

benefits

[illegible]

Kriscenski | GRW | 20 January 2012

BEYOND WILDLIFE HABITAT:

the socio-economic case for biodiversity corridors

benefits

greater perspective
municipalities present
body
165

jobs
savings
revenue
recreation
biodiversity

Boosting local economy

The San Antonio Riverwalk is considered the anchor of the \$1.2 billion tourist industry in San Antonio, Texas. A user survey concluded that the Riverwalk is the second most important tourist attraction in the state of Texas (NPS 1990).

A poll conducted by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors found that natural beauty was the single most important criterion for tourists in selecting outdoor recreation sites (Scenic America, 1987). Maryland's Department of Economic and Employment Development estimated the annual value of tourism and commercial activities directly related to the Chesapeake Bay was \$31.6 billion in 1989 (DEED 1989).

- *American Trails*

BEYOND WILDLIFE HABITAT:

the socio-economic case for biodiversity corridors

benefits

greater perspective
municipalities present

body
165

jobs
savings
revenue
recreation
biodiversity

Natural Capital

...research has shown that it is often more cost-effective to conserve natural systems, than to try to replicate them. For example, in New York State, the price of a new water filtration plant was determined to be \$6–8 billion; – instead, officials invested \$1.5 billion in the watersheds, through land purchases and landowner incentives, which reduced pollution and maintained watershed health to provide naturally clean water for a fraction of the price.

- *Edmonton & Area Land Trust*

BEYOND WILDLIFE HABITAT:

the socio-economic case for biodiversity corridors

benefits

greater perspective
municipalities present
body
165

jobs
savings
revenue
recreation
biodiversity

Increased Municipal Taxes

The higher value of properties adjacent to natural areas and parks means that municipalities can obtain higher property taxes. This also applies when farmland is preserved and adjacent residential property prices increase. Parks and natural areas have a role in attracting people and businesses to an area, which enhances the community's tax base.

- *Greenways, Inc*

BEYOND WILDLIFE HABITAT:

the socio-economic case for biodiversity corridors

benefits

greater perspective
municipalities present
body
165

jobs
savings
revenue
recreation
biodiversity

If the social and economic benefits are so strong, why have environmental benefits taken center stage?

Possible reason: cities that are implementing greenways are well aware of the socio-economic benefits however find better PR opportunities in the environmental aspects (feel-good marketing).

Problem: not enough uptake!

While the environmental case may prove sufficient for some decision-makers, more broadly applicable benefits are needed to scale-up this sustainable design strategy. Promoting the social and economic benefits can do this!