Bringing Conservation to Cities
Lessons from Building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

Bringing Conservation to Cities is the story of building North America’s only international wildlife refuge in a nearly seven million person urban area that also represents the automobile capitals of the U.S. and Canada. Innovative public-private partnerships are being used to make nature part of everyday urban life and develop a conservation ethic. The percentage of people in the world living in urban areas has increased from 29% in 1950 to 54% in 2014 and is projected to increase to 60% by 2030. Today, 80% of all Americans and Canadians live in urban areas and most are disconnected from the natural world. Therefore, there is growing interest in re-connecting urban residents with nature. Compounding this problem is the fact that most conservationists want to work in wilderness areas. Furthermore, when scientific assessments are made, most urban areas are found to be too degraded to rank high enough on conservation priority lists. Bringing Conservation to Cities is a timely expose of what it takes to foster a conservation ethic in a major urban area, complete with critical lessons learned, and to simultaneously develop the next generation of conservationists in urban areas because that is where most people on our planet live.

Friday, 9 October 2015
Reception at 3:00 pm in ES 301, Seminar follows at 3:30