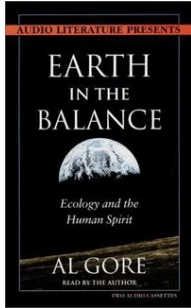


Recommended Reading List

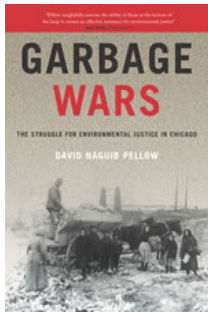
Provided by the Chicago Conservation Corps (C3)



Air

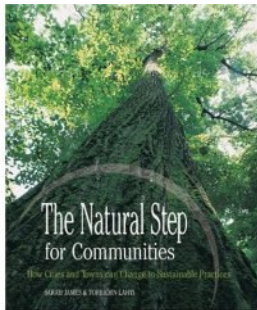


Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit, Al Gore, 2000, *Astonishingly, many political and business leaders obstinately insist that the environmental threat is not real, but Gore proves irrefragably that it is real. Very real. Supported by the latest research, he demonstrates that the quality of our air and water is urgently at risk. He clearly illustrates how problems that once were regional have now become global. Gore argues for a worldwide mobilization to save us from disaster. He addresses not only the planet's ecology, but population, technology, and the diffusion of environmental education. The seriousness of the crisis requires a bold and visionary response, and Al Gore believes that it will take nothing less than a new conception of the individual human being and of civilization. This illuminating book is essential for anyone aware of the urgent need to bring Earth back into balance.*



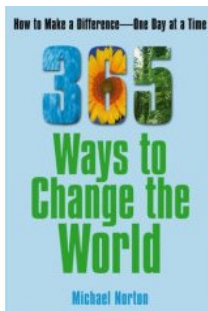
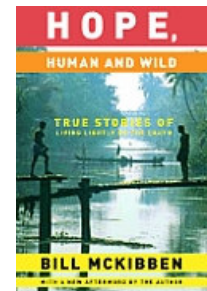
Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago, David Naguib Pellow, 2004, *From Publishers Weekly: With more landfills per square mile than any other American city, Chicago has had some particularly colorful controversies over waste disposal over the last century. University of Colorado-Boulder sociology professor David Naguib Pellow traces these conflicts in this book, examining how poor neighborhoods come to be burdened with a disproportionate amount of pollution and refuse. He offers background on Chicago's waste management from the 1880s to the present, focusing in particular on the struggle for environmental justice of the last two decades, and shows how "environmentally friendly" technologies like recycling plants and waste-to-energy incinerators actually end up adding to the pollution in poor neighborhoods. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.*

Community

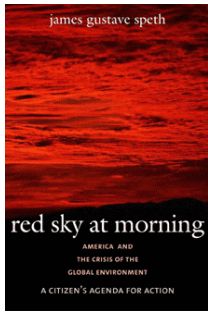


The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices, Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti, 2004, *This book clarifies the concept of sustainability, offering guiding principles-the Natural Step framework-that help identify sustainable action in any area; introduces the 60+ eco-municipalities of Sweden that have adopted changes to sustainable practices; and explains how they did it and outlines how other communities in North America and elsewhere can do the same. Key to success is a democratic, "bottom-up" change process and clear guiding sustainability principles, such as the Natural Step framework. The book will appeal to both general readers wishing to understand better what sustainability means and practitioners interested in introducing or expanding sustainable development in their communities.*

Hope, Human and Wild, Bill McKibben, 2007, *Publisher Comments: Divided into three sections, Hope, Human and Wild profiles the efforts of three caring communities to preserve wilderness and reverse environmental devastation. They include the reforestation of McKibben's home territory, New York's Adirondack Mountains; solving traffic and pollution problems in the densely populated Curitiba, Brazil; and how the citizens of Kerala, India have demonstrated that quality of life doesn't depend on overconsumption of resources. This edition features a new introduction that revisits these places and explores how they've changed over the years.*

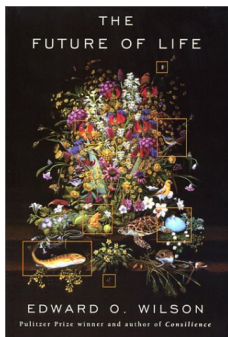
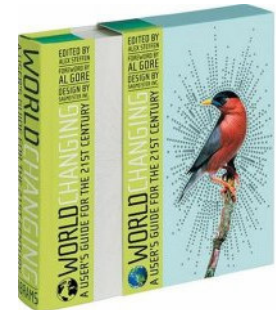


