

Section III: Biological Indicators

“Biological diversity is the key to the maintenance of the world as we know it. Life in a local site struck down by a passing storm springs back quickly: opportunistic species rush in to fill the spaces. They entrain the succession that circles back to something resembling the original state of the environment.”

– from The Diversity of Life, Edward O. Wilson

An important design goal of urban restoration is to enhance ecological functions within existing ecosystems, rather than attempt to restore all pre-disturbance functions, which is impossible in urban landscapes. Using the existing biota of West River Memorial Park in New Haven, Connecticut the authors in this section describe the difficulties confronting urban restoration. They also recommend design criteria that would maximize habitat restoration within an urban context, and discuss methods for monitoring restoration using biotic communities.

