

Getting Wild with GBRs - Designing for Biodiversity

Nicolette Havrish, CEO, Founding Architect & Interior Designer, Nourish Architecture, DPC

Abstract:

The term “rewilding” has become the newest sustainability buzzword of late, with articles about “rewilded” urban environments cropping up everywhere lately. Yet, there are pros and cons to “rewilding” our environment and the practice must be taken with care to limit the potential negative impacts to the various ecosystems which exist on project sites.

One way we can become more sensitive as designers is by understanding our opportunities made available through Green Building Rating Systems (GBRSs). Of the numerous GBRs that are available to choose from, some do not mention biodiversity at all! Meanwhile, other rating systems place a deep focus on understanding the impacts of green buildings on existing natural ecosystems and how our non-human co-inhabitants occupy and experience our sustainable buildings.

This presentation is all about taking a deeper dive into current rating systems, their credits, and how they might help combat the species decline and loss of biodiversity being brought on by human-induced climate change as presented in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. We will review various credits across familiar systems such as LEED, WELL, STARS, SITES, etc. which can have synergies with each other and with more non-human specific rating systems like Fear Free Design. We will also discuss how specific credits overlap with credits available for supporting human health and wellness in the built environment, as we came to understand more clearly when we saw the impact of human isolation on existing ecosystems during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join me as we Get Wild with GBRs!

Presenter Biography:

Nicolette Havrish, AIA, NCARB, NCIDQ, LEED AP BD+C, is deeply passionate about environmental sustainability. She grew up on a family farm in the Catskills where she developed a deep love for nature and animals that brought her to her passion for sustainability. Nicolette brings that dedication to her work by designing for occupant health and wellness (for all species). She is pursuing her WELL AP and Fear Free Certifications and is also CalOES Safety Assessment Program Certified. Nicolette is the CEO and Founding Architect & Interior Designer for Nourish Architecture, DPC in Syracuse, NY. Nicolette has experience in a broad array of architectural typologies from Education (K-12 and Higher Ed), Military, NYS Parks, Commercial, Veterinary, and Residential design.

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