1. Introduction

# Part I - Urban Nature & Humans

Most people experience nature through the lens of an urban landscape. Cities are often considered to be hostile places with little to no natural elements. However, cities host an abundance of flora and fauna, often rivaling their natural counterparts in terms of biodiversity levels and species richness. Urban nature can be found in many forms, including private yards, street trees, stormwater ponds, and other “green” and “blue” spaces throughout a city. In cities, natural elements are managed and often designed by humans. Nature coexists with built and natural infrastructure simultaneously. The way that the various stakeholders manage urban nature influences how the entire population experiences and interacts with it. For example, EXAMPLE (maybe gentrification?). Further, our interactions with nature provide benefits such as improved physical health and a sense of belonging, as well as influencing our identity and lived experiences.

# Part II - Ecosystem Services & Disservices

Nature bestows many benefits and gifts on humans that interact with it, consciously or unconsciously. Often, the gifts that nature gives to humans are defined as “nature’s contributions to people” or ecosystem services. However, nature’s impacts are not always beneficial. For example, street trees often require maintenance and when that is not provided, they can become dangerous for residents. The negative impacts of nature on human lives are often referred to as ecosystem disservices. The urban landscape is a complex and dynamic system that is made up of many ecosystem services and disservices.

Ecosystem services are often categorized into four main groups, provisioning services, regulating services, supporting services, and cultural services. In reality, many ecosystem services cross the boundaries of each group and can provide benefits in multiple categories. Provisioning services are defined as benefits that provide products from ecosystems, for example food provided through agriculture. Regulating services are defined as benefits that are obtained through the regulation of ecosystems, such as climate regulation from tree canopies. Supporting services are defined as services that are needed for overall ecosystem functioning, such as nutrient cycling. Finally, cultural services are defined as benefits obtained from ecosystems that are non-material in nature, for example, a sense of belonging. All four groups of ecosystem services provide different benefits to humans and all are required to improve quality of life.

### References