



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science
Genevieve Pearthree

Will present her scientific paper

To What Extent Do Planners Engage with Regenerative Design Principles in River Restoration Projects? Insights from Los Angeles and Milwaukee

Abstract

Cities are restoring rivers to recapture lost social, ecological, and economic benefits. But, traditional urban planning and flood management tools are insufficient to tease out complex relationships between humans, the built environment, and natural elements, nor do they address the processes that led to degradation in the first place. Yet, the field of regenerative design—an eco-centric approach that aims to dismantle the processes and viewpoints that drive our most pressing environmental problems—offers tools to plan more effective and inclusive river restoration projects. To explore these issues, I reviewed 15 urban river restoration plans, followed by a comparative case study of the Los Angeles River, CA and the Kinnickinnic River, WI. I conducted a content analysis of river restoration plans and popular press articles, and employed semi-structured, qualitative interviews of key actors. Results indicate many participants have a regenerative mindset and goals, but institutional, cultural, economic, physical, and other constraints limit their ability to implement very regenerative projects. Recommendations are to nurture the regenerative processes already in place, and target barriers to engagement with regenerative design principles to foster more successful projects in the long-term.

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

2:00 PM

Wrigley Hall, Room 401

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Scott Cloutier, chair

Dr. Meagan Ehlenz, member

Dr. Deirdre Pfeiffer, member