

## **Designing Cities that Love Nature:**

### *Promise and Potential of the Global Biophilic Cities Movement*

Tim Beatley University of Virginia

Nature provides many emotional, spiritual and health benefits to residents of cities. *Biophilia* argues that we have co-evolved with nature, and that we have a deep need to affiliate with the natural world. But how can that connection to nature happen in an increasingly urbanized world? And what are the other ways that cities can co-exist with, nurture and care for nature, both local and global? Beatley will argue that we need to shift towards a vision of *biophilic cities*, and will review some of the important ways in which cities can be thought to be biophilic. He will draw from the findings of his current research, especially the ongoing Biophilic Cities Project, and will describe some of things that emerging leaders and partner cities are already doing in this arena. Beatley will survey the emerging practice of biophilic urbanism, as well as discuss future needs and likely future directions. The global Biophilic Cities Network was launched in October (2013) and Beatley will describe the goals and aspirations for this new network.

#### Beatley Short Bio

Timothy Beatley is the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, where he has taught for the last twenty-eight years. Beatley is the author or co-author of more than fifteen books on these subjects, including *Green Urbanism: Learning from European Cities* (recently translated into Chinese), *Native to Nowhere: Sustaining Home and Community in a Global Age*, and *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature Into Urban Design and Planning*. Beatley directs the Biophilic Cities Project at UVA (<http://biophiliccities.org/>) and is also co-director of UVA's Center for Design and Health, within the School of Architecture.