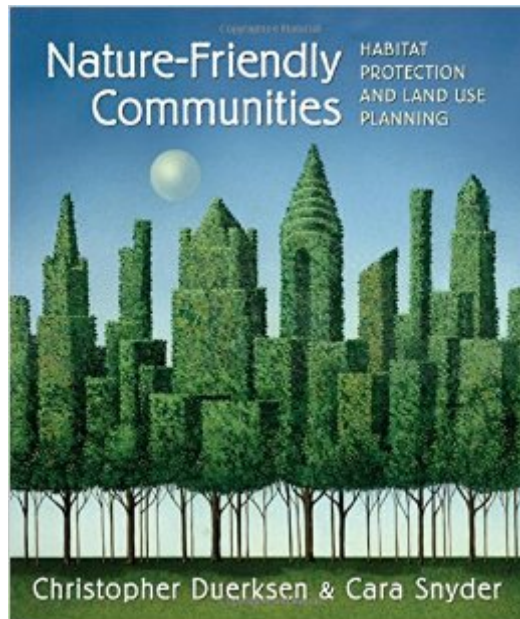


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# Nature-Friendly Communities: Habitat Protection And Land Use Planning



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nature-friendly Communities is an important and timely book. Useful to both professional planners and community leaders, these case studies show what is possible, and encourage us all to move in these directions. Very readable, great information.

This is a timely and important book; especially in times that promote big business at the expense of the environment. The wonderful index is a great aid to the reader.

After my experiences with the Nature-UNfriendliness of Baltimore County, with regards to being harassed by the county for having wildflowers and native plants in a Nature-friendly landscape, I was absolutely shocked to see Baltimore County listed as one of the top-ten supposedly "Nature-Friendly" communities. Would a truly Nature-friendly community issue someone a criminal citation for having "weeds and tall grass," which are wildflowers and native grasses, growing on one's property? Would a truly Nature-friendly community have laws stating that all plants which are allergenic (as are most plants), all plants that are poisonous (as are many cultivated plants, as well as many native plants!), any plants subjectively determined to be "weeds" over a foot tall and any types of grasses over a foot tall, are illegal? Unfortunately, Baltimore County only appears to be Nature-friendly as long as one's neighbors have no complaints about Nature-friendly landscapes and don't telephone code enforcement to complain about "weeds and tall grass." Of course, tall decorative grass growing outside of a county office building is apparently not viewed as a violation of those same laws that the county's citizens are subjected to. Although I've telephoned the publisher of this book about the inclusion of Baltimore County being a mistake, they've yet to return my telephone call.

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