

ANALYSING THE SUCCESS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION IN THE NETHERLANDS: THE MIDDEN-DELFLAND CASE

EVELIEN VAN RIJ*, JASPER DEKKERS** & ERIC KOOMEN**

*OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies (OTB), Technical University, Delft, the Netherlands. Email: E.v.Rij@otb.tudelft.nl

**Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Vrije Universiteit (FEWEB-VU), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. E-mails: jdekkers@feweb.vu.nl; ekoomen@feweb.vu.nl

Received: May 2007

ABSTRACT

Open space preservation is an important aim of spatial planning. In the Netherlands, the recreational, ecological and historic values of open spaces between cities, the buffer zones, are recognised and thus receive ample attention from policy-makers. This paper focuses on Midden- Delfland, an open area in the metropolitan western part of the country. A specific combination of policy instruments and government regulation has made the preservation of open space in this area very successful even compared to other buffer zones. A quantitative analysis of the land-use changes and a more qualitative review of the applied policy instruments are presented here in an attempt to explain this success. The analysis can help planners in finding ways to effectively protect contested open areas.

Key words: Open space preservation, spatial planning, policy evaluation, the Netherlands

The full paper is published as:

Van Rij, E., J. Dekkers and E. Koomen, Analysing the success of open space preservation in the Netherlands: the Midden-Delfland case, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* 99 (1): 115-124

Subscribers can download the paper from the journal website:

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0040-747X&site=1>