**A Brief Summary of Karen K. Christensen-Dalsgaard’s, “How Urban Gardens Can Boost Biodiversity and Make Cities More Sustainable”**

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July 25, 2021

Assistant professor in plant biology and urban ecology, Karen K. Christensen-Dalsgaard of MacEwan University, describes the impacts of urban gardens in her persuasive article, “How Urban Gardens Can Boost Biodiversity and Make Cities More Sustainable”. The article states that cities can be inhospitable environments for life, due largely to pollution and the composition of the ground. Considerable populations of Canadian cities mean urban areas significantly affect the environment. The relatively new field of urban ecology studies how greenspace in these cities impacts “the livability and sustainability of urban areas” (Christensen-Dalsgaard, 2021, paras. 7). Urban ecology has found that plants in cities reduce temperature, pollution, noise and flooding. Most plants are more ecologically beneficial than sealed surfaces like asphalt or concrete, but how much plants influence these attributes depends on which plants are chosen. Both the chemical and physical structure of plants help shape its surroundings, but generally, more diverse greenspaces better address ecological problems in cities than homogeneous ones. Although the findings of urban ecology are applied by many urban planners, large portions of greenspace in urban areas are privately owned, so it is the owner’s responsibility to manage their greenspace effectively. Christensen-Dalsgaard’s article explains why gardens in cities are important and how the types of plants chosen can impact biodiversity and the sustainability of cities.

Christensen-Dalsgaard, K. K. (2021, June 28). *How Urban Gardens Can Boost Biodiversity and Make Cities More Sustainable*. The conversation. <https://theconversation.com/how-urban-gardens-can-boost-biodiversity-and-make-cities-more-sustainable-162810>