

POLICY, BIODIVERSITY AND THE CITY

Prepared by Aylise Cooke



The background of the slide is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, there are lush green trees and grass. In the background, a tall building with a sign that says "KIDGEO" is visible. The sky is blue and clear.

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

AGENDA

Ecological Design Lab

What is Biodiversity?

Bylaws for Biodiversity Project

Liminal Ecologies

Questions



(Obregon Murillo, 2021)

• • **ECO/
LOGICAL
DESIGN
LAB**

**LANDSCAPE
CONNECTIVITY**

**GREEN & BLUE
INFRASTRUCTURE**

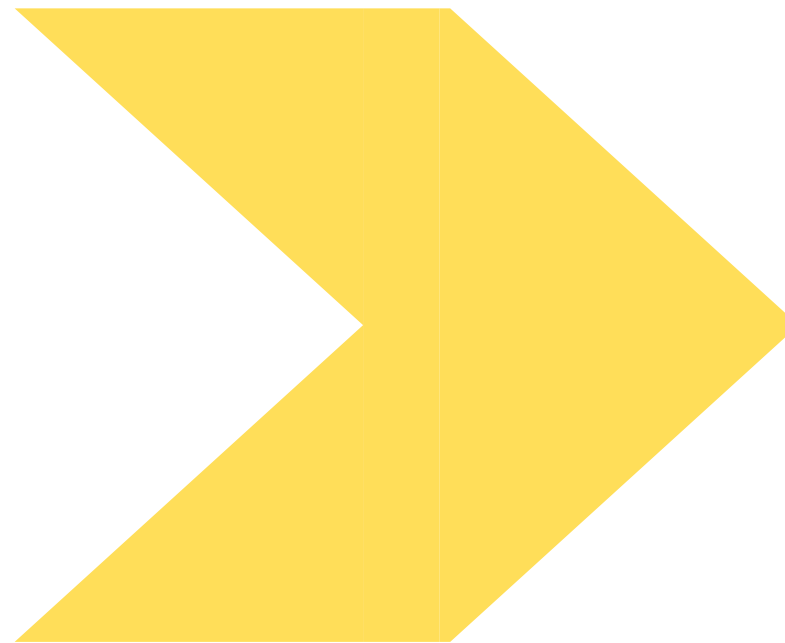
RESILIENCE



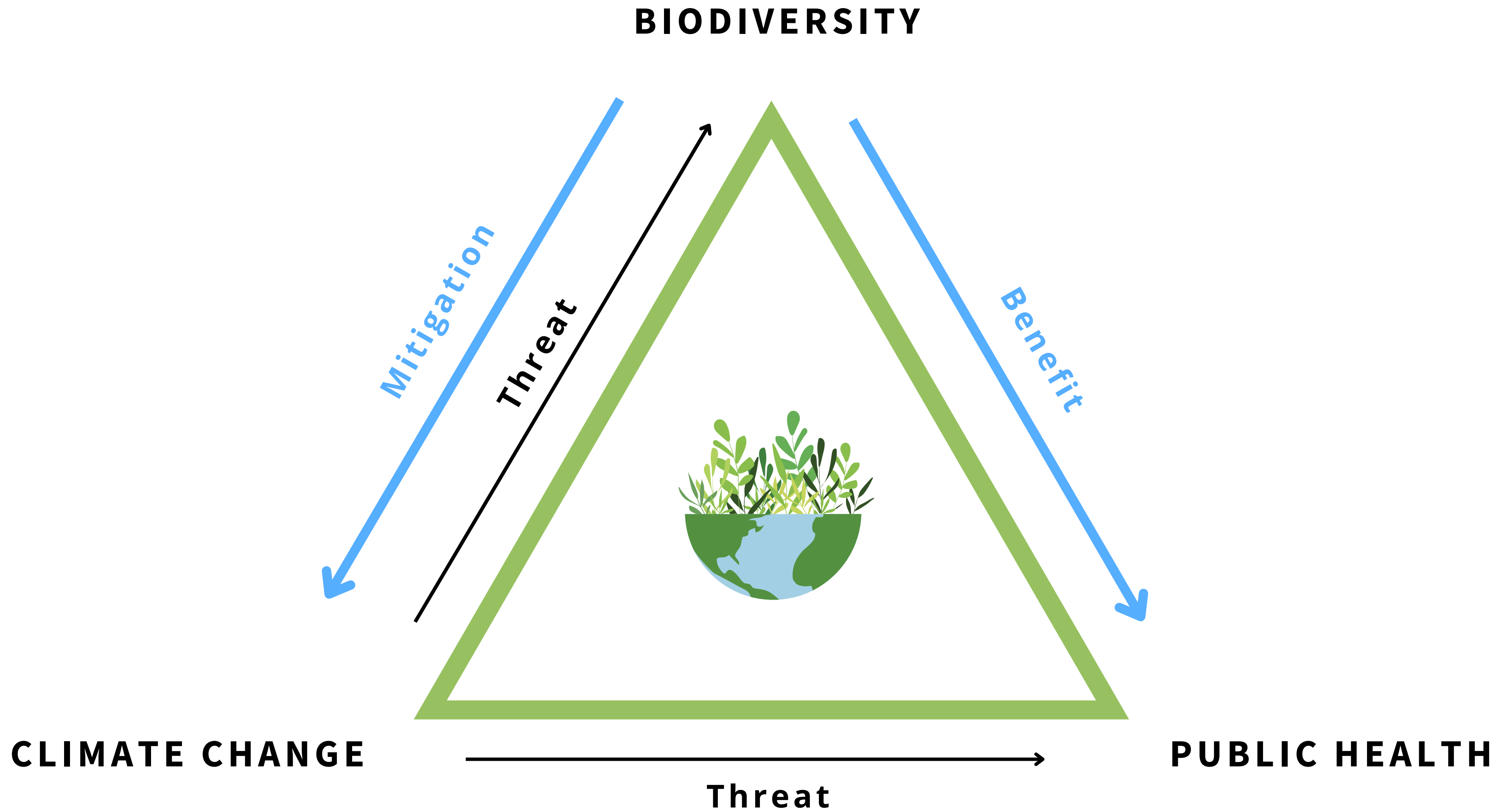
WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

BIODIVERSITY

The genetic diversity within a species,
the diversity among species and the
diversity within ecosystems



Disease Resistance
Food Security
Ecosystem Services
Public Health
Mental Health
Spiritual Well-being
Intrinsic Value



MUNICIPAL POLICY

FORM AND ENFORCEABILITY

MUST BE CONSIDERED BY DECISION-MAKERS

OFFICIAL PLAN

The objectives of the municipality and their goals are to meet the future needs of the community.

ZONING BYLAWS

Legally enforceable regulatory policies based on the objectives outlined in an Official Plan.

SECONDARY POLICIES

Can be utilized to report on findings and recommend action but they are not legally binding.

Formal Landscape Connectivity Networks in Toronto



Legend

- Environmentally Significant Areas
- Natural Heritage System
- City Park

0 5 10 20 Kilometers



(Sinclair, 2022)

BYLAWS FOR BIODIVERSITY

Beth and Craig Sinclair and the Town of Smith Falls



(Sinclair, 2022)

"Until the bylaws change in all the 400 municipalities in Ontario, I don't feel very satisfied... We can restore so much with nature in our lawns."


-The Sinclairs

(Ramlakhan, 2022)

FREE PUBLIC RESOURCES

BYLAWS FOR BIODIVERSITY:
MODEL BYLAW

JUNE
2021



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Frequently Asked Questions: What to Know When ReWilding / Naturalizing Your Lawn

A Community Resource Compiled by the Ecological Design Lab



How to Naturalize your Yard

A resource to help guide Ontario residents interested in cultivating a natural garden.

For more information about the Bylaws for Biodiversity project see the <https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/>



Why Naturalize?

