

ABSTRACT

THESIS: A Review of Urban Restoration Goals and Impacts

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DATE: May 5, 2012

PAGES: 22

Abstract

Urban restoration aims to return a functionally diverse, stable, and commonly native, ecosystem within an urban setting. From streams to brown fields, urban restoration is becoming more prominent within cities as stakeholders and communities set aside parcels of land to be returned to their more natural state. The principles, strategies, and success of urban restoration are reviewed and evaluated in effort to aid future management endeavors. Specifically, ecological issues such as maintenance of species diversity, community structure, and ecosystem function as well as social-economic factors such as wealth, geographic area, and community involvement are assessed in the context of urban restoration. Because the term 'restoration' is broadly defined, distinct categories of restoration activities are identified and metrics for assessing successful techniques are evaluated under variable objectives. The overall objective of this research was to synthesize current information in the creation of a functional assessment of the most effective urban restoration techniques from both a scientific and social perspective.