



## Environmental Education and Preservation Practices Promoted by the Urban Collective “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”

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## Environmental Education and Preservation Practices Promoted by the Urban Collective “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”

### ABSTRACT

**Objective** – to examine the environmental education and sustainability practices promoted by the urban collective “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”, based on the theoretical frameworks of tactical urbanism and critical environmental education.

**Methodology** – this study employed a qualitative approach, including interviews with one of the collective’s key leaders and participant observation during field activities such as cleanup events, tree planting, and technical visits to the urban Permanent Preservation Area (APP).

**Originality/relevance** – the study is situated within debates on community management of urban green spaces, addressing a theoretical gap concerning the role of urban collectives in sustainability promotion and the revitalisation of degraded territories.

**Results** – the findings reveal that the collective’s actions significantly contribute to protecting and restoring the area while also engaging the local community in grassroots environmental management and education, benefiting both residents and the city of Campinas.

**Theoretical/methodological contributions** – the study highlights tactical urbanism as an effective strategy for building participatory, resilient, and inclusive cities, contributing to the theoretical development of collaborative urban management.

**Social and environmental contributions** – the collective’s collaborative practices foster environmental awareness and citizen engagement, creating a decentralised, effective model for managing neglected urban green spaces neglected by public authorities.

**KEYWORDS:** Sustainable urban development. Community engagement. Decentralised management.

## Práticas de Educação e Preservação Ambiental Promovidas pelo Coletivo Urbano “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”

### RESUMO

**Objetivo** - examinar as práticas de educação ambiental e de sustentabilidade promovidas pelo coletivo urbano “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”, com base nos referenciais do urbanismo tático e da educação ambiental crítica.

**Metodologia** - a pesquisa adotou uma abordagem qualitativa, com entrevistas a uma liderança do coletivo e observação participante em ações de campo, como mutirões de limpeza, plantio de árvores e visitas técnicas à Área de Preservação Permanente (APP) urbana.

**Originalidade/relevância** - o estudo insere-se nos debates sobre a gestão comunitária de áreas verdes urbanas, abordando um gap teórico quanto ao papel dos coletivos urbanos na revitalização de territórios degradados e na promoção da educação ambiental e da sustentabilidade urbana.

**Resultados** - as ações do coletivo evidenciam impacto direto na restauração da APP, com engajamento comunitário em práticas de gestão ambiental e educativa in situ, beneficiando tanto os moradores locais quanto a cidade de Campinas.

**Contribuições teóricas/metodológicas** - o estudo destaca o urbanismo tático como estratégia relevante para a construção de cidades participativas, resilientes e inclusivas, contribuindo para o avanço teórico da gestão urbana colaborativa.

**Contribuições sociais e ambientais** - as práticas do coletivo promovem a sensibilização ambiental e o envolvimento cidadão, configurando um modelo eficaz e descentralizado de gestão de áreas verdes urbanas negligenciadas pelo poder público.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Desenvolvimento urbano sustentável. Engajamento comunitário. Gestão descentralizada.

## Prácticas de Educación y Preservación Ambiental Promovidas por el Colectivo Urbano “Cuidadores de la APP Jardim Miriam”

### RESUMEN

**Objetivo** - Examinar las prácticas de educación ambiental y sostenibilidad promovidas por el colectivo urbano “Cuidadores de la APP Jardim Miriam”, con base en los marcos teóricos del urbanismo táctico y la educación ambiental crítica.

**Metodología** - El estudio adoptó un enfoque cualitativo, mediante entrevistas a una de las principales lideranzas del colectivo y la observación participante en actividades de campo, como jornadas de limpieza, plantación de árboles y visitas técnicas al Área de Preservación Permanente (APP) urbana.

**Originalidad/relevancia** - El estudio se inserta en los debates sobre la gestión comunitaria de espacios verdes urbanos y aborda una laguna teórica sobre el papel de los colectivos urbanos en la promoción de la sostenibilidad y la revitalización de territorios degradados.

