Stewardship Mapping & Assessment Project (STEW-MAP)
Summer 2018 CRL Fellowship

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Overview

• STEW-MAP background
• Analyzing group organizational characteristics
• Group professionalization index
• Understanding groups that transform
• Next steps
STEW-MAP Background

- Mapping tool and database of civic environmental stewardship groups
- Originated in 2007: Who takes care of NYC? Understand and strengthen civic capacity
- Implemented in other cities: Chicago, Baltimore, Seattle, & more
- 2017 NYC survey: measures of capacity, turf, networks

Civic environmental stewardship: civic actors as *stewards* who engage in acts of caretaking and claims-making on the environment (Andersson et al., 2014)
Group Organizational Characteristics

- Understanding the structure and function of stewardship groups
- Information including: stewardship function, site type, focus, staff, year founded, legal designation, communication methods, services provided, budget, impacts & influences
- Qualitative coding: metrics, goals, mission statements
- White paper with full results currently in draft
Creation of Professionalization Index

- Based on index created by Fisher et al., 2012
- Takes into account budget amount and size of staff
- Each group assigned professionalization score from 1-5
- 1-2 = low; 2.5-3.5=medium, 4-5=high
Professionalization by Year Founded (n=294)
Primary Stewardship Function NYC (n=680)
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Groups that Transform

- Analyzing organizational characteristic specific to groups that identified their primary stewardship function as "transform" (n=45)
- Newly added function to the 2017 survey
- Focus on how stewardship groups seek to transform systems social-ecological systems (energy, water, waste, communication networks)
Groups that Transform: Theory & Literature

- Transformational adaptation, transformations to sustainability, transforming behaviors, & social transformations (O’Brien & Sygna, 2013)

- Spheres of transformation: practical, political, personal (Sharma, 2007) → civic stewardship groups operate within and between these spheres

- Resilience theory (Olsson et al., 2014)

(O’Brien & Sygna, 2013, after Sharma, 2007)
Groups that Transform: Preliminary Findings

Sites: community gardens, urban farms, stormwater management systems, food systems

Focuses: environment, community improvement & capacity building, food

Services provided: educational curricula/trainings, community organizing

Drivers of change: extreme weather events, climate change, social movements

Mission statements: Most blend environmental & social missions; neighborhood scale; improvement-focused actions
Groups that Transform: Preliminary Findings

• Transformation extends past management or improvement

• Engage in neighborhood level actions and community outreach

• Transform the environment through the social sphere

• Small scale goals to contribute to the transformation of larger systems

• Driven by community & ecosystem disturbance (extreme weather, climate)
Groups that Transform: Next Steps

- Explore individual groups in greater detail to understand how they conceptualize their role in environmental transformation
- Qualitative interviews as a possible next step to better understanding this unique set of groups
- Analyze network and spatial data

“Who decides to initiate transformations? How can power, politics, and interest present barriers, or pathways, to transformation?” (Olsson et al., 2014).
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For more information and updates on STEW-MAP: https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/STEW-MAP/
References


