

Urban forests: critical for a sustainable city

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What Is An Urban Forest?



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Image: John Kirk-Anderson/Stuff



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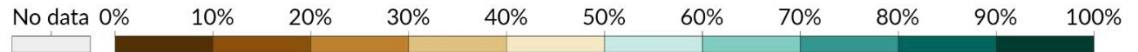
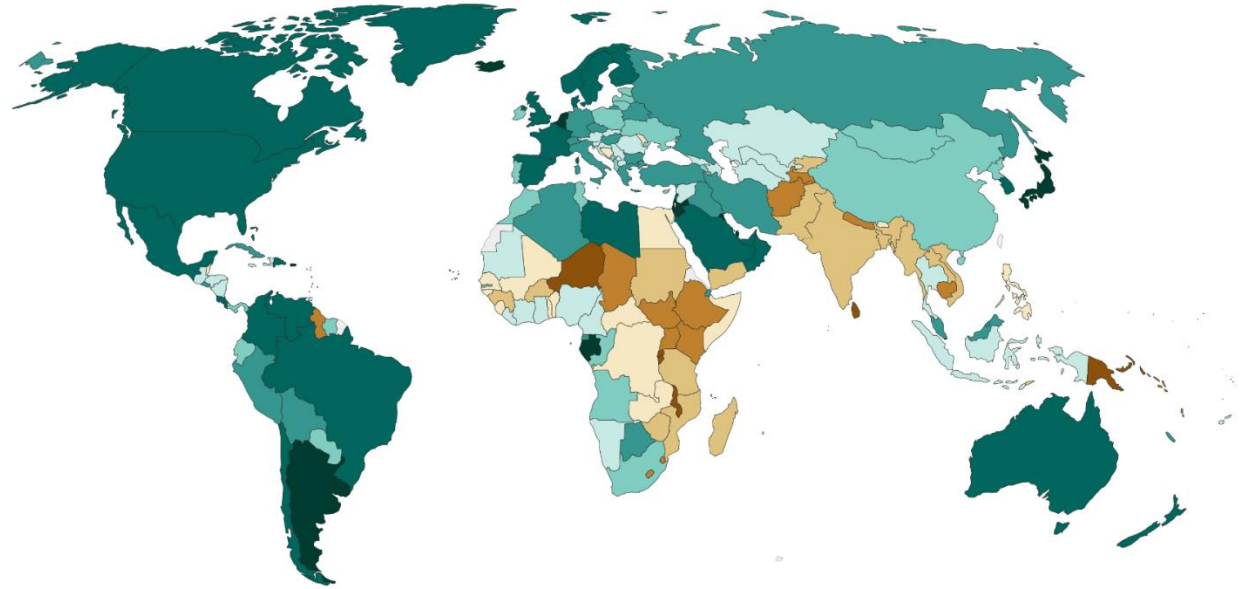


What Is An Urban Forest?



Share of people living in urban areas, 2020

Urban Forests are Critical Infrastructure in an Urbanising World



Source: UN Population Division (via World Bank)

OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.



