

# The Greening of Community Development: An Analysis of Ecological Restoration and Neighborhood Planning in the Fenway

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the relationship between the built and natural environment in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. Separate community planning initiatives to protect the urban watershed and promote a community development vision have improved the physical conditions of the Fenway neighborhood, but have failed to address long-term solutions to restoring a healthy and vibrant urban landscape. Drawing on the theory and practice of sustainable development, this study establishes a framework for analyzing community development and environmental protection issues. Moreover, it addresses the role of neighborhood institutions in forging non-traditional partnerships to meet a set of comprehensive planning objectives.

The Fenway case study suggests the potential for two ostensibly independent grassroots efforts to form a more synergistic relationship, in order to promote the linkage between local environmental strategies and community development networks. It concludes by offering a set of recommendations for the Fenway Community Development Corporation and local environmental organizations based on a sustainable development approach to neighborhood revitalization.

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