

USDA Forest Service

URBAN FOREST CONNECTIONS

webinar series

Second Wednesdays | 1:00 – 2:15 pm ET

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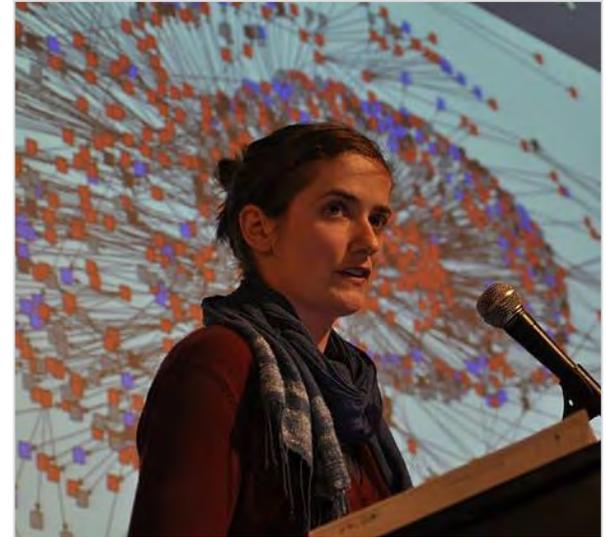


STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH GREEN SPACE AND STEWARDSHIP



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STRENGTHENING SOCIAL RESILIENCE THROUGH STEWARDSHIP AND USE OF URBAN GREEN SPACE

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Urban Forest Connections Webinar

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NYC Urban Field Station



NYC Urban Field Station



"To improve quality of life in urban areas by conducting and supporting research about social-ecological systems and natural resource management"

Defining Urban Environmental Stewardship



Liz Christy, founder of Green Guerillas, in the Lower East Side



Mayor Bloomberg marking the halfway point in MillionTreesNYC



Shoreline cleanup in Queens, sponsored by private companies

Urban environmental stewards conserve, manage, monitor, advocate for or educate the public about the local environment (Fisher et al. 2007).

STEW-MAP was created first in New York City, replicated in Chicago, Baltimore, Seattle, Philadelphia, and is in development in Los Angeles and San Juan, PR.

