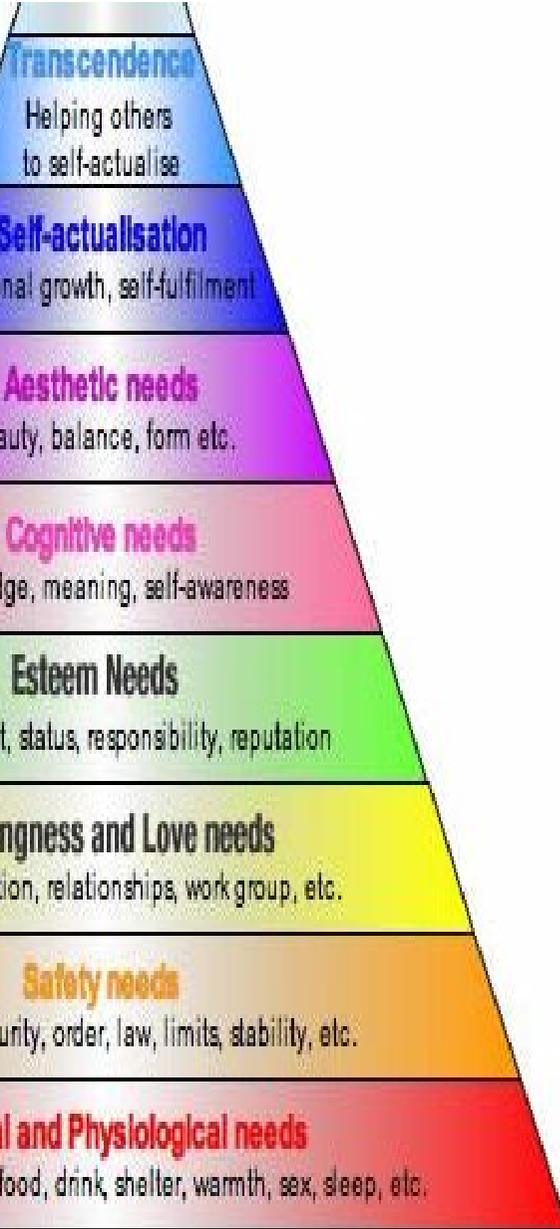


Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Related social aspects of parks and gardens



Gardens as a link between nature and culture are common symbols in the different creation myths and refer to the fundamental question of existence.



Work in the own garden but also identification with the efficient work of others in public parks/ grounds creates fulfilment and identification of the own personality and environment.



In parks, beauty is experienced, discussed, challenged and accomplished. Counterpart of the modern, engineered everyday life.



In gardens, historico-cultural, ecological, and aesthetical knowledge is transmitted.



Private gardens function as status symbols. Public parks demonstrate the image of a place/city.



Gardens or parks are social meeting points, places of communication, sports fields, an offer of culture to all social classes



Well-kept parks and gardens convey security. They are supposed to be places, where people can spend their time safely.



The garden is at least a symbol for people's skills to produce food.

What is social about parks and gardens?

Parks and gardens satisfy a lot of needs from modern persons.

- Maslow's hierarchy of needs is often portrayed in the shape of a pyramid, with the largest and most fundamental levels of needs at the bottom, and the need for self-actualization at the top. While the pyramid has become the de facto way to represent the hierarchy, Maslow himself never used a pyramid to describe these levels in any of his writings on the subject.
- The most fundamental and basic four layers of the pyramid contain what Maslow called "deficiency needs" or "d-needs": esteem, friendship and love, security, and physical needs. With the exception of the most fundamental (physiological) needs, if these "deficiency needs" are not met, the body gives no physical indication but the individual feels anxious and tense. Maslow's theory suggests that the most basic level of needs must be met before the individual will strongly desire (or focus motivation upon) the secondary or higher level needs. Maslow also coined the term Metamotivation to describe the motivation of people who go beyond the scope of the basic needs and strive for constant betterment.
- The human mind and brain are complex and have parallel processes running at the same time, so many different motivations from different levels of Maslow's pyramid usually occur at the same time. (Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs)

Parks and gardens are good places to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) offering a high degree of social inclusion

In recognition of the importance of ESD, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2005-2014 the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The goals of the decade are to provide an opportunity for refining and promoting the vision of, and transition to, sustainable development – through all forms of education, public awareness and training; and to give an enhanced profile to the important role of education and learning in sustainable development.

