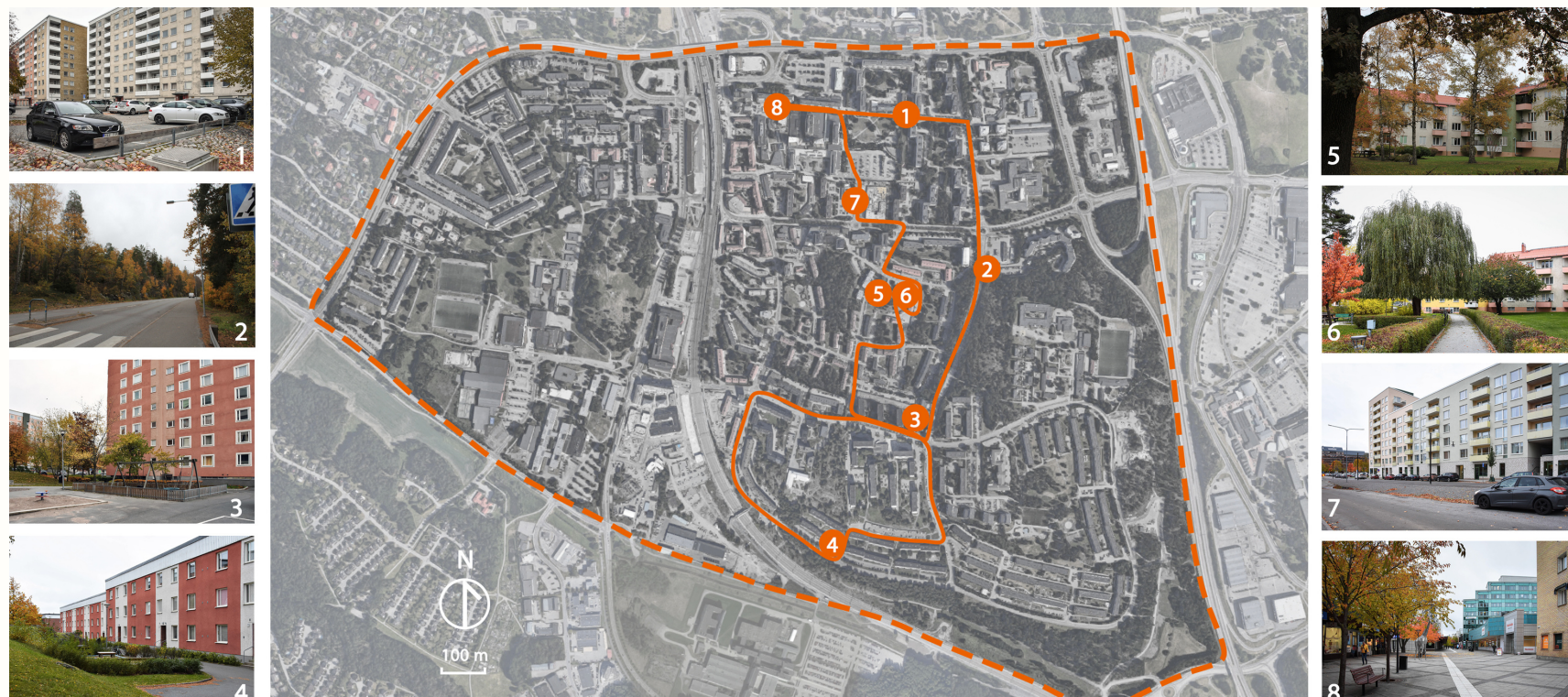


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NEWS - JAKOBSBERG



FOCUS: Mapping of Nature Based Solutions by KTH students Siqi Xiong and Izabella Ståhl

Rethinking Jakobsberg: suggestions for Nature-Based Solutions

NEED TO RETHINK: Students assess Nature Based Solutions in Jakobsberg as a means of climate change adaptation

FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS STUDENTS FROM KTH SIQI XIONG AND IZABELLA STÅHL HAVE BEEN WORKING ON ASSESSING HOW NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN JAKOBSBERG, JÄRFÄLLA.