STEW-MAP: Mapping Stewardship Organizations

Green Space



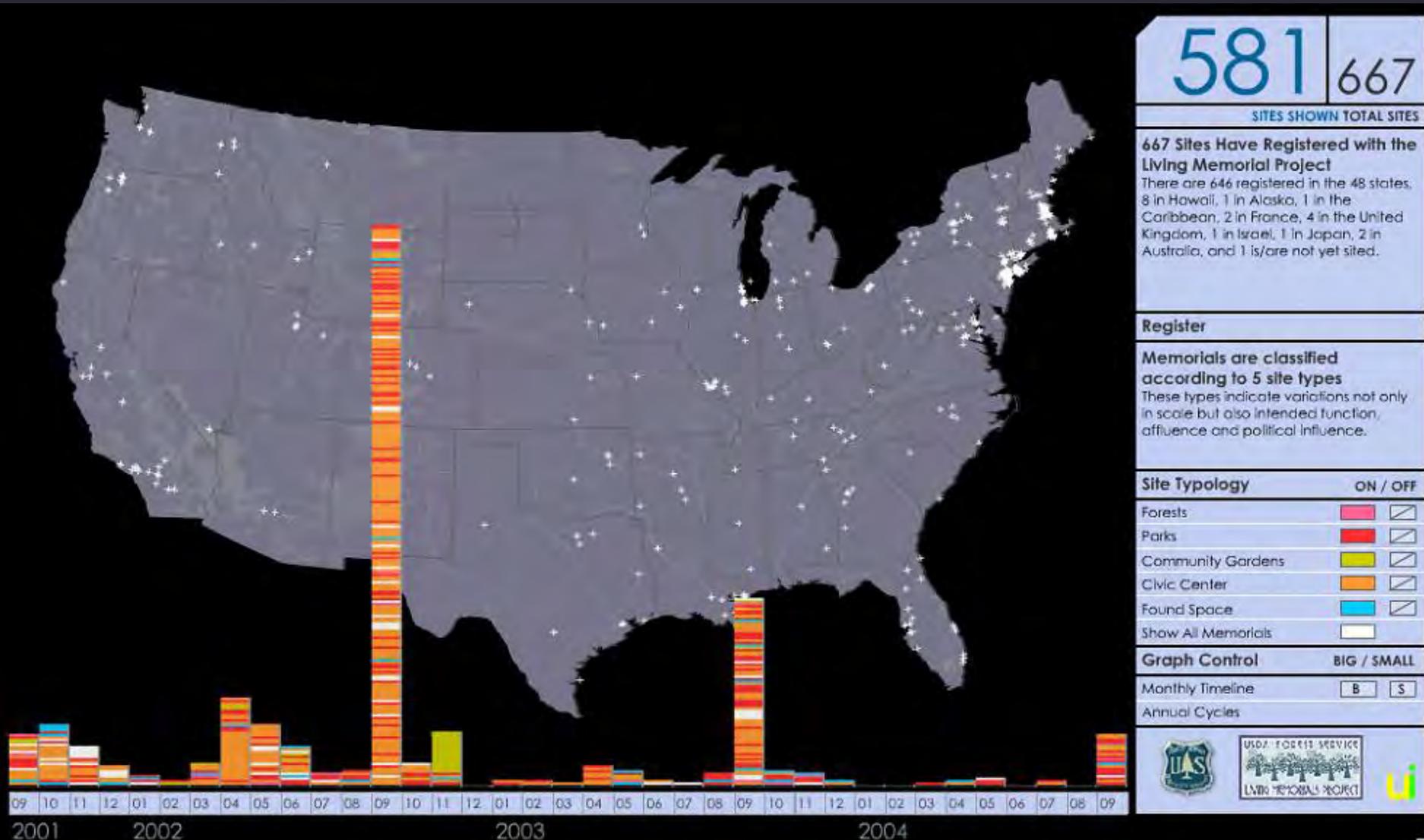
Social Space



Source: STEW-MAP 2007

Stewardship Post-Disturbance

Acute: September 11th -- Living Memorials



581
667

SITES SHOWN TOTAL SITES

667 Sites Have Registered with the Living Memorial Project
 There are 646 registered in the 48 states: 8 in Hawaii, 1 in Alaska, 1 in the Caribbean, 2 in France, 4 in the United Kingdom, 1 in Israel, 1 in Japan, 2 in Australia, and 1 is/are not yet sited.

Register

Memorials are classified according to 5 site types
 These types indicate variations not only in scale but also intended function, affluence and political influence.

Site Typology	ON / OFF
Forests	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Center	<input type="checkbox"/>
Found Space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show All Memorials	<input type="checkbox"/>

Graph Control	BIG / SMALL
Monthly Timeline	<input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> S
Annual Cycles	

Stewards as First Responders



Source: Living Memorial Project National Registry

Chronic: Urban fiscal crisis and community gardeners



Photo by Steffi Graham

New York City: 1975, 1999

Acute Disturbance & Chronic Vulnerabilities

Extreme Weather - Joplin, MO and NYC



May 2011 EF5 tornado



Oct 2012 Superstorm Sandy

How are natural resources and open space used by communities as mechanisms to enhance resilient, adaptive processes of recovery?

