PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

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- From the home page, select schedule
- Go to today’s date and find the title of this session and tap
- In the middle of the page, tap General Session Survey
- Fill out the Session Survey

Your responses will be shared with the accrediting agency.
Bringing Nature to Neighborhoods and Advancing Urban Ecology

Urban Greening and Biodiversity
SPEAKERS

Renée Myers, Executive Director, Forest Park Conservancy, Portland, OR, USA
Luis Andres Orive, Environmental Director, City of Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

Moderated by Beth Conover, Director, CSU Salazar Center for North American Conservation, Denver, CO, USA
CSU Salazar Center for North American Conservation

• Created in 2016 to build bridges that connect scientific research, community practice, and policy
• External-facing and impact-oriented
• Works with a wide range of nonprofit, public, and private partners to drive conservation innovation
• Serves to convene a diversity of stakeholders to explore best-in-class solutions to the conservation challenges faced by our planet
• Founded by Ken Salazar, former Colorado Attorney General, US Senator, and Secretary of Interior, who is known for his work across complex political boundaries to realize conservation and community success
• Inaugural International Symposium on Conservation Impact on September 24 in Denver, CO – register at regonline.com/conservationimpact2019
OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

- Large landscape conservation and connectivity
- Urban conservation and human well-being
“The Salazar Center is poised to not only forge connections across political and landscape boundaries, but to dramatically diversify the voices who participate in the conservation conversation.”

– Lise Aangeenbrug
Executive Director, The Outdoor Foundation
THE GREATER FOREST PARK CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Renée Myers, Executive Director, Forest Park Conservancy
FOREST PARK

- 5,000+ acres of urban wilderness area requiring active management and restoration to address ecological challenges
- 70+ miles of trails
- 117 species of native birds
- 52 species of mammals
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

• Timber harvest
• Development
• Unstable geology
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

• Visionary conservation leaders
• Passive recreation
• Wildlife habitat
DEDICATION OF FOREST PARK
SEPTEMBER 25, 1948
PAST TO PRESENT
BENEFITS TO THE REGION

• Ecological
• Social
• Economic
THE GFPCI

• Long-term roadmap
• Collaborative partnership
• Protect and enhance natural resources
• Climate change
THREATS TO ECOSYSTEM

• Invasive species: understory & canopy
• Habitat fragmentation & wildlife
  • Connectivity
  • Species diversity
• Climate change
  • Increased temps
  • Wildfire
  • Drought
  • Changing in timing and conditions of runoff
GFPCI GOALS

1. Streams
2. Connectivity
3. Forest Health
4. Wildlife
5. Funding
6. Community Engagement
RESTORE FOREST PARK:
Long-term invasive species control strategy

- Improves habitat and biodiversity for the benefit of focal wildlife species
- Engages multi-agency and organization partners
- Catalyzes GFPCI partners to pursue collaborative funding
30% of the park (or ~1300 acres has ivy present in amounts >1%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover class</th>
<th>Relative presence throughout the park</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acreage</td>
<td>Percent of park surveyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Found</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace (&lt;1%)</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% to 10%</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% to 20%</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% to 50%</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% to 75%</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&lt;1% (0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,862 total acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREST PARK FOCAL SPECIES

- Pileated woodpecker
- Pacific giant salamander
- Swainson’s thrush
- Red-legged frog
COLLECTIVE IMPACT
**COLLECTIVE IMPACT - FIRST 5 YEARS**

- 3,600 acres treated/restored
- 11 miles of trails constructed/repairs
- $3,736,473 invested in GFPCI projects
- 90,000 trees, shrubs and herbs planted; and 30,000 trees freed from canopy weeds
- 394 volunteer events AND 17,866 volunteers engaged
- 79 acres of private property enrolled in conservation work AND 74 landowners engaged/committed to conservation and restoration work
MEASURING SUCCESS

• Unified Monitoring Protocol (UMP)
• How is it working?
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS

- City of Portland Parks and Recreation
- Metro
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- City of Portland Clean Water Services
- West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Columbia Land Trust
- Portland Audubon Society
- Friends of Trees
- Portland State University
- Forest Park Neighborhood Association
- Linnton Neighborhood Association
- The Intertwine Alliance
FPC LAND CONSERVATION LEGACY APPROACH

FEE TITLE OWNERSHIP
• 3 properties
• Approximately 50 acres
• Managed for conservation
• Includes Ancient Forest Preserve

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
• 14 Conservation Easements
• Over 1,000 acres encumbered
• Private and public properties
  • Residential
  • Natural area with public access
  • Productive land (mining)
• Conservation elements
  • Forest protection
  • Trail maintenance
  • Wildlife habitat
WHY IT’S IMPORTANT

• Resilience to climate change
• Ecosystem Service enhancement
• Future stewards of our work!
• Foster a commitment to the earth legacy
THE URBAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OF VITORIA-GASTEIZ, DISTRICT BY DISTRICT

A project to naturalize green spaces and vacant plots in the Lakuabizkarra neighborhood

Luis Andres Orive, Environmental Director, City of Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain
The Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings.
A New Urban Green Infrastructure System for Vitoria-Gasteiz: From Green Belt towards the city core
“No tract of land is too small for the wilderness idea.” - Aldo Leopold
Urban Green Infrastructure System (planning and projects)

A new way of understanding, planning, designing, and managing urban green areas and public space

NEW DESIGNS FOR NEW FUNCTIONS!
VITORIA-GASTEIZ URBAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Districts competition for biodiversity

