

# Stewardship in (of?) urban landscapes

Erik Andersson

Associate Professor

E-mail: [erik.andersson@su.se](mailto:erik.andersson@su.se)

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**Stockholm Resilience Centre**  
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



**Stockholm  
University**



**KUNGL.  
VETENSKAPS-  
AKADEMIEN**

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# Challenges

- Urban landscapes are highly heterogeneous, ecologically and otherwise
  - Urban landscapes are densely populated and characterised by high pressure on ecosystems
  - Urban inhabitants are highly diverse in terms of interests, needs, and values.
  - Many of the people who live in urban landscapes and potentially are interested in stewardship may lack the knowledge and skills needed to engage actively in hands-on management activities.
  - Governance of urban landscapes is fragmented, with resources, responsibilities, rights and management capacities divided among actors and sectors.
  - People who want to engage in management of nearby spaces may not have the right to access – let alone modify – those parts of the landscape.
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# Networks

- Outcomes are achieved by networks of actors
  - Successful initiatives have all skills, capacities and resources represented within the network
    - the *knowledge and know-how* coming from conventional and unconventional experts
    - the *care, creativity and stewardship values* to be found in local experiences and initiatives
    - the *agency, power and resources* typically provided by governments and authorities
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# Successful initiatives

- Access to and dissemination of information and knowledge.
  - Building vertical connections between actors at different scales,
  - Negotiations between heterogeneous stakeholders and interests relating to the use and management of specific locations in the urban environment
  - Connecting fragmented areas across space and providing a landscape perspective for management
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## ...and more?

- What is the role for the “abstract” steward?
  - Skills can be applied at various scales in various systems
  - A social process as much as an environmental engagement



# Thank you

Erik Andersson  
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