

The Potential of Combined Use of Urban Land

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SUMMARY

Objectives:

The objective of the study is to analyse combined use of land as a possibility to unlock space in the existing city for additional functions. In the study, stormwater management in the urban realm is used as an example of an urban function that, as a result of climate change, is in desperate need of additional space.

Results:

-Combinations of land use hold a great potential to unlock land and space for additional functions. Through sharing and combined use, different utilities can be mixed on the same spot, or in close proximity to each other, leading to a more efficient use of urban land.

-Whereas heavy rainfalls occur irregularly, stormwater management can ideally share space with other functions in areas being designed for multifunctionality, e.g. parks, parking spots and playgrounds.

-The upcoming stormwater management system in Copenhagen resembles in several ways of an innovative urban commons. It has an inclusive character through its collectively funded, but individually designed and managed, stormwater adaptations located on both private and common land all over the city. This multitude and variety of stormwater adaptations is all needed to relieve the conventional sewer system and thereby increase its functionality.

-The idea of combined land use and sharing of space aligns with institutional positions that favour

transdisciplinary and wholistic perspectives on urban development. However, it challenge a few of the regulative institutional positions that are deeply rooted in disciplinary organisational structures.

-In order to apply sharing and combined use of land for the purpose of stormwater management at a scale larger than single pilot projects, it is needed to implement institutional change at municipal offices. This is needed in order to develop and streamline procedures and ways of working together with co-use partners.

Conclusions:

-Access to land in order to provide utility infrastructure, public services and other essential functions to the citizens may be easier facilitated through the perspective of urban commons, especially as the city grows increasingly dense.

-There is supposedly a long way to go in terms of institutional change among municipal and other actors to implement sharing and combined use of land at a larger scale.

Significance:

Urban land is an increasingly contested issue. Due to land as a strictly limited resource, the sharing and combined use of land may be seen as crucial for urban development in many ways, especially when it comes to utility and public services.