



The Ecological Cities Project is a quasi-independent program of research, teaching, and outreach on how urban communities are becoming greener, healthier, and more humane.

Since its inception by Dr. Rutherford H. Platt in 1999, the program has involved dozens of colleagues, students, and friends across the United States and elsewhere.

www.ecologicalcities.org

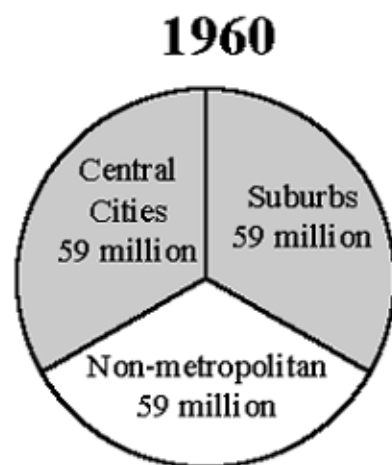


“Ecological Cities” Defined:

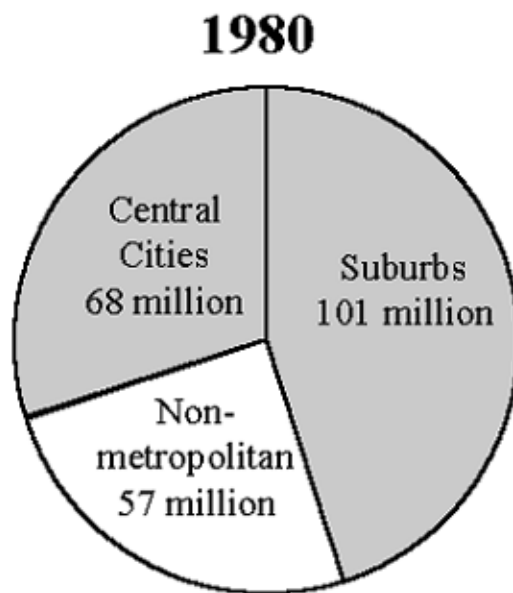
Neighborhoods, Cities, and
Metropolitan Areas that seek to be:

- ❖ Greener
- ❖ Safer and Healthier
- ❖ More Efficient
- ❖ More People-Friendly
- ❖ More Socially Equitable