Nature as a pathway for recovery...an asset and a threat



Photos by Keith Tidball
and Drury University

Flexible Space -- Sea Song Memorial at Hip Hop Community Garden





MillionTreesNYC Planting at Rockaway Community Park, Queens. October 19, 2013

Urban Park Use & Stewardship Everyday

Ecosystem services

Provisioning



Regulating



Photo credit: NYC DPR

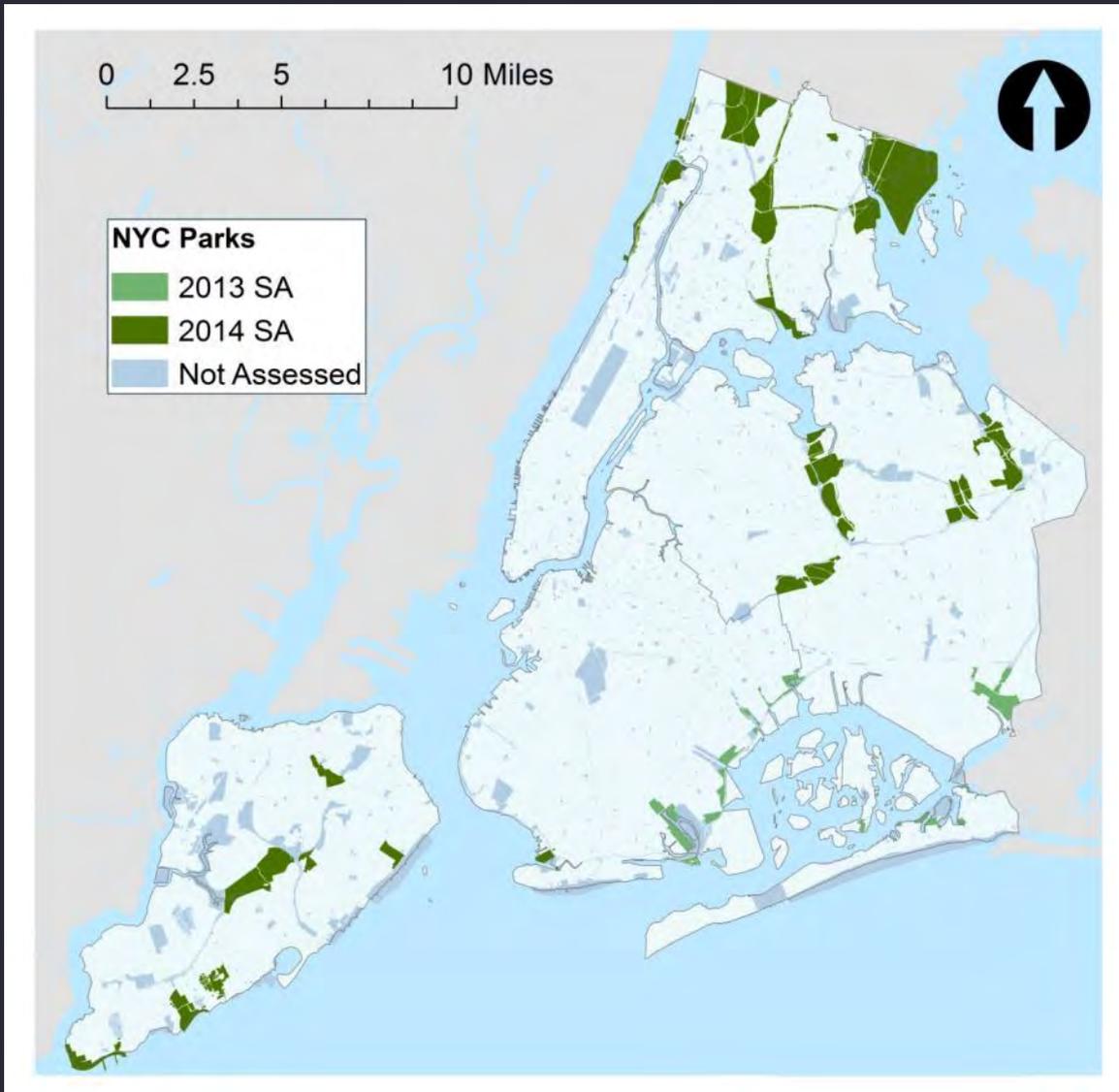


Habitat / Supporting

Cultural

Co-creation of ecosystem services





Study Area

- Parks surveyed
 - 39
- People interviewed
 - 1600+
- Acres surveyed
 - 9503

Source:
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/>

Reasons for visiting parks and natural areas

- Local
- Amenities
- Nature – Outdoors
- Refuge
- Enjoyment
- Activity
- Place attachment
- Sociability
- Social Ties

Cultural Service (MEA 2005)

Cultural diversity

Spiritual and religious values*

Knowledge systems

Educational values

Inspiration

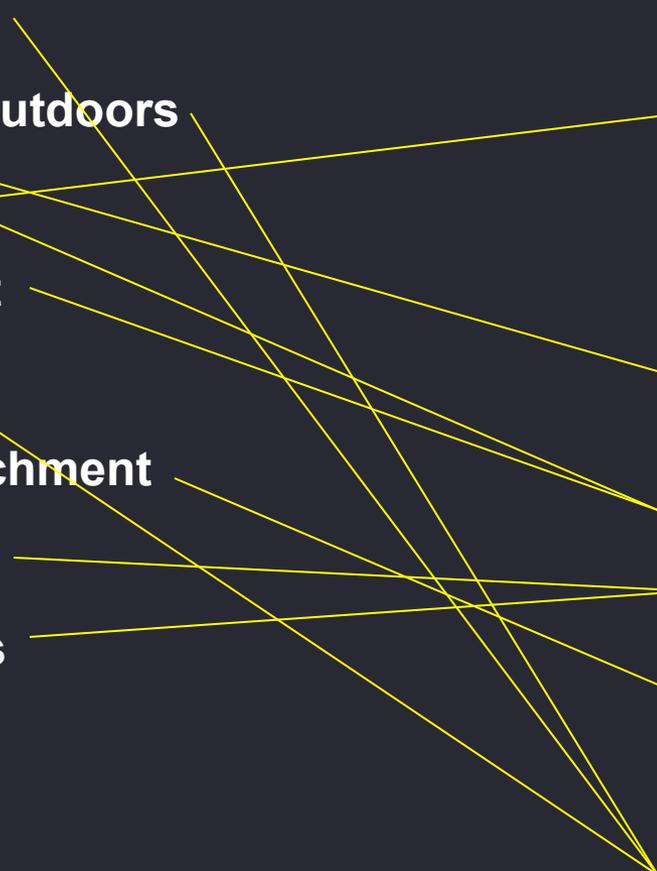
Aesthetic values*

Social relations

Sense of place

Cultural heritage values

Recreation and ecotourism*



Psycho-social-spiritual benefits of parkland and natural areas

- Connect with **self**
 - Refuge
 - Self-expression
- Connect with **others**
 - Social ties
 - Social cohesion
- Connect with **a larger reality**
 - Spirituality
 - Religion
 - Memorialization



Conclusion: Understanding Stewardship & Cultivating Resilience

- First responders – civic stewards
 - *How do we harness capacities and cultivate new potential?*
- A Social Innovation - stewardship groups
 - *How do we foster new forms of collaboration and governance?*
- The need for flexible and un-programmed space
 - *How can we create places of social meaning?*
- Nature as a restorative mechanism
 - *How can we envision nature not only as a buffer, but as as a platform for supporting well-being and the co-creation of ecosystem services?*

Next Steps

- Manuscripts in review on:
 - Assessing park use and meaning to inform resilience planning
 - Well-being and spiritual meaning in parks and natural areas
 - Role of civic brokers post-Sandy (Connolly)
- Landscapes of Resilience research at NYCHA resident garden in Rockaways, NYC ramping up summer 2015
- Planning for 2016 strategic workshop on role of community-based stewardship in post-disaster re-greening

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