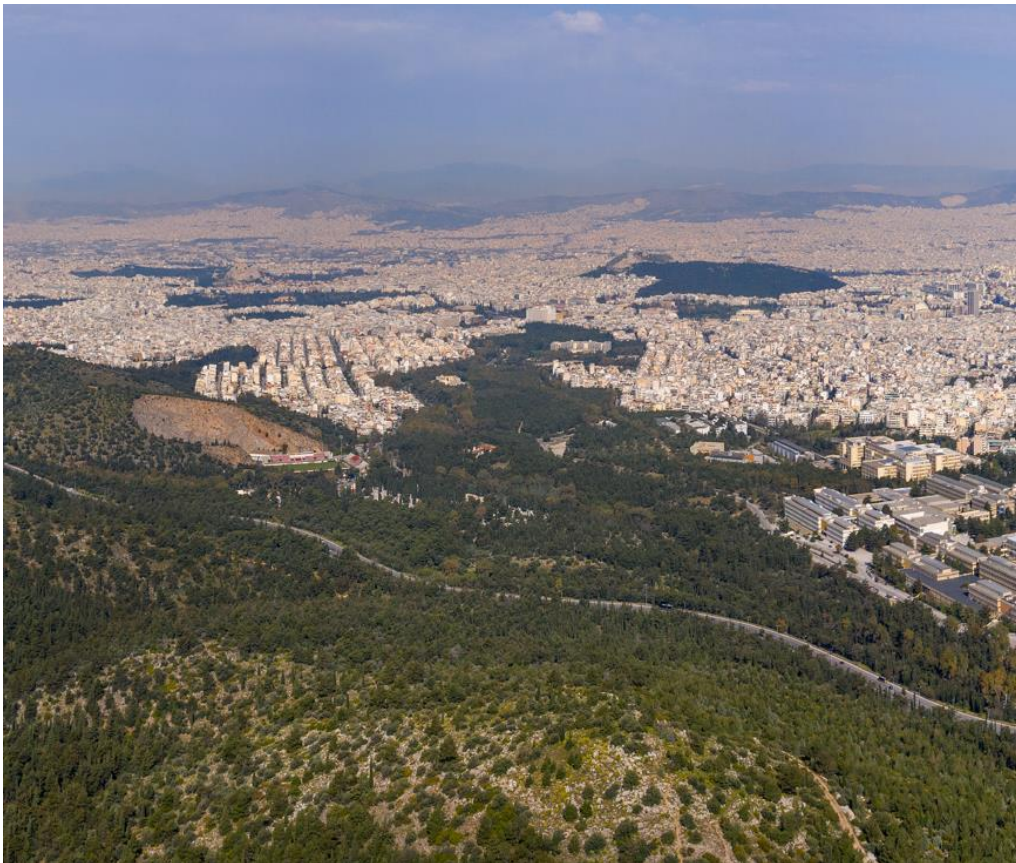


**Report with Guidelines for More Effect the Articulation of
Biophysical, Institutional, and Social Factors for Better
Planning Green Links Between Peri-Urban and Urban Green**

LIFE Urban Greening Plans



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Introduction

Within the framework of the LIFE Urban Greening Plans program and action A5 “Improvement of ecological and social functions of the largest green corridor in Athens to enrich biodiversity and facilitate the accessibility of all citizens to valuable greenspaces”, Philodassiki Enossi Athinon is calling to create a guide for better connectivity of peri-urban and urban green spaces through green links in a manner favorable to the natural environment and society.

This report will have as guidelines the biophysical, institutional, and social factors so as to achieve the best design of green connections between peri-urban and urban green.

Green links are corridors or networks of green spaces that connect peri-urban and urban areas. These green links play a crucial role in providing ecosystem services, enhancing biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for urban residents. However, planning and designing green links require a multi-dimensional approach that takes into account biophysical, institutional, and social factors. In this report, we present decision support framework for effectively articulating these factors to improve the planning and design of green links.

Reference will also be made to some basic practical steps as a guideline for improving the connectivity between peri-urban and urban areas.

Decision Support Framework

In this report, a will first be mentioned that will be based on the factors we have mentioned and will aim at steps to achieve the creation of the best green links.

Biophysical Factors

To begin with the biophysical factors, we can say that are physical and ecological characteristics of the landscape that affect the planning and design of green links.

The following steps can help planners and designers effectively articulate biophysical factors:

- 1. Conduct a biophysical assessment:** A biophysical assessment should be conducted to identify the ecological features, vegetation types, and habitats present in the area. This information can be used to identify the most suitable locations for green links.
- 2. Identify ecological corridors:** Ecological corridors should be identified to ensure that green links are connected to each other and to larger natural areas. These corridors can help to promote the movement of wildlife and support the ecological functioning of green spaces.

