

MANAGING URBAN GREENERY: THE KEY TO A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNE

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Purpose: The study aims to diagnose green area management in municipalities as part of spatial management.

Design/methodology/approach: The study, covering 123 municipalities in the Pomeranian Voivodeship, was conducted in three stages: I. Identification of green area functions via literature review, II. Analysis of statistical data from the Central Statistical Office, and III. Analysis of data from municipalities regarding tree removals, environmental compensation, budgets for new plantings, and municipal parks.

Findings: The study found that most municipalities maintained a stable share of green areas between 2017 and 2022. Municipalities such as Pruszcz Gdański, Hel, and Kwidzyn saw an increase in green space. Analysis of green space per capita revealed significant differences across municipalities. The research highlighted the need for improved management, planting, and tree removal planning.

Research limitations/implications: Not all municipalities provided the requested data in Stage III, citing time constraints or lack of data.

Practical implications: This pilot study allows for a diagnosis of green area management in Pomerania and the verification of the research questionnaire. Future stages will expand nationally, contributing to guidelines for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 in managing urban green spaces.

Social implications: Better green area management will improve the quality of life for municipal residents.

Originality/value: The study seeks to develop an innovative approach to managing green spaces in municipalities.

Keywords: Green area management, Urban greenery, Local development.

Category of the paper: Research paper.

1. Introduction

As the world faces the challenges of climate change and the energy crisis, the sustainable management of the urban environment has emerged as a critical imperative. Cities worldwide are grappling with serious issues, including air, soil, and water pollution, rising temperatures,

and the depletion of natural resources (Maes et al., 2019). These challenges are intensifying with each decade as the human population grows. Over the past century, the population has dramatically increased, currently totalling approximately 8.05 billion individuals (The World Bank Group, 2024). This has resulted in excessive urban sprawl and the contraction of green spaces surrounding cities. Driven by short-term gains from land conversion for development, urban planners have often overlooked the broader societal needs for access to nature and environmental considerations. To address these concerns, there is a growing recognition of the need for conscious design of urban landscapes, that integrates green space management at the municipal level (Karade Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Salma Sri Konda Laxman, 2017; Blessing Aibhamen Edeigba et al., 2024). The process of managing green spaces can be viewed as a specific investment in ecosystem services, defined as the benefits that society derives from ecosystems - dynamic complexes composed of plants, animals, microorganisms, and abiotic components of the environment, characterized by interactions between these elements.

Currently, the implementation of sustainable development emphasizes creating a network of connections between people and places, public and private spaces, the natural and built environments, and social and economic goals. This means a change in the approach to green areas within municipalities, recognizing the need to integrate green areas with the urban or urban fabric and ensure the accessibility of green areas for residents (Jafri, Rajaulah, 2018). Residents also increasingly perceive green areas as a public good, recognizing their value and role in shaping sustainable cities suitable for the 21st century (Karade Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Salma Sri Konda Laxman, 2017).

By focusing on smart land use and preserving natural ecosystems, municipalities minimize environmental risks while promoting social equality and public well-being. The state of the natural environment, in which the risk of disruptions to its components is minimized, serves as a guarantor of what is known as social security. In Poland, local governments are tasked with meeting community needs through spatial planning, environmental protection, and green space management. In particular, the commune's tasks include matters related to shaping spatial order, real estate management, environmental and nature protection, and water management, as well as green areas and afforestation of communes (Ustawa z dnia 8 marca 1990 r. o samorządzie gminnym). According to the definition in the Nature Conservation Act, municipal green spaces are defined as: green areas that are equipped with technical infrastructure and buildings functionally related to them, covered with vegetation, and serving public purposes. This includes, in particular, parks, green spaces, promenades, boulevards, botanical gardens, zoological gardens, Jordanian gardens, historical gardens, cemeteries, green spaces accompanying roads in built-up areas, as well as those adjacent to squares, historical fortifications, buildings, landfills, airports, railway stations, and industrial facilities (Ustawa z dnia 16 kwietnia 2004 r. o ochronie przyrody). Furthermore, less conventional spaces such as

green walls, green alleyways, and cemeteries can also be included in this category (Vargas-Hernández et al., 2018).

2. The Role of Municipal Green Spaces in Social Life

A traditional literature review has highlighted various categories of benefits associated with the presence of green spaces in municipalities. These areas serve multiple functions, which can be classified into four primary categories: Environmental Benefits, Health, and Well-being, Cultural and Social Value, and Economic Benefits.