After a presentation with the municipality and research on the topic, the students saw a dire need for the implementation of NBS in Jakobsberg. Xiong and Ståhl identified three crisis areas: Urban Heat Islands (UHI), flood risks, and biodiversity loss. They then used a literature study, site visit, policy review and a public survey to answer three questions: What is the status of NBS in Jakobsberg? What NBS could be added in Jakobsberg to combat climate change? And, what do the citizens think about NBS in Jakobsberg?

NBS are important for a myriad of reasons. Used correctly, they can be planned to increase multi-functionality, so that a singular implementation can be the **solution to many climate change challenges.**

There are many different types of NBS. In the project Xiong and Ståhl use examples from a literature study of the Clever Cities Project. The Clever Cities project used examples from all across Europe to show how NBS can be implemented. For example, ultralight green roofs to combat heat stress in cities, roadside planting beds to reduce the risk of flooding, and bee-friendly rooftop gardens that increase native insect life.

How could these innovations be used in Jakobsberg?

The students also found that the municipality have extensive plans for the planning of NBS. The comprehensive plan written in 2014 highlighted the need for green roofs to help mitigate floods and heat stress. The Green Structure plan from 2018 envisions a labyrinth of parks to help combating flooding while increasing biodiversity and recreation in Jakobsberg. The recently published environmental plan stresses the need for indicators to help improve Jakobsberg and Järfälla as a whole, and the Plan for sustainable development in Jakobsberg, also from 2023, acknowledges some of the discrepancies in Jakobsberg's NBS plans such as tree coverage. The discussed how the goal is to have at least 25% tree coverage in Jakobsberg, yet in some parts it is only 11%.

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CHALLENGE: How can we incorporate more greenery in our municipality?

THE STUDENTS ALSO STUDIED WHAT THE CITIZENS OF JAKOBSBERG THOUGHT ABOUT NBS IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THE ALL-IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

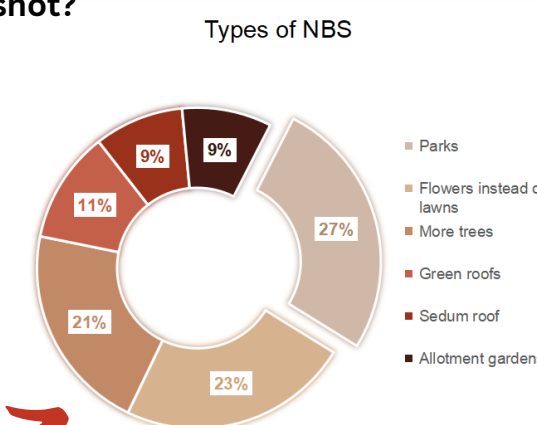
They found from survey results that **60.9%** of the respondents rated their involvement in the municipal planning process regarding NBS a 1 out of 5, meaning that the **citizens did not feel involved in the planning process.** They also found that **66.7% showed an interest in being involved in the planning process,** which says that the residents of Jakobsberg would like more of a say in how their green spaces are planned. The survey also showed that **95.5% were happy with the green spaces** near them, with one citizen responding the green spaces are:

“Good as they are”

Many of the other respondents replied with suggestions of how they wanted NBS implemented in Jakobsberg, with many asking for parks, and more flowers.

The students also conducted a site visit, where they saw an abundance of nature. However, they noted that this nature was somewhat fragmented, often being separated by concreted, impermeable urban areas, potentially prohibiting the spread of nature within Jakobsberg.

The students concluded that there was a fair bit that could be done in Jakobsberg. From implementing more green roofs, to including citizens more in the planning dialogue. For more tips and student suggestions, read through the boxes on the right of this page. On a final note, NBS can help to combat many of the issues we face in society- **so why not give ‘em a shot?**



TIPS:

- **Read** your municipality's local website for information
- **Grow** flowers on your balconies to support local biodiversity
- **Involve** yourself in initiatives from the municipality
- **Use** the public spaces that are available to you
- Always treat nature with **respect**
- Get involved in allotment gardens in your area
- Don't be afraid to **contact** your municipality about changes

Student Suggestions for the Municipality:

- Create more **measurable indicators** in municipal plans
- **Involve citizens** more in the planning process
- Initiate community gardening schemes
- **Decrease** the amount of **asphalt** between houses
- Exchange lawns for **wildflowers**
- Implement more **green roofs!**
- Send out more **information** to **citizens** about NBS
- Increase **tree coverage**