365 Ways To Change the World: How to Make a Difference One Day at a Time, Michael Norton, 2007, *From Publishers Weekly: For the activist hunting down fresh inspiration or the beginner looking for a place to start, the founder of the UK's Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action provides this practical, inventive idea-a-day guide that takes on big issues-peace, health, the environment and others-with the belief that "a lot of people doing a lot of little things could have a huge impact." The approach is decidedly progressive, the research is top-notch and each entry is crammed with information, making this a great companion for those who want to start changing the world immediately. Illustrations. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.*



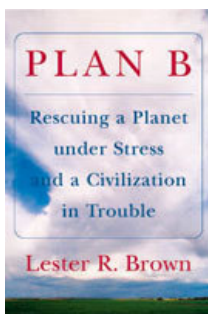
Red Sky at Morning, James Gustave Speth, 1999, *In this powerful book, a renowned environmental leader warns that despite all the international negotiations of the past two decades, efforts to protect Earth's environment are not succeeding. He explains why this is so and presents eight specific steps that governments and citizens can take to achieve a sustainable future.*

Worldchanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century, Alex Steffen, 2006, *From Publishers Weekly. This 600-page companion to the eco-friendly website of the same name (www.worldchanging.com) is chock-a-block with information about what is going on right now to create an environmentally and economically sustainable future-and what stands in opposition. The organization of the hefty volume mimics that of the website, divided into sections on Stuff, Shelter, Cities, Community, Business, Politics and Planet. All entries wrap up with reviews of pertinent resources-including books, websites and moves-where readers can get more detailed information. It's hard to imagine a more complete resource for those hoping to live in a future that is, as editor Steffen puts it, "bright, green, free and tough." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.*

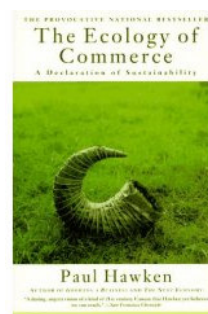


The Future of Life, Edward O. Wilson, 2003, *The eminent Harvard naturalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Edward Wilson marshals all the prodigious powers of his intellect and imagination in this impassioned call to ensure the future of life. Opening with an imagined conversation with Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond, he writes that he has come "to explain to you, and in reality to others and not least to myself, what has happened to the world we both have loved." Based on a love affair with the natural world that spans 70 years, Wilson combines lyrical descriptions with dire warnings and remarkable stories of flora and fauna on the edge of extinction with hard economics. How many species are we really losing? Is environmentalism truly contrary to economic development? And how can we save the planet? Wilson has penned an eloquent plea for the need for a global land ethic and offers the strategies necessary to ensure life on earth based on foresight, moral courage, and the best tools that science and technology can provide. -- Lesley Reed*

Energy



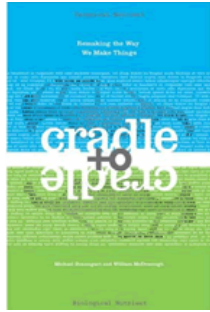
Plan B: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble, Lester Brown, 2006, *From Publishers Weekly: Brown believes that "we can build an economy that does not destroy its natural support systems, a global community where the basic needs of all the earth's people are satisfied, and a world that will allow us to think of ourselves as civilized." Brown (Eco-Economy) backs up his argument with clear and well-reasoned text that outlines how to solve the world's severe environmental problems. Drawing on careful research, Brown outlines the details of Plan B, a committed global cooperative effort to raise water and land productivity, cut carbon emissions and stabilize population growth before time runs out. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.*



The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability, Paul Hawken, 1993, *Drawing as much on Baba Ram Dass and Vaclav Havel as he does on Peter Drucker and WalMart for his case studies, Hawken is on a one-man crusade to reform our economic system by demanding that First World businesses reduce their consumption of energy and resources by 80 percent in the next 50 years. As if that weren't enough, Hawken argues that business goals should be redefined to embrace such fuzzy categories as whether the work is aesthetically pleasing and the employees are having fun; this applies to corporate giants and mom-and-pop operations alike. He proposes a culture of business in which the real world, the natural world, is allowed to flourish as well, and in which the planet's needs are addressed. Wall Street may not be ready for Hawken's provocative brand of environmental awareness, but this fine book is full of captivating ideas.*

