implemented. Overall, they were designed to target as many different kinds of people as possible.



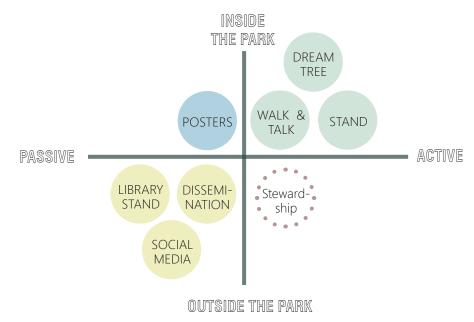
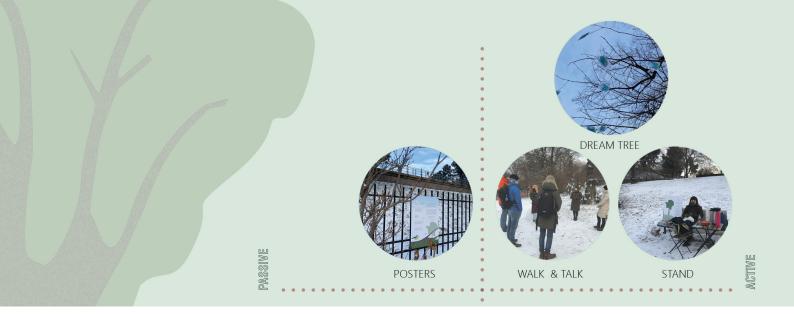


Figure 12: Tool box



INTERVENTIONS IN THE PARK

Posters

Two sets of seven different signs were placed throughout Kampen Park, with thought-provoking information that aimed to challenge people's perspectives on things like dead wood, decomposers, birds, and lawn mowers.

Dream Tree

A tree was transformed into the Dream Tree, full of wishes and needs. Colorful cards, hanging from branches, introduced different species living in the city parks. A variety of their needs in the city was presented in personified quotes. People were invited to write their wishes and dreams for parks in the city on blank cards for the Dream Tree .The purpose is to engage people in thinking about other species' needs. Participants are encouraged to write down their own wishes for parks. This will be visible for people walking by, and accessible for all ages to interact with.

Walk and talk with ecology student

During this event, Gigi Lish, an ecology student, took participants around Kampen Park and looked at the landscape through an ecology lens. She prepared an engaging guided tour and made sure to engage the participants with questions.

Stand

In the center of the park was a stand where 2-4 facilitators promoted The Park Appreciation Week. The stand consisted of a table with warm coffee, chocolate and snacks. The purpose of this was to make observations to what extent people were interacting with the different interventions.

INTERVENTIONS OUTSIDE THE PARK

Library stand

Deichman Tøyen Torg has placed a curated selection of books near the front of the library. This includes books on biodiversity, trees, city parks, and more -- and books for all ages. This is not only a promotion for the other activities occurring in Kampen Park, but also a way for people who want to learn more to do so on their own.

Dissemination

A proposal for a lesson plan made with the topic "Nature in the City". This was made in collaboration with Klimahuset, who will be designing a new program in the Spring around this theme. This proposal can be used in that design-process. The lesson plan includes an excursion to a local park, activities for students to do in the park, and content ideas for talking about biodiversity on different scales: local, regional, and global.

Social Media

Facebook: An easy way for the project to reach out to people. There is both a page for the "Park Appreciation Week," as well as a specific event for the "Walk with an Ecologist." Both the page and the event have been shared with people and groups who have potential to be interested. Paid promotion has also been used in an attempt to increase the reach of the facebook page. Instagram: 2 "stories" promoting the week and the walk were shared on the CityStudio Oslo instagram.



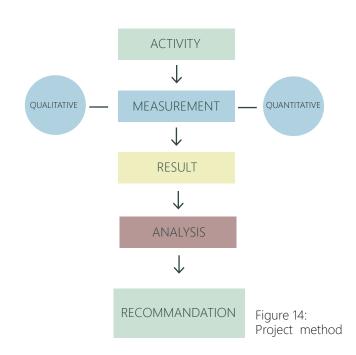


Figure 13: Instagram stories



RESULTS

Because of the diversity of the interventions and activities, various measurement methods were necessary to determine their success. These included qualitative and quantitative methods, both before and during the event week. Before the event week even began, observations and interviews were used in Kampen Park to get a better sense of how people relate to nature, particularly the nature in city parks. This could then be used in comparison to people' s responses to the event.