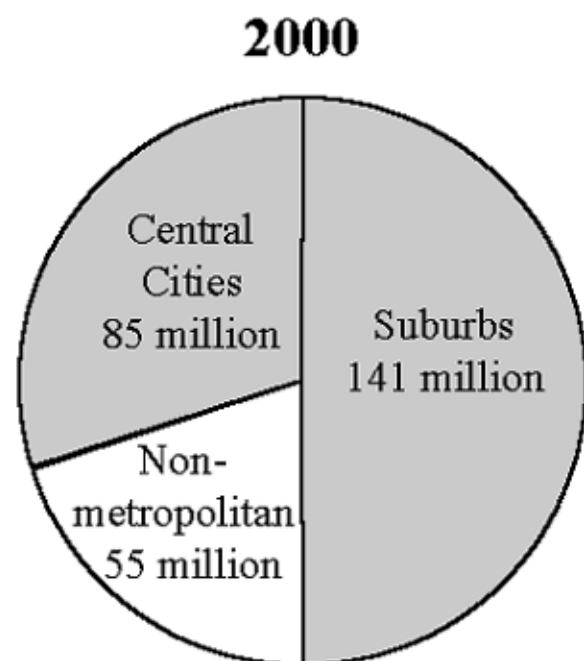
Distribution of U.S. Population




Total: 177 million



Total: 226 million



Total: 281 million

 Metropolitan Areas

GOALS OF THE ECOLOGICAL CITIES PROJECT



Portland, OR



Los Angeles, CA

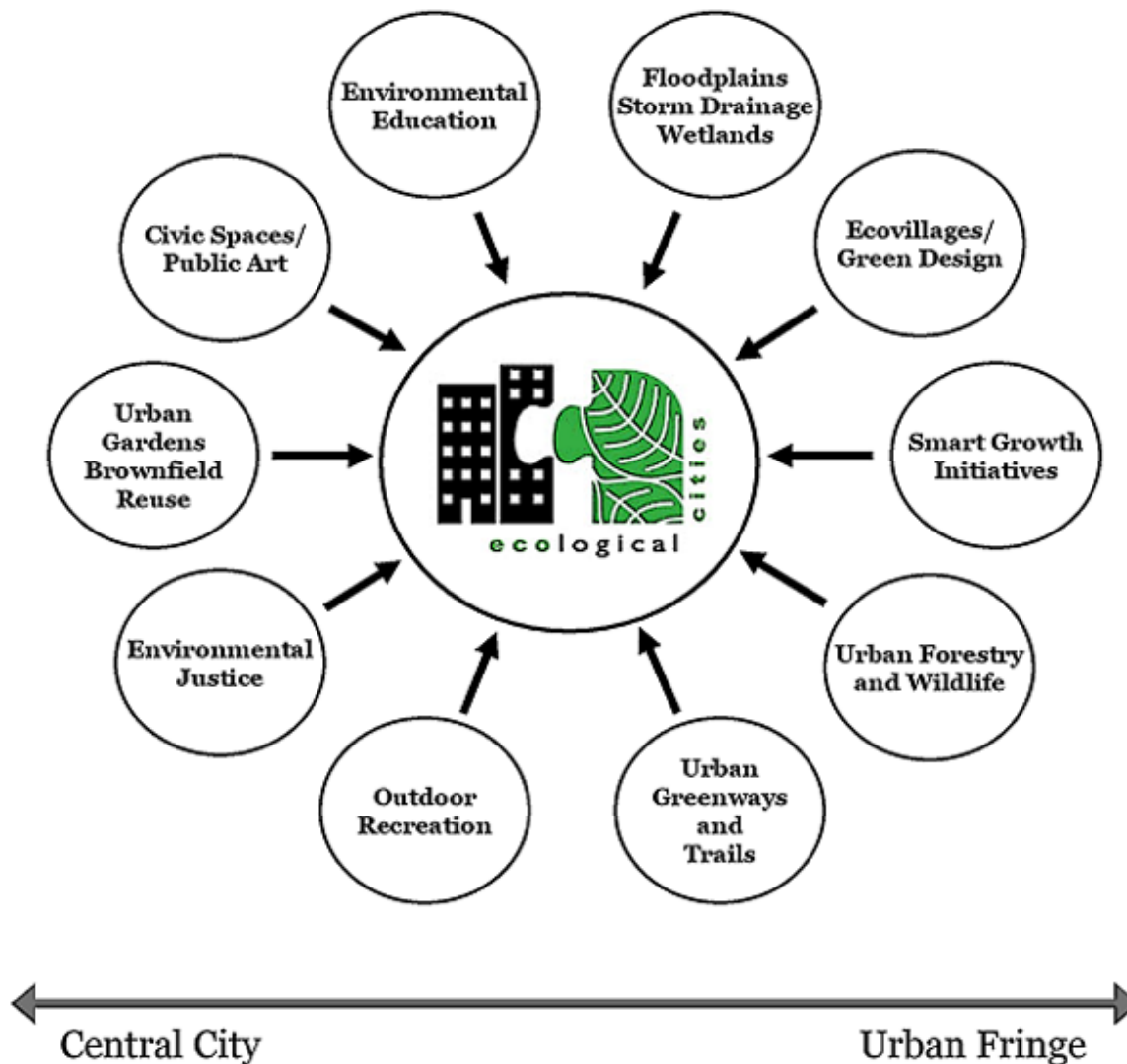
- Better understand the interaction of urban and natural systems
- Compare regional experience in protecting and restoring urban ecosystems
- Broaden public knowledge of why and how to protect urban ecosystems
- Encourage innovative urban open space strategies
- Build capacity to protect and restore ecological processes at all scales

BRANCHES AND TWIGS OF URBAN ECOLOGY



- **Surface and Groundwater Hydrology**
 - Watershed management
 - Aquifer protection
- **Aquatic Ecosystems**
 - Riparian/stream corridors
 - Freshwater wetlands
 - Estuarine/saltmarsh
 - Marine
- **Urban Ecosystems**
 - Urban wildlife and forestry
 - Endangered species
 - Invasive species
- **Natural Hazards**
 - Coastal and riverine floods
 - Seismic
 - Slope and soil instability
 - Urban wildfire
- **Environmental Education**
- **Environmental Equity**

Ecological Cities—A Shared Vision



RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

Planning
Urban Geography
Landscape Design
Green Architecture
Urban Ecology
Urban Forestry
Wetlands
Stream Restoration
Natural Hazards
Public Health
Social Justice

METRO AND URBAN PRACTITIONERS

Public Agencies
NGOs
Planners
Environmentalists
Social Activists
Media
“Movers and Shakers”



LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL CITIES INITIATIVES



Regional EC Symposia



Boston College
November, 2000



University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC March, 2001



The Humane Metropolis
People and Nature in the 21st Century
New York City, June, 2002

Future:
Portland, OR Oct. 2005
Pittsburgh?
Houston?
Washington DC?



Milwaukee's Urban Environment:
Creating the Ecological City
Milwaukee, May, 2004

**Local
Efforts To:**

- Revitalize existing parks
- Restore urban streams, wetlands, estuaries
- Protect ecological and cultural landscapes
- Nurture urban trees and habitat patches
- Promote urban gardens and produce markets
- Teach the lessons of nature
- Build sense of community

Need

- Vision (Large and Small)
- Leaders and Catalysts
- Cooperative Action
- Institutional Innovation
- Funding

Community Catalysts



Jane Block, Riverside



Will Allen, Milwaukee



Alice Water, Berkeley



Terry Hershey, Houston

Cooperative Action

Urban Resources Initiative
New Haven, Connecticut



The Ecological Cities Project

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Based at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst