



World Forum on  
Urban Forests  
Mantova 2018

*PS 2.3 Changing  
Environment*

# Taking care of New York City's urban forest: Understanding civic environmental stewardship outcomes

Michelle Johnson\*, Lindsay Campbell, Erika Svendsen  
US Forest Service, Northern Research Station  
NYC Urban Field Station



# NMC™

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*river alliance*

596  
ACRES



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**GREEN LIGHT** DISTRICT

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**GREENBELT  
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**WATERFRONT ALLIANCE**



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FOOD**  
JUSTICE FROM THE GROUND UP

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50  
YEARS

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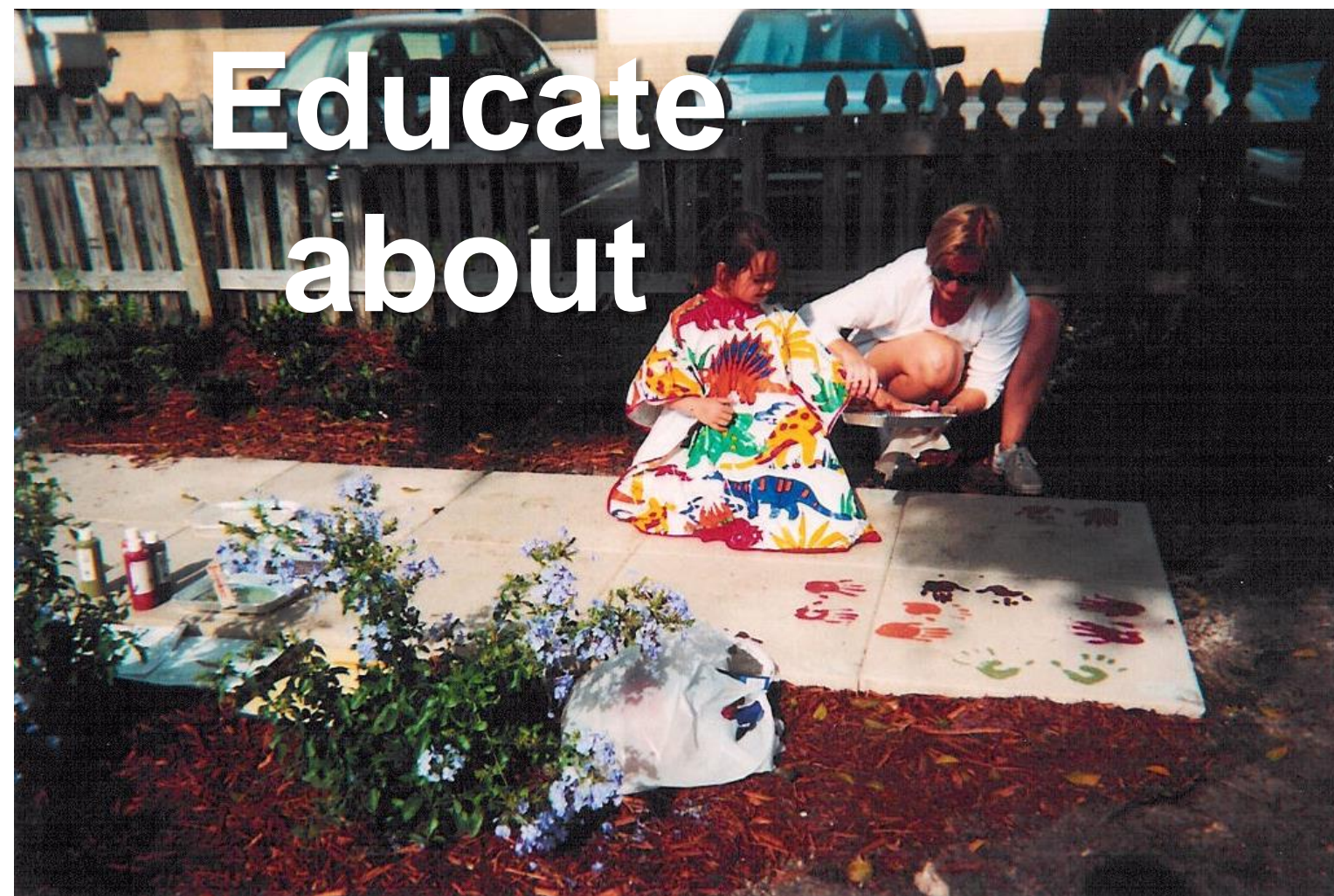
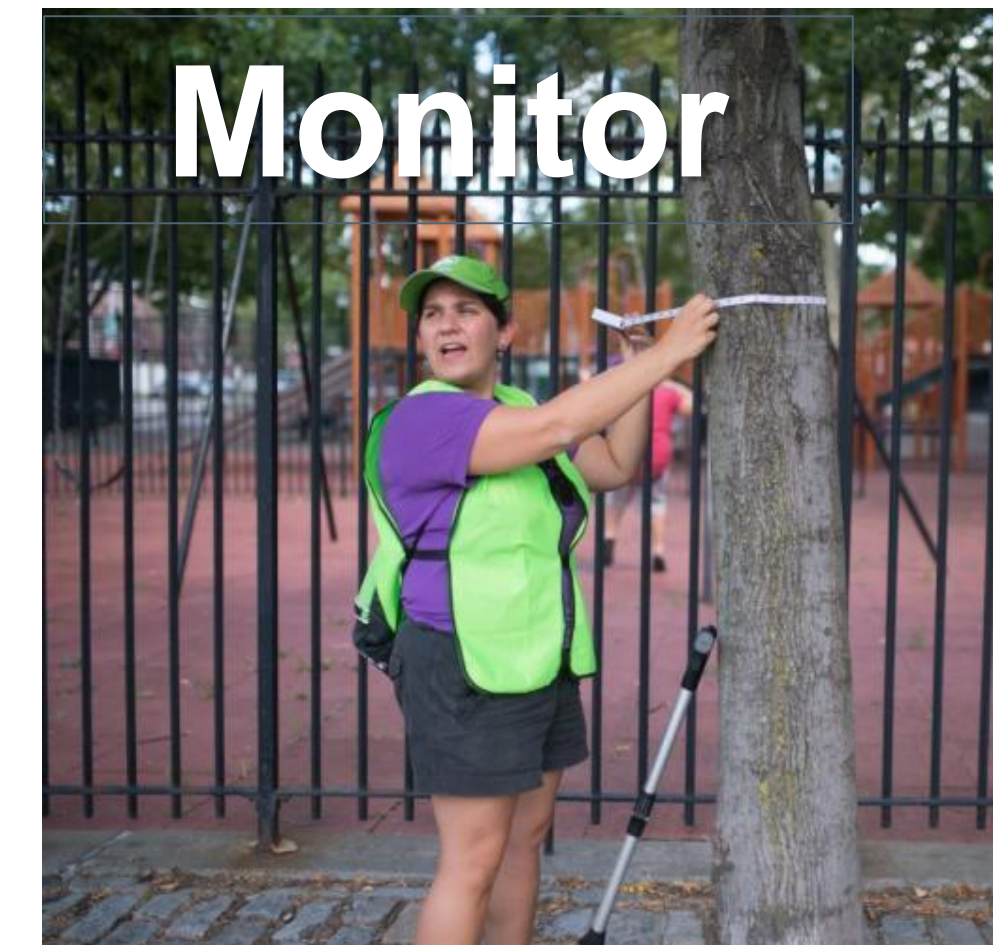
**DESIGN TRUST  
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*A joint program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks.*