- 3. Consider microclimatic factors:** Microclimatic factors, such as temperature, humidity, and wind, should be considered when planning green links. These factors can affect the vegetation types and species that can be planted in the area.

Institutional Factors

To continue, institutional factors are regulatory, legal, and administrative frameworks that affect the planning and design of green links.

The following guidelines can help planners and designers effectively articulate institutional factors:

- 1. Conduct a policy review:** A policy review should be conducted to identify the relevant policies, regulations, and laws that affect the planning and design of green links. This information can be used to ensure that green links are in compliance with relevant regulations.
- 2. Identify stakeholder roles and responsibilities:** Stakeholders, including government agencies, community groups, and private organizations, should be identified and their roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined. This can help to ensure that everyone is working together towards a common goal.
- 3. Establish partnerships:** Partnerships should be established between different stakeholders to facilitate the planning, design, and implementation of green links. These partnerships can help to mobilize resources and share expertise.

Social Factors

Social factors are social and cultural characteristics of the community that influence the planning and design of green links because better planning will have a positive impact on the life of the society by improving physical and mental health, social interaction and economic development.

The following guidelines can help designers and planners effectively articulate social factors:

- 1. Conduct a community needs assessment:** A community needs assessment should be conducted to identify the needs and preferences of the local community. This information can be used to design green links that are relevant and useful to the community.
- 2. Incorporate community input:** Community input should be solicited throughout the planning and design process. This can help to ensure that green links reflect the preferences and priorities of the community.
- 3. Promote community engagement:** Community engagement should be promoted through public meetings, events, and activities. This can help to build community support for green links and increase the likelihood of success.

Guideline

Improving connectivity in peri-urban and urban green spaces can be beneficial for both the environment and the people who live in these areas in several ways.

For the environment, better connectivity can help to:

- **Improve biodiversity:** Connecting green spaces can create larger habitats for wildlife and promote the movement of species between fragmented habitats.
- **Improve ecological resilience:** Green spaces connected by ecological corridors can be more resilient to environmental stressors, such as climate change or habitat fragmentation.
- **Promote ecosystem services:** Connected green spaces can provide important ecosystem services, such as air and water purification, carbon sequestration, and climate regulation.

For people who live in these areas, better connectivity can help to:

- **Improve access to green spaces:** Connected green spaces are more accessible, which can increase opportunities for outdoor recreation, physical activity, and social interaction.
- **Enhance health and well-being:** Exposure to green spaces has been linked to improved mental health and well-being, reduced stress, and improved physical health.
- **Foster a sense of community:** Connected green spaces can provide opportunities for social interaction and community building, which can enhance social cohesion and community resilience.
- **Promote environmental awareness:** Connected green spaces can provide educational opportunities and promote environmental awareness and sustainability.

Here are some ways to achieve better connectivity:

1. **Build more walking and cycling paths:** Creating dedicated paths for pedestrians and cyclists can improve connectivity and encourage people to use active modes of transportation. These paths can be integrated into existing road networks and parks.
2. **Create green corridors:** Connecting green spaces through green corridors can improve the ecological health of urban areas and provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation. These corridors can also serve as wildlife habitats, which can help to increase biodiversity in urban areas.
3. **Introduce public transportation:** Public transportation can provide an affordable and convenient way to connect urban areas with green spaces. For example, buses or trams can be used to transport people from city centers to nearby parks or nature reserves.

4. **Implement smart technology:** Smart technology can be used to improve connectivity and accessibility in green spaces. For example, interactive maps can be created to help people navigate parks and nature reserves, and sensors can be used to monitor environmental conditions.
5. **Encourage community participation:** Encouraging community participation can help to build a sense of ownership and responsibility for green spaces. This can include organizing volunteer events, community gardening projects, and other activities that promote engagement with nature.

By implementing these strategies, we can improve connectivity in peri-urban and urban greenery, creating more sustainable and livable cities.

Conclusions

Effective planning and design of green links requires the articulation of biophysical, institutional, and social factors. By following the guidelines presented in this report, planners and designers can improve the connectivity and sustainability of green spaces in peri-urban and urban areas.

Finally, improving connectivity in peri-urban and urban green spaces can be beneficial for both the environment and the people who live in these areas by promoting biodiversity, ecological resilience, ecosystem services, access to green spaces, health and well-being, social cohesion, community resilience, and environmental awareness