

Indicator: Artistic value

Naturvation challenges: Cultural heritage and cultural diversity

SDGs: 11

Reviewer & author: Anja Werner & Elisabeth Reich, IfL, Leipzig, Germany

Date: 12.03.2019

Indicator description

The indicator “Artistic value” describes the significance of arts in urban green spaces and their meaning for urban visitors. It corresponds to the challenge “Cultural heritage & cultural diversity” as arts in their various forms reflect cultural and societal aspects.

Arts left by individuals, community groups and businesses as graffiti, murals or other forms of signage, flyers and stickers play an important role since users of UGS probably appreciate a deep understanding of the culture transformation and history that had occurred within parks and the surrounding neighbourhoods (1). Also, landscapes and nature were constantly portrayed in paintings, compositions and poetry what makes their change and development for users more visible (2). Once people perceive green environments as culturally and historically meaningful they might rather be preserved.

Additionally, natural areas provide opportunities for creative self-expression and the manipulation of public space, e.g. through horticultural activity and creating roadside sculpture from found materials such as rocks. The photography of material evidence probably illustrates how people engage park resources for creative development and the creation of nature assemblages (4).

The indicator can be measured through photograph analysis and different assessments (1), interviews and (field) observation methods (1, 4) as well as photo-based methods (2). Also, the assessment of ecosystem services and mapping methods such as sociocultural valuation mapping and participatory mapping as well as public participatory GIS (2) were applied. In addition, quantitative surveys, self-directed photography (3), photo documentation and geotagging were used (4).

Indicator scoring

Values used for Artistic value scoring were based on empirical data (1, 3) and literature reviews (2, 4). The proportion of studies that showed positive benefits for an NBS were used as a base for the scoring and distributed between scores ranging from 1 to 5 according to the proportions of positive impacts. Indications of negative impacts were noted here in the score document as a proportion of studies. When data for benefits of an NBS was not present in the literature it was denoted as no values found.

Scores, artistic value		
Nature-based solution	Score	Proportions of positive /negative impact (number of studies)
Parks and (semi)natural urban green areas	4	0.75 / 0 (n = 4)
Urban green areas connected to grey infrastructure	4	0.75 / 0 (n = 4)
Blue areas	2	0.25 / 0 (n = 4)
External building greens	3	0.5 / 0 (n = 4)
Allotments and community gardens	4	0.75 / 0 (n = 4)
Green areas for water management	3	0.5 / 0 (n = 4)





References

- (1) Auyeung, D.N., Campbell, L.K., Johnson, M., Sonti, N.F. and Svendsen, E. (2016) Reading the landscape: citywide social assessment of New York City parks and natural areas in 2013-2014.
- (2) Jäppinen, J.P. and Heliölä, J. (2015) Towards A Sustainable and Genuinely Green Economy. The value and social significance of ecosystem services in Finland (TEEB for Finland).
- (3) Kothencz, G., Kolcsár, R., Cabrera-Barona, P. and Szilassi, P. (2017) Urban green space perception and its contribution to well-being. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 14(7), p.766.
- (4) Svendsen, E.S., Campbell, L.K. and McMillen, H.L. (2016) Stories, shrines, and symbols: Recognizing psycho-social-spiritual benefits of urban parks and natural areas. *Journal of Ethnobiology*, 36(4), pp.881-907.