Environmental Benefits

Urban greenery plays a pivotal role in mitigating the environmental impacts of urbanization. One of its key environmental benefits is its ability to absorb harmful pollutants including carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Żylicz, 2020). Plants absorb these compounds through their stomata and incorporate them into biochemical processes essential for their functioning (Blessing Aibhamen Edeigba et al., 2024; Karade Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Salma Sri Konda Laxman, 2017). Plants also trap dust, solid particles, and airborne pollen, thereby improving air quality. Moreover, vegetation acts as a natural filter, trapping dust, solid particles, and airborne pollen, thereby significantly improving air quality (Nowak et al., 2006) This process is critical in reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and, consequently, combating climate change (Psistaki et al., 2024).

Green spaces are also associated with mitigating heat stress and reducing the urban heat island (UHI) effect by providing shade and cooling. Through temperature stabilization—cooling during summer and retaining warmth during winter—urban greenery contributes to energy savings for cooling and heating buildings (Hernandez et al., 2018; D. Wang et al., 2024). For instance, green roofs, which are covered with vegetation and soil, function as natural insulators, enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings (Blessing Aibhamen Edeigba et al., 2024).

Another significant benefit of municipal greenery is its ability to reduce or prevent urban noise by acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution (Ak Mehmetali, Aslı Güneş Gölbey, 2021). Additionally, trees are considered the most cost-effective means of managing stormwater flow and mitigating floods. Vegetation slows down runoff velocity, which increases soil absorption capacity and reduces the likelihood of flooding (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024; Jafri, Rajaullah, 2018).

Green spaces play a vital role in conserving biodiversity by providing habitats for various species thereby enriching urban ecosystems and bolstering ecological resilience. Urban green islands support the development of birds, insects, and other living organisms, making them essential for wildlife conservation (Hernandez et al., 2018).

Health and Well-being

The natural environment plays a significant role in promoting well-being, as research suggests that exposure to nature has a direct and positive impact on both physical and mental health (Bowler et al., 2010). Interaction with the natural world is considered an integral part of biopsychosocial-spiritual well-being (Irvine, Warber, 2002). Individuals living in areas with more greenery experience better overall physical and mental health. A reduction in the amount of green space can therefore have health consequences (Maas et al., 2009). Spending time in nature reduces stress, anxiety, and depression while encouraging physical activity and improving general well-being. Urban greenery offers spaces for recreation, and relaxation, and supports healthy lifestyles. Access to open, natural, and green spaces promotes physical activity, which is a key factor in enhancing health and well-being (Mouratidis, 2021).

Activities such as walking, sitting on the grass, reading, and fishing, commonly enjoyed in green areas, are known to have beneficial physical, psychological, and health effects (Hernandez et al., 2018). Research has further established the correlation between shorter distances to green spaces from residences and a lower likelihood of obesity (Maas et al., 2009). Additionally, exposure to greenery is linked to a healthy immune system and a reduction in inflammatory diseases (Ruokolainen, 2015; Improving Access to Greenspace A New Review for 2020, 2020). Green spaces also have been shown to enhance people's concentration, assist in managing depression, and improve emotional and mental health (Psistaki et al., 2024). Furthermore, studies suggest that green areas around healthcare facilities positively affect patients' recovery (Jafri, Rajaulah, 2018). Limited access to natural environments may lead to negative outcomes such as social isolation, obesity, and chronic stress (Biazen Molla, 2015).

Cultural Value and Social Benefits

Urban greenery serves a multifaceted role, contributing to the structural, compositional, and aesthetic qualities of a city. It is a key element in the city's spatial design, shaping both the layout of urban interiors and complementing architectural structures (Kowalski, 2010). Any studies have highlighted the positive impact of improving green spaces on aesthetics, thanks to increased recreational areas, creating public spaces that make cities more attractive and liveable. Parks, gardens, and tree-lined streets not only shape the character of neighbourhoods but also help create memorable and unique urban landscapes.

Beyond their aesthetic and recreational value, green spaces provide essential areas for social interactions, relaxation. They serve as venues for social and cultural exchange, hosting events and gatherings that celebrate local traditions and cultural heritage (Blessing Aibhamen Edeigba et al., 2024). These spaces play a pivotal role in social life and contribute to building a shared identity among residents (Mouratidis, 2021). Furthermore, urban greenery has the potential to strengthen the sense of belonging among residents (Aslanoğlu et al., 2025). Additionally, research points to the connection between green spaces and broader social benefits, such as reducing crime, violence, and aggression (Sushinsky et al., 2017). The cultural services provided by urban green spaces are vital to health and well-being, though their significance is often undervalued (Jennings et al., 2016).