	measure	raeullee	
intenvention			
1 - POSTERS	Two posters include a QR- code, linked to a survey in which people can express	QR-Code responses: 9 Majority found them 5/5 interesting. (See appendix F)	
14 A1 posters were placed on railings and fences along the pathways in the park, from Tuesday 30th of November to Sunday 5th of December.	their thoughts about the interventions and evaluate their experience. Conversations with passersby were used to get qualitative data.		
2 - DREAM TREE	Personalized cards and conversations, and a survey	Personalized cards and conversations showed that some people cared about nature's needs, while most cared about the human's wishes in the park. See appendix C2 Interacted cards on the tree: 28 Survey result: 9 Majority of them found them 5/5 interesting (See appendix F)	
Two sets of 21 double sided cards were hung up in an upper and lower level of the tree. The cards included one picture and a need of a species. 30 blanc cards were provided for people to use.	linked to a QR-code on a nearby poster created results about the participation. The qualitative results of the cards provided insight into people's values.		
3 - WALK & TALK		Two people participated. One of them answered the semi-structured interview. See appendix G	
A 45 minutes walk and talk about Kampen Park's biodiverse habitats with an ecology student. The walk took place at 12am on Wednesday the 1st of December.	A prepared discussion sheet was used for semi-structured interviews.		
4 - STAND	Observations of possession and	Two people participated. One of them answered the semi-structured interview.	
The stand was placed centrally in the park to engage as many people as possible. Treats were offered to get their attention.	Observations of passersby and conversations with them.	See appendix G	

Results

intenvention	measure	results
5 - LIBRARY STAND From the 22th of November until the 5th of December a book stand at Tøyen library aimed to recommend books about biodiversity to visitors. It also promoted the Park Appreciation Week.	Number of books borrowed and feedback from librarian	The librarian and the teams noticed people borrowing books (approximately 20) and reading books from the curated bookstand.
6 - DISSEMINATION An educational dissemination for children in the age of 10-12 about biodiversity was planned to llast for 90 minutes plus preand post-work.	An experienced teacher from Klimahuset will give us feedback on the dissemination. Then we will know if it is an approved dissemination.	Klimahuset did not find time to give us feedback.
7 - SOCIAL MEDIA Daily posts about biodiversity were posted on the Park Apprectiation Week page on Facebook to promote biodiversity and the event week.	Number of likes, followers and numbers of people we have reached. Observed by using "insight" function as the administrator on the Facebook page.	The Facebook page reached in total 750 people. See appendix E

After analysing the results, lessons were learned and experienced-based recommendations for stewards for this event model.

CONCLUSIO

ANALYSIS OF INTERVENTIONS

1 - POSTERS

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Place relevant. Educational reading. Low threshold to participate. Aesthetically pleasing design Hard to measure influence. Too small font size. Restricted accessibility. Only available in English.

2 - DREAM TREE

POSITIVE * NEGATIVE

For all ages. Engaging activity. Place relevant. Educational information. Reaching personal context. Aesthetically pleasing cards.

Participation relying on weather. Too small font and too much Only available in

English.

3 - WALK & TALK

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Professional facilitator. Audiovisual learning experience.

Better promotion & timing needed. Participation relying on weather. Lack incentives

4 - STAND

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Inviting door opener. Gave the intervention a base.

Placement not optimal. Not suitable timing.

5 - LIBRARY STAND

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Easy access to new knowledge. Timing. Placement of the stand. Inviting people to the event.

Hard to measure the awareness outcome directly

6 - DISSEMINATION

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Built on an existing initiative from Klimahuset Raise awareness for kids New inspiration for teachers. Active learning.

Relying on participants.

7 - SOCIAL MEDIA

POSITIVE : NEGATIVE

Number of Facebook visitors. Easy accessible information.

Late implementation Lack of other channels

ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- Signs should be put up on well frequented and visible places and include easily accessible knowledge and information about the project with a big font, both in Norwegian and English.
- The Dream Tree should be created in the language used by the majority users of the park and include an informative description of the activity.
- A Walk & Talk activity should be arranged at suitable time for the majority of people and it should include a social incentive to capture their interest.
- The stand should be timed strategically to reach out to passersby and should provide a variety of incentives.
- The library stand should consist of relevant books curated by the librarian or event facilitator and should have some connections to the event week.
- The dissemination should be planned well in advance in order to secure classes and should be adjusted to the teaching plan.
- The channels on social media should be planned in advance and consist of frequent and relevant posts.

