KATHLEEN L WOLF, PH.D.
SOCIAL SCIENTIST

EDUCATION

B.A. Biology, Whitman, WA

M.LA. & Ph.D. University of MI, Ann Arbor

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PROFESSIONAL MISSION

To discover, understand & communicate . . .

human behavior & benefits . . .

as people experience nature in cities

Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry & Urban Greening

Green Cities – Good Health

WHAT I DO?

Now semi-retired from the University of Washington (Seattle, USA), I look back on a multi-decade research program about human dimensions of urban forestry and urban green space, including recent focus on nearby nature experiences and human health response. I continue to be active in research publication and science outreach. These efforts are aimed at expanding knowledge regarding the social and psychological benefits that city trees and nearby nature provide, and sharing that across multidisciplinary audiences, including public health, medicine, business, urban planning and urban natural resources stewardship. I've collaborated with international partners and presented my research at conferences on all continents except Antarctica (maybe one day?).

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

Nature & Health Alliance, international coalition

Sustainable Sites Initiative – US Green Building Council

FutureShape – American Planning Association

Nature Sacred – TKF Foundation

TEACHING & COMMUNICATIONS

· Presentations at multiple professional organizations including urban forestry, public health, urban planning, transportation, parks & recreation & resource economics

· Guest lecturer in forestry, landscape architecture and environmental health courses at University of Washington

· Graduate course in urban environmental education, Antioch

· Guest lecturer in urban forestry at University of British Columbia, Bogota Botanical Garden, U.N. International Day of Forests, University of Venice NAAD (Italy), University of Concepcion (Chile), and University of Hyogo (Japan)

PUBLICATIONS

Ongoing contributions to publications about reciprocity, urban trees and spirituality, community response to green schoolyards, transportation urban forestry & green space for social connection across the human lifecourse.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Varanasi, U., & Wolf, K. L. (2026). Cultivating reciprocity—The nature and health challenge. *Ecopsychology*, 18, 1, 21-24. https://doi.org/10.1177/19429347251404055

Rugel, E. J., Jarvis, I., Barron, S., & Wolf, K. L. (2026). A lifecourse perspective on social connectedness via receptiveness to nature. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 119, 129381. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2026.129381

Hazlehurst, M. F., Wolf, K. L., Simmons, C., Evans, S., Steiner, M. K., Garrett, K. A., & Tandon, P. S. (2026). Recess and after-hours behavior patterns associated with community schoolyard transformations. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 23, 25. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-026-01899-9

HUMAN HEALTH & WELLNESS

Wolf, K. L., Shah, S., Egan, J. M., & Burian, M. S. (2024). *Nature in Urban Planning for Better Human Health*. Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland.

Wolf, K. L., Senturia, K., Simmons, C., Hafferty, K., Faino, A. V., Garrett, K. A., & Tandon, P. S. (2024). Participatory design for community schoolyards: Mixed methods reveal positive engagement despite measures limitations. *Ecopsychology* 16, 4, 315-332. https://doi.org/10.1089/eco.2023.0075

Hazlehurst, M. F., Wolf, K. L., Simmons, C., Nieto, C., Steiner, M. K., Garrett, K. A., Faino, A. V., Ubalde López, M., López-Toribio, M., & Tandon, P. S. (2023). Physical activity and social interaction assessments in schoolyard settings using the System for Observing Outdoor Play Environments in Neighborhood Schools (SOOPEN). *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity* 20, 94. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-023-01483-5.

Hazlehurst, M. F., Muqueeth, S., Wolf, K. L., Simmons, C., Kroshus, E., & Tandon, P. S. (2022). Park access and mental health among parents and children during the COVID-19 pandemic. *BMC Public Health* 22, 1, 800. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13148-2

DeVille, N.V., L.P. Tomasso, O.P. Stoddard, G.E. Wilt, T.H. Horton, K.L. Wolf, E. Brymer, P.H. Kahn Jr., & P. James. (2021). Time spent in nature, regardless of the quality of environmental conditions, is associated with increased pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18, 14, 7498. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18147498

Wolf, K.L., S.T. Lam, J.K. McKeen, G.R. Richardson, M. van den Bosch, & A.C. Bardekjian. (2020). Urban trees and human health: A scoping review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 17, 12, 4371. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17124371

Derriens, M.M., L.K. Cerveny, & K.L. Wolf. (2019). The human health dimensions of sustainable tourism. In: S.F. McCool, & K. Bosak (Eds.), *A Research Agenda for Sustainable Tourism* (pp. 140-158). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Browning, M.H.E.M., K. Lee, & K.L. Wolf. (2019). Tree cover shows an inverse relationship with depressive symptoms in elderly residents living in U.S. nursing homes. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 41, 23-32.

Schertz, K. E., Sachdeva, S., Kardan, O., Kotabe, H. P., Wolf, K. L., & Berman, M. G. (2018). A thought in the park: The influence of naturalness and low-level visual features on expressed thoughts. *Cognition* 174, 82-93. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2018.01.011

Frumkin, H., G.N. Bratman, S.J. Breslow, B. Cochran, P.H. Kahn, J.J. Lawler, P.S. Levin, P.S. Tandon, U. Varanasi, K.L. Wolf, & S.A. Wood. (2017). Nature contact and human health: A research agenda. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 125, 7, 075001.