Economic Benefits

Urban greenery provides a wide range of essential services, one of which is the supply of valuable products such as fuel, wood, medicines, food, compost, and energy. While this service may be more noticeable in larger green spaces than in smaller urban areas, even urban greenery contributes to the production of these resources, offering benefits on a smaller scale (Byomkesh, 2012).

Among the undeniable economic benefits of urban greenery is the increase in property values. Greening an area enhances its aesthetic appeal, making neighbourhoods more attractive. People are naturally drawn to districts with parks and green amenities, creating demand for properties in these areas. This creates demand, which translates into economic gains for homeowners and landowners. Furthermore, businesses located near green spaces also report higher customer satisfaction and improved employee productivity, leading to economic gains for the local business community (Y. Wang et al., 2023).

Additionally, such areas generate economic benefits by attracting tourists and stimulating local economies, as well as by creating new jobs in the maintenance and management of these environments (Aslanoğlu et al., 2025). Moreover, urban greenery can help reduce healthcare costs by promoting active lifestyles and improving public health outcomes, offering long-term economic benefits by lowering the need for medical interventions related to sedentary behaviour and chronic diseases.

As previously mentioned, green infrastructure plays a crucial role in managing stormwater runoff, reduces flooding, and alleviating the pressure on municipal drainage systems; by doing so, it helps cities save money on maintenance and repairs, offering an economically sustainable solution. Urban greenery acts as a natural infrastructure that enhances the resilience of cities, becoming an essential component in adapting to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (Aslanoğlu et al., 2025). Consequently, it contributes to the reduction of costs associated with damages caused by such events, supporting long-term urban sustainability.

Moreover, the benefits of green spaces—such as improved public health, reduced healthcare expenditures, and lower crime rates—highlight the broader social advantages that can be incorporated into landscape design. Integrating greenery into urban planning not only improves the quality of life for residents but also creates a safer, healthier, and more vibrant environment, fostering overall well-being and reducing societal costs (Keniger et al., 2013).

3. Research design/Methodology

The study concerned 123 municipalities in the Pomeranian Voivodeship (Figure 1) and served as a pilot study. The selection of the Pomeranian Voivodeship was based on convenience sampling, resulting from the location of the author's research institution within the region.



Figure 1. Research area.

Source: <https://e-mapa.net/>

The investigation was divided into three stages:

1. Identification of Green Area Functions - This stage involved a literature review to identify the various functions of green spaces. The results of this analysis are presented in the section The Role of Municipal Green Spaces in Social Life.

2. Quantitative Analysis of Green Areas. In this stage, several variables were analysed, including:

- The share of parks, green squares, and residential greenery in the total area.
- The share of green areas in the total area.
- Total green area per capita.
- The number of tree plantings and tree removals within a given territorial unit.

The data used in this stage were obtained from the Local Data Bank (BANK DANYCH LOKALNYCH, 2024), published on official portals by the Polish Central Statistical Office (GUS).

3. Analysis of Municipal Policies and Initiatives. Data for Stage Three were collected via public inquiries sent to all 123 municipalities in the Pomorskie Voivodeship, consisting of an 18-question survey. The inquiries included questions about the number of tree removal decisions issued, the number of trees removed between 2017 and 2022, and data on replacement plantings, such as the number of trees planted, species planted, and the financial resources allocated for these activities. Furthermore, the survey assessed whether municipalities were creating new green spaces or investing in biologically active surfaces. It also examined expenditures on urban greenery maintenance and external funding sources. Finally, the survey investigated whether municipalities had formal greening plans and staff or departments dedicated to these initiatives. Responses were received from seventy-three municipalities, while the remaining municipalities declined to participate, citing reasons such as lack of data, the extensive effort required to compile the requested information, or limited resources. The presented research is a pilot study; therefore, its results should not be generalized to the entire population of municipalities in Poland. However, at the local level — specifically within the Pomeranian Voivodeship — the analyses based on data from the Central Statistical Office (GUS) refer to the full population of municipalities in the region and are thus representative in that context.

The following sections present selected findings from the analyses conducted during Stages Two and Three of the study. As previously mentioned, certain limitations occurred in data collection. Limitations impacted the study, with full data available for the entire population of 123 communes in Stage Two and for seventy-three communes in Stage Three.

