Greening in the Red Zone: Valuing Open Spaces and Sacred Places in Post-Disaster Contexts

Keith Tidball

1Dept. of Natural Resources, Cornell University – 91709 – Cornell University – Ithaca, New York 14853
US, United States

Abstract

Creation and access to green spaces promotes individual human health, especially in therapeutic contexts among those suffering traumatic events. But what of the role of access to green space and the act of creating and caring for such places in promoting social health, well-being and resilience? This paper asserts that creation and access to green spaces confers resilience and recovery in systems disrupted by violent conflict or disaster, and provides evidence for this assertion through cases and examples. A variety of research and policy frameworks to explore how creation and access to green spaces in extreme situations might contribute to resistance, recovery, and resilience of social-ecological systems are presented. This paper is part of a session entitled "Landscapes of Resilience - understanding how the creation and care of green spaces can affect resilience in times of crisis."

Keywords: post traumatism recovery, stakeholder engagement, wellbeing, community engagement, urban resilience, participation

*Speaker