

### FORMATION OF A COMFORTABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the main aspects of improvement of urban areas. The role of green spaces in urban planning, as well as the relevance of landscaping the territories of residential neighborhoods.

**Key words:** Urban improvement, development, gardening system includes, aesthetics, cultural genesis, ethnogenesis, autochthonous ethnic groups.

Landscaping is one of the most important components of urban planning, which is the development and implementation of complex measures aimed at improving the functional, sanitary, environmental and aesthetic condition of public spaces in order to improve the quality of life of local residents and the attractiveness of the city for tourists and migrants, which, as a consequence, increases the pace of its economic development and contributes to the growth of competitiveness.

Urban improvement is one of the pressing problems of modern urban planning. It solves the problem of creating a favorable living environment by providing comfortable conditions for all types of activities of the population.

Urban improvement includes a number of measures to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions of residential buildings, transport and engineering services for the population, artificial lighting of urban areas and equipping them with the necessary equipment, improving the urban environment with the help of landscaping, as well as sanitary cleaning products.

Urban improvement is inextricably linked with urban planning and is one of its most important components. The level of development of amenities has a significant impact on the working and leisure conditions of the population.

The improvement and gardening system includes a set of programs and plans, the components of which have close connections with each other. In this aspect, comprehensive improvement means the development and implementation of a set of measures that are aimed at creating and developing the aesthetics and socio-ecological organized urban environment.

The most important components of this environment are the tidying up of the courtyard facades of buildings; architectural and planning organization of the territory; reconstruction; lighting of territories, buildings, structures, green spaces; placement of small architectural forms and urban design objects; placement of advertising, elements of visual communication and information.

In recent years, greening and improvement of urban areas have received increasing attention from the authorities of Russian cities and their public utilities. This cannot but rejoice, because a modern resident of a big city does not have many places left for relaxation and unity with nature. Moreover, all such work is regulated by a specially created Concept for comprehensive landscaping and landscaping of the territory, which describes the requirements for planting trees and shrubs, changing the topography, installing fences, placing small architectural forms and organizing lighting.

This document divides all possible urban spaces into three groups:

- Public spaces regularly visited by a large number of city residents. This includes shopping malls, movie theaters, college campuses, and government offices.
- Residential areas. This group includes local areas, parking lots, kindergartens and schools.
- Recreational areas - squares, boulevards, parks, specially organized recreation areas.

In addition to the mentioned types of planting, well-known flower beds, edgings and flower beds are also used when landscaping urban areas. At the same time, the choice of type of landscaping depends on the specific territory being worked on. It is unlikely that a curtain of large trees would be appropriate on a small street, or a small single flowerbed in a park with large open spaces.

In most cases, specialists combine several types of plantings, resulting in a harmoniously formed space in which all elements are connected not only with each other, but also with urban development.

In the city, two types of landscaping are used: stationary and mobile. Stationary gardening is the usual planting of plants in the ground; with mobile gardening, plants are planted in special mobile containers - flowerpots, containers.

Both of these types are used to the same extent to create architectural and landscape objects: gardens, flower beds, public gardens, indoor areas with flowers and trees. Stationary and mobile landscaping is installed on natural and artificial relief elements, roofs and even building facades.

The principles of landscaping and improvement of urban areas applied to each of these three groups differ markedly, but the main requirement remains the mandatory planting of green spaces. Only trees, shrubs and lawns can harmoniously complete an urban landscape, making it more relaxing and natural. Well, don't forget that green spaces are simply beautiful and beneficial from an environmental point of view.

The concept of "landscape designer" appeared relatively recently, but several centuries ago there were specialists involved in landscaping and improvement of urban areas. Of course, the cities of that time cannot be compared in scale and density of development with modern ones, but the types of planting of trees and shrubs they developed remain relevant to this day.

There are several main ways:

- Row planting is the simplest landscaping method in which trees are planted in one line along a road or pedestrian area. You can find it on any street in any city.
- Alley planting - this method involves planting trees in two lines at equal intervals. It is recommended to use trees of the same age and species, however, alleys combining two or three different species can look impressive. Most often used for landscaping streets and parks.
- Group planting (curtain) - several trees planted in an open space. Often the clump includes shrubs and perennial flowering plants.
- Single planting (solitaire). A tree with a spectacular crown shape or a beautifully flowering shrub, used as a visual accent for a small area.
- Lawn is the simplest and most common type of landscaping in urban areas. Today, lawns can be found literally everywhere, including in factory areas. They are divided into three types: regular, parterre (made from one type of grass, requires additional care) and annual Moorish (combines cereal grasses and annual flowering plants, does not need pruning).
- Hedges - can be used as natural borders for flower beds and lawns, as well as for decorative purposes. Protective fences are usually created using thorny bushes.

If we are talking about social facilities, then the work on landscaping and improvement of urban areas is usually undertaken by the city administration. But in the case of the adjacent space or the territory of a private enterprise, the choice of contractor remains with the customer.

