

Our project aims to explore the potential of informal green spaces (IGS) in fostering justice for both human and non-human species in urban environments. As urbanization reshapes our landscapes, biodiversity plays a vital role in maintaining ecosystem health and ensuring equal access to nature's benefits for all city dwellers. However, the inclusion of various species is often neglected in urban planning, potentially exacerbating the challenges of urbanization and further marginalizing both human and non-human populations. In this project, we strive to answer the following questions: How can we balance the needs of human and non-human species in urban environments? What role do IGS play in promoting multispecies justice? How can we incorporate the MUJ framework into urban planning practices?

We propose to establish the Multispecies Urban Justice (MUJ) research framework. This framework aims to balance the needs of human and non-human species while contributing to biodiversity and inclusiveness in urban environments. The MUJ model builds upon the foundations of environmental justice, aiming to investigate the impact of multispecies representation in IGS on justice-related values, such as opportunities for contact with nature and the potential for wildlife interaction while fostering mutualism.

The project is structured into several work packages, each focusing on a different aspect of the research. The first work package involves extensive literature review and data collection to understand the current state of IGS and their role in urban biodiversity. The second work package focuses on the development of the MUJ framework, which will be refined through a series of case studies in different urban settings. The third work package involves the application of the MUJ framework in various urban settings, using innovative methods such as AI and Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS) to gather and analyze data. The final work package involves the dissemination of our findings and the development of guidelines for incorporating the MUJ framework into urban planning practices.

This project seeks to contribute to a more sensitive and focused approach to urban planning, which should increasingly prioritize justice issues. It also aligns with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can contribute to their achievement in several significant ways, particularly Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11). The study's focus on transforming urban spaces into inclusive, green, and sustainable habitats for both human and non-human species directly contributes to this goal.