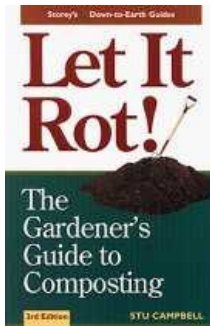


Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution, Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins, 2000, *From Publishers Weekly: Hawken (The Ecology of Commerce) and Amory and Hunter Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute, have put together an ambitious, visionary monster of a book advocating "natural capitalism." The short answer to the logical question (What is natural capitalism?) is that it is a way of thinking that seeks to apply market principles to all sources of material value, most importantly natural resources. The authors have two related goals: first, to show the vast array of ecologically smart options available to businesses; second, to argue that it is possible for society and industry to adopt them. Readers with a capacity for judicious browsing and grazing can surely learn enough in these pages to apply well-reasoned pressure. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.*



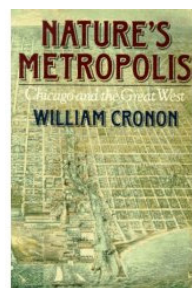
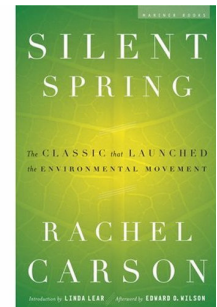
Cradle to Cradle, William McDonough and Michael Braungart, 2002, *Paper or plastic? Neither, say Bill McDonough and Michael Braungart. Why settle for the least harmful alternative when we could have something that is better—say, edible grocery bags! In Cradle to Cradle, the authors present a manifesto calling for a new industrial revolution, one that would render both traditional manufacturing and traditional environmentalism obsolete. They offer several compelling examples of corporations that are not just doing less harm—they're actually doing some good for the environment and their neighborhoods, and making more money in the process. Cradle to Cradle is a refreshing change from the intractable environmental conflicts that dominate headlines. It's a handbook for 21st-century innovation and should be required reading for business hotshots and environmental activists. --Therese Littleton*

Land

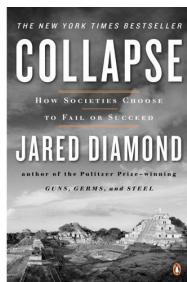


Let it Rot! The gardener's guide to composting, Stu Campbell, 1998, *In 1975, Let it Rot! helped start the composting movement and taught gardeners everywhere how to recycle waste to create soil-nourishing compost. This book contains advice for starting and maintaining a composting system, building bins, and using compost.*

Silent Spring, Rachel Carson, 1962, *Silent Spring, released in 1962, offered the first shattering look at widespread ecological degradation and touched off an environmental awareness that still exists. Rachel Carson's book focused on the poisons from insecticides, weed killers, and other common products as well as the use of sprays in agriculture, a practice that led to dangerous chemicals to the food source. Carson argued that those chemicals were more dangerous than radiation and that for the first time in history, humans were exposed to chemicals that stayed in their systems from birth to death. Presented with thorough documentation, the book opened more than a few eyes about the dangers of the modern world and stands today as a landmark work.*



Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West, William Cronon, 1992, *Cronon's history of 19th-century Chicago is in fact the history of the widespread effects of a single city on millions of square miles of ecological, cultural, and economic frontier. Cronon combines archival accuracy, ecological evaluation, and a sweeping understanding of the impact of railroads, stockyards, catalog companies, and patterns of property on the design of development of the entire inland United States to this date. Although focused on Chicago and the U.S., the general lessons it teaches are of global significance, and a rich source of metaphors for the ways in which colonization of physical space operates differently from, and similarly to, colonization of cyberspace. This is a compelling, wise, thorough--and thoroughly accessible--masterpiece of history writ large.*

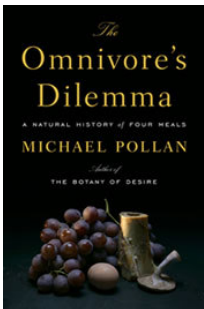


Collapse, Jared Diamond, 2005, *From Publishers Weekly: In his Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller Guns, Germs, and Steel, geographer Diamond laid out a grand view of the organic roots of human civilizations in flora, fauna, climate and geology. That vision takes on apocalyptic overtones in this fascinating comparative study of societies that have, sometimes fatally, undermined their own ecological foundations. Extending his treatment to contemporary environmental trouble spots, he finds today's global, technologically advanced civilization very far from solving the problems that plagued primitive, isolated communities in the remote past. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.*