In large cities (and especially in Moscow) today there are many companies offering services of this kind.

However, in order to make the right choice, you need to find out the following points from the potential contractor:

- how qualified are the specialists involved in landscaping and improvement of urban areas;
- does the company have appropriate special equipment;
- how wide is the range of plants planted on the territory;
- whether the company has the required documents and licenses.

But the main argument in favor of a particular organization still remains examples of its work. It's worth at least getting acquainted with the portfolio of finished projects, and at the most, visiting the territories where the company has already worked and seeing everything with your own eyes.

Plants used in urban landscaping must meet a number of special requirements. In addition to external attractiveness, they are required to have a controlled shape and growth rate, resistance to diseases, pests and physical damage.

The pungent odor from trees and flowers, the presence of natural toxic substances in them and the ability to produce offspring far from the mother trunk, breaking up the asphalt, and other not very practical properties are undesirable. For example, many cities refused to plant poplars because of the fluff and fragility of the trunks and branches, which break from strong winds.

When choosing plants, you need to take into account the length of daylight in a particular city, the average ambient temperature and humidity, the presence and location of groundwater, and types of soil. There is no point in planting southern plants in a city with a sharply continental climate; they will not survive anyway.

It is preferable to use local species of flora, taking into account that busy streets are not the best place for particularly demanding species of trees and plants. In addition, we must not forget about the architectural and artistic design of the landscaped object.

When landscaping specific urban objects, you need to choose plants that are best able to solve the tasks. For example, if it is necessary to landscape a street lined with multi-story buildings and at the same time protect the facades from the sun, it is best to use tall trees - birch, linden, Norway maple, pine.

If you need to create shade on the sidewalks, then it is enough to plant low or medium-sized plants - bird cherry, rowan, Tatarian maple. It should be taken into account that the height of trees and shrubs of the same species in different conditions can vary greatly. For example, oscar linden trees in parks reach 31 m in height, but on city streets - only 9.7 m.

When choosing plants for urban landscaping, the crown shape is also of great importance, especially in trees. It is very important when creating strict compositions - lining squares, streets, public buildings, etc. Some bushes and trees have a clear geometric shape of the crown, while others require its formation.

Fir, sea buckthorn, spruce, rose hips, rowan, linden, and thuja lend themselves well to pruning. Their use in landscaping can help create very interesting compositions.

Another important selection factor is crown density. Trees and shrubs with a dense crown provide the most effective protection from sunlight, wind and snow. Plants with a transparent crown enhance the play of light and shadow and are used in complex compositions to complement the architecture of buildings.

Fir, bird cherry, elm, linden, oak, and chestnut have an opaque crown. Transparent crown - pear, aspen, plum, acacia, apricot.

The choice of herbs and flowers for urban landscaping should also be subject to climatic and aesthetic requirements. The spectacular decor of the city throughout the summer is provided by

flower beds of quickly emerging and abundantly blooming alyssum, petunia, matthiola, iberis, and lupine.

Front flower beds, for example, in the city center in front of administrative buildings, are formed in spring and autumn from flowering plants - primrose, carnation pinnate, anemones and decorative foliage - feather grass, bergenia, hosta.

- types of landscaping;
- sizes of lumps, holes and trenches for planting trees and shrubs;
- size of recreational load;
- soil and ground composition;
- degree of technogenic loads and climatic conditions.

In the last 15–20 years, the situation has begun to change rapidly, not only in the capital, but also in provincial cities. A Concept for Comprehensive Improvement was developed, which included all work on landscaping and improving urban areas.

The document includes requirements for work on the reconstruction and plastic organization of the relief, planting new trees, shrubs and flowers on streets and parks, installation of fences, architectural lighting of streets or entire blocks, placement of small architectural forms and urban design objects. According to this concept, comprehensive improvement affects three groups of urban spaces.

The first group is the public spaces of the city, that is, those that are actively visited by residents and are centers of citywide and local significance: theaters, cinemas, shopping centers, parks, squares, pedestrian areas. Sites and specialized areas of public development, such as government agencies, hospitals, and college campuses, are being landscaped in accordance with their industry focus. For example, in hospitals, benches for rest are installed in the on-site area - in a park or square.

The second group is residential areas. Their own requirements for comprehensive landscaping have also been developed for them. At the same time, they will be different for adjacent spaces, for school or preschool institutions, for parking lots and public spaces inside residential areas.

The third group is territories for recreational purposes. These are parks, squares, boulevards, gardens, recreation areas. This group also includes specially protected natural areas - national parks, natural parks and forest parks.

Complex landscaping in each individual case has its own specific requirements, but there is a certain common factor for all three groups - each of them necessarily provides for the planting of green spaces. They help create a unified and harmonious landscape of the territory, improve the environmental situation in the city and simply decorate the streets.

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