NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

Landscapes of Resilience: Forest Service Research

U.S. Forest Service: The U.S. Forest Service has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of our nation's forests: 850 million acres including 100 million acres of urban forests where most Americans live. The Forest Service's Research and Development arm works at the forefront of science to improve the health and use of the nation's forests and grasslands. Research has been part of the Forest Service mission since the agency's inception in 1905. Today the organization consists of seven research stations and 80 experimental forests and ranges. See us online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/

Northern Research Station: Headquartered in Newtown Square, Penn., the Forest Service's Northern Research Station includes 13 research work units in 25 locations located in 20 states extending from Maine to Minnesota and from Missouri to Maryland. Northern Research Station scientists work across a dynamic land with incredible social, biological, and physical diversity. Through this fabric of nature and of human needs and expectations run the recurring threads of disturbance and recovery following pest and disease outbreaks, extreme weather events, and fire. See us online at: http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/

New York Urban Field Station: The New York City Urban Field Station's mission is to improve quality of life in urban areas by conducting and supporting research about social-ecological systems and natural resource management. The Urban Field Station is both a physical place to conduct research and a network of relationships among scientists, practitioners, university cooperators, and facilities focused on urban ecology. Since its founding in 2006, the New York Urban Field Station has engaged more than 30 non-profit, academic, and government partners creating innovative "research in action" programs to support urban ecosystem management and sustainability initiatives in New York City. The Urban Field Station is sustained through a core partnership between the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. A key component of this partnership was to create a joint field lab and residential space for visiting scientists at historic Fort Totten in Queens, N.Y. Website: http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc/

TILL

TILL is an urban design firm that was founded while making a collaborative drawing in 2001 on an asphalt parking lot surface with two friends. As a new resident to New York City, the experience of doing this drawing was similar to the act of tilling--clearing a ground in which to work, reflect, and make a difference. To date, TILL has completed design services that engage contemporary landscapes such as brownfields, rooftops, waterfronts, and environmental justice neighborhoods. Typically these projects include complex site constraints, such as landfill dynamics, air pollution, flooding and as well as coordination with large teams of civic groups, architects, engineers and governing authorities.

Research Aspect of Landscapes of Resilience: Research will examine resilience at multiple scales: individual, community, and social-ecological systems. This is a comparative research effort involving Joplin, Mo., and its recovery from the May 2011 tornado, and New York City, where the October 2012 Superstorm Sandy resulted in the loss of life, extensive destruction of property and natural resources, and extended disruption in daily life. Scientists will look at how Open Spaces Sacred Places and the process of their creation serve as a catalyst for resilience. Superstorm Sandy provides researchers with an opportunity to understand mechanisms involved in community greening as a resilient response, as well as how disturbance may give rise to common landscape features found in Open Spaces Sacred Places.

Biographies:

Erika Svendsen
Research Social Scientist, Northern Research Station
Role in Landscapes of Resilience: Co-Principal Investigator
Overview: Erika S. Svendsen is a research social scientist with the U.S. Forest Service. Her work includes understanding the spatial, temporal and political aspects of environmental stewardship, studying both organizations and individuals, and focusing on issues of governance and human well-being. Dr. Svendsen is based in New York City where she is the Forest Service representative to the NYC Urban Field Station, a unique initiative with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation designed to foster research partnerships between scientists and natural resource practitioners. Dr. Svendsen's projects include STEW-MAP (the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project) which analyzes the spatial locations and network relationships of over 5,000 stewardship groups throughout New York City and creates on-line stewardship maps and a database.

Lindsay Campbell
Research Social Scientist, Northern Research Station
Role in Landscapes of Resilience: Co-Principal Investigator
Overview: Campbell's current research explores the dynamics of urban stewardship, sustainability, and environmental policymaking, with a particular emphasis on issues of social justice. In addition to working with Svendsen on STEW-MAP, Campbell co-edited *Restorative Commons: Creating health and Well-being Through Urban Landscapes*. Campbell also contributed to the Living Memorials Project, a social and site assessment of public spaces that have been created, used, or enhanced in memory of 9/11. Campbell is a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University; her dissertation examines how the politics and practices of urban forestry and urban agriculture in New York City are negotiated.

Nancy Falxa-Raymond
Research Technician, Northern Research Station
Role in Landscapes of Resilience: Co-Principal Investigator
Overview: Falxa-Raymond is an urban ecologist studying the growth and performance of trees in New York City as well as the social and psychological impacts of engaging in community natural resource management. She recently contributed to a comprehensive study of the largest community gardening program in the United States, which examined the evolving role of community gardens in New York City. She also contributed to a study that considered how social, biological and urban design factors affect the mortality rates of newly planted street trees.

Victoria Marshall
Principal, TILL
Role in Landscapes of Resilience: Landscape architect and designer for New York City team
Overview: Marshall is the principal and founder of TILL. She is a registered landscape architect trained in both landscape architecture and urban design. TILL's projects have been published in the international landscape architecture journal, PaiseaDos, which showcased TILL as one of the three most important emerging practices in the United States East Coast. Originally from Sydney, Australia, Marshall completed a Masters of Landscape Architecture and Certificate in Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania in 1997. In 2010 she launched and directed a new Urban Design BS Program at The New School, where she is an Assistant Professor. Marshall was awarded a 2010-2012 fellowship at the India China Institute. Her current research explores the agency of urban design in the emerging field of urban ecology.

Dr. Keith Tidball
Senior Extension Associate in Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources
Overview: Dr. Tidball serves as Associate Director of the Civic Ecology Lab and Program Leader for the Nature & Human Security Program. He is also the New York State Coordinator for the NY Extension Disaster Education Network. Tidball's research is focused on the interactions between humans and nature in the context of disasters and war. He is particularly interested in how these interactions relate to social-ecological system resilience, or in other words, how humans and their interactions with nature are related to a system`s ability to bounce back after being disturbed.