# What is stewardship?





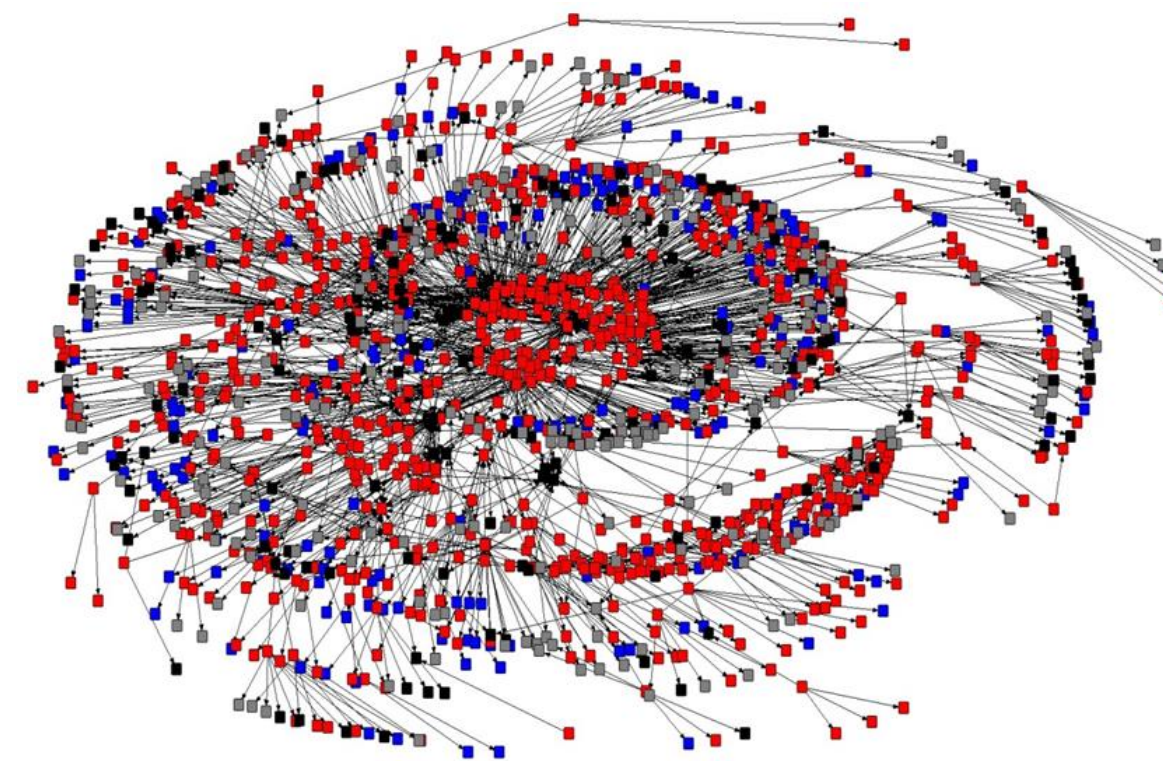
