

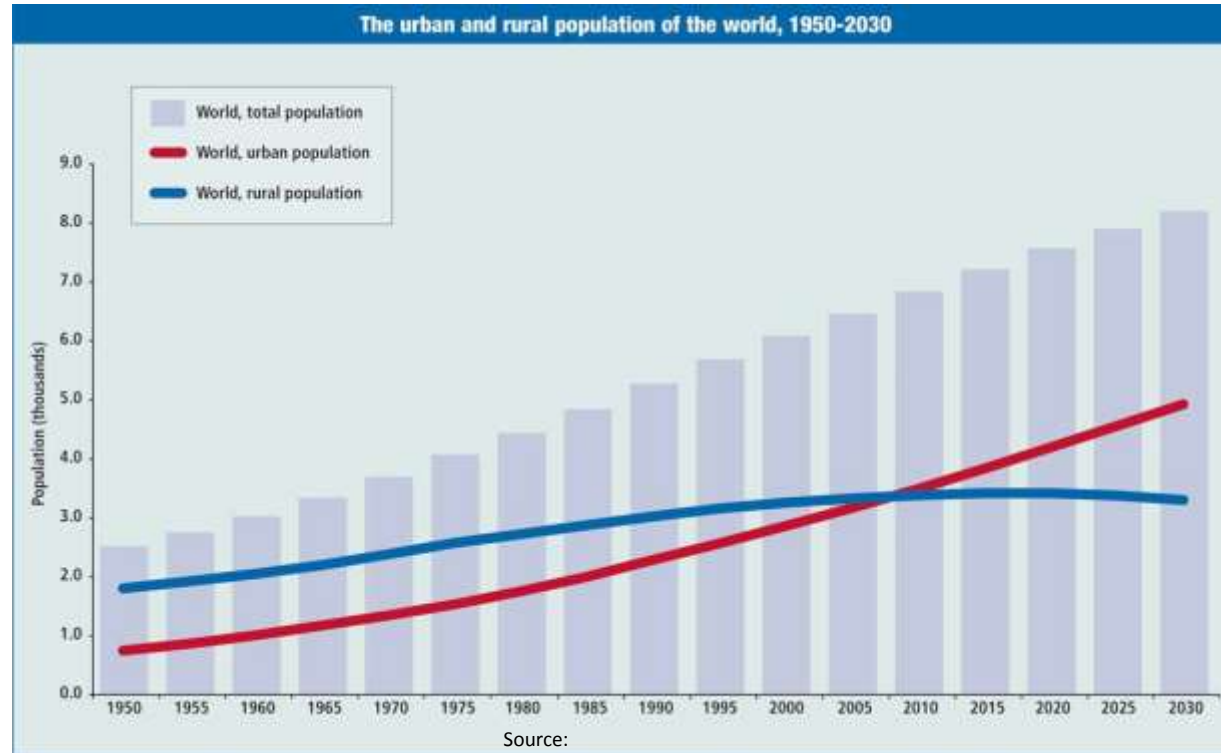
Resilient Cities

Putting Nature to Work for Cities

Tim Sullivan
Colorado State Director, The Nature Conservancy

Challenge

- World is urbanizing



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- Growth strains nature and infrastructure



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- Growth strains nature and infrastructure
- Climate change exacerbates risks
- **Young people are disconnected from nature**



Nature's Utility for Cities

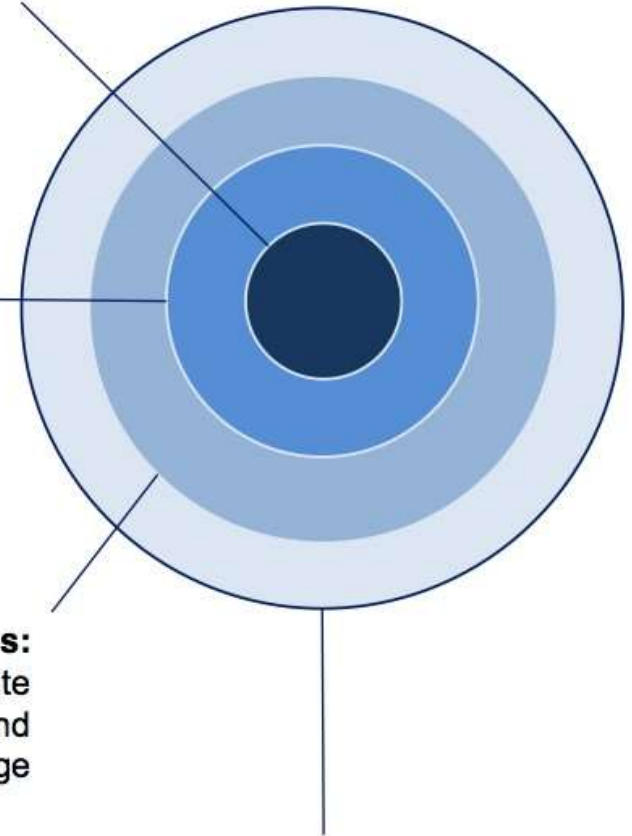
- Secures clean and abundant water
- Controls floods and storm surges
- Reduces air and water pollution

City boundary:
Trees and green space mitigate heat, air pollution and stormwater runoff

