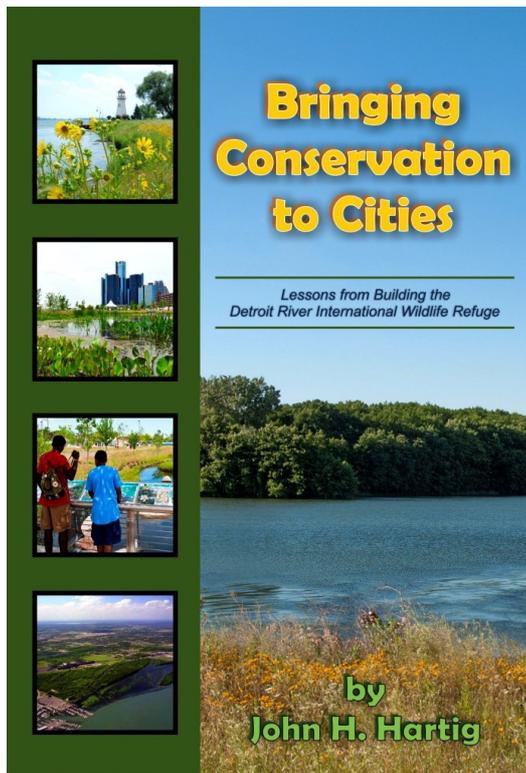




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By John Hartig

What percentage of people in the United States and Canada live in urban areas? The answer is 80%. Throughout the world 54% of all people now live in urban areas and this is projected to increase to 60% by 2030. Most urban residents are disconnected from the natural world. As a global community, we cannot afford to allow this disconnection to continue and that is why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created an Urban Wildlife Conservation Program to help create a connected conservation constituency.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic or about what is being done to bring conservation to the Detroit metropolitan area, you may want to read the new book written by Refuge Manager John Hartig titled *Bringing Conservation to Cities: Lessons from Building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge*.

Today, the cleanup and recovery of the Detroit River represent one of the single most remarkable ecological recovery stories in North America. Out of the recovery has come the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge that is one of 14 priority urban wildlife refuges in the county charged with bringing conservation to cities and making nature part of everyday urban life. It represents a new model for conservation – one that both restores habitats for fish and wildlife in an urban area through innovative public-private partnerships, and one that provides a blueprint for bringing conservation to cities across the nation.

*Bringing Conservation to Cities* is the story of how innovative partnerships are making nature part of everyday urban life in the automobile capitals of the U.S. and Canada in an effort to inspire and develop the next generation of conservationists in urban areas because that is where most people on our planet live. Most urban residents are disconnected from the natural world. Therefore, there is growing interest in re-connecting urban residents with nature. Compounding this problem is the fact that most conservationists avoid cities and want to work in pristine or wilderness areas. Furthermore, when scientific assessments are made, most urban areas are found to be too degraded to rank high enough on conservation priority lists.

*Bringing Conservation to Cities* is a timely and informative expose of what it takes to foster a conservation ethic in a major urban area, complete with critical lessons learned, and to simultaneously inspire and develop the next generation of conservationists that must be

developed with increasing frequency in urban areas because that is where most people on our planet live. If you are interested in exploring this new urban conservation frontier, one that has numerous challenges and opportunities, and in fostering more urban conservation initiatives throughout the world, than *Bringing Conservation to Cities* is a must read.

“If we can bring conservation to the Detroit-Windsor Metropolitan Area and make nature part of everyday urban life in these automobile capitals, we can do it anywhere,” noted former U.S. Congressman John D. Dingell. “I recommend this book to you, particularly its lessons learned, and hope that it will inspire you to bring conservation to your city.”

For more information about this book and where you can purchase it, visit:

<http://msupress.org/books/book/?id=50-1D0-348A#.VUIgjCFViko>

<http://www.amazon.com/Bringing-Conservation-Cities-International-Ecovision/dp/0992100747>

