Landscape Benefits: Balancing Risk and Livable Spaces

Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.
Research Social Scientist

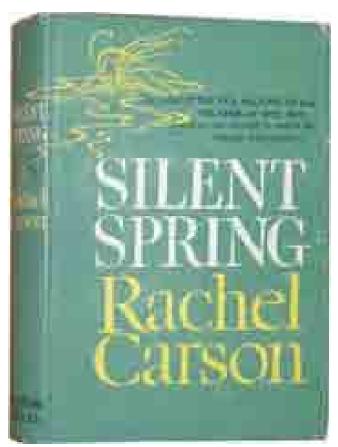
University of Washington
College of the Environment

October 2012

Rachel Carson (1907-1964)







A Remarkable Career

- aquatic biologist, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries
- 1950s full time nature writer
- 1951 Sea Around Us, National Book Award
- The Edge of the Sea, Under the Sea Wind
- 1962 Silent Spring, national pesticide policy
- launched grassroots environmental movement
- creation of the Environmental Protection Agency

Pervasive Pesticides





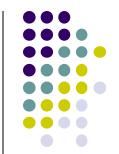


Environment = Toxin, Risk









Review and Special Articles

Beyond Toxicity Human Health and the Natural Environment

Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH, FACP, FACOEM

Abstract:

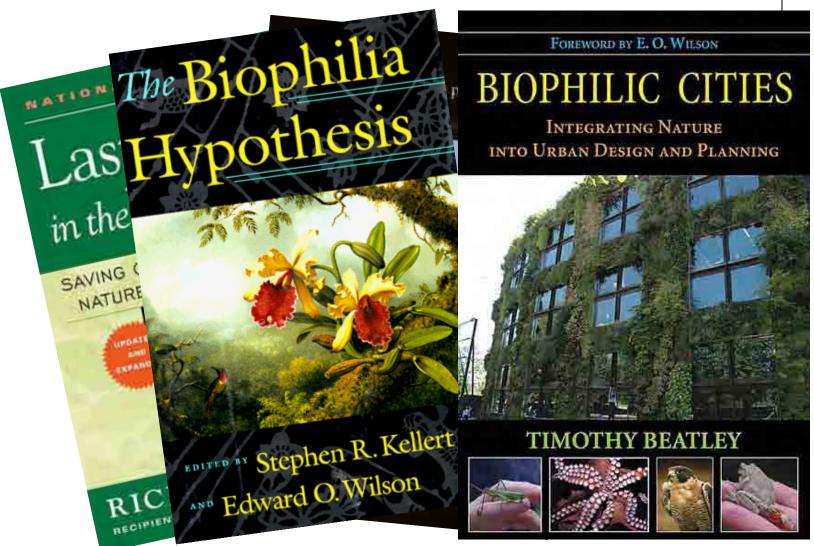
Research and teaching in environmental health have centered on the hazardous effects of various environmental exposures, such as toxic chemicals, radiation, and biological and physical agents. However, some kinds of environmental exposures may have positive health effects. According to E.O. Wilson's "biophilia" hypothesis, humans are innately attracted to other living organisms. Later authors have expanded this concept to suggest that humans have an innate bond with nature more generally. This implies that certain kinds of contact with the natural world may benefit health. Evidence supporting this hypothesis is presented from four aspects of the natural world: animals, plants, landscapes, and wilderness. Finally, the implications of this hypothesis for a broader agenda for environmental health, encompassing not only toxic outcomes but also salutary ones, are discussed. This agenda implies research on a range of potentially healthful environmental exposures, collaboration among professionals in a range of disciplines from public health to landscape architecture to city planning, and interventions based on research outcomes.

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH): animals, ecology, environmental health, nature, plants, trees (Am | Prev Med 2001;20(3):234−240) © 2001 American Journal of Preventive Medicine

American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2001

Nature :: From Poison to Necessity





Restorative Nature Beyond the City





Evidence about the importance of 'nearby nature'





Finding that study





Research Reviews





on-line resource

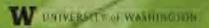
summaries complete: November 2012

www.greenhealth.washington.edu

Green Cities: Good Health







INTRODUCTION

RESOURCES

FUTURE RESEARCH

REFERENCES

Community Bullding

Local Economics

Place Attachment & Meaning

Crime & Fear

Safe Streets

Active Living

Reduced Risk

Wellness & Physiology

Healing & Therapy

Mental Health & Function

Work & Learning

Culture & Equity

Lifecycle & Gender

Local Economics

Trees in cities are not grown and managed for products that can be bought and sold on markets, but they do provide many intangible services and functions! This article serves two purposes. First, it introduces valuation methods that are used to convert intangible benefits to dollar sums. 1,2 Then, it shows how nonmarket valuations can support local decision-making.