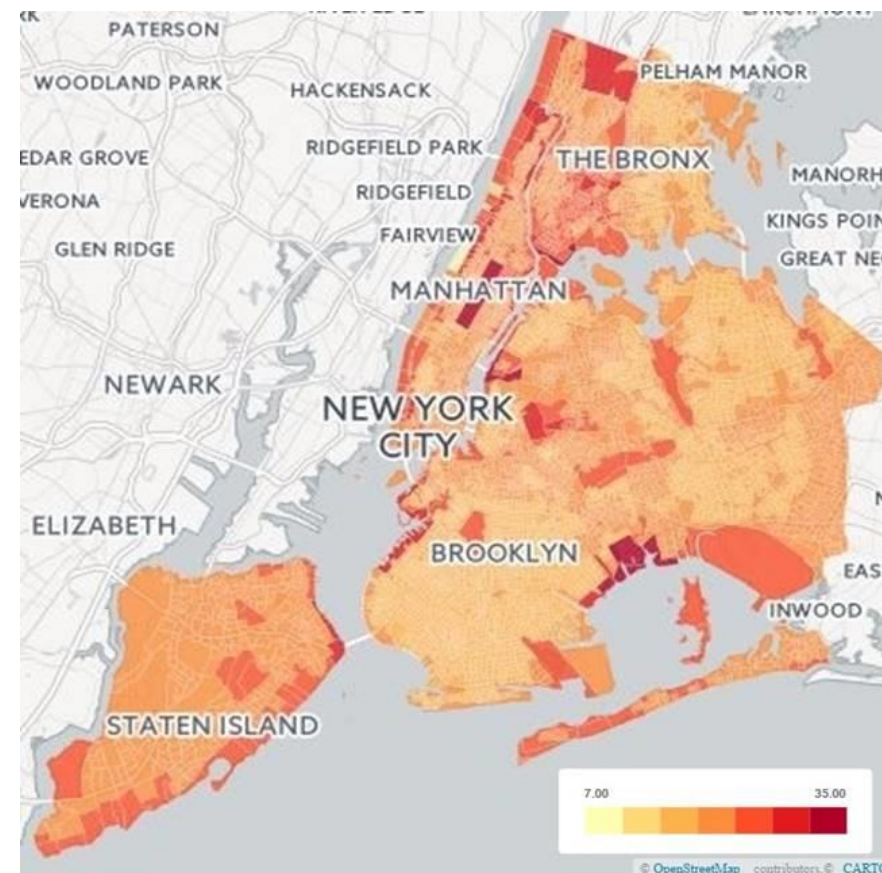
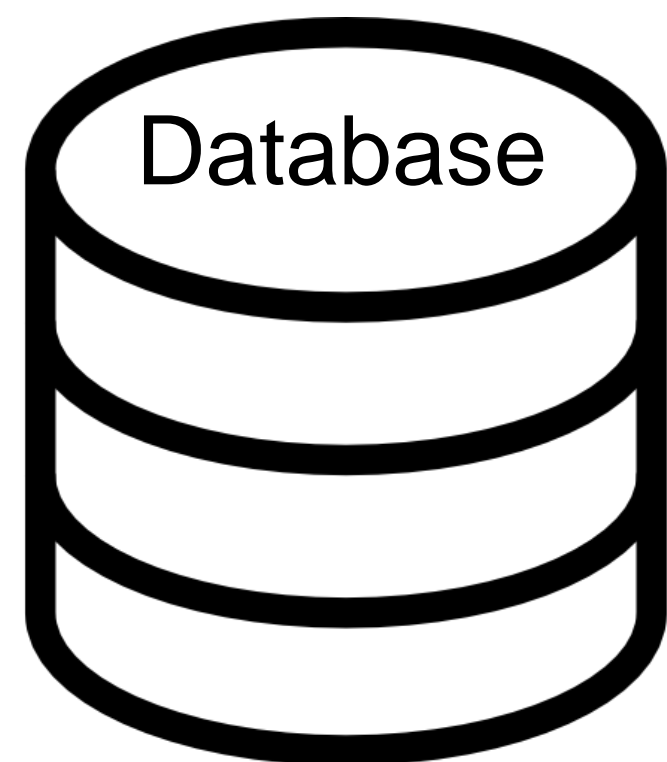
# Research Question