LAKUABIZKARRA NEIGHBORHOOD

GREEN AREAS (25) 114.081 m²
VACANT LOTS (20) 136.170 m²
INTERVENTION AREA 250.151 m²
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits Associated with Intervention (Vacant Lots and Green Areas)</th>
<th>Improvement of <strong>Urban Biodiversity</strong></th>
<th>Contribution to the maintenance of the right conditions for <strong>Pollination</strong></th>
<th><strong>Landscape</strong> and Aesthetic improvement of the neighborhood</th>
<th>Increase of the <strong>CO2 Sink Effect</strong> and <strong>Fixation of Contaminants</strong></th>
<th>Mitigation of the <strong>Urban Island Heat Effect</strong></th>
<th><strong>Supply</strong> services: timber, fruits, fuel...</th>
<th>Improvement of the capacity of <strong>Infiltration</strong> and <strong>Depuration of Run-Off Waters</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reduction of Resource Consumption (Water, Energy...)</strong> in the maintenance of green areas and vacant lots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enpowerment of ecological connection axes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Naturalization</strong> of green areas and vacant plots.</td>
<td><strong>Creation of flower meadow.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Transformation of green areas in the vicinity of roads and traffic roundabouts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Transformation of unused and neglected vacant lots into green areas for the neighborhood.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plantation of trees in streets and on-street parking areas.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Forests</strong>: timber, fruit (walnut and cherry), energy (willow)</td>
<td><strong>Creation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Decrease or elimination of mowing in green areas.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LAKUABIZKARRA NEIGHBORHOOD

Improvement of URBAN BIODIVERSITY

LANDSCAPE and AESTHETIC improvement

• Mitigation of the URBAN ISLAND HEAT EFFECT

• Increase of the CO2 SINK EFFECT and FIXATION OF CONTAMINANTS

VITORIA-GASTEIZ URBAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
LAKUABIZKARRA NEIGHBORHOOD

SUPPLY services: timber, fruits, fuel...

Improvement of the capacity of INFILTRATION and DEPURATION OF RUN-OFF WATERS

REDUCTION OF RESOURCE CONSUMPTION (WATER, ENERGY ...) in the maintenance of green areas and vacant lots
51 vegetal species in the most biodiverse urban lawn

108 vegetal species in a typical green belt's lawns (naturalized environment / hardly any management)
PROGRESSIVELY REDUCING UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
AND INTRODUCING NEW MORE NATURAL SCENES IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE
The importance of social commitment

Big changes in urban landscape need big citizen implication
• Many small interventions...for great changes!

• Technical language (documents and maps) must be adapted for global comprehensiveness
NEW HORTICULTURAL GARDENS IN SCHOOLS OR VACANT PLOTS
Planting in “topos” to promote local shrubs with fruit and to foster bird biodiversity

12-14 nesting bird species in conventional urban parks versus 70-75 in Green Belt's Salburua park
Linear parks with rivers of flowers to enhance pollinators
New hotels for insects...
and for reptiles and micro-mammals!
...or for amphibians with productive plantations and new small wetlands in vacant plots
…or new baby parks or school playgrounds built with natural elements
EVALUATION: CHECKING THE EFFECTIVENESS

Maintenance cost of green areas management per inhabitant (Spanish cities; 2015 data)

Vitoria-Gasteiz well below the average
HOW URBAN NATURE BALANCES STRESS


• Tyrväinen L et al. Journal of Environmental Psychology. (2014)
OTHER KEY FACTORS TO SUCCEED: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, TECHNICIANS & RESEARCHERS
KEY FACTORS: LOCAL PRESS SUPPORT

LAS COSTURAS VERDES

Vitoria empieza a crear su anillo interior y se convierte en bosques y praderas una veintena de solares vacíos

E ntre los diez años de trabajo en Vitoria hay una cita emblemática y que sin duda ha quedado grabada en la cultura de la ciudad. En el año 2012, se inauguró el Parque de Laskabide, un espacio naturalizado con charcas, vegetación y áreas verdes.

La idea surgió de la mano de un grupo de ciudadanos que se dieron cuenta de la necesidad de recuperar espacios verdes en la ciudad. Con el apoyo de la Junta de Comunidades de Navarra, se pusieron en marcha los trabajos de recuperación, que incluyeron la eliminación de árboles, la creación de un nuevo paisaje con plantas nativas y la instalación de elementos como bancos y sendas.

La recuperación del parque ha sido un éxito, y ha sido posible gracias a la colaboración de diferentes instituciones, incluyendo el Ayuntamiento de Vitoria y el Gobierno de Navarra.

En la actualidad, el Parque de Laskabide es un espacio popular entre los vecinos de Vitoria, que lo utilizan para actividades al aire libre, como caminatas, paseos en bicicleta y actividades familiares.

La recuperación de áreas verdes en Vitoria ha sido un ejemplo de la importancia de la colaboración entre el sector público y la ciudadanía para el cuidado del medio ambiente.
KEY FACTORS: POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND CONSENSUS
SPEAKER CONTACT

Beth Conover, CSU Salazar Center for North American Conservation: beth.conover@colostate.edu
Renée Myers, Forest Park Conservancy: renee@forestparkconservancy.org
Luis Andres Orive, City of Vitoria Gasteiz: lorraine@vitoria-gasteiz.org
MEMBERSHIP

Your connection to information and expertise on new urban park models, practices, and innovative partnerships.

Members have access to a suite of highly-curated resources specifically designed for the parks community including:

- Webinars
- Online resource library
- Urban park study tours
- Advocacy tools
- Discounted registration to Greater & Greener

Join City Parks Alliance today! To learn more, visit our membership table in the exhibition hall or go to cityparksalliance.org/membership.

#greatergreener