

It is possible to rehabilitate areas where urban farming has taken place but not to their original state. Despite its high impact, it still cannot be compared to the impact that concrete and city development has on urban nature. Urban agriculture can be compared to urban gardening and should not be in competition with urban nature conservation.

### 1.1.6 Ecologist

An ecologist will always promote the conservation of ecologically sensitive areas. Unfortunately, ecologists are mainly used during specialist studies required by environmental impact assessments (EIA). Ecological inputs are often regarded as not necessary when the focus is on development.

In reality, ecological inputs can enhance development. Examples are the use of nature friendly designs; recycling initiatives, green energy and benefits that can be generated from ecological systems. Ecologists tend to see development as a threat and will not promote construction even when it can benefit both development and urban nature. It is often difficult for an ecologist to sacrifice nature to benefit development for humans. The general perception is that the human benefits of development are always at the expense of nature.

## 1.2 DEVELOPERS AND URBAN NATURE CONSERVATION

The aim of any developer is to make money and to achieve this, developers always seek cheap prime property. Their target is often soft services like parks and open spaces that belong to the tax payer. They will always be the first to tell you that the piece of land they want to develop is not contributing to the community and holds the potential to add so much to economic development.

One can build houses and supply infrastructure but at some point the residents will ask for parks where they can do outdoor and recreational activities (these can include sports facilities, parks, picnic areas or places where they can relax and enjoy the city nature). If you consult residents, they will rate their preference to these needs as follows:

- Undisturbed nature area
- Green areas with recreational facilities
- A sports facility (mountain bike, sports field, play park, etc.)
- The only requirement for these needs is that the area must be safe, clean and attractive to use.

The developer is seldom interested in these outdoor recreational needs. His/her development will fit in as many structures as possible that will generate money.

Green areas with recreational facilities.

