The Economics of Ecosystem Services in Urban Planning

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Abstract. Integrating ecosystem services into urban planning can enhance sustainability and improve quality of life. This study evaluates the economic value of services provided by urban ecosystems, such as air purification, water regulation, and recreational spaces. By quantifying these benefits, the research supports the inclusion of natural capital in urban development strategies. The findings encourage policymakers to consider ecosystem services as vital components of sustainable city planning.

Keywords: ecosystem services, urban planning, sustainability, economic value, natural capital

Introduction

Urban ecosystems offer a range of services that are often undervalued in traditional economic analyses. These services include air purification, climate regulation, water management, and recreational opportunities, all of which contribute significantly to the quality of urban life. This research aims to quantify the economic value of these ecosystem services and assess their integration into urban planning processes. By highlighting the financial benefits of preserving and enhancing urban natural capital, the study provides a compelling case for incorporating ecosystem services into city development strategies. The findings advocate for a shift in urban planning paradigms, recognizing the essential role of ecosystems in fostering sustainable urban environments.

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