

## **Local identities, memories and experiences as inspirers of urban silviculture**

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Urban areas in Finland have relative abundant woodlands inside the city structure. Many suburbs are called forest suburbs (*metsälähiö*) or forest towns (*metsäkaupunki*). One of them, Tapiola, is a national landscape. Their history is bound to urban development and the housing programmes after 1940's. In the city plans, the remaining nature was to provide environmental qualities and well-being to the residents. After decades, woodland contacts have been part of urban life through outdoor activities and green housing areas. Urban forests are still part of the city image and local culture, but not arousing in new urban visions or discourses. Do the forested suburbs and neighbouring woodlands last in urban development and do new generations appreciate forests as previous ones? What people think of fragmented and changing forest landscapes around them? In the professional field (forest data, plans), the local knowledge (social, cultural) of forests is not well-documented or described.

This case study examines the everyday meanings and uses of urban forests from the viewpoint of the residents and the dwelling. The case study includes resident-driven field interviews, photograph and document analyses. The two study areas are situated in Helsinki. Eastern suburbs, Kurkimäki and Kivikko are built after 1980's and Western ones, Southern and Northern Haaga, after 1950's. In addition, one forest suburb in Tampere, is studied.

The aim of the study is to import social and cultural information to the urban forestry and silviculture. As the silvicultural knowledge and practices follow ten years cycles, the local knowledge has an everyday point of departure. The situational variety of local knowledge could be understood more in managing urban forest resources and could be used as an inspiration of new management cultures. This presentation shows the first results of the field interviews and the analysis methods of the landscape changes of forested suburbs.