Wolf, K.L., & E. Housley. (2017). Young adult conservation jobs and worker health. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 60, 10, 1853-70.

Ulmer, J.M., K.L. Wolf, D.R. Backman, R.L. Tretheway, C.J. Blain, J.P. O'Neil-Dunne, & L.D. Frank. (2016). Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription. *Health & Place* 42, 54-62.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CO-BENEFITS

Janowiak, M.K., L.A. Brandt, K.L. Wolf, M. Brady, L. Darling, A.D. Lewis, R.T. Fahey, K. Giesting, E. Hall, M. Henry, M. Hughes, J.W. Miesbauer, K. Marcinkowski, T. Ontl, A. Rutledge, L. Scott, & C.W. Swanston. (2021). *Climate Adaptation Actions for Urban Forests and Human Health*. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-203. Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 115 pp. https://doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-203

Wolf, K.L., The Nature Conservancy. (2018). *Cascading Benefits: Designing Green Stormwater Infrastructure for Human Wellness*. Seattle WA, The Nature Conservancy. download link

Wolf, K.L. (2017). Social aspects of urban forestry and metro nature. In: F. Ferrini, C. Konijnendijk van den Bosch, & A. Fini, (Eds.), *Handbook of Urban Forestry*. Routledge.

Svendsen, E. S., Campbell, L. K., Fisher, D. R., Connolly, J. J. T., Johnson, M. L., Sonti, N. F., Locke, D. H., Westphal, L. M., LeBlanc Fisher, C., Grove, J. M., Romolini, M., Blahna, D. J., & Wolf, K. L. (2016). *Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project: A Framework for Understanding Community-based Environmental Stewardship*. Gen. Tech. Rep. 156: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station.

Wolf, K. L., Blahna, D. J., Brinkley, W., & Romolini, M. (2011). Environmental stewardship footprint research: Linking human agency and ecosystem health in the Puget Sound region. *Urban Ecosystems* 16, 1, 13-32. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-011-0175-6

Wolf, K. L., & Bratton, N. (2006). Urban trees and traffic safety: Considering US roadside policy and crash data. *Arboriculture and Urban Forestry* 32, 4, 170-179.

SCIENCE, POLICY & PLANNING

Wolf, K. L. (2023). Local policies on landscapes for health. In C. Chongxian, S. Hu, X. Yu, & D. Winterbottom (Eds.), *Theory of Healthy Landscape Design* (pp. 268-286). China Construction Industry Press.

Ordóñez Barona, C., Wolf, K., Kowalski, J. M., Kendal, D., Byrne, J. A., & Conway, T. M. (2022). Diversity in public perceptions of urban forests and urban trees: A critical review. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 226, 104466. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2022.104466

Wolf, K. L. (2021). From sanitary to sustainable to sacred: Metro nature experiences and engagement. In S. Muramatsu, T. G. McGee, & K. Mori (Eds.), *Living in the Megacity: Towards Sustainable Urban Environments* (pp. 135-159). Springer.

Wolf, K.L., M.M. Derrien, L.E. Kruger, & T.L. Penbrooke. (2020). Nature, outdoor experiences, and human health. In: *Igniting Research for Outdoor Recreation: Linking Science, Policy, and Action* (pp 85-99). Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-987. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Barron, S., S. Nitoslawski, K.L. Wolf, A. Woo, E. Desautels, & S.R.J. Sheppard. (2019). Greening blocks: A conceptual typology of practical design interventions to integrate health and climate resilience co-benefits. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 16, 4241. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16214241

Wolf, K.L., & W. Brinkley. (2016). *Sites To Systems: Nearby Nature for Human Health*. Annapolis, MD: The TKF Foundation, 17 pp. download link

Dilley, J., & Wolf, K. L. (2013). Homeowner interactions with residential trees in urban areas. *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* 39, 6, 267-277.

Wolf, K.L., & L.E. Kruger. (2010). Urban forestry research needs: A participatory assessment process. *Journal of Forestry* 108, 1, 39-44.

CITY NATURE & ECONOMICS

Wolf, K.L. (2020). The urban forest and shopping environments. In: F. Musso, & E. Druica (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Retailing Techniques for Optimal Consumer Engagement and Experiences* (pp 233-256). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Wolf, K.L., M.K. Measells, S.C. Grado, & A.S.T. Robbins. (2015). Economic values of metro nature health benefits: A life course approach. *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening* 14, 694-701.

Wolf, K.L., & A.S.T. Robbins. (2015). Metro nature, environmental health, and economic value. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 123, 5, 390-8.

Daniels, J. M., Robbins, A. S. T., Brinkley, W. R., Wolf, K. L., & Chase, J. M. (2014). Toward estimating the value of stewardship volunteers: A cost-based valuation approach in King County, Washington, USA. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 13, 2, 285-289. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2014.01.004

Joye, Y., Willems, K., Brengman, M., & Wolf, K. (2010). The effects of urban retail greenery on consumer experience: Reviewing the evidence from a restorative perspective. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 9, 57-64. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2009.10.001

Wolf, K.L. (2009). Strip malls, city trees, and community values. *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* 35, 1, 33-40.

Wolf, K. L. (2005). Business district streetscapes, trees and consumer response. *Journal of Forestry*, 103, 8, 396-400.