*Homo sapiens* are now primarily an urban species. By 2050, the world’s urban population will swell by almost 3 billion. All this growth will require new infrastructure, as will the challenge of adapting cities to climate change. Ecologists, urban planners, economists, and landscape architects are increasingly asked to consider the role that green infrastructure - the natural habitat, inside or outside the city’s walls that supplies crucial benefits to urban residents - can play in meeting these challenges. Guidance on how to plan and execute projects to protect or restore natural infrastructure is often hard to come by. In this talk, Rob McDonald presents stories of cities around the world that have overcome these challenges, and reviews the new science that is letting city planners and conservationists begin to address these needs.