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Sinopsis

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Nature-Friendly Communities presents an authoritative and readable overview of the successful approaches to protecting biodiversity and natural areas in America's growing communities. Addressing the crucial issues of sprawl, open space, and political realities, Chris Duerksen and Cara Snyder explain the most effective steps that communities can take to protect nature.

The book: documents the broad range of benefits, including economic impacts, resulting from comprehensive biodiversity protection efforts; identifies and disseminates information on replicable best community practices; establishes benchmarks for evaluating community biodiversity protection programs.

Nine comprehensive case studies of communities explain how nature protection programs have been implemented. From Austin and Baltimore to Tucson and Minneapolis, the authors explore how different cities and counties have taken bold steps to successfully protect natural areas. Examining program structure and administration, land acquisition strategies and sources of funding, habitat restoration programs, social impacts, education efforts, and overall results, these case studies lay out perfect examples that other communities can easily follow. Among the case study sites are Sanibel Island, Florida; Austin, Texas; Baltimore County, Maryland; Charlotte Harbor, Florida; and Teton County, Wyoming.

Nature-Friendly Communities offers a useful overview of the increasing number of communities that have established successful nature protection programs and the significant benefits those programs provide. It is an important new work for public officials, community activists, and anyone concerned with understanding or implementing local or regional biodiversity protection efforts.

The Authors

CHRIS DUERKSEN is managing director of Clarion Associates, a Denver-based land use consulting firm. He is the founder, president, and chairman of the Rocky Mountain Land Use

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CARA SNYDER is an independent consultant and writer; she was formerly an associate with Clarion Associates.

Also of interest from Island Press:

Drafting a Conservation Blueprint
Planning for Biodiversity

Biographies

CHRIS DUERKSEN is managing director of Clarion Associates, a Denver-based land use consulting firm. He is the founder, president, and chairman of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute.

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Quotes

"The greening of local government is the most exciting conservation trend of our time. The profiles in this book are an invitation to begin changing your community." --Bruce Babbitt

"For the legion of readers who need no more convincing that the environment is in serious trouble, this book of American local can do, how to? success stories will be a relief as well as a rousing inspiration for like action." --Edward O. Wilson

"Damaging development practices cause environmental problems. But human communities don't have to be destructive. Nature-Friendly Communities explains how to put people and places in harmony. It contains sensible, useful information that will conserve habitat for future generations while improving the quality of life for people from downtown to suburbs." --Governor Bill Richardson

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