- What effect are stewards having on the system?
  - Social outcomes
  - Ecological outcomes



# STEW-MAP

- Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project
- Began in New York City in 2007 – now in more than 12 cities
- Survey-based methodology
- Measures how, where, and why civic groups are stewarding the local environment





# Organizational Survey

## STEW-MAP: *The Citywide Stewardship Census*



- Create a sampling frame of groups (more difficult than it sounds!)
- Survey questions focused on:
  - Group characteristics
  - Area in which a group works (“turf”)
  - Agencies and organizations with which a group works (social network)



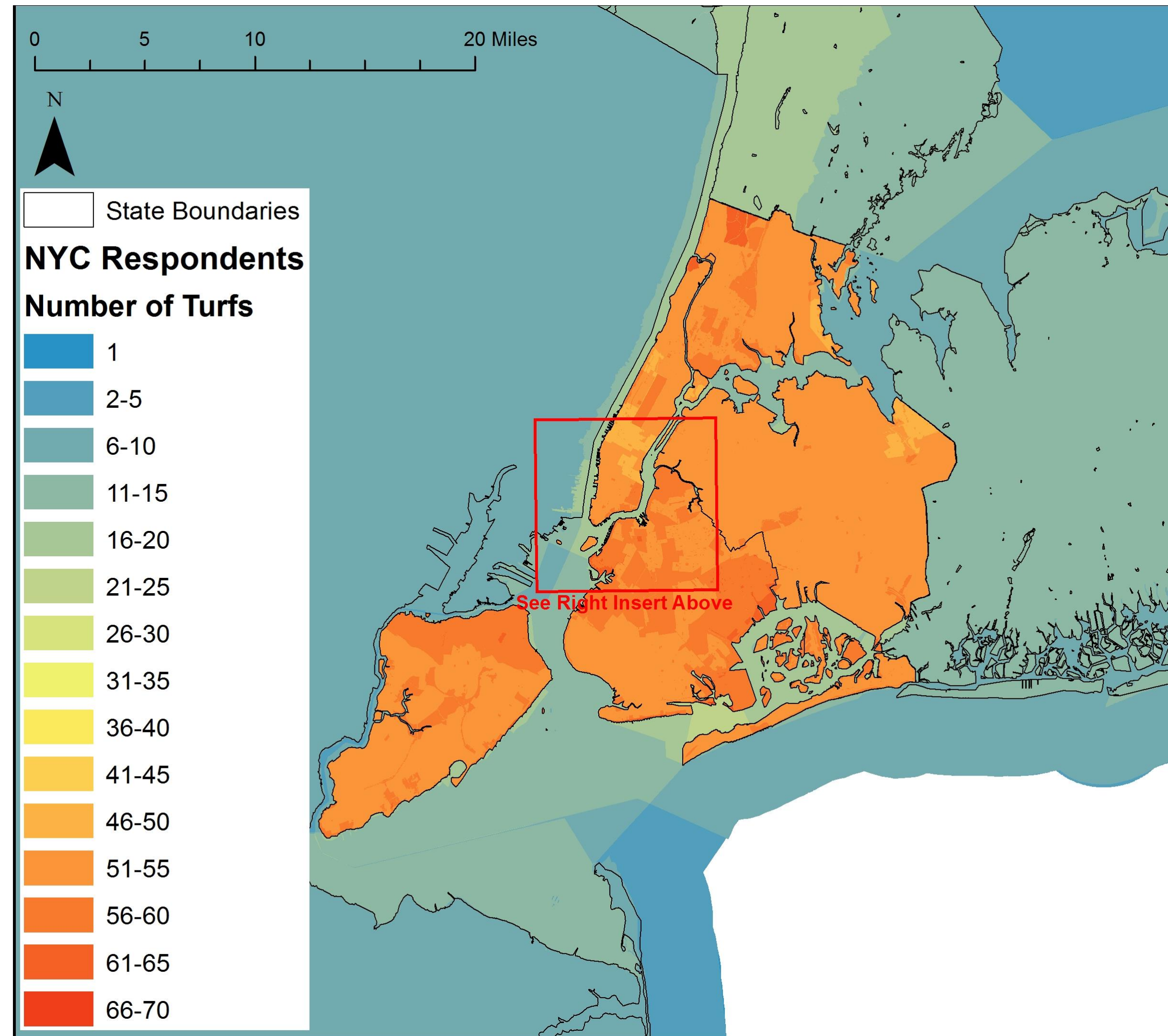
# Responses

- Sampling frame = 7,041 civic organizations
- Responses = 752 civic organizations



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# Stewardship Group Distribution







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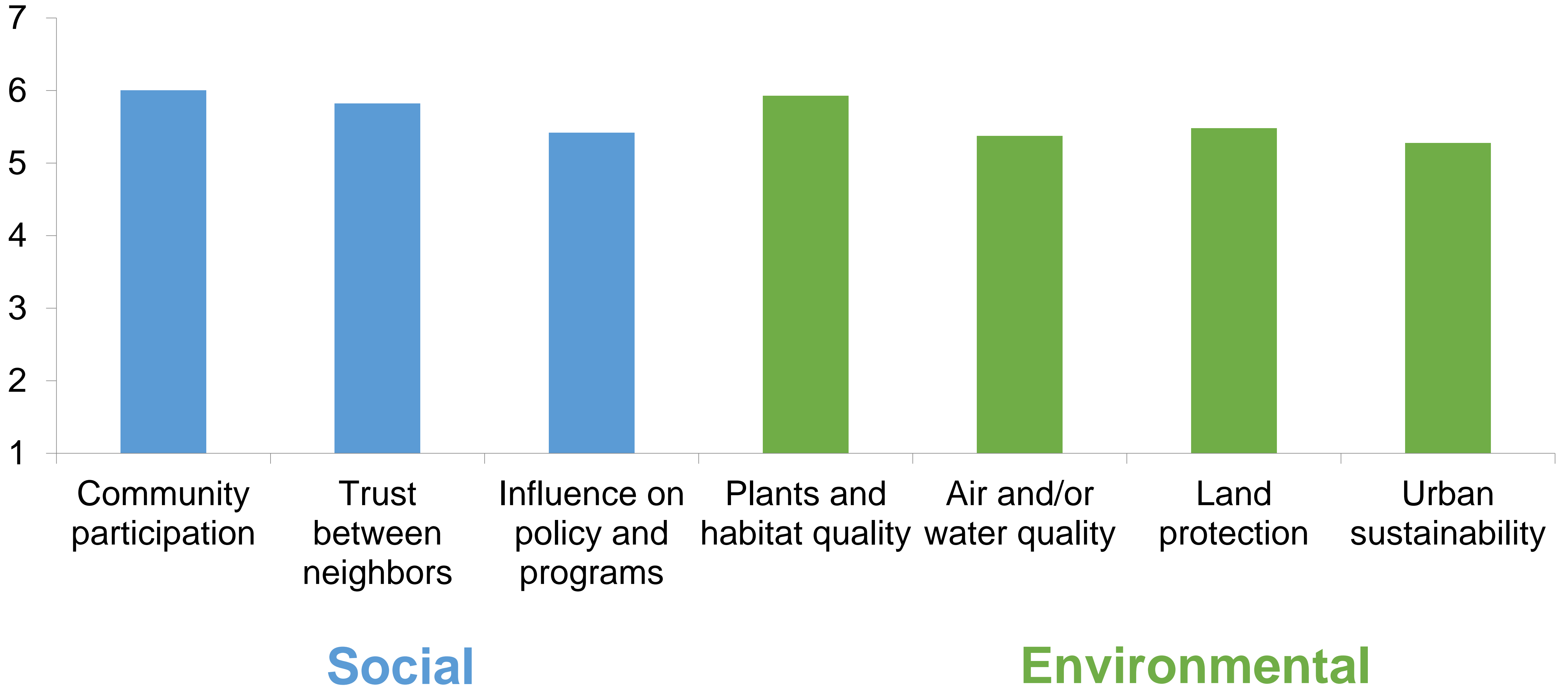
# Stewardship Outcomes

Our group has improved the following environmental outcomes  
in the community(ies) in which we work.

