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## Bringing Conservation to Cities discussion

### The Creation of an International Wildlife Refuge

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Dr. Hartig's book gives a fascinating and detailed look into the formation of the landmark Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. The overall premise is that since most people in America (and indeed the world) live in urban centers, how we interact with our natural environment is vital to the health and sustainability of our society.

Dr. Hartig begins by describing the history of the Detroit River area, and how the river went from a natural wonder to an ecosystem that was so choked with pollution it even once caught fire. This prompted a change in the way people viewed their environment. He chronicles the efforts of unions, hunters, community leaders, environmentalists, and politicians as they worked toward changing this trajectory. The creation of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, seen through this lens, can be clearly linked to the overall environmental movement in the US and around the world. This period saw renewed public appreciation for nature and a willingness to preserve it as an asset to the community. Through their vital efforts, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge not only thrived, but became a model for other such initiatives around the country (and the world).

If you take away anything from this book, it's likely the enormous responsibility we all have to care for the natural spaces around us. Since so many of us live in urban areas, it's more important than ever to make sure we do so in a way that preserves their riches for future generations. We all have a part to play and, as Dr. Hartig's book shows us, if Detroit can do it, anyone can do it!