The Many Benefits of Urban Forests



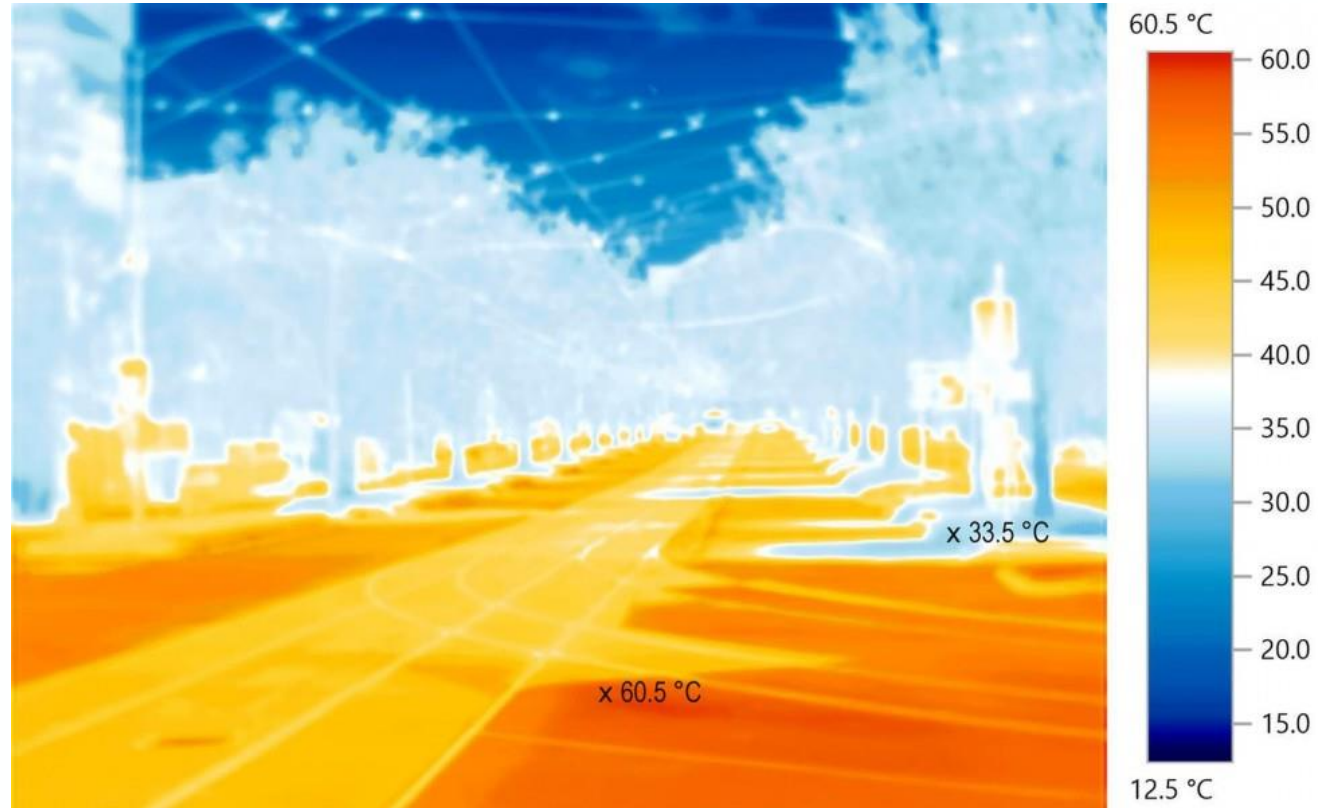
Improving
Air Quality
and
Sequestering
Carbon