Cultivating a natural garden can increase pollinator habitat and support urban biodiversity. Natural gardens are more effective at stormwater retention and can therefore reduce flooding risks.

Traditional turf grass lawns are more costly, requiring increased water use, mowing, green house gas emissions and fertilizers.

Gardening has been identified as a strategy to support mental and physical health. Gardening provides a medium of connecting with nature and fostering well-being.

PUBLIC SPACE



LIMINAL SPACE





(Cooke, 2023)

LIMINAL

“between or belonging to two different places,
states, etc”



(Del Tredici, 2020)



(Cooke, 2023)

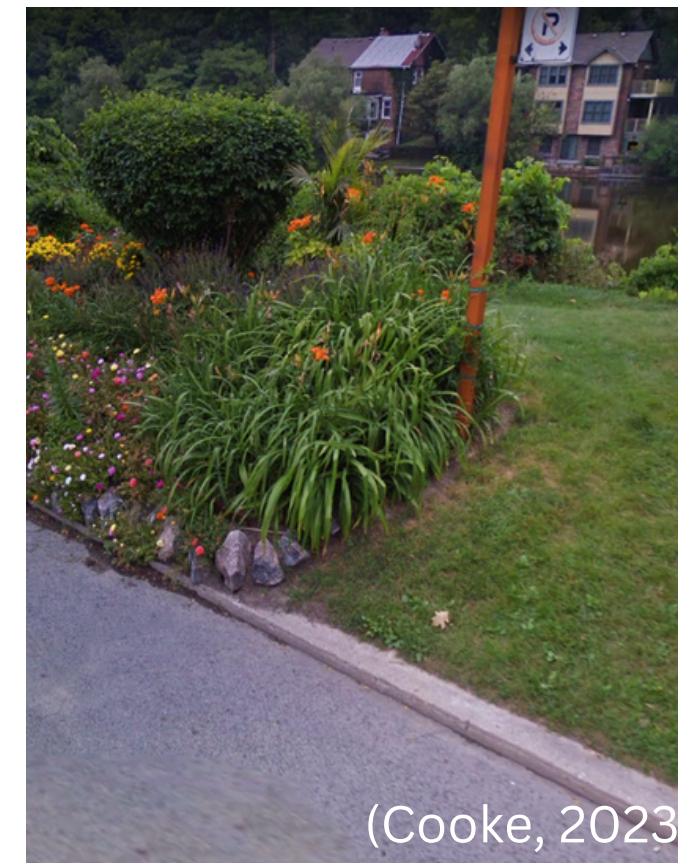


9.5%

of the surface area of Somerville, Massachusetts was found to account for spontaneous, unmanicured which exceeded the city's parkland (Del Tredici, 2014)

LIMINAL ECOLOGIES: A LEXICON AND PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF LIMINAL ECOLOGIES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

BY AYLISE COOKE



SUPERVISED BY NINA-MARIE LISTER
LORRAINE JOHNSON AS SECOND READER

POLICY REVIEW

Encourage municipal policy reform which:

- Increases the legislative capacity of policies that support urban biodiversity;
- Expands systems of valuing biodiversity present in this legislation; and,
- Extends the definitions of nature protected in the city to recognize liminal ecologies.



LEXICON



MICROSITE

Pavement Flora, Growth through the cracks of construction.



GAP

The physical space between buildings or fences. Alleyways and laneways are common examples of gap ecologies in Toronto.



STRUCTURAL

Integration into infrastructure, habitat that utilizes infrastructure as a foundation to grow, crawl and propagate.

THE TEMPORARY AS A MEANS OF TRANSFORMATION



(Cooke, 2023)



Bowery Project, n.d)

- Form of Community Empowerment
- Opportunity to question the status quo
- Means to reimagine the city and generate long-term solutions

NEXT STEPS



0 5 10 20 Kilometers



THANK YOU!

Please see <https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/> to download any resources discussed in today's talk

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