Dear editors,

We submit the manuscript “Compositional novelty of plant, fungal and bacterial communities across urban habitats” to be considered for publication in Landscape and Urban Planning.

We test the hypothesis that cities are composed of different degrees of ecological novelty by studying four urban habitats with differing degrees of management and human legacy; and comparing them with two reference pre-urban habitats.

We use a compositional novelty index based on multidimensional ordination, which is straightforward to calculate and only requires species co-occurrence data for urban and reference habitats.

Our results support an integrative approach to urban landscape management that favors habitat heterogeneity by passive rewilding of managed park lawns, non-intervention on residential vacant lots, direct restoration of industrial vacant lots, and conservation of natural and agricultural habitat remnants as sources of native species.

Kind regards,

The authors