LESSONS LEARNED

Ultimately, the different interventions had varying success. Some goals were met, while others fell short. The people who did interact with the installations in some way, whether that was the signs, the Dream Tree, the walk, or the social media pages, were quite positive towards both the content and the form of them. Many commented that they believed this was an important issue, and if anything, it should be talked about more. In fact, most of the critical feedback received was about the promotion of the event, and how it should have been more widespread. While some limitations, like the weather, were beyond control, others can be turned into valuable learning lessons.

Timing

On both a large scale and small scale, timing is crucial. Winter is a difficult time to get people out into a park, and although there were some people walking their dogs or passing through, the park was quite empty compared to how it would have been during the summer. Furthermore, the "Walk with an Ecologist" event and the refreshment stand was done on weekdays, during work hours. A more accessible time would have been on a weekend in the summer.

Promotion

The Facebook page received a slow, but steady, increase in likes and people reached. If the page had been created even earlier (more than 2 weeks before the event) and shared in more groups, then it could have reached a broader audience and gotten more people to attend the event.

<u>Language</u>

According to feedback from two participants, the signs should have been in Norwegian as well as English.

Direct local engagement

During the event week, several Kampen locals visited the interventions. They were interested in the project and supportive of the fact that it was happening in Kampen Park. Two of them said they would share images of the Dream Tree and posters in their neighborhood Facebook page, and one asked if any workshops had been done with the local community. Tapping into these community networks can be a valuable way to gain input regarding people' s initial mindsets, learn about potential existing initiatives in the area, gauge interest, and promote the event.

Measurement method(s):

When group members were not physically in the park, it was not possible to gather information about the ways that people interacted with the interventions (except for on the Dream Tree, where new handwritten tags could indicate engagement).

NEXT STEP AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These lessons can be turned into experience-based recommendations for stewards of this event model. The recommendations can be categorized into four focus points: content, accessibility, interactiveness, and attractiveness.

CONTENT

Language Length Interplay

- The language of the content needs to be adjusted to the audience. Both in terms of what language is used and the level of comprehension it is intended for.
- The length of the content is also important, it should be informative, but not overwhelming.
- The core focus of the different activities and interventions should be the same for a greater interplay and understanding
- therefore, these interventions should have no educational barriers

ACCESSABILITY

Time Barriers Frequency

- Interventions should be visible at different heights for adults and children to interact
- The timing of these events is extremely important for the outcome of it - seasons, working hours and daylight should be taken into consideration
- Frequented places should be used to reach more people and make them interact

ATTRACTIVENESS

Eye-catcher Aestethics

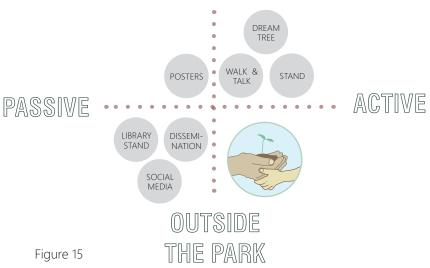
- Another way to attract people is to create eye-catching elements and provide treats or goals to your participants.
- In addition, aesthetics are key.

INTERACTIVENESS

Learning by doing Ownership Exchange

- Participatory activities should include a learning-by-doing approach
- Creating a sense of ownership in people and exchanging ideas and thoughts helps the process

INSIDE THE PARK



STEWARDSHIP

From the start, the initiative for this event was that it could be replicated in other parks throughout Oslo. To achieve this, several elements included:

- A lesson plan proposal for libraries and schools, as something they could facilitate.
- Printed posters + dream cards to ByKuben to carry further.
- A dissemination proposal to Klimahuset for their ongoing activities.
- A planted seed, or a thinking process in our participants, which may result in action.
- A content package with instructions on how to get in contact with a park manager, insider tips from our pilot, and PDFS of all the dream cards and posters. This package is shared with ByKuben, Klimahuset and published it on the Facebook page.

4 - RESOURCES

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Last but not least, a very big thank you to Gigi Lish (NMBU) for hosting the walk and talk.

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THE

DREAM

TREE

Welcome!

Right in front of you there is a beautiful dream tree - a tree full of wishes and needs. As you look closer you can see the different wishes of our neighbors in the city and parks.