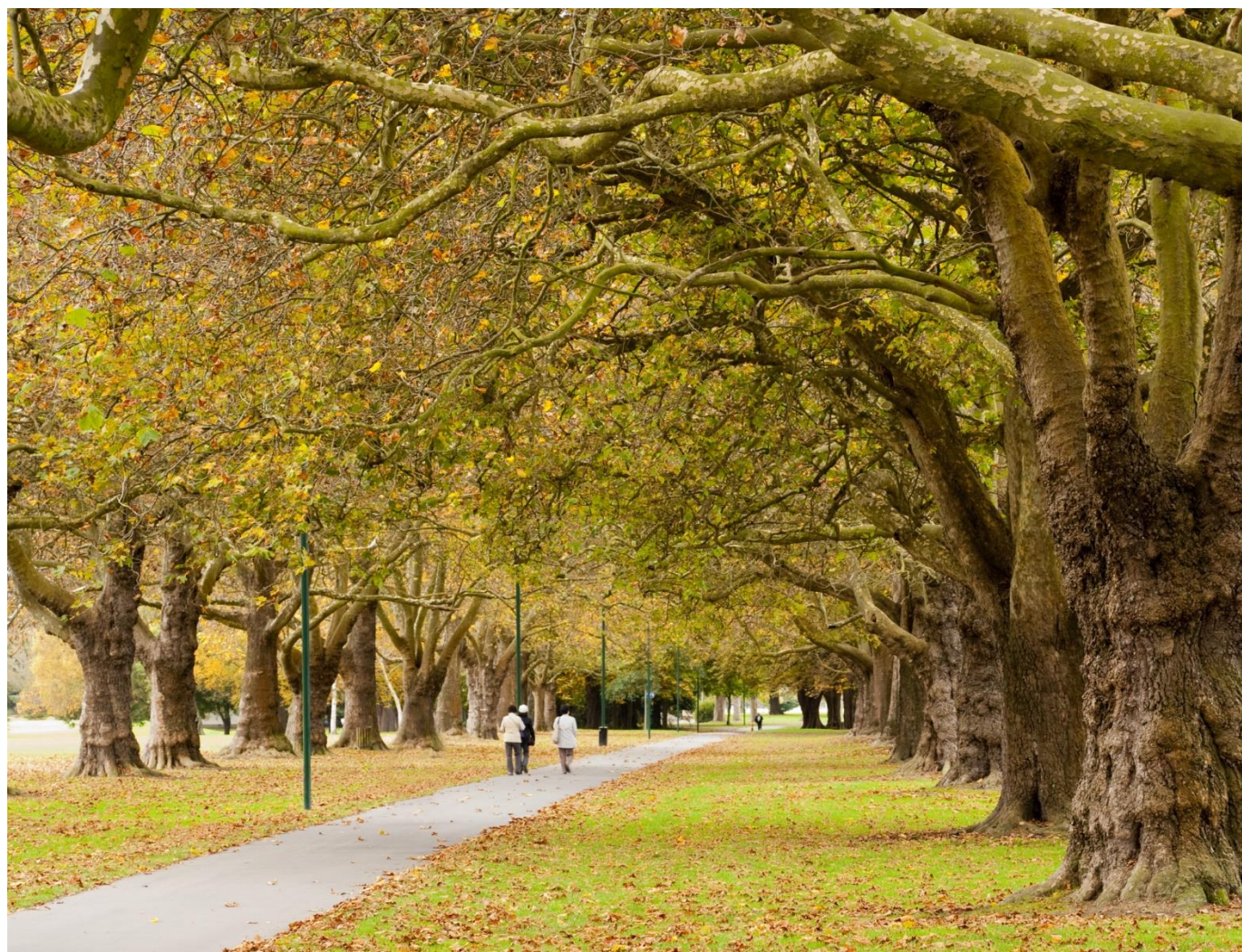
Improving Water Quality



Mitigating the Urban Heat Island Effect



Improving
Physical and
Mental Health
Outcomes





Supporting Biodiversity



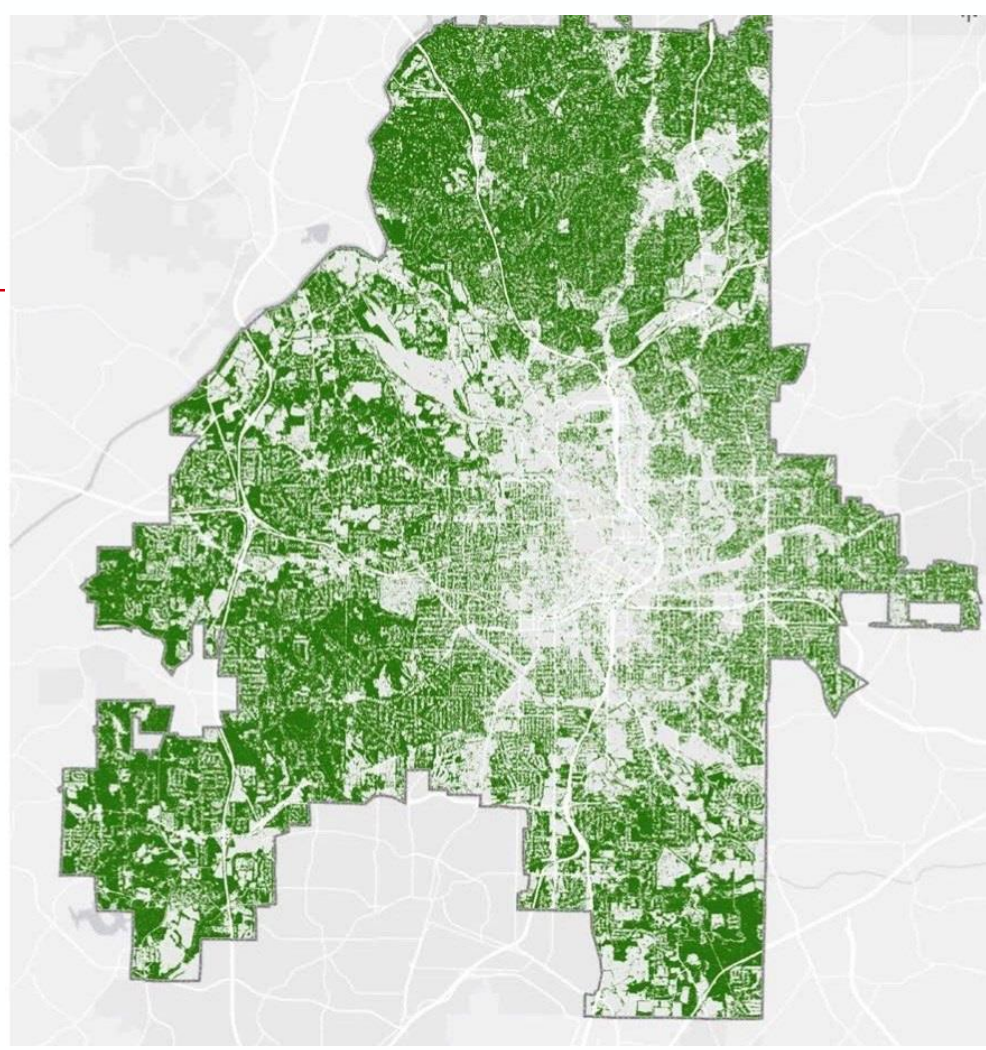
The Benefits are Clear
...
But Challenges Abound