Fast Facts

- The presence of larger trees in yards and as street trees can add from 3% to 15% to home values throughout neighborhoods.
- Averaging the market effect of street trees on all house values across Portland, Oregon yields a total value of \$1.35 billion, potentially increasing annual property tax revenues \$15.3 million.⁹
- A study found 7% higher rental rates for commercial offices having high quality landscapes.¹⁴
- Shoppers claim that they will spend 9% to 12% more for goods and services in central business districts having high quality tree canopy.³⁴
- Shoppers indicate that they will travel greater distance and a longer time to visit a district having high quality trees, and spend more time there once they arrive.³⁴

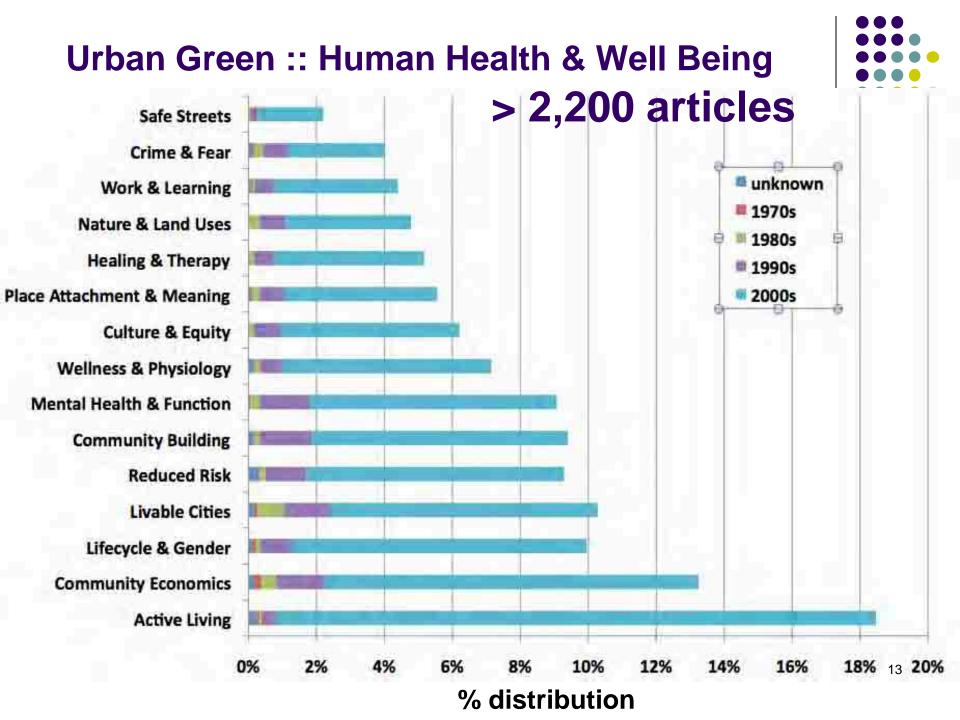




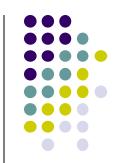


street trees boost market value of houses, providing tax revenue for communities





Research Review and Summaries



Sponsors: University of Washington USDA Forest Service, U&CF Program NGO partners

thanks to U of WA students:
Katrina Flora
Mary Ann Rozance



The Evidence of Nature, Well-Being and Livable Spaces

examples from the research

The Evidence of Nature, Well-Being and Livable Spaces

well managed forest canopy in central business districts

Trees & Retail Environments Research



Trees & Shopper Environments Research

Research Questions
 trees and visual quality?
 trees and consumer behavior?
 trees and product pricing?

