Provision of urban green spaces: Some insights from economics

Submitted by Emmanuel Lemoine on Wed, 12/18/2013 - 14:25

Titre	Provision of urban green spaces: Some insights from economics
Type de publication	Article de revue
Auteur	Choumert, Johanna [1], Salanie, Julien [2]
Type	Article scientifique dans une revue à comité de lecture
Année	2008
Langue	Anglais
Date	2008
Numéro	3
Pagination	331 - 345
Volume	33
Titre de la revue	Landscape Research
ISSN	0142-6397
Résumé en anglais	Abstract The social demand for urban green spaces (UGSs) is increasing as a result of rapid urbanisation. To ensure the efficiency of public spending, their provision should be based on economic criteria. We highlight a range of issues in UGS policies and provide some economic instruments. UGSs confer costs and benefits that are not always taken into consideration. They lead to market failures as markets are not efficient in allocating them in a way that maximises their social value. First, we discuss how economics can be used to answer the question of public or private provision. Next we present methodologies to elicit the total economic value of UGSs. We then show how the public provision can result in non-optimal situations traducing the strategic behaviours of elected representatives. Finally, we discuss some key points within UGS production and maintenance as well as the main tradeoffs in terms of public policy.
URL de la notice	http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua995 [3]
DOI	10.1080/01426390802045996 [4]
Lien vers le document	http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01426390802045996 [4]
Titre abrégé	Provision of urban green spaces

Liens

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[4] http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01426390802045996

Publié sur *Okina* (http://okina.univ-angers.fr)