

The value of nature in proximity of dense population – a CVM study?

Strandengen at Amager Fælled is the last nature area within the borders of Copenhagen that stands relatively untouched, and its origins can be traced back 5000 years. The area contains several species of plants and toads that are unique to Zealand and red listed as endangered by the IUCN. A majority of the city board wants to sell the area to real-estate development that will finance a part of the debt from the construction of the Metro. The municipality of Copenhagen claims the value of the area is 1.5 billion DKK if sold for real-estate development. However, the costs in terms of the loss of nature values is unknown. Maybe it is worth more than 1.5 billion DKK to conserve the nature area?

The organization “Friends of Amager Fælled” are curious about what the value of the relatively untouched nature area might be. Therefore we are searching for students who would like to do valuation and/or cost-benefit analysis on this topic for their thesis. Due to the fact that the assignment requires interviews with Danish citizens, thesis students working on this project must be able to communicate in Danish.

The question of Amager Fælled will be a major topic in the municipal election in the fall of 2017 and the decision to develop or protect will likely have a lot of political attention in the coming years, so the results of such a thesis are likely to have a real impact on the decision process.

You can read more about the background of the struggle of Amager Fælled in English here: <http://cphpost.dk/news/is-privatisation-looming-for-the-park-of-the-people.html>

And in Danish here: <https://www.information.dk/mofo/slaget-faelleden>

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