• Methods:

mail out/in surveys national or local sample residents/nearby city residents

partners: U of Washington, NGOs, business organizations funded by USDA Forest Service

Image Categories (sorted by ratings)

Pocket Parks mean 3.72 (highest)





Scale: 1=not at all, 5=like very much, 26 images

Full Canopy mean 3.63



Enclosed Sidewalk 3.32

> Intermittent Trees 2.78



No Trees mean 1.65 (lowest)

(high - 3.72)



1. Place Perceptions

- Place Character
- Interaction with Merchants
- Quality of Products

2. Patronage Behavior

- travel time, travel distance
- duration & frequency of visits
- willingness to pay for parking

3. Product Pricing

- higher willingness to pay for all types of goods
- higher in districts with trees 9-12%



Place Marketing

Relationship Marketing

The Evidence of Nature, Well-Being and Livable Spaces

nature and mental performance

Attention Restoration Theory

Rachel & Stephen Kaplan U of MI





directed attention fatigue





Kaplan, R. 1993. Landscape and Urban Planning.

Workplace Nature Views

- Well-being
 - desk workers without view of nature reported 23% more ailments in prior 6 months
- Job Satisfaction
 - less frustrated and more patient
 - higher overall job satisfaction and enthusiasm

Nature Response Neuroscience

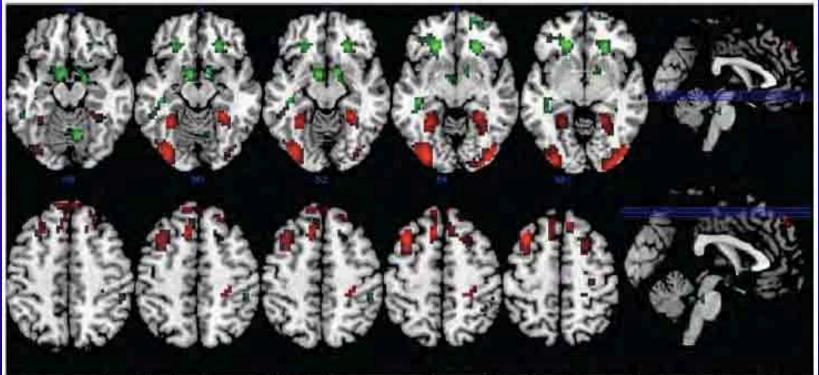


Figure 5: Brain Areas that show greater activation for nature pictures in green, and areas that show greater activation when viewing the urban pictures in red. Activations are displayed with a t-stat> 2.0.

Horticulture Therapy & Brain Activity









方法

実験1:

課題①:2種の土を混ぜる

課題②:土を鉢に入れる

課題③:花を鉢に植える

課題①4

課題②

課題③

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	15	20		20		20		20		2	20		20	

タスク

図. 各課題の手順(数字は秒)