You will be amazed by the variety of nature's needs and dreams of specific species.

Feel free to look around and try to understand their perspectives and desires.

Make your wish come true!

- 1. Take a card from the box.
- 2. Write down your personal wishes for Kampen Park and its neighbors.
- 3. Tie the card gently to the tree. May your wishes come true.



SUPER POOPER

OR



SUPER POWER

Rats with wings. Food stealers. Poop bombers. Maybe we need to be more generous with our descriptions of the birds all around us. Birds control pests, pollinate plants, spread seeds and fill our mornings with music.

More than 300 species of birds have been spotted in Oslo, and over 100 have visited the Botanical Garden right across the street. Can you identify at least 3 different species in this park? We'll start: Eurasian Magpie, Hooded Crow, Feral Pigeon....

CITYSTUDIO



CITYSTUDIQ OSLO 2021

MOWER

The neatly-manicured, shortly-cut green lawn is so common that we take it for granted. But they are purely designed for human aesthetics. Frequent mowing leads to more monoculture, as only the plants that are low-lying (like dandelion and clover) or that grow from their base can survive. Plus habitats for insects and V.I.Ps (Very Important Pollinators) are destroyed in the process.

OR

So, if we let the grasses grow, and replace lawns with meadows and local wildflowers, we can both increase biodiversity and reduce the need for maintenance.

WIN-WIN!

HABITAT MOVER





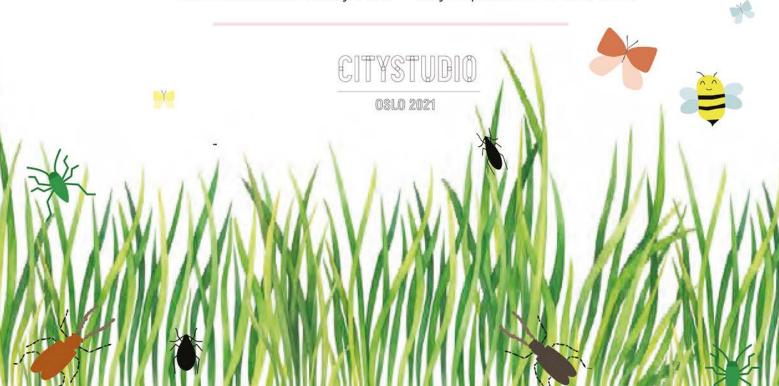
OR



Did you know that around 1/4 of all pollinating insect species have been recognized as endangered species and put on the Norwegian Red-list? Insect pollinators include beetles, flies, ants, moths, butterflies, bumble bees, honey bees, solitary bees, and wasps.

Without these critters, there would be catastrophic consequences for wild plants and agricultural crops that rely on the services these pollinators provide.

We think it's fair to say: V.I.P= very important POLLINATOR.





SMELL

OR



INSECT

HOTEL

When a tree dies it doesn't lose its value! In fact, it becomes a "snag" (a dead tree left standing upright) or a "log" (a dead tree left on the ground). Both of these are extremely valuable for wildlife.

They can provide places to live, food sources, lookouts, and hiding places, all of which can encourage the survival and co-existence of several species. When we clear this valuable "deadwood" from our parks and forests, we are also losing these many benefits.

Now repeat after me: See a dead tree? Let it be!



OSLO 2021







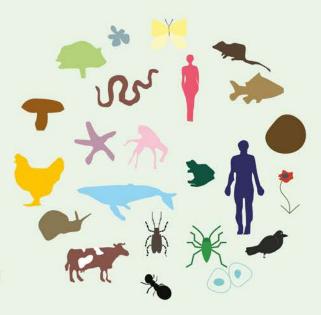
EGO OR ECO

When we only think about nature in terms of how it serves us, humans, we get stuck in an EGO mindset. If we instead see ourselves as part of an interconnected web of species, we switch to an ECO mindset. Every species impacts, and is impacted by other species. By changing our mindsets and behaviors, we can find better ways to co-exist in all aspects of life. Like in this park, for example!



DO YOU

HAVE SOME



REFLECTIONS?



IF SO, SCAN THIS QR-CODE AND SHARE IT!

CITYSTUDIO

By Paloma Stark, Torvald Kambestad, Dennis Lange and Charlotte Borchsenius

The Park Appreciation Week is a student project that aims to make people aware of Oslo's biodiversity in different ways. With an invastigative approach different interventions in Kampenparken will contribute in understanding how people are interacting with and understanding the importance of biodiversity in cities.