4. Results

In Stage Two, the analysis focused on factors such as the share of green areas in the total area of the commune and assessed whether the size or share of these areas changed between 2017 and 2022 (Table 1).

Table 1.

The share of green areas in the total area of the commune during 2017-2022

municipality	[%] in the total area 2022	difference 2017-2022	municipality	[%] in the total area 2022	difference 2017-2022	municipality	[%] in the total area 2022	difference 2017-2022
Pruszcz Gdański	5,14	1,36	Malbork	0,32	0	Parchowo	0,05	0
Hel	1,53	0,72	Tuchomie	0,29	0	Nowa Karczma	0,05	0
Kwidzyn	9,37	0,64	Gniew	0,28	0	Ryjewo	0,05	0
Kosakowo	1,29	0,59	Stare Pole	0,23	0	Lubichowo	0,05	0
Człuchów	21,25	0,35	Kartuzy	0,22	0	Skórcz	0,05	0
Puck	4,97	0,33	Miłoradz	0,17	0	Smoldzino	0,03	0
Rumia	3,94	0,28	Pelplin	0,17	0	Gniewino	0,03	0
Gdańsk	8,83	0,24	Liniewo	0,16	0	Luzino	0,03	0
Wejherowo	7,06	0,19	Potęgowo	0,16	0	Koczała	0,02	0
Starogard Gdański	3,61	0,16	Stary Targ	0,15	0	Sztutowo	0,02	0
Pszczółki	0,61	0,14	Człuchów	0,14	0	Stary Dzierżgoń	0,02	0
Wejherowo	0,16	0,08	Przodkowo	0,14	0	Żukowo	0,14	-0,01
Miastko	0,39	0,06	Główny	0,14	0	Nowy Staw	0,1	-0,01
Kolbudy	0,3	0,05	Czersk	0,13	0	Stegna	0,1	-0,01
Kolczygłowy	0,12	0,04	Dębica Kaszubska	0,13	0	Sierakowice	0,05	-0,01
Lichnowy	0,09	0,04	Subkowy	0,13	0	Krokowa	0,51	-0,01
Szemud	0,49	0,04	Starogard Gdański	0,11	0	Chojnice	0,36	-0,01
Chojnice	6,96	0,03	Rzecenica	0,1	0	Krynica Morska	0,26	-0,01
Reda	1,7	0,03	Przywidz	0,1	0	Czarne	0,19	-0,01
Kościerzyna	0,15	0,03	Sulęcyno	0,1	0	Gardeja	0,13	-0,01
Karsin	0,13	0,03	Sadlinki	0,1	0	Morzeszczyn	0,09	-0,01
Lipusz	0,08	0,03	Linia	0,1	0	Lipnica	0,13	-0,02
Dzierżgoń	0,94	0,03	Chmielno	0,09	0	Prabuty	0,13	-0,02
Nowy Dwór Gdański	0,23	0,02	Dziemiany	0,09	0	Konarzyny	0,03	-0,02
Somonino	0,11	0,02	Kaliska	0,09	0	Stężycza	0,23	-0,03
Mikołajki Pomorskie	0,08	0,02	Choczewo	0,09	0	Ustka	0,37	-0,04
Skarszewy	0,18	0,02	Łęczyce	0,09	0	Smętowo Graniczne	0,17	-0,06
Kobylnica	0,16	0,02	Cedry Wielkie	0,08	0	Władysławo	1,84	-0,07
Bytów	0,51	0,01	Puck	0,08	0	Słupsk	9,91	-0,09

Cont. table 1.

Nowa Wieś Lęborska	0,26	0,01	Zblewo	0,08	0	Sztum	0,18	-0,11
Kwidzyn	0,14	0,01	Czarna Dąbrówka	0,07	0	Pruszcz Gdański	0,24	-0,12
Cewice	0,13	0,01	Brusy	0,07	0	Skórcz	2,18	-0,13
Przechlewo	0,05	0,01	Ostaszewo	0,07	0	Gdynia	6,61	-0,15
Kępice	0,11	0,01	Osieczna	0,07	0	Malbork	9,64	-0,18
Redzikowo	0,11	0,01	Studzienice	0,06	0	Tczew	7,86	-0,21
Suchy Dąb	0,06	0,01	Trzebielino	0,06	0	Jastarnia	2,03	-0,3
Tczew	0,65	0	Stara Kiszewa	0,06	0	Kościerzyna	2,93	-0,33
Damnica	0,47	0	Wicko	0,06	0	Sopot	19,69	-0,5
Czarna Woda	0,37	0	Bobowo	0,06	0	Lębork	4,58	-0,57
Trąbki Wielkie	0,36	0	Osiek	0,06	0	Łeba	7,16	-0,77
Debrzno	0,34	0	Borzytuchom	0,05	0	Ustka	9,26	-1,48

Source: Own study based on GUS data.