レスト

タスク

ベースライン







レスト

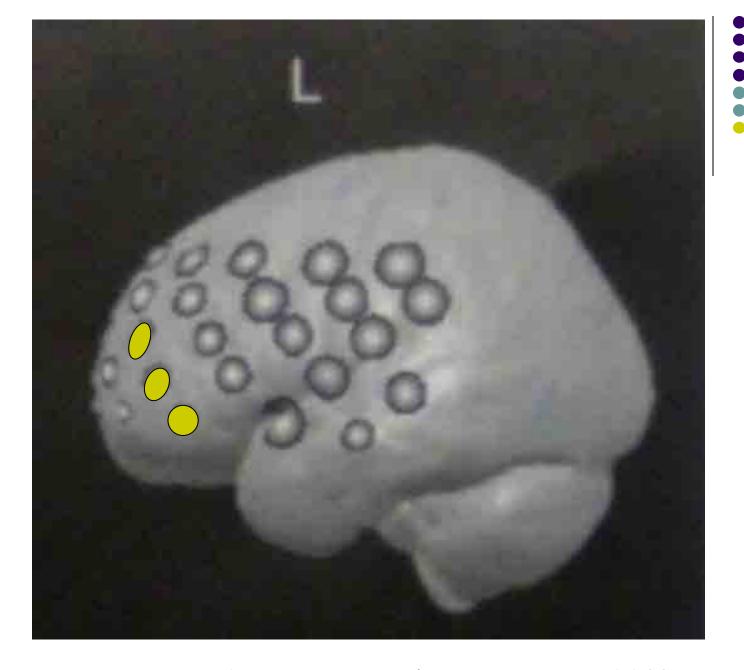
タスク

レスト

課題②

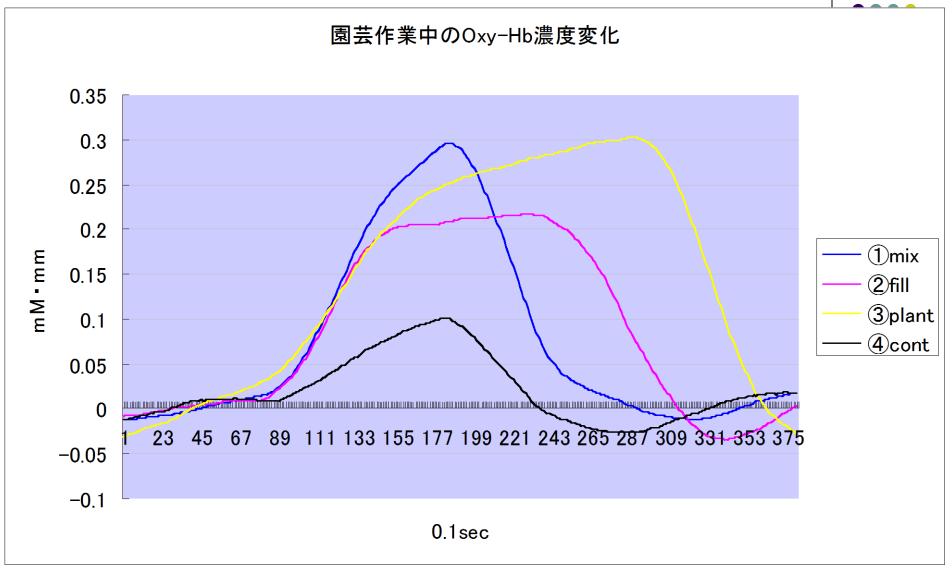
課題③





写真引用 福田正人, 三國雅彦. 近赤外線スペクトロスコピイNIRSによる統合失調症と感情障害の診断. 図14. NIRSチャンネルと標準脳との対応. 精神医学49(3). P241. 2007.





The Evidence of Nature, Well-Being and Livable Spaces

nature and healing or therapy

hospital healing gardens:

patients; family and friends; professional staff





health care \$\$ savings

healing gardens soothing distracting calm focus

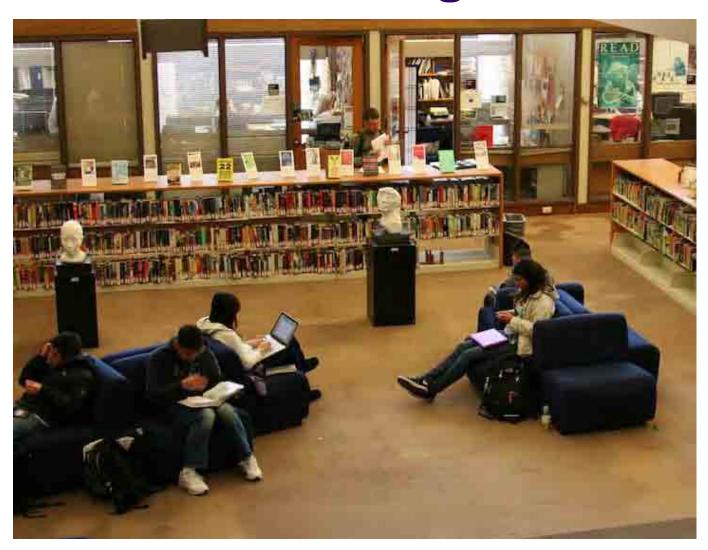




The Evidence of Nature, Well-Being and Livable Spaces

nature, schools, & learning

School & Learning









the nature advantage

- College students with more natural views from their dorm windows
 - scored higher on tests of capacity to direct attention
 - rated themselves as able to function more effectively

Green High School Campuses



- cafeteria & classroom window views with greater quantities of trees and shrubs
- positively associated with:
 - standardized test scores,
 - graduation rates
 - %s of students planning to attend a four-year college
 - fewer occurrences of criminal behavior











THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE

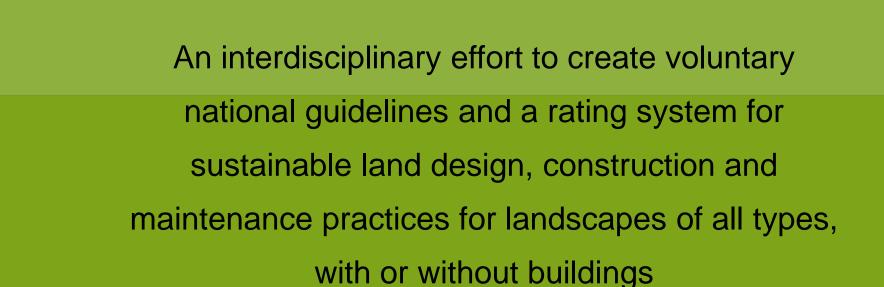






SITESTM: Measuring and Rewarding Sustainable Landscapes

THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE"





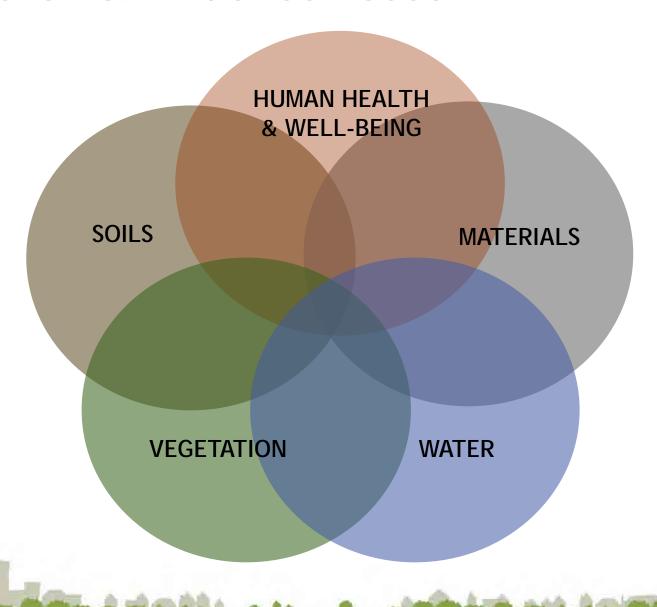




For more information: visit www.sustainablesites.org or email info@sustainablesites.org



Research & Evidence Based



Project Applications





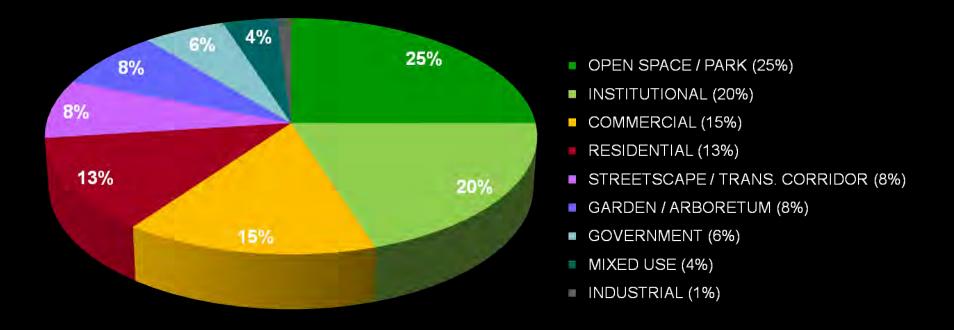








SITES Pilot Program – Project Types



>150 projects :: two year pilot review



public comment on credits & ratings to Nov 5

Summary:

history:: nature as risk to nature as necessity

40 years of research about city greening and human health and welfare

credit and recognition for sustainability – SITES

Human Dimensions of

Urban Forestry and
Urban Greening

featuring research on peoples' perceptions and behaviors regarding nature in cities

terren tittes: Good Fealth

human health & well-being research

Projects Director Kathleen L. Wolf, Ph.D. What's New?

Nature and Consumer Environments Research about how the urban forest influences business district visitors.

Trees and Transportation

Studies on the value of having quality landscapes in urban roadsides.

Civic Ecology

Studies of human behaviors and benefits when people are active in the environment.

Policy and Planning

Integrating urban greening science with community change.

Urban Forestry and Human Benefits
More resources, studies and links

Sponsors









www.naturewithin.info