Thinking Like a City:

Grounding Social-Ecological Resilience in an Urban Land Ethic

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DUALISTIC THINKING

City v. Country
Urban v. Rural
Human v. Natural
Conqueror v. Conquered

Replace with Resilience Thinking
Resilience Theory

The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and retain essentially the same function and structure – to have the same identity and remain in the same regime.
Adaptive Cycle

Panarchy

What is a “Resilient City”? 

Sustainable network of physical systems and human communities
The City as a Social-Ecological System
Foundations of an Urban Land Ethic

- Leopold’s Land Ethic
- Jacob’s Urban Ethic
Urban Land Ethic

- Human Environment: Society & Culture
- Built Environment
- Natural Environment
Cultivating an Urban Land Ethic

- Sense of Place
- “Biosensitive Society” (Stephen Boyden)
- Biophilia (E.O. Wilson)
- Re-naturing (Richard Louv)
Legal Devices for Promoting Urban Resiliency

- Cross and multidisciplinary
- Multi-scalar
- Information Sharing
Role for Law in Implementing Resiliency Thinking

- Disaster Planning
- Energy
- Natural Resources (adaptive management)
- Housing
- Transportation
- Employment
- Land Use Planning
- Food Security
- Civic-Ecological Education
- Community Collaboration & Empowerment
- Adaptive Governance