The data presented in the Table 1 indicates that most of these communes maintained a stable share of green areas, with no significant changes during the period from 2017 to 2022. The highest share of green areas is in the commune of Człuchów (21.25%), followed by Sopot (19.69%), which has the second-largest share. However, Sopot has seen a slight decrease in green space share in recent years. Given the health-resort nature of the commune, this trend warrants close monitoring. The largest increase in the share of green areas was observed in Pruszcz Gdański (+1.36%), followed by increases in communes such as Hel (+0.72%), Kwidzyn (+0.64%), and Kosakowo (+0.59%). Communes like Słupsk (9.91%), Kwidzyn (9.37%), Malbork (9.64%), and Gdańsk (8.83%) showed stable shares, with only slight changes during the period 2017–2022. The most significant decreases in green space share were noted in Ustka (-1.48%) and Łeba (-0.77%), which is concerning given the tourist-oriented nature of these communes. Communes with a share of green areas below 0.1% of the total area include Parchowo (0.05%), Nowa Karczma (0.05%), Ryjewo (0.05%), Lubichowo (0.05%), and Smołdzino (0.03%). In general, positive change was observed in thirty-six communes, a negative change in 30 communes, and no change in 57 communes during the period 2017–2022.

In addition to the total area of green spaces, the accessibility of these spaces for residents is also important. The results for green space area per capita are presented in figure 2.

