

THE INVISIBILITY OF NATURE:
GARBAGE AND PLAY-FORTS IN URBAN NATURE SPACES

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The Invisibility of Nature

Garbage

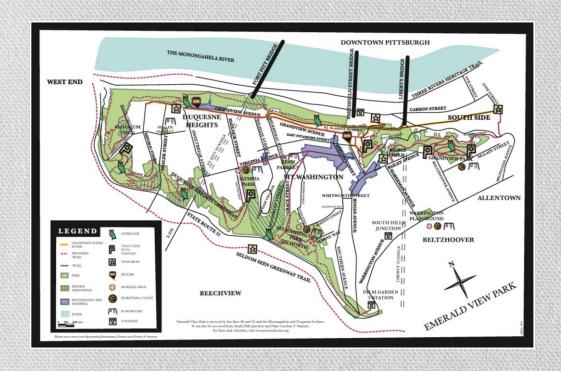


Play-forts



EMERALD VIEW PARK

 275 acres of forested hillsides in Mt. Washington

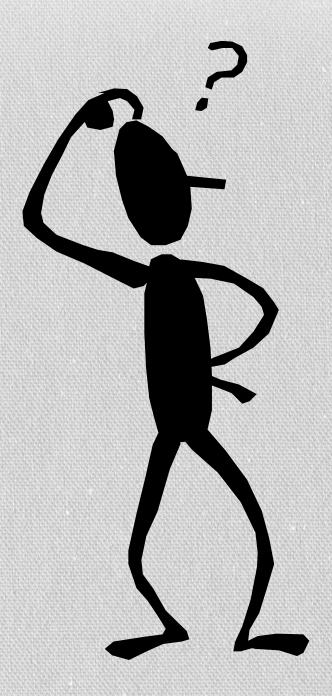


- Projects:
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Oral histories
 - Research databases
 - Best practices research
 - Clean-ups

Garbage

1000 volunteers collected more than 80 tons (= 173,369.81 pounds) In 6 years

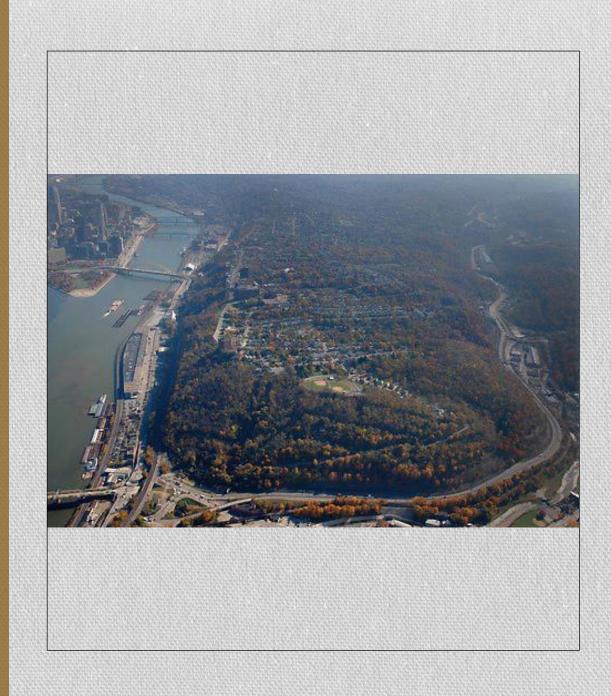




What is the perception of nature by city dwellers so that natural spaces can be trashed?

Territorialized Urban Landscapes

Urban landscapes have political and economic use functions and are "territorialized", i.e. they form a nexus of psychosocial attitudes, practices, and conceptual realities which make them "real" to a community



Logging, Mining, Pollution



The "Indian" Steps in 1911. Note the lack of vegetation on what is now a forested slope

Foraging, coal digging, foot travel





DE-TERRITORIALIZATION

To forget that natural places are there.....

Deterritorialized Nature Places



THE FERAL LANDSCAPES

Nature becomes

- invisible
- unused
- trashed



Invisible Nature Spaces

- Unused
- Undifferentiated "Green stuff"
- Eco-phobia
- · Fear of "nefarious activities"
- Unknown territory
- Falling real estate prices
- Forbidden to children

"Oh, you mean the junky wooded slopes at the end of my street?"

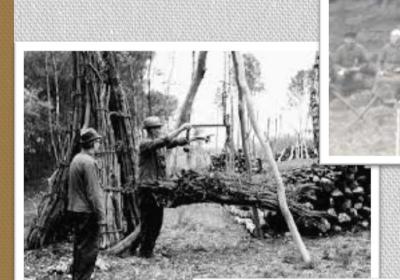
THE COMMUNITY ATTITUDE



Garbage is a symptom: THE LOSS OF THE NATURE COMMONS

The Commons

Refers traditionally to the elements of the environment -- forests, atmosphere, rivers, grazing land- that are shared, used, and enjoyed by all. The Hauberg, Siegerland



