



CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE RENATURALIZATION OF BRAZILIAN CITIES

This Charter is the result of the discussions and presentations that took place at the International Seminar on Renaturalization of cities and the challenges to reduce socio-environmental inequalities, in the city of Curitiba/Paraná, in June 2023. This event was organized by the Urban and Environmental Policy Commission and promoted by CAU/PR.

1. The renaturalization of cities – whether large, medium, or small – must be guided by the reduction of social and environmental inequalities and conflicts and recognized as a management tool in areas characterized by vulnerability, poverty, and environmental injustice.
2. The renaturalization of cities should seek to restore the urban ecosystem, broadening our understanding of the urban context beyond its boundaries, while also integrating the socio-environment of peri-urban and rural regions in order to promote the recovery of local biodiversity.
3. The renaturalization of cities must be based on an understanding of landscape as a representation of territoriality laden with its cultural and natural baggage, promoting diversity of thought and multiple cosmologies, and its cultural and historical meanings in the interaction of society with its territory.
4. The renaturalization of cities must be viewed as one of the main strategies for Urban Resilience given the looming risks of emergencies and climate injustices caused by the anthropocentric and objectified view of the world that has distanced man from nature, destroying its natural resources without being able to absorb its impacts.
5. The renaturalization of cities must propose a new rationale to society, based on a truly ecological and biocentric transition, based on cooperativism, valuing the being and knowledge systems of traditional peoples, and living in harmony with nature as essential solutions for maintaining life on this planet.
6. The renaturalization of cities must be seen as an alternative to the vision of an anthropocentric world that opposes consumerism and rampant materialism, the universalization of being and the domination of nature, through an awareness of a new development of humanity in our relationship to nature.
7. The renaturalization of cities must be based on a collective, participatory, inclusive and truly democratic construction that respects and redefines ethical principles and diversity in the relationships of different actors in society with each other and with other forms of life.
8. The renaturalization of cities is a transdisciplinary process and not only takes into account the political, urban and environmental dimensions, but also creates alternatives for new economic models based on a vision of ecological development, which considers inclusive principles of decentralized governance, circular economy and proximity, reduction of consumption and waste, and waste prevention, thus strengthening the sense of belonging and local identity, quality of life indicators, and the appreciation of green and community spaces.
9. The renaturalization of cities is based on the fundamental principle of renaturalizing society itself, promoting literacy and environmental education actions and the reconnection of humanity with nature. Nature should not be understood as an option for the development of cities, but as a basic need of contemporary urban life.
10. The renaturalization of cities must be viewed as a public health policy because humanity depends on contact with nature and the natural environment for its health, happiness and productivity. Building an urban landscape that is rich in biodiversity and which recognizes the importance of nature should become the measure of healthy cities.



11. The renaturalization of cities is based on the understanding of rebuilding Brazilian cities better or differently, given the current scenario of urban and human crises that cities face in the Anthropocene era. This process must ensure an equitable distribution of nature and natural experiences in the territory, while avoiding undesirable processes such as green gentrification.
12. The renaturalization of cities requires the direct and indirect participation of public administrations, society and academia in promoting public policies in favor of the ecological transformation of cities and communities. Cities must be planned and designed in an ecosystem that values interdependencies between the landscape, watersheds, biomes and social dynamics, where nature and its biodiversity are restored, preserved and, whenever possible, enhanced.
13. Renaturalizing Cities promotes the principles of “Nature based Solutions” (NBS) in addressing societal challenges such as climate change, food security, water management, and natural disasters. It proposes a set of tools that mimic existing solutions in nature to improve urban infrastructure services.
14. The renaturalization of cities values the use of urban design and landscape tools based on green urban infrastructure and the integration of green corridors such as linear parks, and blue corridors such as urban river renaturalization, and proposes a systemic approach to urban landscape preservation and restoration projects.
15. The renaturalization of cities must lead to the principles of biophilic cities, through which cities with abundant nature and biodiversity are sought. Biophilic cities must be designed and planned to take into account spaces and natural resources that favor the integration, interconnection and habitat of all living beings.

This document was written by the Urban and Environmental Policy Commission of the Architecture and Urbanism Council of Paraná. The architect members of this Commission, in the year 2023, are:

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Additional information about the Seminar on the event page:

