THE WAGNER PLANNER

Newsletter of the NYU Urban Planning Student Association

FEBRUARY 2006

The Bronx River offers recreation aplenty; Photo by Vaidila Kungys

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ICIS Conducts Environmental Planning Study in the Bronx

By LukeFalk
Staff writer

In the New York metropolitan area, there are serious complexities in addressing air quality due to the fact that it is highly urbanized, is dealing with vehicle-related pollution, has become somewhat decentralized, has no rail-based distribution network to mitigate diesel truck traffic, is adjacent to sprawling suburbs that are primarily auto-oriented, and encompasses economically disadvantaged areas where industrial uses operate close to residential neighborhoods. The Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS), an NYU-sponsored research institute, is conducting a study that will help natural and social scientists to better understand the relationship between air quality, transportation, waste transfer activity, demographic characteristics, and public health. The data garnered from this study could be used to help promote a functional and sustainable society.

The location of the study is the South Bronx, an underserved community with one of the highest asthma rates in the country, which residents feel is one of the most pressing community health issues. The collaborative research project involves ICIS, the NYU School of Medicine's Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine (NIEM) and four community groups: The Point Community Development Corporation, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc., The Sports Foundation, Inc., and Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Inc, all of which have been actively involved in discussions about the project's research direction. The study is funded with a Congressional Appropriation sponsored by Congressman José E. Serrano and administered through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The Medical School research work focuses on collecting air samples in various points using a mobile lab for analyses that include air pollution levels, as well as trying to pinpoint some of the major sources of pollution in the area," says project manager and PhD candidate Carlos Restrepo. Another part of the air quality analysis involves fifth graders from three different schools carrying backpacks equipped with air pollution measuring devices for periods of "a couple of weeks" in order to evaluate students' exposure to air pollution over extended time horizons.

Restrepo says the Wagner/ICIS work has focused on gathering databases on environmental quality in the study area, with a special emphasis on air quality, and in modeling traffic and the resulting air pollution emissions in the study area.

(Bronx continued on page 5)

Urban Planning Anytime at: http://www.nyu.edu/wagner/urbanplanning

Urban Planning Program
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
New York University
295 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10012

THE WAGNER PLANNER
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This Issue's Contributors

Christina Mo (photography, writing)

David Brito (writing, editing)

Deena Hamdani (writing)

Douglas Adams (photography, writing)

Eric Galipo (photography, editing)

John Richardson (photography, writing, editing)

Jolene Saul (editing)

Jordan Anderson (photography)

Nicole Dooskin (photography, writing)

Olivia Stinson (photography, editing)

Nick Molinari (writing, photography)

Uma Deshmukh (writing, editing, photography)

Susan Willetts (writing, editing)

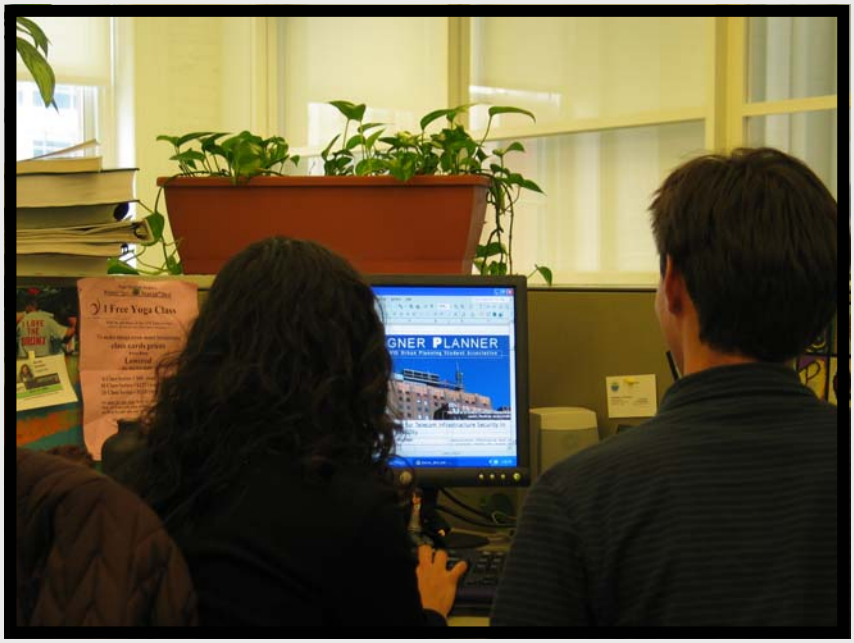
A letter from the editors:

Some of you may be surprised to see this issue of the Wagner Planner, especially those of you who served as writers and editors of the publication last year. Please allow us to explain: Late in the Spring 2005 semester, there was a Wagner Planner issue ready to go, but various events and contingencies prevented its release. Because many planners contributed their time and efforts to that issue, we felt it should be published, albeit a little late. Some content changes were made due to the delay in publication, but as a whole, the issue remains in tact. Think of it as our gift to you for the New Year: a chance to reminisce about some of the planning issues of 2005.

This issue of the Wagner Planner covers sustainable development, a term that we as planners hear a great deal. In theory, we know that sustainability refers to development that meets the needs of the current generation without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs as well. Yet comprehending the importance of sustainable development in real-world situations is less obvious. This past fall, Hurricane Katrina provided that understanding by underscoring how short-sighted environmental and policy decisions along the Gulf Coast created damaging, lasting effects for the region. The disaster will have major policy implications not only in the area of emergency management, but, equally important, through the increasingly accepted belief that today's policy decisions must take into account the impact on future generations.

We thank last year's Wagner Planner editors, Jordan Anderson and Nicole-Dooskin, for their work on this issue, and their guidance to us as incoming editors. We also appreciate the work of all the contributors, both current and former Wagner students. As we settle into the New Year, let us, as planners, continue to think about sustainable development in our own work and the impact that planning decisions can have for years to come.

Here's to great planning in 2006!



Jordan Anderson & Nicole Dooskin hard at work on the Wagner Planner.

Interview With a Planner: David Hsu

By Nick Molinari
Staff writer

David Hsu is an Environmental Designer with Atelier Ten Environmental Design and has taught courses at Wagner. He has worked in engineering, finance and government to pursue his interests in cities and the built environment. He is presently working in the New York office of Atelier Ten on a campus sustainability masterplan. Prior to his current job, he worked on green buildings and urban redevelopment projects in Europe and Asia, worked in the financing of U.S. REITs, and most recently, as a vice president at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, managed a planning and development study for the East River waterfront as part of the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan. He holds a B.S. in physics from Yale University, a M.S. in applied physics from Cornell University, and a M.S. from the Cities Programme at the London School of Economics.

Photo by Nick Molinari

Tell us about your work as an environmental designer.
David Hsu: I work in the New York office of a British firm, Atelier Ten. As an environmental designer, we work with architects and engineers at an early stage in order to design better-performing buildings.

Tell us about some of your current projects at Atelier Ten.
DH: We're producing a sustainable master plan for a major university. Sometimes we have to convince clients such as developers or owners to incorporate sustainable design features into their projects, and they're not always the actual tenants who occupy the project. However, universities are interesting to work with because they often develop and occupy their sites for a long period of time, and they often provide their own utilities such as electricity, steam, and chilled water. They care about buildings that last and that will save them money, and well-designed, energy efficient buildings can do both.

Can you tell us what your definition of sustainability is?
DH: In terms of a theoretical definition, I am skeptical that there is a single correct answer. We tend to look at ecosystems as sustainable because they have evolved into diverse, self-regulating, resilient systems. However, the majority of species that evolved on the earth don't have the ability to modify it significantly or to destroy the systems required for life. Humans do —sustainability is about controlling our actions and making sure that we don't destroy those delicate systems that we belong to, and rely upon.

What are some of the key sustainability issues facing our City?
DH: This is an interesting question. Students in my class ask questions that are often specific to New York City. Though sustainability is often talked about at larger scales and in different cities, such as in the developing world, or Europe, or out west, New York is part of that system of cities. New York already has a higher level of urban density, and a more intensive use of public transportation than almost all American cities. However, does our material consumption affect our environment and the areas around us? Will be able to provide the necessary infrastructure to continue to live at this high density, such as public transportation, road, bridge and tunnel infrastructure? And on the outskirts of New York, there are major concerns about sprawl, open space preservation and consumption of materials.

What do you see as some of the sustainability issues that planning students should be focusing on?
If we look at the history of urban planning, there are three eras of concern with the environment. First, there was a concern with protecting and promoting public health, followed by concerns about environmental resources such as clean air and clean water. Now we have to deal with global environmental concerns like global warming and the loss of biodiversity, that due to our patterns of consumption, extend far beyond the political boundaries of the city. As urban planners, we need to think about how to target our cities, and urban planning, towards higher levels of sustainability.

How have you found your first semester of teaching at Wagner?
It has been really exciting and really interesting. It seems like my class has an interesting mix of students, about half urban planning and half policy, and all of the students bring different perspectives and issues into the discussions. I try to raise issues in a way so that all students can understand them and participate in discussion, despite differing backgrounds and levels of background knowledge.

The New Jersey Meadowlands: Coming Back to Life

By Susan Willetts
Staff writer

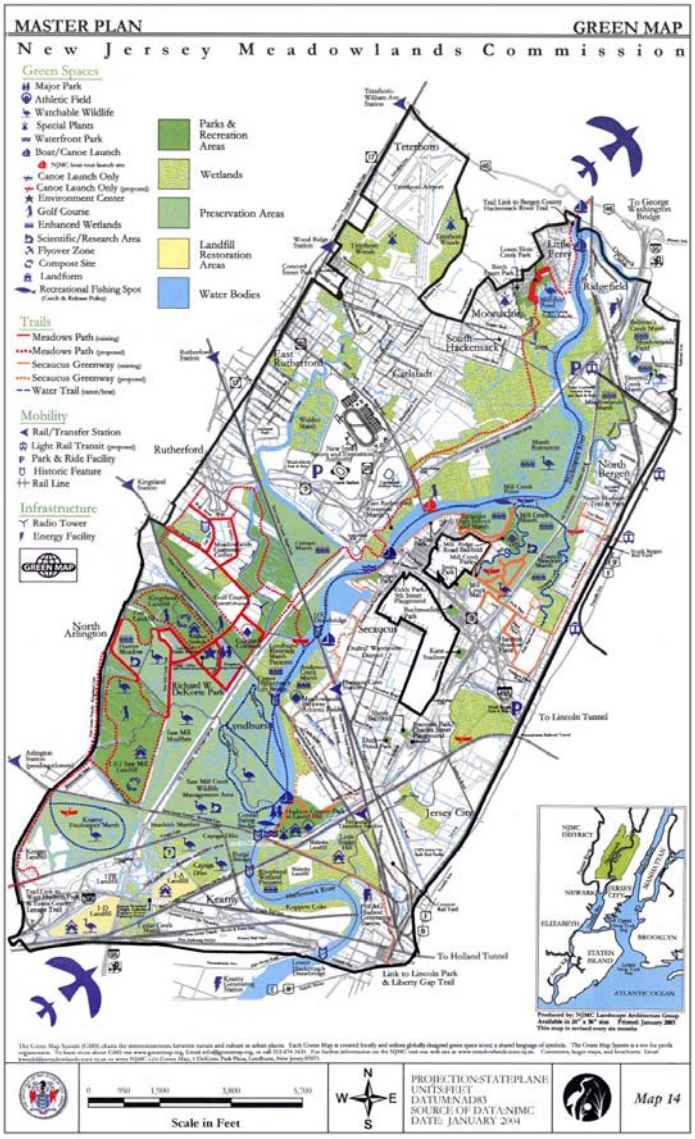
When most people think of the New Jersey Meadowlands, they picture Giants Stadium, home to New York's professional football teams and, urban legend has it, Jimmy Hoffa's body. More recently, people associate it with Xanadu, the controversial entertainment, office, retail and hotel development set to open in late 2007. But for decades most New Jerseyans thought of the Meadowlands, with its roughly 30 square miles of marshy expanse, as a mosquito-infested wasteland. Plagued by years of land filling, overdevelopment and pollution, the area was a symbol of the destructive power a metropolitan area can have on its surrounding environment. What is now the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission was created in 1969 as a regional authority to oversee land use and zoning regulations, but it remained hampered by conflicts with fellow advocacy groups and with the many municipalities in its jurisdiction, which spans two counties.

All that began to change in January 2004, when the commission adopted a new master plan, which marked a major policy shift to a focus on restoring and preserving the 8,400 acres of wetlands remaining in the Meadowlands. Chris Gale, a spokesman for the Meadowlands Commission, said the master plan launched a new era of cooperation, both with the affected municipalities and chambers of commerce, and with another Meadowlands' advocate, the Hackensack Riverkeeper.

"Everybody came together at the same table," Gale said.

Since the creation of the master plan, the Meadowlands has seen several major environmental successes that bode well for future efforts. In early February, the Meadowlands Commission approved a series of resolutions aimed at saving the Kearny Marsh, a 400-acre freshwater reserve that, about 30 years ago, New Jersey's Audubon Society called "the best freshwater marsh" in the state. Today, the area suffers from years of pollution from the neighboring Keegan Landfill, an abandoned dumping ground that is leaking contaminants such as mercury, chromium and PCBs into the water. In February 2005, the Meadowlands Commission approved measures to remediate the landfill by converting it into a "hilltop park" that could include a golf course, nature trails and ballparks. The commission plans to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on a new process called "aquablock," in which the bottom layer of sediment is covered over and plants are grown above the sealed level. The process poses less environmental risk than dredging up the contaminated sediment, Gale said, and is more cost-effective as well. The efforts are aimed at bringing back the natural habitat of the marsh, which is home to the pied-billed grebe, an endangered bird.

Less than three weeks after the approval of the Kearny Marsh efforts came a major environmental court decision in which conglomerate Honeywell Corporation was ordered by a U.S. Appeals Court to remove chromium contamination from a 34-acre tract on the banks of the Hackensack River in Jersey City. The order followed more than 20 years of legal wrangling by the company, which had argued that capping the contamination was sufficient and that removal was unnecessary. Jersey City's lesser-known second waterfront along the Hackensack River has yet to share in the revitalization seen by the Hudson riverfront, and settling land contamination issues along the river is a major step in the city's burgeoning redevelopment plan for its west side.



New Jersey Meadowlands Master Plan, courtesy of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Also in February 2005, the Meadowlands Commission rejected a variance request by Wal-Mart to build a cut-rate

gas station next to its new Secaucus store and two preserved wetlands tracts. Approving the variance would have contradicted, for the first time, a decision by the commission's staff, and it would have encouraged other developers to seek zoning variances, potentially undercutting the master plan.

The Meadowlands scored another victory last March when the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, the state agency mandated to acquire and manage conservation properties within the Hackensack River watershed, took ownership of the 587-acre Empire Tract near the Xanadu project. Mills Corporation, the Xanadu developer, had planned to build a shopping mall on the site, but when a preservation campaign threatened to derail the company's plans for the entire project, it agreed to transfer the Empire Tract – the largest remaining wetlands parcel in the Meadowlands – to the trust. As part of the deal, which was meant to compensate for the loss of about seven acres of wetlands resulting from the Xanadu development, Mills also paid for remediation of another wetlands site in nearby Secaucus. Hugh Carola, a spokesman for Hackensack Riverkeeper, said via an email that because the land transfer is irrevocable, it is unaffected by the lawsuits surrounding the Xanadu development and the Giants' recent agreement for a new stadium at their current Meadowlands site.

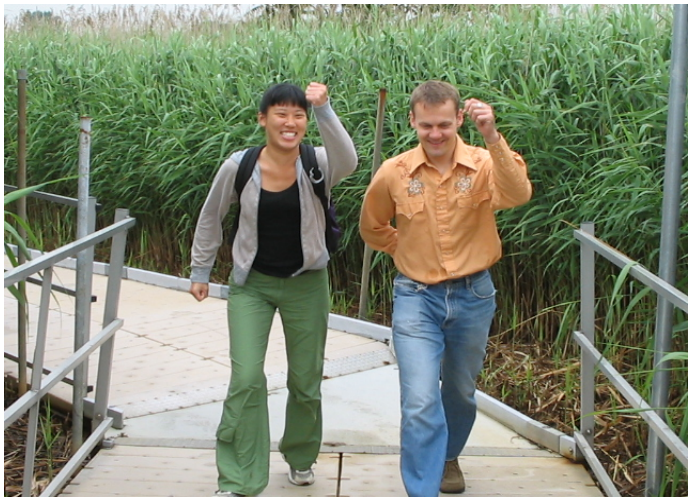
"Whatever the outcome, we will ensure that all environmental regulations and protections will be upheld," Carola wrote.

With these recent environmental successes, the Meadowlands Commission and the Hackensack Riverkeeper plan to continue their efforts for future preservation and restoration.

The commission's Gale said it will keep working on remediation of the Kearny Marsh and Secaucus wetlands sites, along with 10 other wetlands parcels in various stages of restoration. In addition, the commission recently completed a study of the fish populations in the Meadowlands, which found that larger fish such as striped bass and perch have returned to the area, creating positive spillover effects for other species.

The Hackensack Riverkeeper plans to continue working with the Meadowlands Commission to increase public access for the area; advocating for sewer improvements throughout the various municipalities in the Meadowlands; and working with the Meadowlands Conservation Trust on the purchase, donation or easement of additional open space.

"Hackensack Riverkeeper is the citizen-steward for this resource," Carola said. "We live here, we work here and we're not leaving."



Wagner students reap the benefits of sustainability.

A view of the Puck Building in warmer days.
Photo courtesy of a9 Maps

(Bronx study continued from page 1)

Restrepo says the analyses include diesel truck traffic from waste transfer stations in the area, a source of much concern to community members. Recently, an environmental justice component was added to the work, using GIS to examine the demographics of those living in areas around waste transfer stations, as well as the association between asthma hospitalizations and a number of socio-economic variables in Bronx County.

According to Restrepo, this project aims to promote societal sustainability by examining "the associations between activities that we regard as necessary, such as transportation and waste management, environmental quality and public health." Understanding how these disparate activities interact to affect the environment, brings professional planners one step closer to reconciling the divergent goals of economic and social development, and environmental protection, in order to ensure that meeting current needs does not compromise those of future generations.

Technology to Improve Environmental Decision-Making

By Deena Hamdani
Staff writer

Over the past three decades there has been a remarkable change in the way environmental values are appreciated. Environmental awareness is growing, and legislation is introducing and tightening standards in many fields. As the complexity of environmental management increases so has the need for advanced analytical tools to support decision makers. Environmental Information Systems (EIS) have emerged as an important technology for environmental planning and management to help analyze and report environmental information. Expert systems have already taken many forms, with the majority based on relational databases and have helped greatly with the day-to-day operations of environmental management.

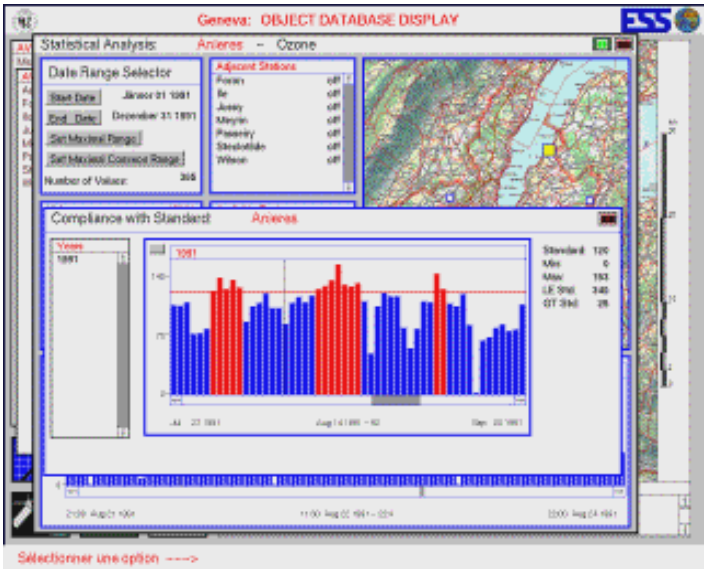
The focus on the environment came most noticeably with the environmental movement in the 1960s, culminating in the US National Environmental Policy Act of 1971 which established the need for environmental consideration for all major federal projects. Since then environmental reporting has become an important element of urban policy as well as a highly technical area combining skills from various scientific fields and using advanced systems for analysis.

As a management tool

Developing advanced techniques for decision making has recently been at the forefront of environmental management. As computer technology has become more available, both in terms of cost and ease of use, and as environment-related data is collected through various remote sensing programs, ranging from satellites to air pollution sensors, the need to handle, store, analyze and present this information has gained importance. Today, it is virtually impossible to think about environmental research without relying heavily on digital technology. Modern applications touch every aspect of the environment debate: research, monitoring, management, and ultimately decision making and public involvement.

Environmental Management and Assessment Information Systems is a generic term that covers software systems responsible for gathering environmental information from dissimilar data sources, managing environmental data for supporting the decision making process involved in environmental assessment, and post-processing data and facts for supplying citizens, industry, public institutions and government with information services related to the natural environment. Such systems are also known as Decision Support Systems and have been developed at different scales from the national, to the regional and the metropolitan level. These applications can broadly be divided into two groups, those that are information systems in the strictest sense (used to store and retrieve data), such as a collection of socio-economic indicators or a list of chemicals, and those that are geared towards analysis and simulation of environmental information relating to processes and events such as contaminated land, flood protection, water pollution, conservation and ground stability.

Environmental management systems combine spatial, structural features of a city, typically captured in GIS, and the dynamics of environmental quality indicators that can be obtained by monitoring. Applications are designed to integrate analytical tools such as models for scenario analysis and optimization tasks. This transforms the information systems into an exploration tool where the users evaluate and analyze underlying datasets while restraining his or her personal expertise on the environmental issues at hand. Systems like these can provide decision relevant information supporting planners and public agencies with project assessment.

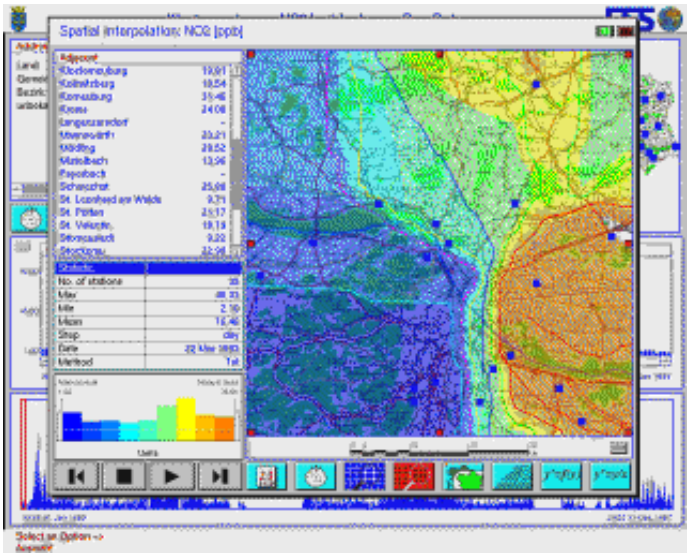


EIS Programs Like This One Can Perform Complex Analysis

Technological framework

Developing such systems requires interdisciplinary efforts of environmental knowledge and informatics. Environmental information systems are built upon the junction of environmental data, integrated assessment and decision support systems.

The two basic models used in computerized environmental analysis are data bases and GIS, and dynamic simulation models. Both use spatially referenced monitoring data that adds a real-time dimension to the analysis. GIS is used to capture, manipulate, process and display spatial or georeferenced data. They contain both geometry data (coordinates and topological information) and attribute data which is information describing the properties of geometrical spatial objects such as points, lines and areas.



EIS Programs Use GIS Techniques for Spatial Analysis

To provide scientifically sound and decision relevant information means tapping into a number of information resources. In a typical urban situation these are distributed physically, institutionally, and technically. They can include various databases such as GIS, monitoring data from observation networks; and a range of analytical tools. Information is integrated and distributed via a generic, client-server architecture.

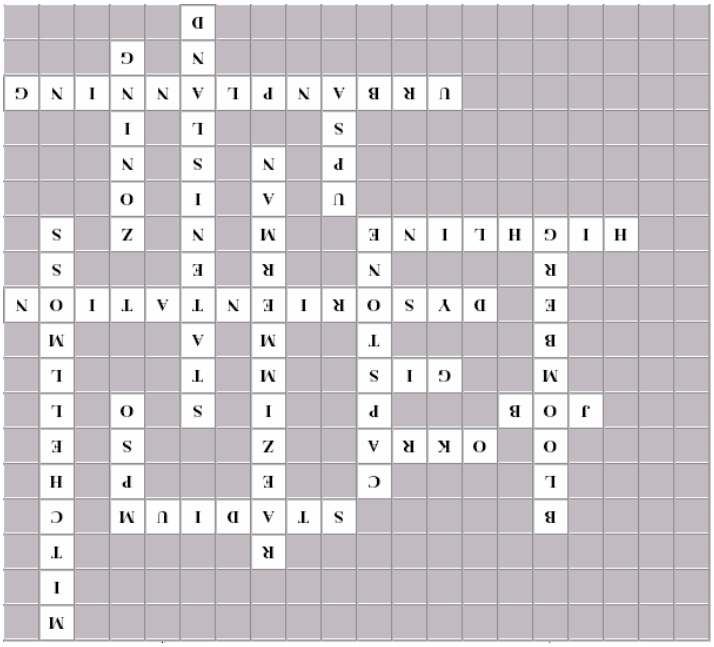
The display and analysis of monitoring data includes the display of individual time series data, basic statistical analysis, comparison with spatial homogeneity, comparison with standards and analysis of compliance for different aggregation periods, and spatial interpolation that results in a topical map. Scenarios can be compared with a set of 3D thematic map overlays to show concentrations and dispersions. These model forecasting techniques can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of any proposed intervention strategy such as restricting traffic or industrial emissions.

Available software

There are many companies in the US and in Europe that have already taken advantage of the technology to create interactive services for impact assessment. ESSA Technologies, a Canadian company specializing in environmental consulting and decision support have developed several innovative software products for environmental monitoring including, MERCI a tool for management and evaluation of river catch and effort information and TELSA a tool for exploratory landscape scenario analysis. One of their most notable projects was the creation of an EIA system for Southeast Asia to improve the practice of impact assessment by designing and implementing a computer based system to increase accessibility to existing information and environmental standards and guidelines. EIAxpert, developed by ESS, is a European interactive, rule-based expert system for environmental impact assessment. It is designed for a screening level assessment of development projects at a pre-feasibility stage. The system operates with a minimum of data and information about the project, its alternatives, and the environmental setting by drawing on generic knowledge and rule base as well as a regional geographic information system and a set of databases. Enverity is an example of a US system that uses advanced query engines and an extensive chemical inventory for tracking air emissions and wastewater discharge. This system can also be applied to LEED certification and ISO 140001. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides several web-based datasets and monitoring software applications that can measure environmental information. Among these are TANKS, an emissions estimator and STORET, a repository for water quality and biological monitoring data.

Mandatory assessment and reporting has come to include new tasks that call for new approaches and tools. Current developments in software engineering have brought forth the technology needed to create intelligent systems to support the decision making process. The integration of monitoring and data base management systems, GIS, simulation modeling, and expert systems offers many possibilities to support environmental management tasks with a new level of efficiency and effectiveness.

Cross word answers



Sustainable Construction in Seattle

By Uma Deshmukh
Staff writer

In 2000, Seattle, Wash., became the first city in the United States to formally adopt a citywide sustainable building policy, helping to set the stage for the surge of the Green Wave that would make its way through cities across the nation. Recognizing the growing need to protect the natural environment, Seattle sought to alter its approach to development by applying sustainability principles to the built environment, thus coining the term "sustainable building." In doing so, the city fully integrated new sustainability standards into its general development practices by incorporating them into land use policies and technical codes, as well as by implementing innovative programs focused on increasing awareness and education for developers and building industry professionals.

One example of an innovative program that has recently attracted significant attention in the planning community is the Built Green Seattle Design Competition, which was started in 2003 in an effort to encourage the development of residential green building projects. The competition calls for submissions of single- and multi-family residential projects that are rated according to the tough environmental standards identified by Seattle's Built Green certification system. This certification system was developed by the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, and serves to outline criteria for best practices in sustainable, environmentally friendly, and resource-efficient residential development.

In the competition, a jury of experts in the green building industry reviews the proposals and selects winners based on their design excellence and their adherence to the toughest standards for energy efficiency, materials efficiency, operations and maintenance, health and air quality, and water conservation. Among the winners of this year's competition was a development dedicated to providing permanent and transitional housing to homeless and low-income individuals, including disabled and HIV-infected persons. This project was selected, in part, for its excellence in energy efficiency, the innovative and efficient use of recycled-content materials, and its water conservation measures, while maintaining low operating and maintenance costs.

Since the inception of the program, 79 single- and multi-family residential projects, with a total of 189 units, have been certified according to Build Green standards, and 800 new projects (1,600 units) are currently underway. This growth in the green building market suggests a rising demand for environmentally-friendly development projects, and promises a healthier future for Seattle's residents and natural resources.

In addition to the design competition, as a formal demonstration of commitment to earth-friendly development, the city created a new Sustainable Building Policy based on tougher environmental standards. This policy compels new and restored City projects with over 5,000 square feet of occupied space to meet high national standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC established the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, which sets national performance standards for the sustainable development and operation of new and existing buildings. By integrating the rating system into the city's development policy, Seattle has been able to evaluate its sustainability performance and establish citywide measures to improve and maintain the environmental, economic, and social health of the city.

As another indication of Seattle's commitment to sustainable building, the City created the Green Building Team, an interdepartmental committee responsible for coordinating, promoting and enforcing the Sustainable Building Policy. Along with the many roles and functions of the Green Building Team, this coordinating body also lends a new level of importance to the city's sustainable building principles.

As Seattle continues to explore and expand its model of sustainable development, the city has inspired new creative thinking and energized dialogue around the importance of maintaining a balance between the man-made and natural environments. While trying to transform the city center into a pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented space, stimulate urban economic growth, and encourage housing development, Seattle has also embraced the mission of protecting the environment from irresponsible development, and has thus resolved to make the city an economically, socially, and environmentally healthier place to live.

View of Seattle with Mount Rainier in the background.
Photo courtesy of Uma Deshmukh

Spring Break Reading List

By urban planning students and faculty, compiled by Jordan Anderson

Sarah Kaufman
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
Turn-of-the-century Chicago, a World's Fair, architecture, and a serial killer; what more could you want?

Chris Shepard
For the Common Good by Herman E. Daly
I wouldn't call it an enjoyable read. In fact it's more of an arduous, mind-numbingly dense read about 'steady state economics' that could quite possibly consume your entire summer reading schedule. But, if you appreciate sustainability, and you have a soul, this book could present the shimmering light at the end of the tunnel.

Perry Chen
Interior Desecrations by James Lileks
Shag carpeting, linoleum flooring, along with matching pea-green refrigerator and mixer: all highlights of 70s interior design.

Cheryl Huber
Maximum City by Suketu Mehta
This book is all about Mumbai, India, and is a must for anyone fascinated by urban decay. An exploration of Bombay's culture and history, Mehta discusses police corruption, religious riots, rent control, slums, gangs, prostitutes and Bollywood. An urban wonderland but not for the weak of stomach.

Brigit Pinnell
The Portable Dorothy Parker by Dorothy Parker
At first, summer is a jolt of energy and bright light. It shakes you out of your despondent hell of numbing cold and misery. But then the days stay sunny, one after another after another. You get to the point where you are depressed and lethargic, if only for the reason that you need a day off from all this glee. Instead of hiding indoors feeling guilty about your malaise that cannot be attributed to the weather, I suggest curling up with Dorothy and a bottle of red. She will make you laugh while she cruelly mocks love and those foolish enough to pursue it.

Luke Falk
Small is Beautiful by E.F. Schumacher
The first 50 pages help to re-instill meaning to our post-post modern existence.

Judita Eisenberger
Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs.
Why read it? Because laughing so hard on the subway that people think, "Man, New Yorkers really ARE nuts" is fun.

Jessica Sanclemente and Meredith Phillips
Chango's Fire by Ernesto Quinonez
MP: A novel about gentrification in East Harlem. Cool because it cites real E. Harlem players, and real places.

JS: I thought it was a good introduction to people who suffer from displacement in NYC. Considering what people of color have experienced in NYC, I wouldn't say it's a good account of all the issues, but its a start.

Greg Zwahlen
Carfree Cities by J. H. Crawford
This book, a comparative look at Venice and LA, offers no utopian vision, but rather a thoughtful and detailed exploration of what car-free cities might look like and how much better life could be there. Lots of interesting design ideas and a useful introduction to nuts and bolts stuff like FAR and infrastructure needs.

Simon Gerson
Emergence by Steven Johnson
Why the ant farm you had as a kid made you decide to be an Urban Planner. If it's not part of the Urban Planning Cannon, it should be.

The World's Banker by Sebastian Mallaby
Move over Bobby Moses, Jimmy Wolfensohn is taking over the playground. There's no place to hide, either; he's the president of the World Bank.

Mitchell Moss
102 Minutes by James Dwyer and Kevin Flynn
102 Minutes is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand what occurred within the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This is a painful and compelling story of efforts to save lives, to find routes of escape, and of the fundamental breakdowns in communications systems on September 11th.

City in the Sky by James Glanz and Eric Lipton
City in the Sky provides a solid historical perspective on the planning and decision-making that led to the construction of the World Trade Center, the way in which local businesses were evicted from lower Manhattan to assemble the WTC site and the innovative design concepts used in its construction and the way in which the use of the WTC evolved from its initial inception.

Nick Molinari
The Experience of Place: *A New Way of Looking at and Dealing With our Radically Changing Cities and Countryside* by Tony Hiss
Tony Hiss helps us understand how we can use cities' natural assets to make better, more livable places. With examples from Central Park to the Midwest, this book is for all planners interested in sustainability.

Nicole Dooskin
Subwayland : Adventures in the World Beneath New York by Randy Kennedy
Kennedy dedicates each chapter to a different aspect of NYC's celebrated underground. Learn about the subway-riding pigeons of the Rockaways and the bride and groom who tied the knot 35 feet belowground.

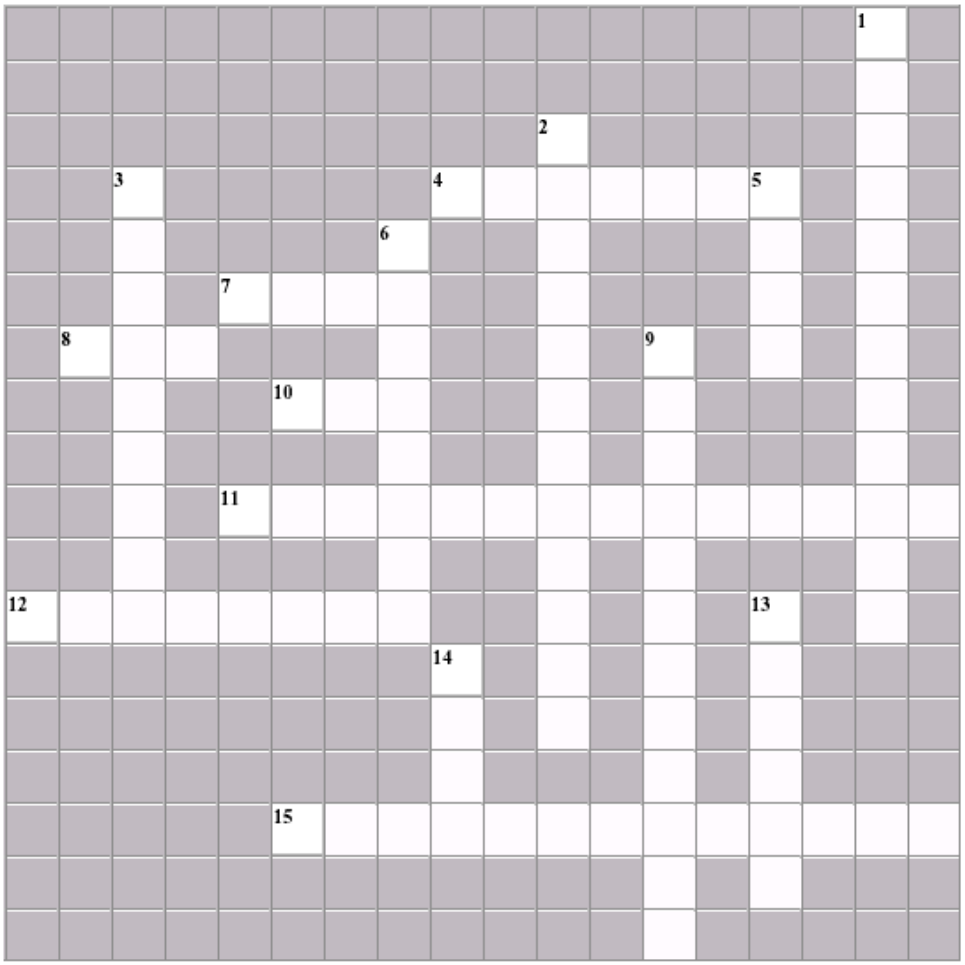
Jordan Anderson
Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner
Steven Levitt is a freak-o-nature — a creative economist with an array of interests. What do sumo wrestlers, baby names, and abortion policies have in common? Read this book!

Urban Planning Students at (mostly) Work and Play

Urban Planning Students at (mostly) Work and Play

Urban Planning Crossword

By Rachel Friede
Wagner Planner Puzzlemistress



Across

4. S. Silver disqualified this high tech indoor/outdoor facility in the final play
7. I just really like this type of southern style veggie, so I put it in this crossword puzzle
8. The one thing you can't seem to find
10. Zvia can help you with this
11. You got drunk AND talked to your professors at this April 29th event
12. Do not enter this newest public space just yet (2 words)
15. No one else seems to understand what we do (2 words)

Down

1. He has cool glasses and a direct line to Michael B. (2 words)
2. The head honcho (2 words)
3. Love him or hate him, he runs the city
5. The *most important* course at Wagner (acronym)
6. Year-long nightmare of Wagner
9. This is a borough? (2 words)
13. For example, R-2, also known as that thing that gets in the way of putting another Home Depot in the Puck Building
14. Urban planning Mafia

THE WAGNER PLANNER
Urban Planning Program
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
New York University
295 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10012