*From strongly disagree to strongly agree*



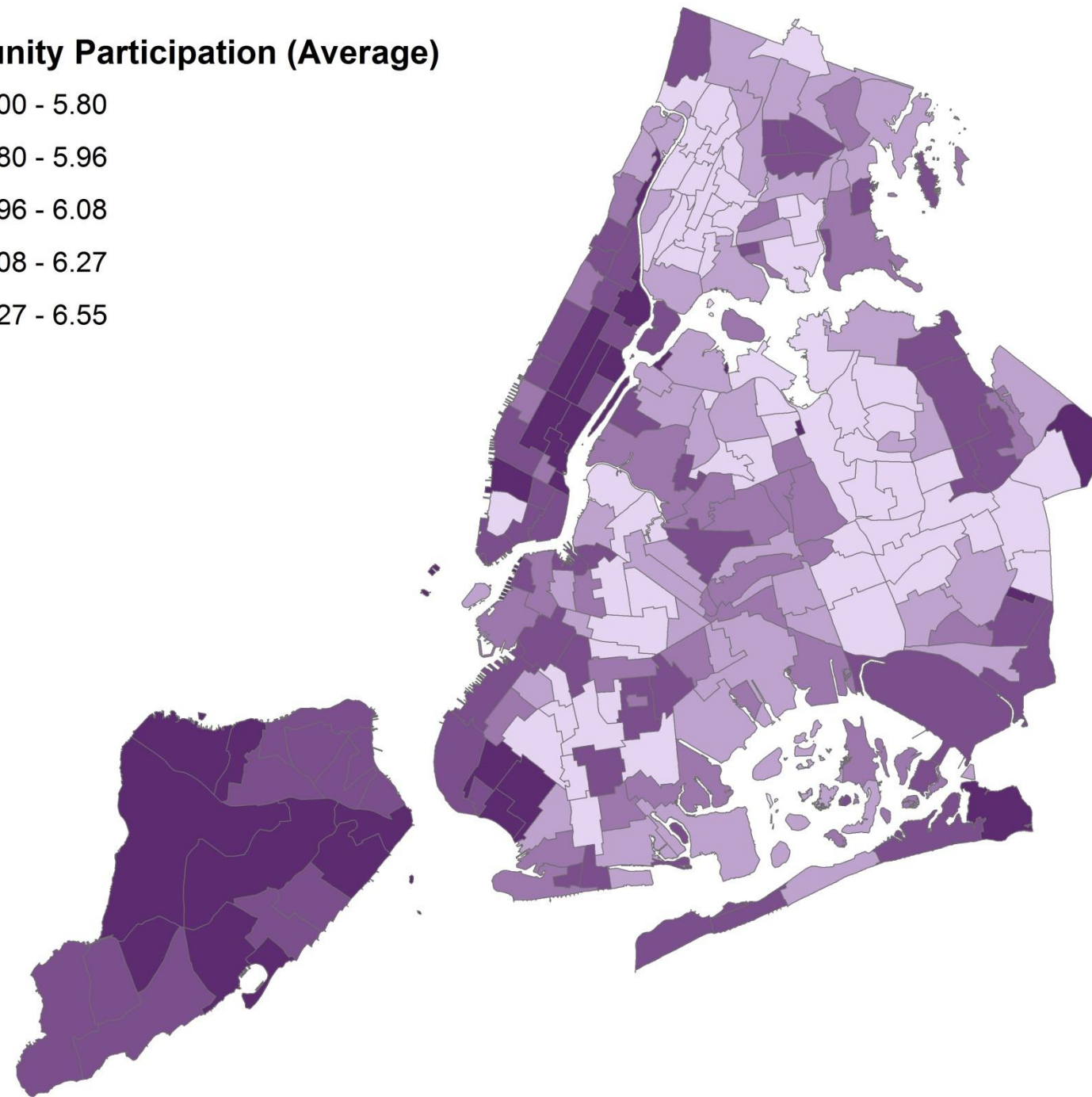
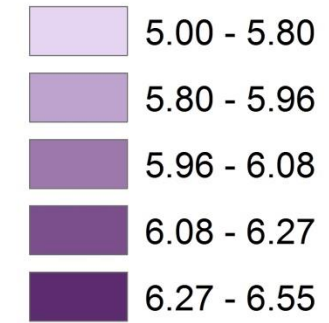
# Perceived Outcomes