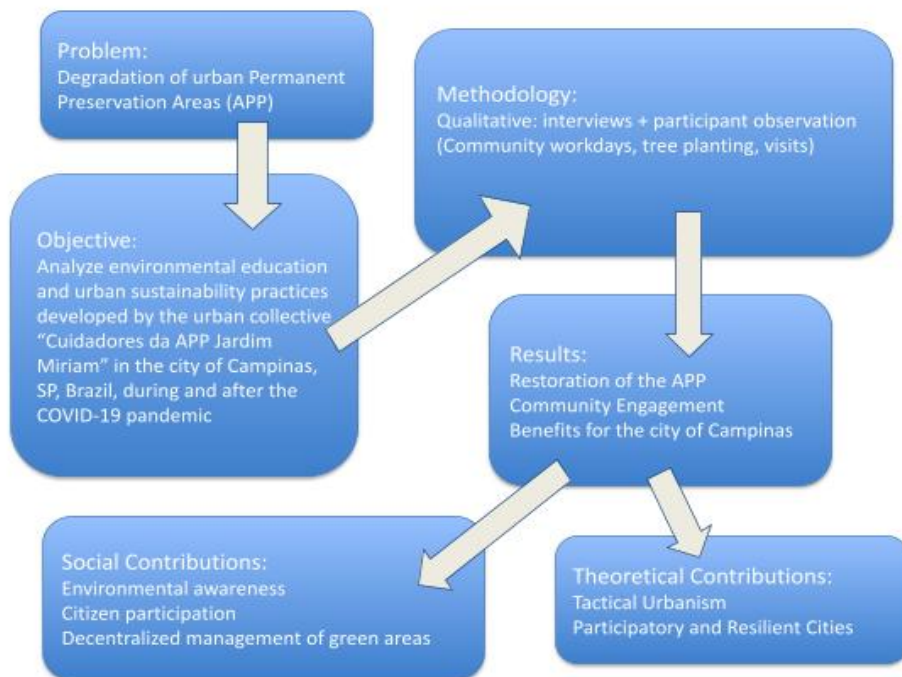
**Resultados** - Los resultados muestran que las acciones del colectivo contribuyen de forma significativa a la protección y restauración del área, al tiempo que involucran a la comunidad local en prácticas de gestión ambiental y educación in situ, beneficiando tanto a los residentes como a la ciudad de Campinas.

**Contribuciones teóricas/metodológicas** - El estudio resalta el urbanismo táctico como una estrategia efectiva para la construcción de ciudades participativas, resilientes e inclusivas, y contribuye al desarrollo teórico de la gestión urbana colaborativa.

**Contribuciones sociales y ambientales** - Las prácticas colaborativas del colectivo fomentan la concienciación ambiental y la participación ciudadana, creando un modelo descentralizado y eficaz para la gestión de espacios verdes urbanos desatendidos por el poder público.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Desarrollo urbano sostenible. Participación comunitaria. Gestión descentralizada.

### GRAPHIC SUMMARY



## 1 INTRODUCTION

Urban collectives have emerged as key players in the management of green areas and the promotion of sustainable practices in public spaces. Formed by engaged citizens, these groups occupy areas neglected by public authorities, working to preserve the environment and revitalise degraded public spaces. This phenomenon is intrinsically linked to the concept of Tactical Urbanism, an approach that prioritises direct interventions, community participation and the socio-environmental recovery of urban territories. By redefining public areas, such initiatives foster more inclusive and sustainable cities. In Campinas, this movement is gaining momentum, becoming the stage for transformations led by civil society.

In this context, this article analyses the trajectory of the collective "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam" (Caregivers of the Jardim Miriam Permanent Preservation Area), a group that mobilises communities to promote preservation and environmental education. Emerging during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the group originated from residents' concern about the degradation of an urban Permanent Preservation Area (APP), which was the only public space in the neighbourhood that allowed outdoor activities during the period of social isolation. Initially, actions focused on cleaning up the site and increasing vegetation cover, but soon evolved into a structured effort integrating three areas: (i) environmental recovery: community clean-ups and planting of native species; (ii) critical environmental education: nature trails and awareness-raising about the São Francisco stream basin; (iii) community engagement: participation of new volunteers and coordination with local networks.

