

Kelly van Frankenhuyzen: Social media intern with U.S Forest Service Northern Research Station narrates the story

Erika Svendsen: Research Social Scientist with U.S Forest Service Northern Research Station at the New York City Urban Field Station

Lindsay Campbell: Research Social Scientist with U.S Forest Service Northern Research Station at the New York City Urban Field Station

Nancy Sonti: Ecologist at the Baltimore Field Station part of U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station

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Narrator: I'm Kelly van Frankenhuyzen with the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station. The Landscapes of Resilience Project explores the practices of community greening and environmental stewardship following natural disasters in two U.S. cities: Joplin, Missouri and New York City. I talked with three U.S. Forest Service researchers about links between stewardship and resilience. These Forest Service scientists are part of a multi-disciplinary team. Erika Svendsen and Lindsay Campbell joined me from the New York City Urban Field Station and Nancy Sonti spoke from her office at the Baltimore Field Station. Erika Svendsen and Lindsay Campbell are the Forest Service co-leads on the Landscapes of Resilience Project.

Erika Svendsen: My name is Erika Svendsen and I work for the U.S Forest Service, the Northern Research Station. I'm the team leader for our urban field station in New York City and I'm a research social scientist. Part of our research title "Landscapes of Resilience" really evokes not just the resilient aspects of the land but also of the people.

Lindsay Campbell: I'm Lindsay Campbell, a research social scientist also at the New York City Urban Field Station with the U.S Forest Service. So, the Landscapes of Resilience Project is a unique project that couples research and design in two sites, in Joplin, Missouri after the 2011 EF5 tornado that went through the town center and the 2012 Hurricane Sandy that affected much of the coastal areas of New York City.

Erika Svendsen: This idea of a collective identity that starts to take shape that we hope it becomes more inclusive rather than exclusive. So that's the work we are doing in Queens, working alongside people, learning from and with them, and trying to look at this landscape over time. Part of being the U.S. Forest Service, in this context, means that we can revisit this site, again and again and again. The kind of work we do there and the intensity of it will change, but at minimum we are very interested to see how these landscapes evolve over time.

Lindsay Campbell: And in New York, many of our coastal and low lying areas were inundated and flooded, and in our case we're working on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, which was completely flooded after Hurricane Sandy. And, we are working there at Beach 41st Street Houses, which is a New York City Housing Authority public housing campus that has a community garden.

Erika Svendsen: We've been really struck, I think over the years, but particularly in these two sites, how there is so much commitment and attachment to them and that community continues to come out again and again, to dig in the dirt, to shape the landscape, to kind of commune with each other, because

in some ways the disturbance that happened in both of these places and the coming together in the aftermath is what has made it, if you will, sacred and meaningful to people. There is this element of people wanting to do something and wanting to engage and wanting to volunteer. And often times they do that through arts, if you will, and they also do it through nature.

Narrator: In Joplin, researcher Nancy Sonti saw how the changed landscape affected residents' sense of place.

Nancy Sonti: I'm Nancy Sonti and I'm an ecologist at the Baltimore Field Station, part of the Northern Research Station. After the tornado in Joplin, we became connected to several different local partners who were working on recovery efforts in Joplin as it relates to open space, parks and tree planting. And when you get to Joplin, at least in the years directly after the tornado, it's really striking just the lack of trees in the path of the tornado. It was really a loss of sense of place for them, that this forest that they used to live in, this treed landscape, was no longer there and we had many people tell us that, while it's possible to rebuild a house within a year or two, you can't get back that 50 year old tree or that 100 year old tree right away.

Narrator: Through their work on Landscapes of Resilience, researchers are seeing stewardship of natural resources as another way of tending to people affected by natural disasters.

Lindsay Campbell: We started to think of stewards as green responders because they are involved in this recovery process that Erika was just describing. So yes, you need your first responders, who are often police and firefighters who help stabilize things. But then, as the recovery process goes on, 6 months later, a year later, 2 years later, you know, the recovery continues and that recovery includes planting daffodils, taking care of a local park, sort of bringing beauty, making meaning, and sort of using the landscape to tell a story, and so we think these people play a really important role in this longer term recovery process.

Narrator: For more information on the Landscapes of Resilience Project visit www.nrs.fs.fed.us/LOR

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Music from Purple Planet- Daybreak