

ACES 2018 Pre-Conference Workshop
December 3, 2018 | 8:30am – 12:00pm

TITLE

Applying an Ecosystem Services Framework to Urban Planning and Design

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will be hosted by experts from the international consultancy, Ramboll, and provide learning and hands-on practicum on the approaches used in Nordic countries addressing ecosystem services quantification and urban and landscape planning and design in urban and suburban communities. The workshop will be conducted in 3 sections and include a series of lectures and a practical learning exercise for participants. The workshop will open with an introductory lecture to frame the challenges associated with preserving or restoring nature in the human built environment, and introduce participants to the evolution and valuation of ecosystem services that are important in cities and communities. The second section of the workshop will include a series of short lectures showcasing a set of case study presentations that demonstrate the application of approaches and tools used to quantify ecosystem services and human interaction in different urban environments. These short case studies will set the stage for the third section of the workshop, which will be dedicated to engaging participants in real urban issues and envisioning solutions for a small city located in the eastern US. Workshop leaders will guide participants on the questions to ask and knowledge needed to identify improvements in blue-green infrastructure, mobility and open spaces that contribute to enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors to an urbanized landscape. The aim is to highlight best practices and lessons learned that can be used by stakeholders and make a positive contribution to the urban quality of life and liveability.

Target Audience

The target audience for the workshop includes a wide range of practitioners with training in ecology, environment and the social sciences, from beginning to more experienced practitioners. In particular, the short course will be of interest to companies involved in urban development and rehabilitation, and to urban planners and city managers from municipalities and communities looking to better understand the range of applications of ecosystem services and how these concepts can be integrated into future development activities and master planning guidance. The target audience includes representatives from community development organizations, environmental consultancies, land and brownfield developers, legal professionals, social services and regulatory departments at municipalities, urban and landscape planners and NGOs.

Workshop Hosts / Organizers

Workshop Coordinator: Richard Wenning, Director, Ecological Services Ramboll US
T: (207) 517-8242; rjwenning@ramboll.com

Workshop Leaders: Lars Johnsen, Senior Special Projects Manager, Ramboll Sweden
Herbert Dreitsetl, Director-Liveable Cities Lab, Ramboll Germany

Workshop Speakers: Kaisa Mustajarvi, Senior Urban Nature Specialist, Ramboll Finland
Kristine Rasmussen, Senior Urban Nature Specialist, Ramboll Denmark
Richard Baldwin, Senior Urban Nature Specialist, Ramboll US

Preliminary Workshop Agenda

- (1) Theory and Practice
- 8:00 - 8:15 Welcome & Introductions Among Workshop Hosts & Participants
 - 8:15 - 9:00 *Innovations in Planning, Designing, and Building with Nature*
Herbert Dreitsetl, Ramboll Germany
- (2) Case Studies & Practices in Liveable City Planning

- 9:00 - 9:15 *Blue / Green Strategy for Stavanger, Norway*
Lars Johnsen, Ramboll Sweden
- 9:15 - 9:30 *Ecosystem Services Master Plan for Alta, Finland*
Kaisa Mustajarvi, Ramboll Finland
- 9:30 – 9:45 *Green Corridor Planning, Construction and Function at Ørestad, Denmark*
Kristine Rasmussen, Ramboll Denmark
- 9:45 - 10:00 *Port Re-Development Plan for the Old Port at Helsinki, Finland*
Kaisa Mustajarvi, Ramboll Finland
- 10:00 - 10:15 *Greenway Planning and Design for New York City, New York*
Richard Baldwin, Ramboll US

(3) Coffee Break

(4) Hands-on Learning for Participants

- 10:20 – 11:30 Thinking About the Natural and Urban Ecosystem – A Hands-on Exercise in Ecosystem Services Planning as Part of City Master Planning in the US
- 11:30-12:30 Lessons Learned & Summary

(5) Adjourn @ 1:00pm

Workshop Hands on Learning Exercise

Participants will be provided with an information package describing the requirements set forth by an Urban Planning Department in a small US city for re-developing a downtown portion of the city that has been neglected for many years. City planners are seeking a strategy to revitalize the area, restoring a liveable environment that is compatible with nature, safe for residents, sustainable and offers new living and commercial space. The information package will contain maps and the social and environmental information necessary to evaluate current environmental and urban conditions, social preferences and obstacles that must be addressed in the City’s new vision. The Hands-on exercise is a real-life situation, and offers participants the opportunity to contribute creative, but practical, solutions to the design and planning team engaged in this work.