Image: Cities4Forests

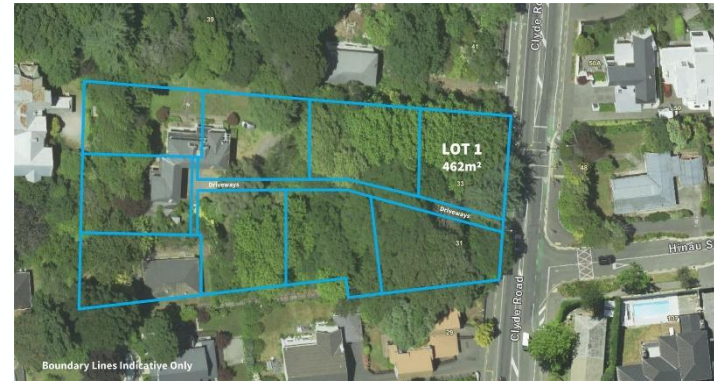
Urbanisation

- Many urban-rural gradient studies show decline in tree canopy cover moving from rural fringe to urban core
- ‘Green donut’ effect



Low-Quality Development

“Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out all the trees, then names streets after them.”
-Bill Vaughan



Vandalism



A Rapidly Changing Climate

Trees must avoid or tolerate changes in environment



Fire



Image: <https://apfmag.mdmpublishing.com/fire-and-emergency-new-zealand-a-young-organisation-with-a-150-year-history/>



Pests and Disease



Urban Forests – Critical for a Sustainable City

The Benefits are Clear

...

The Challenges Abound

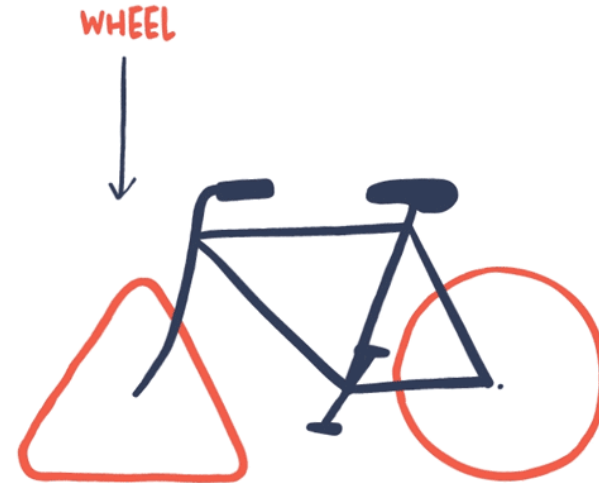
...

So Where to From Here?



We Don't Have to Reinvent the Wheel

Maximise urban
forest benefits in the
face of challenges



We Don't Have to Reinvent the Wheel

Many cities
around the world
have urban forest
plans, strategies,
or policies



Photo by Flávio Jota de Paula/Flickr



<https://www.visitmelbourne.com/regions/melbourne/se-e-and-do/nature-and-wildlife/parks-and-gardens/royal-botanic-gardens-victoria-melbourne-gardens#>