The collective's actions demonstrate the growing role of civil society organisations in filling gaps left by local authorities, combining tactical urbanism with practical environmentalism. Their interventions have not only revitalised the APP, but also created a participatory model of territorial management, in which the community takes the lead in building a more sustainable and democratic public space. In this regard, this study highlights the importance of urban collectives as catalysts for socio-environmental transformations in urban areas, demonstrating that local mobilisation can generate systemic impacts from the micro scale (improving quality of life in the neighbourhood) to the macro scale (contributions to public environmental policies). The actions of the collective "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam" (Caretakers of the Jardim Miriam APP) integrate Tactical Urbanism and Critical Environmental Education (EEC), creating opportunities for local engagement and the construction of a more sustainable and participatory urban environment.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this study was to analyse the environmental education and urban sustainability practices developed by the collective "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam" (Caretakers of the Jardim Miriam Public Access Area), located in Campinas (SP), Brazil, seeking to understand its role in ecological awareness and socio-environmental transformation of the community and its territory. To achieve the general objective, this study established three specific objectives: (i) to investigate the group's governance and its strategic use of social media for community mobilisation; (ii) to characterise the Critical Environmental Education (CEE)

methodologies adopted, considering their impact on ecological awareness and changes in local habits; (iii) discuss challenges and future prospects regarding the continuity and engagement of the community in governance practices and actions adopted.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

This study, part of a broader research project, investigated the collective “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam” (Caregivers of the Jardim Miriam APP), selected with the consent of its leadership and approval of the Research Ethics Committee (CAAE: 65070722.0.0000. 8142), with the signing of the Free and Informed Consent Form (TCLE). The qualitative approach, centred on participant observation, combined a semi-structured interview with one of the leaders (September 2023); active participation in cleaning efforts, tree planting, and field visits (August 2023 to August 2024); analysis of the documentary “Conhecer para Preservar a APP do Jardim Miriam” (Conhecer, 2023); systematic observation of interactions between members of the collective. To contextualise the practices observed, a critical literature review was also conducted on Tactical Urbanism, urban collectives, territories of knowledge, and Environmental Education (EE) in its critical aspect, establishing dialogues between the theoretical framework and the empirical data.

### **4 THEORY**

With increasing frequency, urban collectives have taken on a central role in managing green areas and promoting sustainable practices in public spaces. Formed by members of civil society, whether legally formalised or not, these groups address areas neglected by public authorities, working to preserve the environment and revitalise degraded spaces. This phenomenon is explained by the concept of “Tactical Urbanism”, which involves direct, temporary or permanent actions aimed at transforming urban spaces, engaging the local community, promoting environmental and social recovery, and redefining public areas (Carvalho; Noronha, 2024; Carvalho; Souza, 2025).

The Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam collective, founded in October 2020 in Campinas, reflects this dynamic. During the COVID-19 pandemic, its founding members sought outdoor activities that could also contribute to environmental preservation. Motivated by the degradation of the Permanent Preservation Area (APP) of Jardim Miriam and the accumulation of rubbish, they began to organise collective cleaning and tree planting efforts, progressively expanding their areas of activity, which today include reforestation, the fight to reduce water contamination by sewage, soil erosion containment, and other EE actions to continuously raise community awareness about sustainability in urban areas (Carvalho; Noronha, 2024; Carvalho; Souza, 2025).

Tactical Urbanism, as discussed by Silva et al. (2019), is characterised by local, specific interventions carried out by civilians without official support or authorisation from public authorities. These actions aim to address urban problems, such as mobility, the collective use of abandoned spaces, the lack of green areas, and environmental degradation, while involving the community in the transformation process and reclaiming public space (Carvalho; Noronha,

2024; Carvalho; Souza, 2025). By taking up these issues, urban collectives not only revitalise neglected spaces but also establish new forms of governance, in which citizens become protagonists in the management of urban territory (Silva et al., 2019), as is the case with the collective. Geographically, the collective operates in the Jardim Miriam APP, an area that is part of the São Francisco Xavier Stream Watershed, and is committed to achieving the implementation of the São Francisco Stream Linear Park, a project of great importance for environmental preservation and the improvement of local quality of life (Carvalho; Noronha, 2024).

The actions of urban collectives can also be understood in light of the crisis of political representation, as discussed by Marino (2018), who argues that the appropriation of public space by urban collectives reflects the weakening of the state as the manager of urban public spaces. The case of Parque Augusta, in the state capital of São Paulo, shows how contemporary movements, including those focused on the socio-environmental function of urban spaces, arise in response to the inefficiency and neglect of public authorities. The movement to promote this green area as a public park was catalysed by the 2013 demonstrations, the year the land was acquired by two developers, which brought to light the public's dissatisfaction with urban management in the region. Faced with the possibility of a new real estate development suppressing vegetation, free enjoyment and community use of public spaces in large cities, urban collectives are emerging with alternative solutions, claiming the right to protect and care for public areas vulnerable to private economic interests (Marino, 2018).

