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URBAN FORESTS FOR RESILIENT AND HEALTHY CITIES

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EFUF 2025

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URBAN FORESTS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN
PLANNING

Addressing equity in the Forestami project: accessibility, distribution, and engagement in urban green spaces

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Abstract

Dense urban contexts are under pressure due to the constant population growth and an urban development model oriented towards soil consumption and sealing. In this scenario, urban voids become opportunities to imagine a new landscape in which nature represents the tool to contrast climate change, improve citizens' health, and strengthen the sense of community.

In this direction, Forestami works in one of the densest European metropolis, the Milan Metropolitan Area (MMA), structuring an urban forestry project that embraces the challenges of developing a new form of regeneration within the urban and peri-urban development and promoting a fair and just transition. Forestami works towards the direction of equity by studying the accessibility of urban green spaces and identifying the less served parts of the territory, realising new natural spaces distributed in the entire metropolitan territory, engaging citizens in various activities, and promoting a new shared tool for green management.

The planting sites are selected mainly considering their environmental, ecological, and cultural qualities, thus guaranteeing the availability and accessibility of green spaces even to marginal territories and administrations with fewer resources. By enhancing a spontaneous landscape, Forestami promotes the role of informal green spaces in guaranteeing spatial and environmental justice.

In this process, Forestami involves citizens, students, families, local communities, and vulnerable subjects who become an active part of the tree planting process, directly participating in the promotion of the project and the sustainable development of the territory.

Finally, Forestami is developing a platform to collect planting data, creating a systematised database of metropolitan planting activities. This tool will align existing resources between the various administrations, enabling and capacitating all the municipalities to manage their natural assets in an integrated manner