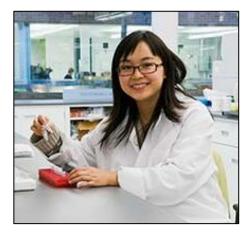


Nature-based solutions

A locally-grounded approach to biodiversity conservation social empowerment







Jennifer Schwarz Ballard, Ph.D.

Vice President, Education & Community Programs

jschwarz@chicagobotanic.org

Loss of
biodiversity
is a human
rights issue



Loss of biodiversity is a human rights issue



The environment is not just nature

Healthcare

Infrastructure

Ecosystems

- Our environment
 - Social systems
 - Economic systems
 - Political systems
 - Educational systems
- Human health is dependent on environmental health
- Public gardens have the opportunity and obligation to make those connections explicit



Nature-Based Solutions

"Nature-based solutions are interventions which use nature and the natural functions of healthy ecosystems to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time."











community + climate + action connectcca.org





- Engages community members in co-creating solutions that meet conservation and community-identified goals
- Encourages open discussion of climate change and its impacts
- Supports communities in identifying their assets
- Provides resources and template project ideas for easy start-up

The Green Ministry at the COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST used stories of the African-American migration north in the U.S. to illustrate the connection between human and ecological migration in the face of climate change.





Educators at the University of Wisconsin-Madison LATINO EARTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS workshop learn about the ways habitat restoration can help mitigate the impacts of climate change and install native plants along using the Kinnickinnic River.

which leads to more



which leads to mor

Nature-Based Solutions

Community

- Access to green space in deeply urban areas
- Improved soil & water quality
- Community cohesion
- Reduced flooding

Biodiversity Conservation

- Reclaim vacant, polluted land
- Replant and restore native habitats
- Increased awareness of the importance of conservation and biodiversity

Conservation and human progress are not mutually exclusive