OSLO 2021

Appendix



I like old trees, they are hosting a lot of nutritious and delicious insects. All these newly planted trees are too small and smooth for insects. Never cut down old trees, but continue planting new ones.



You will probably never see me, because I never see me, because I
always sleep during the
day. After a long rest I
like to clean my fur and
drink water from the
nearby ponds, creeks
and puddles.

Stinging Nettle



Be aware! If you keep your distance or your distance or protect your skin around me, we can still be friends! I'm really picky about my soil, I prefer it rich in phosphates and nitrogen. Yummy! Because I can self-seed, I can become quite invasive.





Hey! I am a hardy bush that looks nice even in the winter. Most parts of me are poisonous for humans and animals, but some birds love to snack on my white fruits! If you want to attract more birds in your garden, planting me is the way to go.

Red Squirrel



Compared to my brothers and sisters that live out in forested areas, I do not move around so much in the city. This is because I don't forge as much and because the city's green spaces are so fragmented. I would love some green corridors connecting corridors connecting different parks!

Large Earth Bumblebee

MORK JORDHUMLE



Help! One third of Norway's wild bee population is threatened! That includes me! I really appreciate the urban bee highway, initiated by the city of Oslo, and the different initiatives to plant more wildflowers and meadows.

Hedgehog



You will probably never see me in the city, because of all these cars and scary roads. I mostly like to hang out in the suburbs. If you see me, please don't give me milk, it will make my hurt. I like to eat insects like beetles and snails.

Hazel



I want to become an old tree to provide safe shelter for my neighbors and friends. Birds and insects like to rest and live on my branches, so please don't cut them. When my lifetime is over I my lifetime is over I want to turn into an insect hotel, rather than being burned or wasted.

Goosefoot



Hello. I prefer heavily fertilized soil in gardens and open fields on which I have enough space to spread my seats, on average 3000 seeds per plant.

Giant Hogweed

KJEMPEBJØRNEKJEKS



I like old trees, they are hosting a lot of nutritious and delicious insects. All these newly planted trees are too small and smooth for insects. Never cut down old trees, but continue planting new ones.

Feral Pigeon

RVDDE



Hi. I mate for life and I am very devoted to my family. I'm a big fan of all the hard and rocky surfaces in the city, because they mimic my natural habitat. In fact, you're more likely to find me living near you, rather than in a park. I might just be here to look for scraps.

Eurasian Magpie

SKJÆRE



I love Oslo. Did you know that I have passed the self-awareness test, because I recognized when my appearance has been modified during this test. Yes, I am pretty clever and super adaptable and can eat almost anything, which is why I do so well in cities.

Eurasian Blue Tit

BLAMEIS



Please don't fill the holes in the facades of the surrounding buildings, they are perfect nesting homes for us, we need them to protect ourselves from the cold winter and scary squirrels and cats. I appreciate nesting boxes in the park with delicious worms and seeds and space for us to reproduce.

Elm

100



Help! I am infected by a fungal disease. You can help me with some fungicide, but prevention is key! Watering during drought periods and following a fertilization schedule would strengthen me immensely.

Elder

SVARTHYLL



Hello. I am growing up to be an old and strong tree. In my early age I feel weak, so please don't climb on me. I am fragile and you can be quite heavy.

Earth Ball

POTETROYKSOPP



Hey! I'm a beautiful mushroom growing in this park, my inside looks like the universe. I like to grow in sandy soil, preferably in parks and gardens.

Dandelion

LOVETANN



Im probably quite familiar to you, and there's good reason for this. I prefer highly disturbed soils and this makes me able to grow in construction sites, by roadsides and on heavily mowed lawns. I mostly rely on wind to spread my seeds.

Bluebell

KLOKKEBLÄSTJERNE



I prefer lean, calcareous and nutrient-poor grounds, especially in the city. I don't like the countryside as much, because everything is overly nutritious due to the intense fertilization of the farm fields.

Birch

BJOR



Hello! I have shallow roots and I am quite sensitive to heat or drought. Of course, I still need the sun to grow healthy, like we all do, so the best spots for me are places where I can get sunlight on my leaves and shade on my roots.

Beech



Hey. Please be delicate with me, my bark is thin! It scars very easily, so if you carve anything into my trunk, I won't be able to heal myself. A gentle hug would be nice instead.