

# Social dimensions of sustainable operation of **green** urban spaces



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## Kommunalt selvstyre i økonomisk spændetrøje

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Del:



Stram statslig styring og ringe økonomisk råderum venter de lokalpolitikere, der vælges ved kommunalvalget 17. november. En række eksperter advarer om, at det lokale demokrati er under voldsomt pres. Med få undtagelser er de enige om, at det kommunale selvstyre har fået trangere kår.

Municipal autonomy in an  
economic straitjacket

Tight national  
regulation

Bad economical room  
to manoeuvre

# Can we learn from Climate Adaptation Projects?!



How do we add green solutions to our roads that do not add expenses to the operation and maintenance budget?!



**Operation and maintenance phase**



**Construction phase**



**A pragmatic interpretation of social sustainability:**  
Community development, sense of belonging, social inclusion, togetherness, life quality, etc.



The Green Street Steward Programme in Portland, USA



## Portland, USA Green Street Steward Program

Experiment launched in 2010, where citizens can adopt a rain bed: they maintain its operation: e.g. removing waste, ensure an open outlet and remove leaves from trees and bushes.

Today, the initiative has been systematized and integrated in the mindset and planning of the administration. 20% of the total number of green roads have been adopted. 175 volunteers have adopted more than 400 facilities in the city.



working for clean rivers

The Bureau of Environmental Services works with Portland residents and businesses to protect water quality, public health, and the environment through wastewater collection and treatment, sewer construction and maintenance, stormwater management, and stream and watershed restoration.

# Green Street Stewards Maintenance Guide

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2017



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND

working for clean rivers

# Benefits

## Municipality perspective:

"(The program helps) stretch our resources, and is an opportunity to engage the community in helping keep the river clean," said [Emily Hauth](#), the program's coordinator with the city of Portland."

(Source: <https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/blog/sbo/2014/01/world-cities-looking-to-portland-for.html> )

## Citizen perspective:

Laurie Morton an employee of Judy Boothby at Third Way Chiropractic, decided to help organize the people on Ankeny and joined the Green Street Steward Program two years ago:

"Not only does everyone get out of the office and do a little gardening, but they become acquainted with other business owners on the street. They plan to gather every other month to work for a couple of hours."

"The steward project is really worth it. They're performing a service that helps everyone while having a community gathering."

Ankeny stewards adopted 17 streets.

Source: <https://www.southeastexaminer.com/2012/11/green-stewards-take-to-the-streets/>

# SPARK

Sundhed, Park, Aktiviteter,  
Rehabilitering og Klimatilpasning

Rehabilitering,  
rekreation, leg, læring,  
aktivitet, bevægelse,  
sundhed og fællesskab

**SPARK**

Klimatilpasning, natur,  
miljø, klima, biodiversitet,  
vand, stier, regrening  
og teknik

MarselisborgCentret



# Socially including park maintenance

## Park maintenance

Testing and initiation of meaningful and season specific maintenance tasks as part of rehabilitation



*Winner proposal from Kirstine Jensens Tegnestue*

# Island-gardens in 'Taste Aarhus'

## Facts:

**Year of establishment:** 2014

**Number of users:** 300

**Construction budget:** 600.000 DKK

**Yearly maintenance:** 110.000 DKK

## **Operation and development:**

Projectleader that cooperates with users



# Experiences from 'Island'-garden

## **Who?**

Citizens have shown great interest. In 2015 there were 300 persons involved, and nearly 400 on waiting list.

## **Why?**

The users have primarily a garden in order to grow their own vegetables. As one user says: "It tastes better, when you have cultivated it yourself".

## **Social benefits?**

The users also underline the importance of having a meeting place where they can form part of a local community.