Floodplains:
Riverine floodplains divert floods from cities

Coastal zones:
Reefs and dunes mitigate sea level rise and increased storm surge

Watersheds:
Upstream forests protect cities' drinking-water quality and quantity

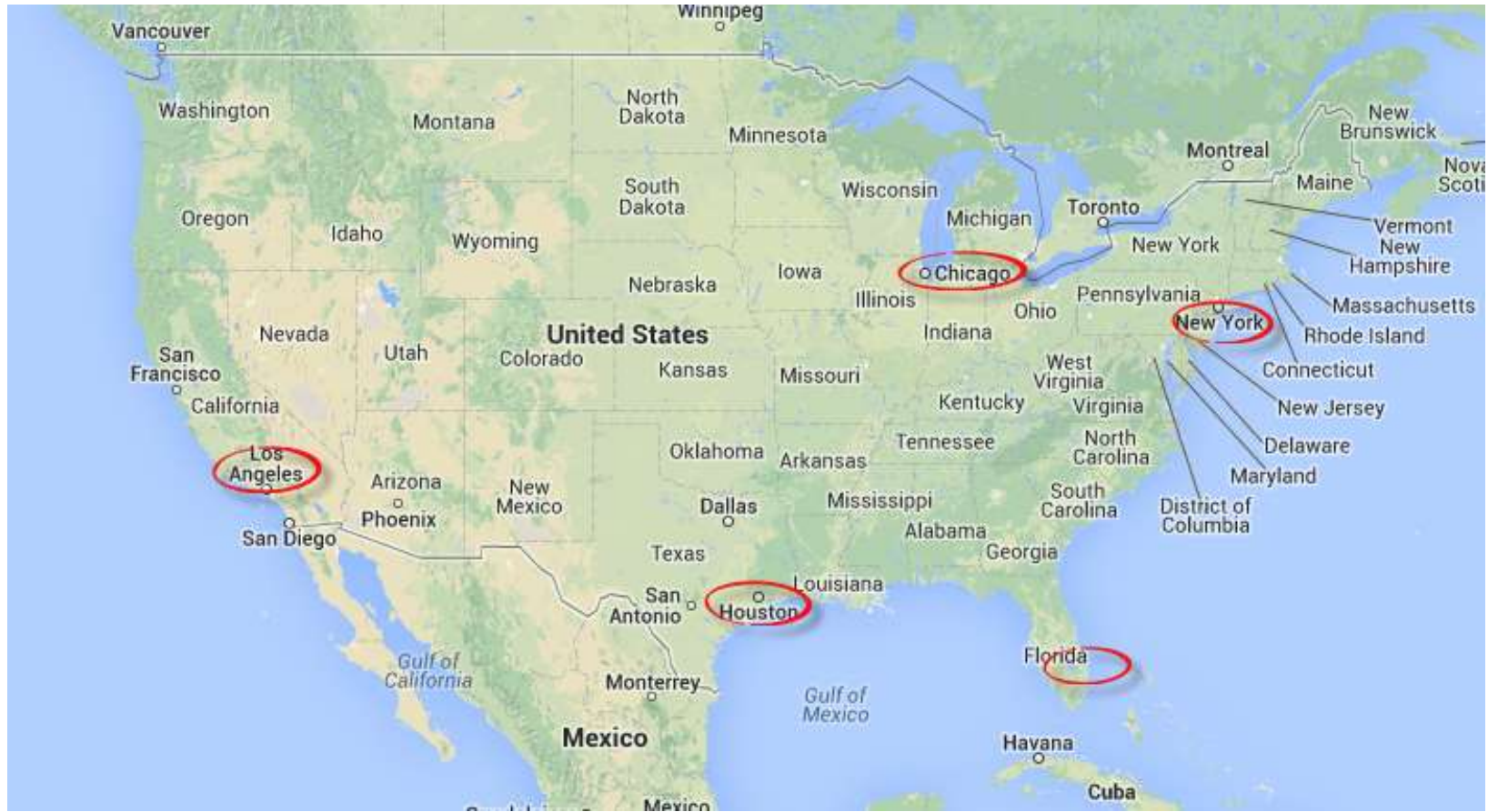


TNC's PAST EXPERIENCE

- ❑ From Texas to New York, we have helped create and manage **water funds** that support the wholesale conservation of local freshwater resources.
- ❑ Restoration work and **coastal defense** tools are informing smarter, long term planning and redevelopment in coastal communities.
- ❑ **LEAF** offers urban high school students internships across the country with the goal of getting them out of cities and into nature.
- ❑ Our work with Dow Chemical demonstrates how large scale **urban forests** in and around cities can supplement some industrial solutions.

PLACES

New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago and Miami



STRATEGIES

URBAN FORESTS

**DEFENDING
OUR
COASTLINES**

**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**

**URBAN WATER
MANAGEMENT**

LESSONS FROM CHICAGO WILDENESS FOR DENVER



Mighty Acorns, Chicago, IL



DSST LEAF Interns, Hayden, CO

LOOKING FORWARD

Nature is a go-to solution for future-proofing our cities.

New urban policies and strategies can guarantee the protection of natural resources at the whole system scale and hold promise for connecting the next generations to nature.

