

The provision of urban greenery tends to go together with greater happiness of locals

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There is a high demand for the greening of urban areas and one of the drivers of this demand is the biophilia theory which holds that we feel better in a green environment. Greening urban environments involves considerable costs, so the question arises whether urban greenery really adds to the happiness of city dwellers. If so, by how much and whether the effect differ across people and situations?

We summarized the available research findings on the relation between happiness and urban greenery considering both outdoor and indoor green spaces. We drew on the Word Database of Happiness, in which we found 38 research findings on the relationship between happiness and urban greenery, reported in 13 publications. These findings are presented in two tabular schemes that include links to further online details.

The provision of urban greenery tends to go together with greater happiness of locals, both outdoor and indoor greenery. The size of the effect is small. We found some support for the mechanism proposed by biophilia theory. However, the statistical association is driven by more factors, e.g. where fear of crime reduces the effect of outdoor greenery on happiness.

A first draft of this study is available [here](#).