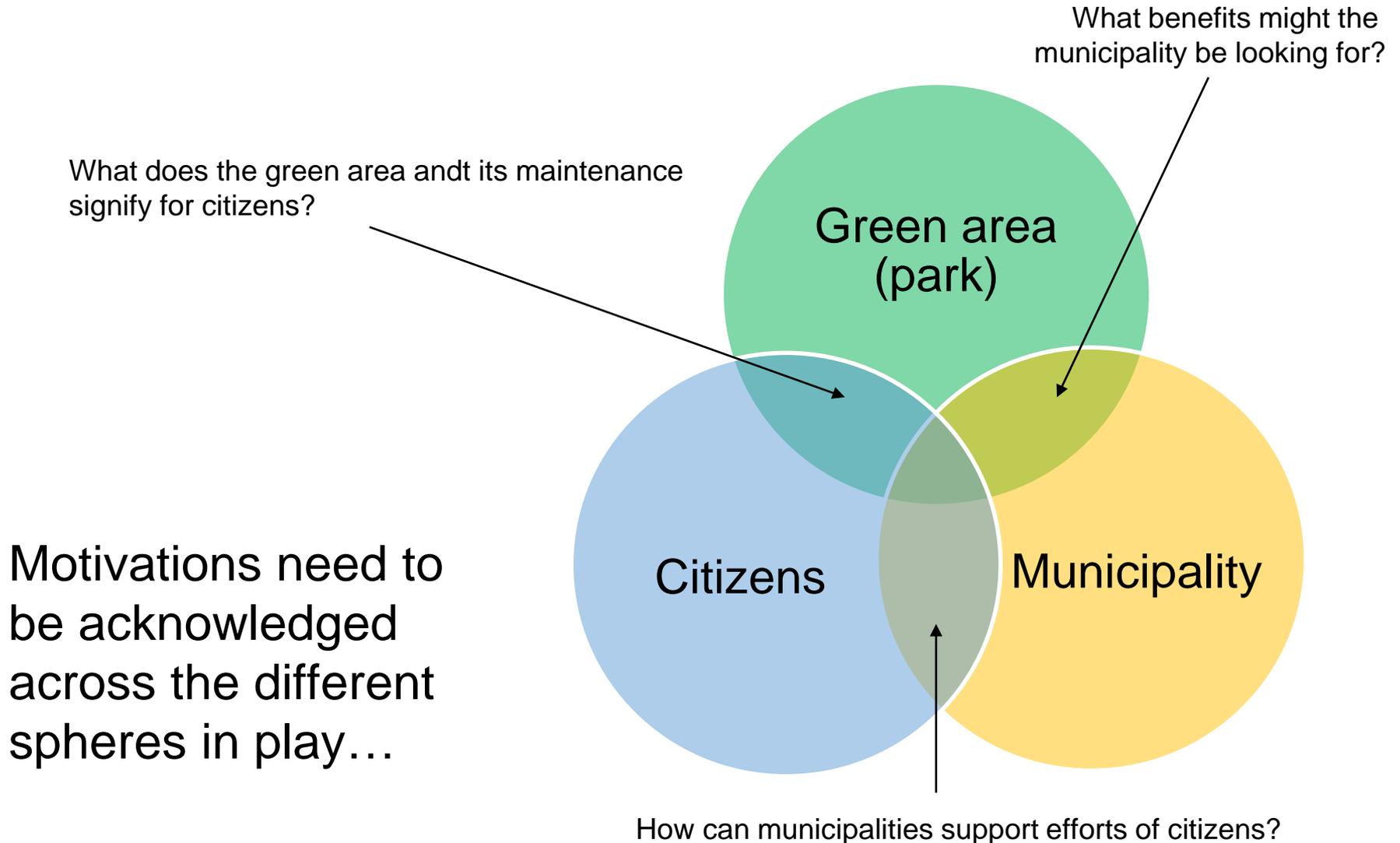
# Recommendations #1

Parks form an important part of citizen's daily life and neighborhood life quality.

Think about park development and maintenance as a lever for community development, and hence, social sustainability.  
Think about generating social life through parks.



# Recommendations #2



# Recommendations #3

Be aware that a shift of prevailing mindsets in the municipality is necessary.

To take, you also need to give...

Form Portland:

Citizens have wanted a greater influence on the development of the rain beds, so it has now been allowed for them to plant vegetation in adopted beds.



Figure 5 Incomplete bioswale with Bureau of Environmental Services sign warning against interference.