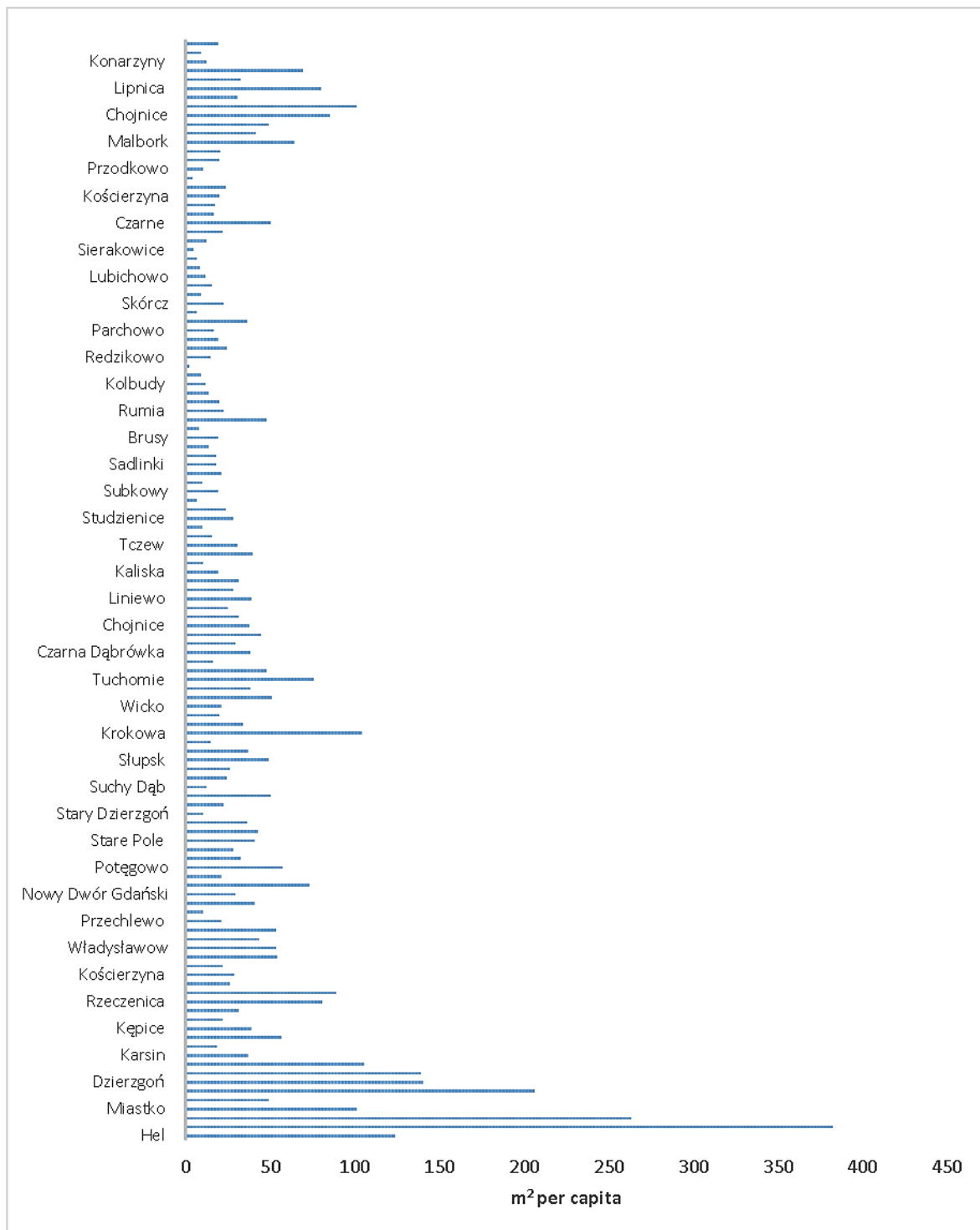


Figure 2. Green space area per capita (in m²).

Source: Own study based on GUS data.

The communes with the largest green space per capita are Łeba – 382.4 m², Krynica Morska – 263.2 m², and Ustka – 101.5 m². On the other hand, the communes with the smallest green space per capita include Luzino – 2.2 m², Gniewino – 7.1 m², and Sztutowo – 6.9 m². These differences are likely due to various factors, but it can be assumed that in more urbanized communes, such as Gdańsk and Gdynia, the green space per capita is smaller due to the higher number of residents in a smaller area. Conversely, tourist-oriented communes such as Hel,

Łeba, and Krynica Morska have a larger green space per capita, which results from a lower number of permanent residents. However, these trends should not be generalized across all communes.

