Landscape Character Assessments In Urban Areas

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Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) are useful tools for understanding and describing the diversity of landscapes. They aim to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and characteristics that make landscapes distinctive. The process of creating a LCA includes different data sources and methodologies, focusing on both the biophysical and cultural aspects of the landscape. The involvement of people in the process of LCA is key. A LCA also involves evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of landscapes. Therefore, it offers an integrating spatial framework that can be used for, or contribute to, decision making processes.

A lot of methodologies that have been developed for LCA work perfectly for rural areas. However, urban areas often have different challenges and characteristics that require a different approach. Many methodologies start with analysing the biophysical aspects of the landscape, but these components are often less visible in urban areas. At the same time, cities have a different and more complex social context. Urban areas are characterized by dense

populations with diverse cultural backgrounds, and many individuals from outside the city utilize the urban landscape for various purposes, such as work, study, and tourism. These factors make it more challenging to include collaborative methodologies into the LCA.

The aim of this PhD research is to investigate how **novel participatory methods** can be included in **methodologies for Landscape Character Assessments** in Urban Area's and can be useful for **urban planning**.