Urban wetlands: prized land, not wasteland

Control flooding
Source of drinking water
Filter waste from water
Promote human wellbeing
Improve air quality
Source of livelihoods

While cities are GROWING
50% of the population live in urban areas today. By 2050 that number will increase to 66%

Wetlands are DECLINING
More than 64% of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900

As demand for land increases, the tendency is to encroach on wetlands

Filling in wetlands disrupts natural water provision
Dumping rubbish degrades natural green spaces
Burning or draining peatlands releases CO₂
Clearing mangroves and mining coral reefs can expose city coastlines to storms

To make cities sustainable into the future:
retain, restore and preserve urban wetlands

- Include wetlands in urban land use planning
- Preserve and restore urban wetlands
- Involve local residents in wetland management
- Reduce water consumption and harmful runoff

#KeepUrbanWetlands
#WorldWetlandsDay
www.worldwetlandsday.org