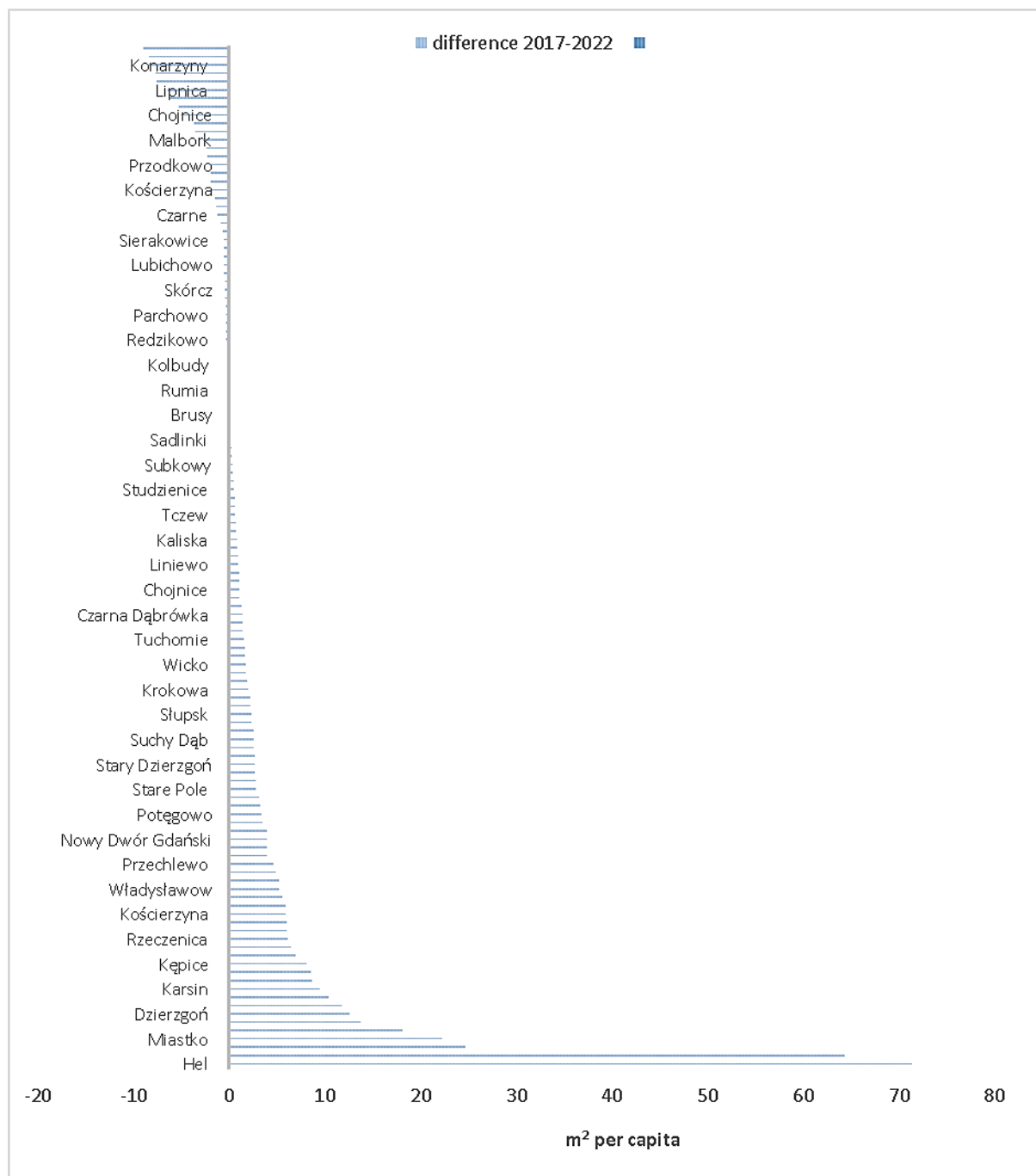


Figure 3. Changes in green space per capita between 2017 and 2022.

Source: Own study based on GUS data.

A key observation is that the majority of communes show an increase in green space per capita, which may suggest a generally positive trend during this period. The communes with the largest increase in green space per capita (2017-2022) include Hel (+71.4 m²), Łeba (+64.3 m²), and Krynica Morska (+24.7 m²). In contrast, communes with the largest decreases include Sztum (-9 m²), Pruszcz Gdański (-8.4 m²), and Konarzyny (-8.4 m²).

It should be noted that tourist-oriented communes such as Hel, Łeba, Krynica Morska, Sopot, and Ustka feature large green spaces per capita. These areas, often coastal, attract tourists and invest in recreational spaces. The reduction in green space in communes such as Sztum, Pruszcz Gdański, and Tczew is most likely due to the intensification of construction, infrastructure development, and urbanization.

The studies conducted in Stage 3 confirm that new investments are often a primary cause of tree cutting. Among the most frequently cited reasons for tree removal by municipal representatives were conflicts with planned investments, poor health of trees, health hazards, and landscaping needs, such as road shoulder management (figure 4).

