The Great Urban Disconnect
Between Ecologists and Foresters

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Teaching UFM at IUB SPEA, grad students asked for second course

We settled on Urban Ecology – A readings/discussion course

What we learned per the connections between UFM & Urban Ecology
  • Two field are very different and not connected
  • UF is management – delineate city as social units (NH, Council Districts, etc)
  • UE is science/theories – delineate as ecological units (forests, wetlands, etc)
  • Yet, foresters in rural settings are trained to delineate woodlands into forest stands (i.e. ecological units based upon species, structure, soils, etc.)

So, can we find a connection?
Urban Ecology

Study of relationships of living organisms with each other and their surroundings in the context of an urban environment.

Urban ecosystem dominated by humans & manmade structures.

Generally clarified “social-ecological system” to focus social emphasis.
Urban Ecologists talk about ecology “in”, “of” or “for” the city

Typically ask how research project/paper is focused:

• “In” the city – study of unique “natural” fragment
• “Of” the city – connecting/linking the fragments
• “For” the city – research outcomes lead to protection/restoration, .....
Urban Forestry

• In – Arborists treat individual/small groups of trees
  UF’s manage urban forest patches
• Of – UF’s inventory the city by social units to make comparisons
  Arborists hired to address tree problems
• For – UF’s & UGNP’s plant and manage trees for ecosystem services
Communication between Ecologists & Foresters

• Delineating units of interest
  • UE concept of ecological – biological oriented
  • UFM concept of social – people oriented
  • Social-Ecological combines but is rarely utilized
  • Can neighborhoods be classified by the tree/forest demographic?
  • NH classification by residents demographics
  • BES – LifeModes – “Affluent Estates”
So, what’s the point?

• Urban ecologists offer another source of knowledge
• Urban ecologists want to do work “for” the city
• There’s another group of students to tap
• We’re all in this together!