



Public perception about urban sprawl impacts on the loss of environmental resources in Vilnius (Lithuania)

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Urban sprawl is one of the main causes of environmental resources loss, decreasing substantially the quality and quantity of the services provided by nature. The non-organized expansion of urban areas increases also the municipally costs (e.g transports investment in new infrastructures such as schools), traffic jams, fuel consumption, pollution, carbon dioxide and health diseases. This negative impacts need to be mitigated and the investment in policies that promote compacted cities are urgent. The objective of this work is to assess the public perception about urban sprawl impacts on loss of environmental resources (Consumption of land and soil, Consumption of concrete and other building materials, Expansion of quarries near to natural reserves, Over extraction of gravel from river beds or ridges, Loss of soil permeability and Loss of soil biodiversity and Hydrological impairment of small watershed) and if is different according to gender and living place (urban/countryside). The interviewed assessed the impact of the urban sprawl through a Likert scale evaluation 1 (very low impact) to 5 (very high impact). The results showed significant differences in the Expansion of quarries near to natural reserves, Over extraction of gravel from river beds or ridges, Loss of soil permeability and Loss of soil biodiversity according to the gender. Males scored these impacts significantly higher than females. Significant differences were also found according to the living area in Over extraction of gravel from river beds or ridges, Loss of soil permeability and Loss of soil biodiversity. The residents in countryside areas ranked significantly high these impacts than urban inhabitants.

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