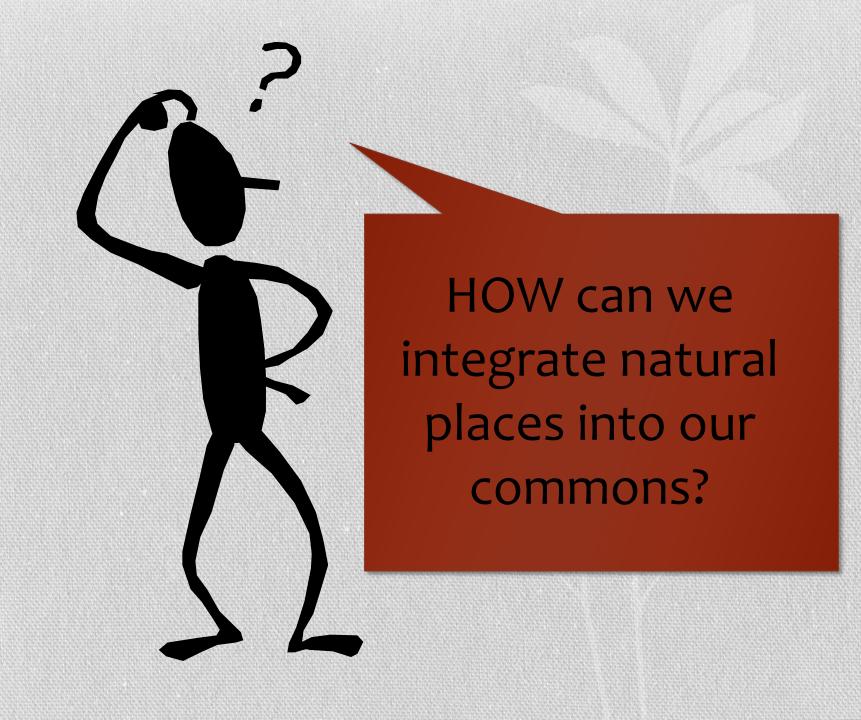


The Tragedy Of The Loss Of The Commons

Garbage is a symptom

 Forgetting that natural places are part of our commons

 The bio-ethical failure to understand and manage our commons





HOW can we integrate natural places into our commons?

Making Nature

Visible

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE

Community conversations

- Community involvement
- Reclaiming the green spaces as "ours"



HOW can we integrate natural places into our commons?

Making Making Nature Visible

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE

- Fostering familiarity
 - Hikes
 - Clean-ups
 - Education
 - Birding and botany
- Developing attachment
- Developing Topophilia through nature practice



HOW can we integrate natural places into our commons?

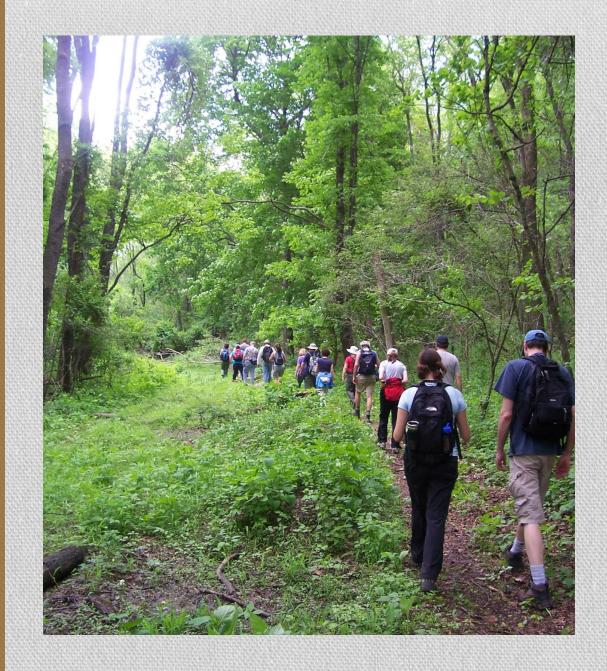
COMMUNITY PARK DESIGNATION

Re-Territoria lize

- Neighborhood Organization
- Trails for hiking/biking
- Maintenance/Care
- Signage
- Next to parks we find Increases in
 - Real Estate Prices
 - Economic Activity
 - Safety

Make Nature
Visible In Urban
Neighborhoods
!

CLAIM THE WOODS AT THE END OF YOUR STREETS



Attachment and Identification with Nature

Attachment to nature as a particular place

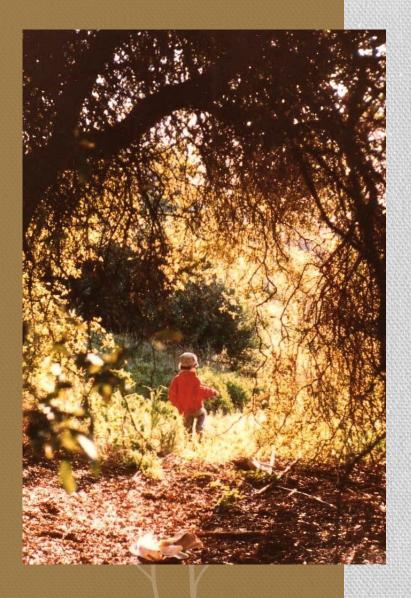
Conversations and actions within the local commons

Inclusion of natural habitat in the neighborhood commons

Political changes:
 protect and
 conserve natural
 habitats and
 diversity one
 neighborhood at
 the time.

- Reterritorialization
- Bioethical affirmation
- Localknowledge/Familiarity
 - **>ATTACHMENT**
 - **≻**TOPOPHILIA
 - **BIOPHILIA**





✓ OUR WOODS

✓ OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

✓ OUR NATURE COMMONS

Re-territorializations by children







FINIS