The appropriation of public spaces to demand urban sustainability highlights the connection between endogenous civil society actions and the concept of “sustainable cities”. According to Figueiredo (2024), urban sustainability requires an integrated approach that combines environmental preservation with active participation by civil society. In this vein, the “Cuidadores” collective emerged as a solution to the degradation of the APP, engaging in the fight to implement the São Francisco Stream Linear Park, which would ensure the preservation of the area and promote sustainable, community use of the space.

According to Harvey (2014), this model of decentralised governance observed in both initiatives is closely linked to the defence of “urban commons”, goods and services for collective use that are under threat of privatisation or abandonment. In addition, the concept of the “right to the city,” coined by Henri Lefebvre in 1968, is also central to understanding the role of urban collectives in the management of green spaces. Lefebvre (2001) states that the right to the city involves the right to actively participate in decisions about the use and management of urban space. This participation presupposes a democratic and inclusive space that enables the community to manage public space according to its needs and aspirations. By exercising this right, urban collectives transform neglected areas into green, sustainable spaces, promoting community-based, horizontal management of these territories.

Along the same lines, the study by Ribeiro, Silva and Longo (2020) shows how urban and peri-urban trails, in the context of the urban expansion of Barão Geraldo (Campinas/SP), go beyond their recreational function and take on a strategic role in promoting mobility, social integration and environmental education. By analysing aspects such as infrastructure, vegetation cover, environmental problems and the use of space by the population, the authors demonstrate that these areas of daily circulation can become spaces for education and

environmental awareness, provided they are accompanied by public policies focused on signage, safety, lighting and environmental preservation, especially in sensitive areas such as the *Quilombo* forest.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Decentralised governance and use of social media

The collective's activities are organised into smaller groups that meet weekly to discuss specific topics, such as communication and political coordination. Major decisions are made in assemblies open to all members, ensuring participatory and democratic management. Currently, the collective has 87 members, of whom about 25 regularly participate in all activities. A smaller core group of 12 people is directly responsible for decision-making and organising actions. In terms of diversity, the group recognises the need to broaden its socioeconomic and ethnic representation, as most members come from the middle class and there is still low participation by black and brown people. In addition, there is a slight predominance of women among the most active members.

The activities of urban collectives are organised according to a decentralised model of collective management, in which practices are implemented based on direct action and community engagement. Tactical urbanism, through specific or permanent interventions, demonstrates how citizens can appropriate mechanisms to build more resilient and equitable cities (Figueiredo, 2024). Thus, decentralised governance is a central element in the organisation of the activities of the APP Jardim Miriam Caretakers collective, which is structured as an informal group, i.e., without a National Register of Legal Entities (CNPJ).

In terms of communication and technology for internal management, the collective uses the WhatsApp mobile application and Google Drive cloud storage, which it uses to organise documents and keep records of its meetings and activities. The collective also extensively uses social media as a strategic tool to publicise its EE activities, raising awareness and mobilising the local community and a wider audience. Through platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and its own website (Table 1), the collective seeks to disseminate its activities and information free of charge and accessible to all, promoting free and unrestricted access to invitations and to the materials published.

Table 1 - Digital presence of the urban collective "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam"

Means of Communication	URL
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/cuidadoresdaapp/">https://www.instagram.com/cuidadoresdaapp/</a>
YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@cuidadoresapp2919">https://www.youtube.com/@cuidadoresapp2919</a>
Home Page	<a href="https://appcuidadores.wixsite.com/inicio">https://appcuidadores.wixsite.com/inicio</a>

Source: Authors (2026).

This use of social media not only broadens the reach of the group's actions but also facilitates strategic partnerships with social agents from the public and private sectors, promoting collaborations aimed at environmental preservation. This active digital presence helps the collective reach a more diverse audience and collaborate directly with other social actors, expanding its network of support and engagement.

The collective maintains a close relationship with the Campinas public authorities, especially with the Secretariat for Climate, Environment and Sustainability (SECLIMAS) and the Popular Housing Company (COHAB), with which it collaborates in resolving issues related to environmental preservation and infrastructure. Recently, it also established a partnership with a private company for World Cleanup Day, organised jointly with SECLIMAS. In addition, the collective collaborates with other local community groups, such as the Village Campinas Residents and Owners Association (AMPROVIC) from a nearby neighbourhood, on joint clean-up efforts and environmental preservation initiatives.