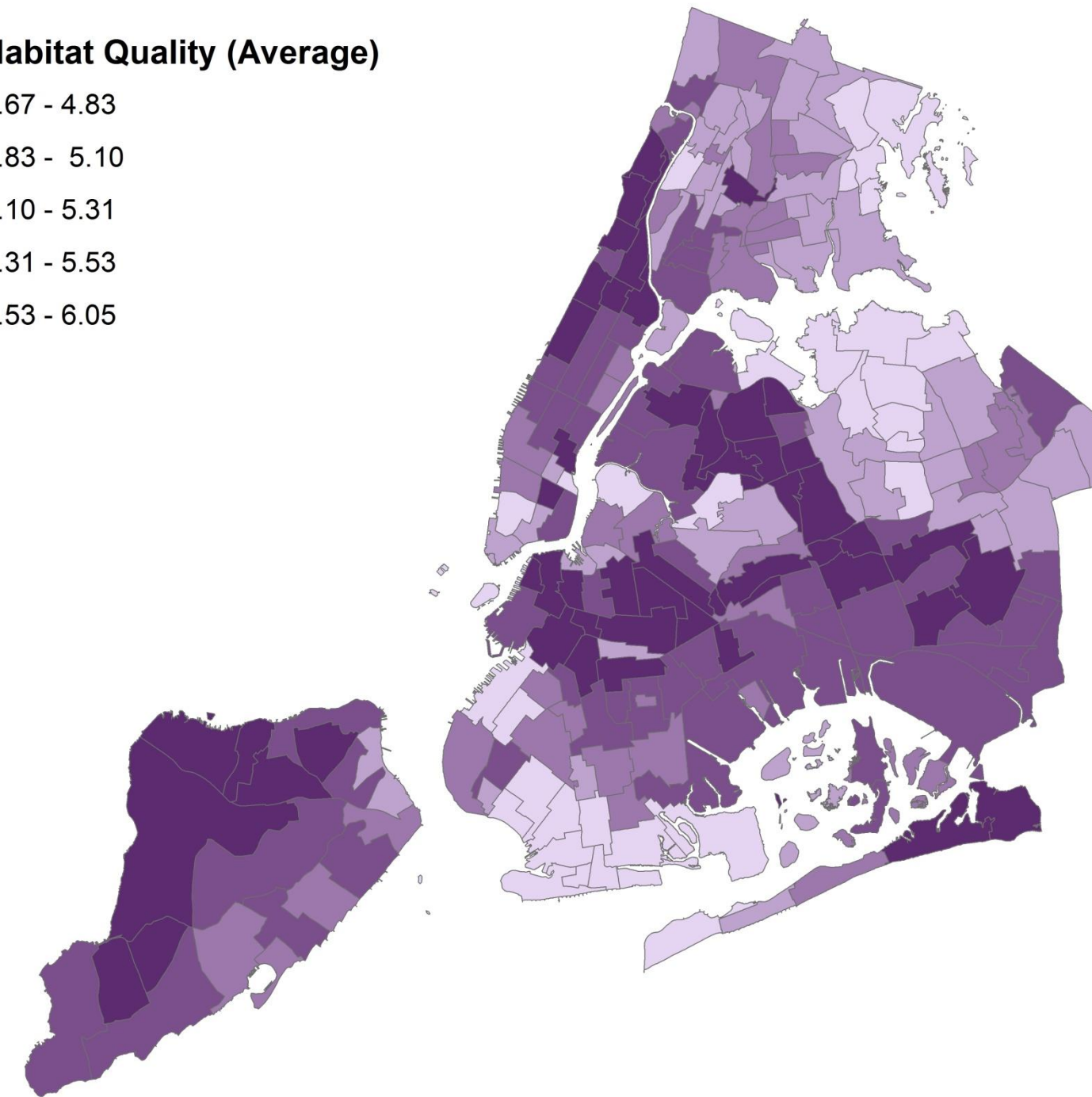
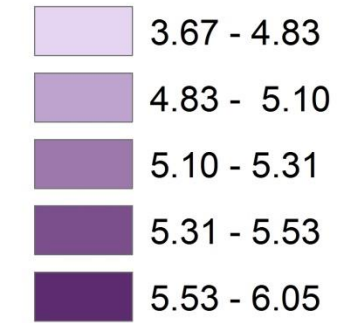


# Perceived Outcomes

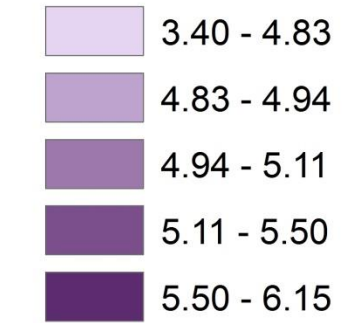
**Community Participation (Average)**



**Plant/Habitat Quality (Average)**



**Urban Sustainability (Average)**





# Next Steps

- **Group level:** examine perceived outcomes in relation to all group characteristics
- **Neighborhood level:** examine social and ecological changes in neighborhoods with low and high collective outcomes



# Conclusions

- Groups have varying levels of perceived effects on the system
- These effects differ in relation to group characteristics
- Collective outcomes vary across neighborhoods



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## **Rest of NYC STEW-MAP team:**

- Ryan Baker-Urzua
- Joana Chan
- Lidia Henderson
- Michael Hsu
- Laura Landau
- Justine Marchal
- Jennifer Smith

**[www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc)**

And the larger multi-city STEW-MAP network