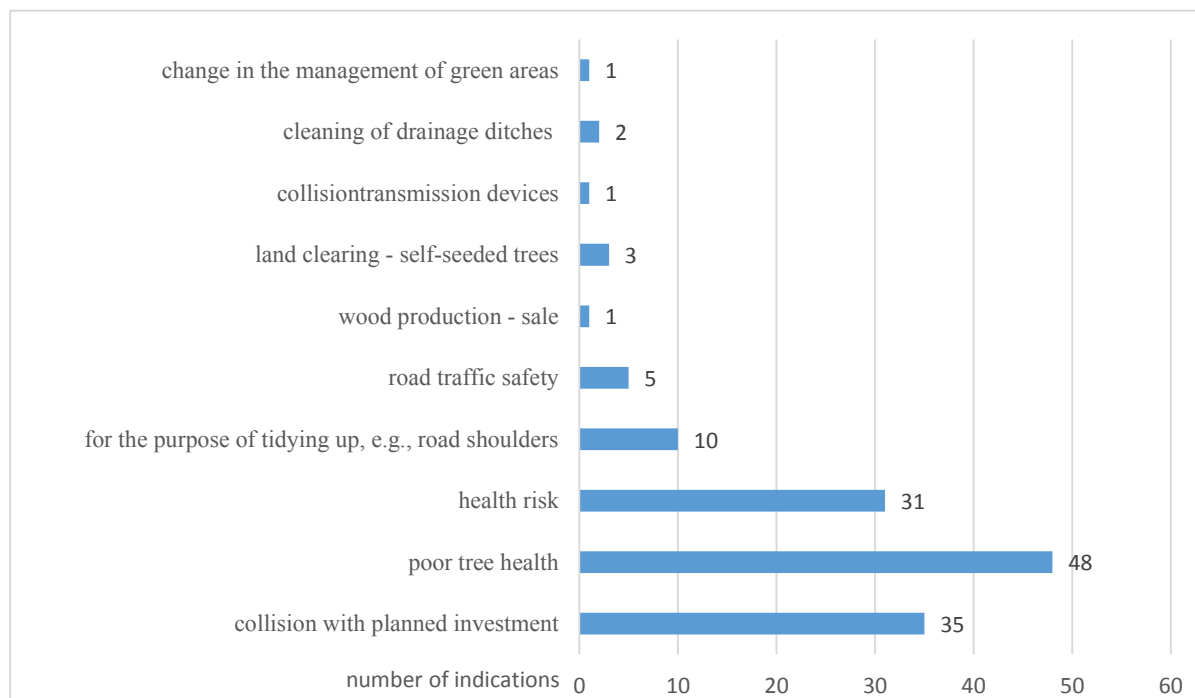


Figure 4. Reasons of cutting trees.

Source: Own study.

An analysis of the ratio of planted trees to those cut down, it can be observed that: municipalities with a significant negative difference (more trees cut than planted) include Gdańsk (-7,584), Gdynia (-3,404), Kaliska (-2,235), Rumia (-1,484), and Kosakowo (-988). These municipalities should be further analysed to understand the factors contributing to this deforestation trend. This could suggest a focus on urban development or other land uses, leading to a loss of green spaces.

Conversely, municipalities with a positive difference (more trees planted than cut down) include Koczała (+1,050), Skórcz (+1,050), and Nowy Dwór Gdański (+1,104).

The research also found that nearly one-third of the surveyed municipalities (22 out of 73) do not have a designated person or department responsible for planning tree plantings or removals. In those municipalities where responsibility was assigned, the relevant departments varied, including for example, the Municipal Department; Department of Geodesy, Spatial

Planning, and Environmental Protection; Department of Municipal Management and Environmental Protection; Environmental Protection Department; Department of Municipal Management; Technical Department of the City Office; Department of Municipal Management and Safety; City Gardener's Department; City Infrastructure Management Board; City Conservator of Monuments. As can be observed, not all of these departments are directly related to nature conservation or spatial planning.

Additional findings from the research include the following aspects:

- Only two of the municipalities had a greening plan.
- Only 11% of respondents reported having pocket parks in their municipality.
- Fifteen percent (11) of respondents have recently undertaken investments to increase biologically active areas, while 17 (23%) municipalities have made investment efforts in the field of small-scale retention.
- Municipalities have limited use of available external financing options for greening activities, such as EU programs—21 of them have received such funding.

In further research, analyses will be extended to other voivodeships. A handbook for Polish municipalities with good practices in the area of greenery management will also be created. Comparative studies over five years are also planned.

5. Conclusions

A pilot study on green space management in the Pomeranian Voivodeship highlights how urban green spaces are crucial to environmental sustainability, public health, and social well-being. The research revealed several key trends between 2017 and 2022: a general stability in the share of green areas across most municipalities, a notable increase in green space in tourist-oriented and coastal communes (e.g., Hel, Łeba), and a decline in others, especially in urbanized areas such as Pruszcz Gdański or Tczew — likely linked to development pressures and infrastructure expansion. Although green space per capita increased in the majority of municipalities, stark disparities remain, particularly between touristic and densely populated urban areas. The study identifies the need for an integrated approach to urban planning that prioritizes green space management as an essential component of sustainable development strategies at the municipal level. The study, designed as a pilot for a nationwide initiative, confirms the necessity of clearer municipal strategies and consistent implementation of green policies. It also highlights the need to strengthen data collection methods and raise public awareness to support informed, long-term planning. The analysis emphasizes the importance of integrating green space management into broader urban development frameworks as a practical pathway toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities.

Considering the findings, several strategic recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness, coherence, and sustainability of urban green space management at the municipal level:

- Establish dedicated units or roles within municipal structures responsible for urban greenery. This structural solution would improve operational continuity and accountability.
- Strengthen the balance between tree removal and planting, particularly in areas affected by intensive development. This may include mandatory replacement ratios, species diversification, and post-planting care protocols.
- Promote the creation of small-scale green infrastructure, such as pocket parks, green courtyards, and biologically active surfaces.
- Enhance the use of external funding sources, including national and EU-level programs, to support investments in urban green infrastructure.
- Encourage inter-municipal knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices in green space management.

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