By officially maintaining a website and active social media profiles, spaces are created for public and transparent documentation of their actions, reinforcing their legitimacy and visibility, facilitating interaction with other social agents and other means of disseminating their initiatives and results, such as news portals, opinion leader blogs, and digital influencer profiles, among others.

Furthermore, the recognition that the collective still needs to increase the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of its members reinforces the role of these digital tools as a means of inclusion and outreach to new segments of the population of Campinas, as digital platforms allow greater visibility to the collective's work and create opportunities for increased community participation. Monitoring interactions on social media also allows for an assessment of the impact of initiatives in this regard.

## **5.2 Critical Environmental Education (CEE)**

CEE is another central focus of the “Cuidadores” collective's activities. According to Figueiredo (2024), EE, in its critical aspect, is a tool that promotes sustainable cities, encouraging a change in values and attitudes towards the environment. The collective applies these principles by welcoming those interested in concrete actions for ecological preservation and recovery who are not from the local community, thereby involving people from geographically distant neighbourhoods and expanding its network of collaboration and the scope of its actions. Among the group's main activities are the organisation of monthly clean-up efforts (Picture 1), planting native seedlings (Picture 1), providing and installing informative and instructional signage (Pictures 2 and 3), environmental inspection of irregular constructions, and partnerships with local schools to promote educational projects, such as ecological trails and the construction of a butterfly garden.

Pictures 1 – Clean-up and tree planting day at the APP Jardim Miriam, in Campinas, SP.



Sources: Authors (2023).

On the day of the clean-up and tree planting initiative at APP Jardim Miriam, illustrated in Picture 1, members of the collective and volunteers were supported by the private sector in collecting and transporting all the waste found along the route, which was done during the morning, to the nearest recycling point in the district of Barão Geraldo, in Campinas, SP. Along the way, participants encounter local signage (Picture 2) that reinforces the importance of the action and, through a QR code, directs visitors to the site for more information on the topic.

Picture 2 – Educational sign at the Jardim Miriam APP in Campinas, São Paulo.



Source: Authors (2023).

According to one of the collective's leaders, the process of installing the educational and location sign in the São Francisco Stream Linear Park, in the Jardim Miriam APP, involved raising funds through voluntary collective financing, a process popularly known as “vaquinha”; a series of meetings to create the content; the hiring of a graphic designer for the visual communication and of a company specialising in signage for the manufacture and installation on site. The report highlights the collective effort to act voluntarily and collaboratively from the conception and all stages of planning to the celebration of the achievement of the common goal, which is extended and expanded when there are actions with more people on site, interacting with the product of that action.

In addition to physical interventions, the collective organises cultural events with a socio-environmental focus in partnership with schools and universities, promoting debates, open-air cinema sessions, artistic performances and other activities that combine awareness and leisure. In addition to actively participating in emblematic dates such as World Cleanup Day and Inter-American Water Day, the group seeks partnerships with educational institutions to hold a special event in early October in honour of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint associated with the local stream, combining EE, culture, and community tradition.

Each activity aimed at improving urban environmental quality in this green area, interwoven into the fabric of the neighbourhood, progressively strengthens the community's emotional and functional bond with the APP territory. As these interventions are implemented, whether they be landscaping, infrastructure or socio-cultural, the space gradually transforms into a safer, cleaner and more inviting place for human presence. This redevelopment not only optimises the physical environment, but also redefines its social perception. The APP, previously potentially marginalised or underused, becomes integrated into residents' daily lives, consolidating itself in the neighbourhood's collective memory and identity. In this way, it transcends its initial condition as a mere geographical location to become a place (Tuan, 1983), that is, a space loaded with meaning, capable of fostering relationships of belonging and appropriation among the population. The activities carried out there reinforce this dynamic, transforming the area into a space for coexistence and urban sustainability.

Picture 3 – Educational and location sign in the São Francisco Stream Linear Park, which is part of the Jardim Miriam APP in Campinas, SP.



Sources: Authors (2023).