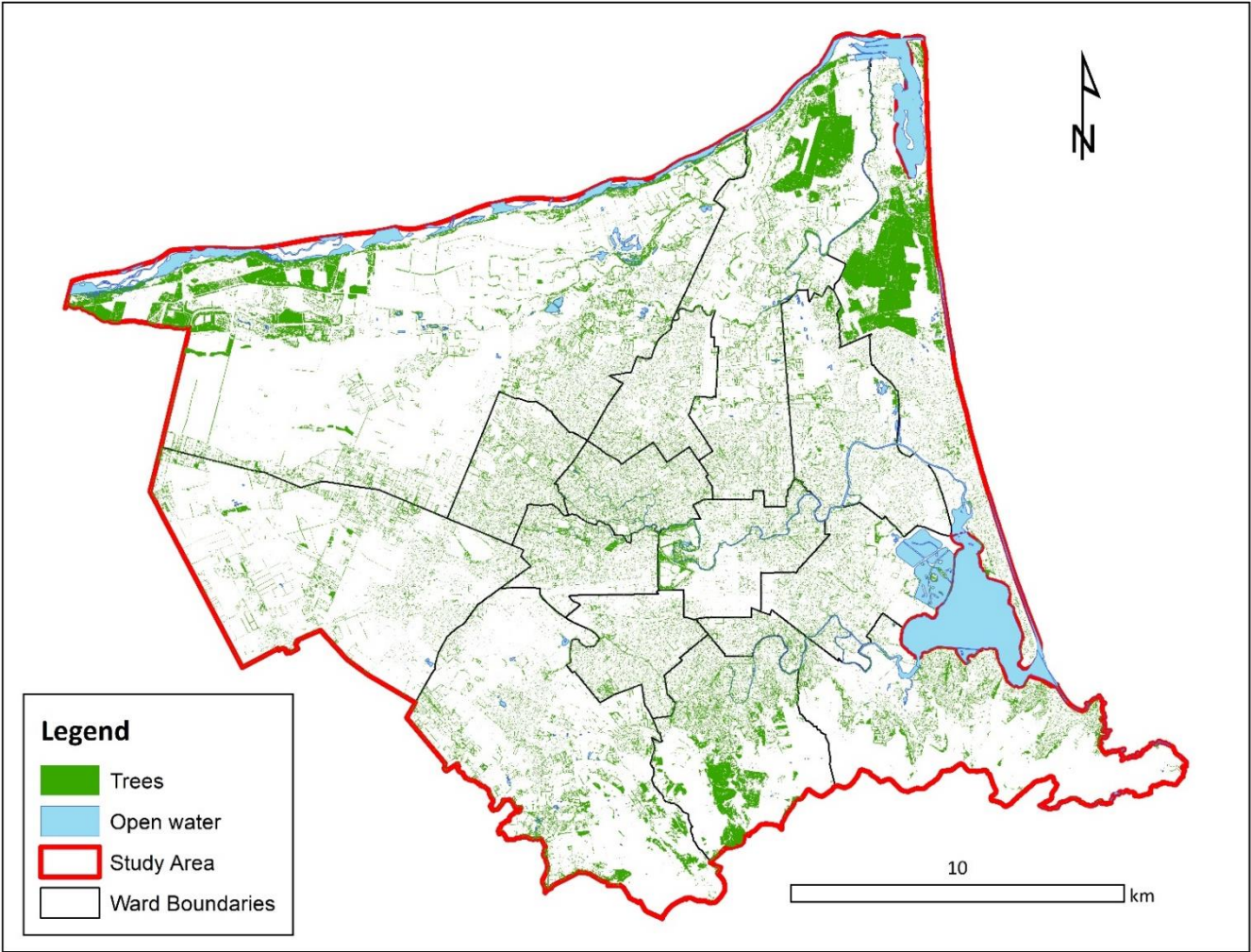
<https://reesincities.uncecc.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Barcelona.jpeg>

So what about
Christchurch?

<https://cdn.andleytravel.com/1050/749/79/15994475-malm-downtown.webp>



The Current State of Christchurch's Urban Forest

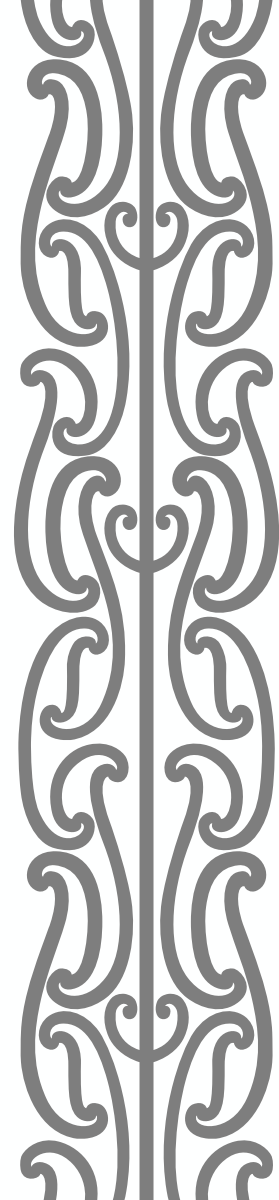



Christchurch's Future Urban Forest
Will Be Influenced By Its
Urban Forest Plan



Image: xfrog.com



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- Questions to:
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 -  [@jamorgenroth](https://twitter.com/jamorgenroth)