Community Health & Well-Being (2)

Urban Resources Stewardship principles & Oxford MS experiences

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Stewardship & Urban Forestry
Green Cities Research Alliance

Partnering for sustainable cities through science, policy, and citizen action

USDA Forest Service
Pacific NW Research Station

UW Remote Sensing & Geospatial Lab
University of Washington
King County Parks & Recreation Division
OSU
City of Seattle

Environmental Stewardship

• action oriented programs or projects
• involving individuals, households, communities
• involving informal & formal institutions
• public and private resource management
• for combined purpose of improving the environment & quality of life
Stewardship of City Green

citizen science
street tree planting
habitat restoration
riparian zone repair
salmon rearing
park clean-up
“master” programs
“x-keepers” programs
“friends of” groups

Plant by Bike!
**Volunteer Characteristics**

- **Age** - 38 mean (17 sd)
- **Women/Men** - 45%/46%
- **Education** - college graduate or more 58% (Seattle 54%)
- **Employment** - full time 41%, retired 14%, student 14%
- **Income** - 26% < 30K, 15% 75-125 K, 13% >175K (2000 Seattle median family income $62K)
- **Cultural Identity** - 78% white (2000 census 67%)
Willing to Contribute?
dependent variables – rating 1-5

Vegetation Management  mean 4.35  s.d. 0.81
Invasive plants removal
Plant maintenance
Planting native plants

Light Construction  mean 3.66  s.d. 1.23
Construction of simple structures
Trail building and maintenance

Technical Knowledge  mean 2.98  s.d. 1.13
Providing IT support, such as mapping or social media
Natural history and ecological knowledge in the field

Policy & Administration  mean 2.94  s.d. 1.09
Outreach to decision-makers and key community leaders
Strategic planning and visioning
Help with fund-raising
Project or event planning

Satisfactions of volunteering?
dependent variables – rating 1-7

Making a Difference  mean 5.51  1.26 sd
The difference my volunteer work is making
The chance I have to utilize my knowledge and skills in my volunteer work
The progress that I have seen in the lands served by the organization(s)

Organizational Support  mean 5.36  1.22 sd
The support I receive from people in the organization(s)
The availability of getting help when I need it when volunteering
How often volunteer work is acknowledged

Social Interactions  mean 5.34  1.27 sd
The amount of interaction I have with other volunteers in the organization
The amount of time spent with other volunteers
The friendships I have made while volunteering
Why is volunteering important to you? rating 1-7

Engaged Learning mean 5.39 1.10 sd
I am genuinely concerned about the environmental purpose that I am volunteering for
I can learn more about the cause for which I am working

Caring for Others mean 4.82 1.65 sd
I feel compassion toward people in need (16)
I feel it is important to help others (19)
also ‘legacy’

Group Dynamics mean 4.11 1.68 sd
The morale of my group improves after we volunteer as a team
Our group works together better as a team because of volunteering

Self Reflection mean 3.77 1.49 sd
Volunteering increases my self-esteem
Volunteering makes me feel important

Social Influence mean 3.76 1.5 sd
Volunteering is an important activity to the people I know best
People I know share an interest in community service for the environment

Career Opportunity mean 3.18 1.66 sd
Volunteering can help me get my foot in the door at a place where I’d like to work
I can make new contacts that might help my business career

Solace mean 3.11 1.62 sd
Volunteering allows me to escape from my own troubles
No matter how bad I’ve been feeling, volunteering helps me to forget about it

Stewardship Systems, Scales, and Measures
Seattle metro area
Stewardship Org Census

Activity Location
U-urban; S-suburban; R-rural; W-wildland

Organization Type

Stewardship Organization Mission
metro Seattle area ~ 600

Wordle tag cloud
Organization Network Analysis

Seattle Stewardship Information Network

Stewardship Systems, Scales, and Measures

‘macro’ scale
- coupled social/natural systems & co-benefits
  - cultural ecosystem services
  - economics of stewardship
- organization network analysis
- stewardship mapping
- volunteer motivations

‘micro’ scale
Stewardship and Governance

citizens active & engaged
not just doing the work
changing policy and programs
e.g. Tree Boards

practical insights from
Oxford, MS

Discussion Panel

1. How to transform data & technical information to policy?

2. How to move from reactive to proactive approaches?

3. Broader community context that helped you succeed?