In this sense, the actions of these movements go beyond the physical recovery of spaces: they also promote a new set of customs and habits that drive new collective behaviour. This is because transforming urbanised green areas and micro-basins into territories of knowledge that prioritise environmental conservation and preservation creates dynamics of community interaction that redefine the relationship between society and nature in the urban context. Residents begin to recognise themselves as active agents in managing the territory, strengthening the sense of shared responsibility. As Figueiredo (2024) observes, CEE stimulates changes in values and attitudes towards the environment in which we live. The “Cuidadores” collective applies these principles by involving the local community in concrete actions for ecological preservation and recovery, demonstrating the relevance of appropriating a place as a space for socialisation, learning and environmental awareness, a central element for urban sustainability.

The relationship between CEE, Tactical Urbanism and knowledge territories is strengthened as urban collectives promote environmental awareness through direct engagement practices. Loureiro (2004, p. 4) argues that projects of this type establish “[...] participatory processes of conscious and integrated action, strengthening the sense of civic responsibility and belonging to a particular locality”. In this sense, urban collectives play a leading role in citizenship, as they combine practical action with raising community awareness

of environmental challenges. They thus offer a viable alternative for building fairer, more resilient and environmentally responsible cities.

Finally, the works of Cruz (2011) and Souza (2011) deepen this reading by situating Environmental Education as a critical, participatory, and transformative pedagogical practice, articulated both with the territory and with educational institutions. Cruz (2011) highlights the Political-Pedagogical Project as an expression of the school's identity and as an instrument of democratic construction, defending participatory methodologies and the centrality of Environmental Education in citizenship training. Souza (2011), in turn, emphasises Environmental Education as a tool for confronting the unsustainable economic development model, highlighting its permanent and emancipatory character. Together, these studies reinforce that Environmental Education operates as a link between school, territory and society, promoting critical awareness, social participation and concrete practices of environmental care in formal and informal spaces of urban and peri-urban life.

### **5.3 Future Perspectives**

For 2024, the collective has structured six major actions. First, in the area of EE, it continued its partnerships with the three schools in the neighbourhood and expanded this collaboration to include an adult literacy school, the Municipal Foundation for Community Education (*FUMEC*). In addition, in 2025, it intends to install more educational signs in the area (continuing those already installed, illustrated in Figures 1 and 3) and to disseminate the documentary it produced (Conhecer, 2023), with the aim of raising awareness among more people about the importance of environmental preservation and conservation.

The collective has been working with the Regional Administration to ensure that the street crossing the APP is paved with permeable material, thereby promoting rainwater absorption and reducing flooding. The collective continues to demand the installation of overhead passages for wildlife, the creation of an ecopoint for the proper disposal of waste, and the search for solutions to the erosion that affects the preservation area during rainy seasons, due to the rapid and intense surface runoff of large volumes of water, especially where vegetation cover is lower, and the soil is more exposed.

The fourth initiative focuses on nature trails. The collective intends to clear the local trail known as Paineira Vovó, continue preserving existing trails, and study the feasibility of opening new trails to expand the community's opportunities for contact with nature and promote local ecotourism. The fifth initiative involves planting trees. They plan to georeference all seedlings already planted, creating a detailed map that facilitates the monitoring and care of these trees. For this action, they have sought the support of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP). In addition, they will define new spaces for future plantings, strengthening the recovery of native vegetation and biodiversity in the region. Thus, the collective will continue the monthly in-person activities that were very popular with the community last year. These actions are fundamental to maintaining community engagement, promoting residents' active participation, and consolidating a culture of environmental preservation in the neighbourhood.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the collective's focus on reducing fire-related risks in the APP during drought. Recently, amid increased fires and dry weather in the state of São Paulo,

the group mobilised new volunteers, including adults and children, to install drippers around seedlings planted in May 2024, highlighting the importance of frequent watering in the EEC agenda. The initiative, in addition to ensuring the survival of the plants and inviting more community members to collaborate, reinforces the collective's role in environmental preservation and community engagement in emerging risk situations related to increasingly frequent extreme events.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis show that the collective "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam" has played a fundamental role in the socio-environmental transformation of its region, mobilising civil society around urgent issues of urban sustainability. Their actions, which include critical environmental education practices and interventions grounded in tactical urbanism, demonstrate how community groups can revitalise degraded public spaces while strengthening a sense of belonging and active citizenship. However, despite significant advances, such as the recovery of degraded areas and raising community awareness of the importance of environmental conservation, challenges remain that require greater institutional support. Issues such as illegal sewage dumping and inadequate infrastructure for solid waste disposal reveal the limits of these collectives' actions when there is no effective coordination with public authorities.

