

USDA Forest Service

URBANFOREST CONNECTIONS

webinar series

Second Wednesdays | 1:00 – 2:15 pm ET

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Forest Service
Urban Natural Resources Stewardship



URBAN GREEN SPACES FOR FOOD AND FORAGING



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Urban Foraging

Provisioning & Cultural Ecosystem Services from Urban Green Infrastructure:

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Urban green infrastructure: Regulating ecosystem services



CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong



Urban green infrastructure: Provisioning + cultural ecosystem services



Matthew Potteiger, Nepali Bhutanese gardeners, Syracuse, NY

Immigrant foraging in NYC

Larger program of work

- Resilience, health & well-being NYC Urban Field Station

- Multi-city research

- Baltimore
- Chicago
- New York City
- Philadelphia
- Seattle



Kissena Park, Queens: Photo courtesy of Ricardo A. Rodriguez



Chinese/Chinese American foraging NYC

- 44 + 39 plant materials & mushrooms

Common name (English)	Latin binomial	Status ¹	Use ²
Mulberry fruit	<i>Morus</i> sp.	H, W	F, M
Ginkgo fruit	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	H	F, M
Dandelion greens	<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	W	F, M
Honeysuckle flower	<i>Lonicera</i> sp.	H,W	F, M
Spring onions	<i>Allium</i> sp.	W	F
Plantain	<i>Plantago</i> sp.	W	F, M
Purslane	<i>Portulaca</i> sp.	W	F

1. H = Horticultural, N = Native, W = Weedy

2. F = Food, M = Medicine



Mexican foraging in New York City

- 30 plant species (or complexes) & 2 mushroom species

Common name (English)	Latin binomial	Status	Use ¹
Epazote	<i>Dysphania ambrosioides</i>	H, W	F, M
(Spear)mint	<i>Menta spp.</i>	H, W	F, M
Purslane	<i>Portulaca sp.</i>	W	F
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	W	M
Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus spp.</i>	W	F

1. H = Horticultural/Agricultural, N = Native, W = Weedy

2. F = Food, M = Medicine



Foraging land use/land cover types

- Frequently visited locations

- Parks
- Residences
- Campuses
- Public rights of way
- Vacant lots

- Avoidance

- Pesticides
- Dog waste
- Roadsides (sometimes)



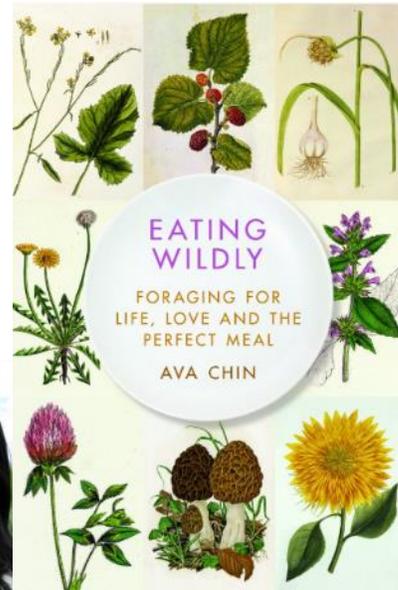
Bronx streetscape: Photo courtesy of David Goldemberg



Material & affective outcomes

- Food security
- Preserving flavors & customs of distant homelands
- Happiness & purpose
- Healthfulness/health support
- Counter loneliness/sadness
- Connections to plants & nature

- Anxieties
 - Contamination
 - Breaking rules/sanctions



Ecosystem Services & Wellbeing



CONSTITUENTS OF WELL-BEING & RESILIENCE



Idiosyncratic & covariate

Culturally appropriate

Use values

Physical & emotional

Identity & security

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

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Urban green infrastructure planning & management

- Allies, not outlaws
- Sustainable, equitable governance
 - Species
 - Spaces
 - Seasons
- Edible (& medicinal) by design



Used by permission, Matthew Potteiger, SUNY ESF Landscape Architecture





Thank you!

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