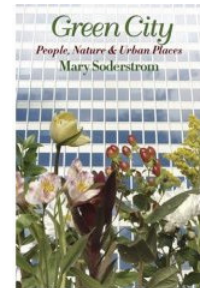
Health and Community Design: The Impact of the Built Environment on Physical Activity, Lawrence Frank, Peter Engelke, and Thomas Schmid, 2003, *Health and Community Design* is a comprehensive examination of how the built environment encourages or discourages physical activity, drawing together insights from a range of research on the relationships between urban form and public health. It provides important information about the factors that influence decisions about physical activity and modes of travel, and about how land use patterns can be changed to help overcome barriers to physical activity.

Design with Nature, Ian L. McHarg, 1995 (originally published 1969), *Design With Nature* offers a practical blueprint for a new, healthier relationship between the built environment and nature. In so doing, it provides nothing less than the scientific, technical, and philosophical foundations for a mature civilization that will, as Lewis Mumford put it, "replace the polluted, bulldozed, machine-dominated, dehumanized, explosion-threatened world that is even now disintegrating and disappearing before our eyes."

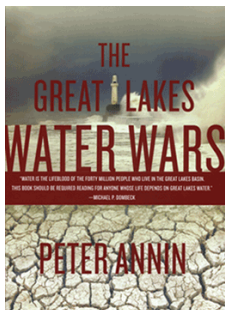


Omnivore's Dilemma, Michael Pollan, 2006, "What should we have for dinner?" To one degree or another, this simple question assails any creature faced with a wide choice of things to eat. Anthropologists call it the omnivore's dilemma. Choosing from among the countless potential foods nature offers, humans have had to learn what is safe, and what isn't — which mushrooms should be avoided, for example, and which berries we can enjoy. Today, as America confronts what can only be described as a national eating disorder, the omnivore's dilemma has returned with an atavistic vengeance. The cornucopia of the modern American supermarket and fast-food outlet has thrown us back on a bewildering landscape where we once again have to worry about which of those tasty-looking morsels might kill us. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is Michael Pollan's brilliant and eye-opening exploration of these little-known but vitally important dimensions of eating in America.

Green City: People, Nature and Urban Life, Mary Soderstrom, 2006, *Examining 11 cities worldwide and concentrating on the intersection of nature and society in the urban environment, this book offers insight into how people have tried and often failed to connect with nature throughout history while retaining a strong optimism for the future. Giving examples for each city, the author weighs the consequences of introducing nature to urban areas and provides recommendations on creating green space in the city.*



Water



Great Lakes Water Wars, Peter Annin, 2006, *The Great Lakes* are the largest collection of fresh surface water on earth, and more than 40 million Americans and Canadians live in their basin. Will we divert water from the Great Lakes, causing them to end up like Central Asia's Aral Sea, which has lost 90 percent of its surface area and 75 percent of its volume since 1960? Or will we come to see that unregulated water withdrawals are ultimately catastrophic? Peter Annin writes a fast-paced account of the people and stories behind these battles. Destined to be the definitive story for the general public as well as policymakers, *The Great Lakes Water Wars* is a balanced, comprehensive look behind the scenes at the conflicts and compromises that are the past-and future-of this globally significant resource.

Useful News Sources

Environment Report from the Great Lakes Radio Consortium: <http://environmentreport.org/>

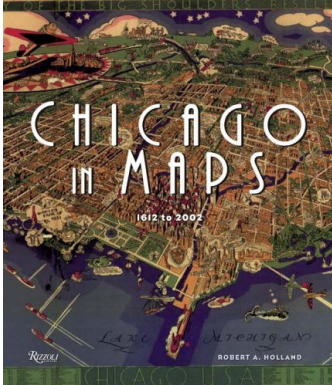
Chicago Wilderness Magazine: <http://chicagowildernessmag.org/>

Conscious Choice: <http://consciouschoice.com/index.html>

Grist: <http://www.grist.org/>

*Have a recommendation for a book we should add to our reading list?
Send your suggestions to: conservation@cityofchicago.org.*