The experience of "Cuidadores" is part of a broader context of political representation crisis, where urban collectives take on roles that, in theory, should be the responsibility of public authorities. This phenomenon, discussed by authors such as Marino (2018), reflects both the inadequacy of traditional public policies and the capacity of autonomous civil society organisations. Movements such as Parque Augusta in São Paulo show how popular mobilisation can prevent the privatisation of green spaces, guarantee public access to them, and affirm the value of urban common goods. Similarly, the study by Ribeiro, Silva and Longo (2020) reveals that urban and peri-urban trails, when socially appropriated, can articulate social integration, urban mobility and environmental education, expanding the role of these spaces beyond leisure. Similarly, "Cuidadores" not only cares for a degraded APP, but also fights for the implementation of the São Francisco Xavier Stream Linear Park, demanding a public space that serves the community and preserves the environment.

These initiatives directly address the concept of the "right to the city" proposed by Henri Lefebvre (2001), which goes beyond simple access to urban infrastructure and encompasses active participation in land management. By transforming a neglected area into a space for coexistence, education, and preservation, the collective demonstrates that urban sustainability must be built in a democratic and inclusive manner. However, for these efforts to have a lasting impact, it is essential that public authorities recognise and support such initiatives, ensuring not only the maintenance of these spaces but also the expansion of policies that integrate civil society into urban planning.

Thus, the case of the "Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam" illustrates both the transformative potential of urban collectives and the need for a more present and collaborative public authority. While Tactical Urbanism and CEE have proven effective in community

mobilisation and the recovery of degraded areas, their long-term sustainability depends on shared governance, in which civil society and public authorities work together to build fairer, environmentally healthy and participatory cities.

## 7 CONCLUSION

A análise desenvolvida neste trabalho revela que os coletivos urbanos, ao adotarem estratégias de Urbanismo Tático, vão além de mera ocupação de espaços degradados para se tornarem agentes de transformação socioambiental. Suas práticas não se limitam à recuperação física de áreas verdes, mas engendram um processo contínuo de aprendizagem coletiva, em que conhecimentos tradicionais, científicos e comunitários se entrelaçam para criar soluções locais adaptadas aos desafios urbanos.

Esses movimentos reconfiguram a própria noção de governança, deslocando o eixo decisório de instâncias formais para arenas públicas construídas a partir do diálogo direto entre cidadãos. Nesse sentido, eles materializam o conceito de "comuns urbanos", demonstrando que a gestão compartilhada de espaços públicos pode gerar modelos mais resilientes e adaptáveis do que as estruturas rígidas do planejamento urbano convencional. A experiência acumulada por esses grupos oferece um repertório valioso para repensar as políticas públicas ambientais, sugerindo caminhos para uma transição ecológica que seja, ao mesmo tempo, radical em suas metas e democrática em seus processos.

Os impactos dessa atuação se manifestam em múltiplas dimensões: na recomposição de ecossistemas urbanos, no fortalecimento do tecido social e na criação de novas institucionalidades que desafiam a dicotomia entre Estado e sociedade civil. Mais do que fornecer respostas pontuais, esses coletivos plantam as sementes de um novo paradigma de desenvolvimento urbano - um que compreende a sustentabilidade não como meta técnica, mas como processo político construído cotidianamente por meio da ação coletiva.

Portanto, longe de serem iniciativas compensatórias ou paliativas, os coletivos urbanos emergem como laboratórios vivos de inovação social, capazes de articular justiça ambiental com democracia participativa. Sua contribuição é demonstrar que as cidades do futuro não serão aquelas projetadas exclusivamente por especialistas, mas, sim, cocriadas por cidadãos organizados que, ao transformarem seus territórios, reinventam simultaneamente as possibilidades da vida urbana sustentável. Assim, conclui-se que os coletivos urbanos se consolidam como agentes sociais da construção de cidades mais sustentáveis, inclusivas e produtoras de conhecimento, capazes de enfrentar desafios contemporâneos de desenvolvimento urbano sustentável.

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**DECLARATIONS**

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**CONTRIBUTION OF EACH AUTHOR**

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**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

We, Laura Martins de Carvalho, Beatriz Martins Arruda, and Emília Wanda Rutkowski, declare that the manuscript entitled *“Environmental Education and Preservation Practices Promoted by the Urban Collective “Cuidadores da APP Jardim Miriam”*

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