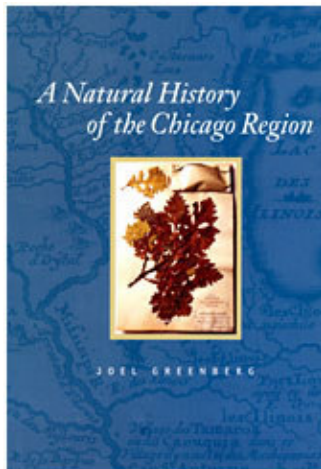
Aaron Durnbaugh's Book Recommendations



Chicago in Maps: 1612-2002, Robert Holland

Chicago in Maps is a luxuriously illustrated cartographic history of Chicago, known for centuries as the gateway city to the West. The powerful and evocative documents reproduced here offer an unprecedented avenue to the city's past—a fascinating collective portrait of the evolution of one of America's great towns. Among the seventy-four maps featured, many are seminal exemplars of this timeless art form: the "Kinzie Map," which accompanied the Narrative of the Massacre of 1812; the Rand McNally "View of the World's Columbian Exposition" of 1893; Daniel Burnham's influential "Chicago Plan" of 1909, which epitomized the ambitions of the City Beautiful Movement; W. T. Stead's "Map of Sin"; and Bruce-Roberts'

1931 "Gangland Map"—a tongue-in-cheek "exposé" of a city populated by such powerful underworld figures as Al Capone, "Baby Face" Nelson, "Machine Gun" Kelly, and others, indicating various gang territories and warehouses. Filled with fascinating historical anecdotes and detailed scholarship, *Chicago in Maps* is a work that will be highly prized by map lovers and history buffs alike.

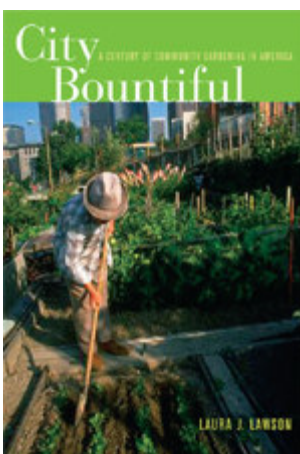
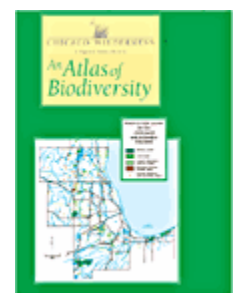


A Natural History of the Chicago Region, Joel Greenberg

In *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*, Joel Greenberg takes readers on a journey that begins in 1673 with Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet—the first Europeans known to have visited the Chicago region—and that we're still on today. This is a fascinating story, told with humor and passion, of forests battling prairies for dominance; of grasslands plowed, wetlands drained, and species driven to extinction in the settlement of the Midwest; and of caring conservationists fighting to preserve and restore the native plants and animals. Intermingling historical anecdotes and episodes straight from the words of early settlers and naturalists with current scientific information, Greenberg places the natural history of the region in a human context, showing how it affects our everyday existence in even the most urbanized landscape of Chicago.

An atlas of biodiversity: Chicago wilderness, a regional nature reserve, Jerry Sullivan

Filled with colorful maps and photographs, the *Atlas of Biodiversity* tells the tale of how geologic forces and human habitation have shaped our region's landscape. It is available online as a series of PDF files (<http://www.chicagowilderness.org/pubprod/atlas/index.cfm>). You can also order a printed copy of the plan from Chicago Wilderness. Contact Kelly Gruner at CWadmin@chicagowilderness.org or call (312) 580-2137.



City Bountiful: A Century of Community Gardening in America, Laura Lawson

Since the 1890s, providing places for people to garden has been an inventive strategy to improve American urban conditions. There have been vacant-lot gardens, school gardens, Depression-era relief gardens, victory gardens, and community gardens—each representing a consistent impulse to return to gardening during times of social and economic change. In this critical history of community gardening in America, the most comprehensive review of the greening of urban communities to date, Laura J. Lawson documents the evolution of urban garden programs in the United States. Her vibrant narrative focuses on the values associated with gardening, the ebb and flow of campaigns during times of social and economic crisis, organizational strategies of these primarily volunteer campaigns, and the sustainability of current programs.