

Freshwater Science BRIDGES

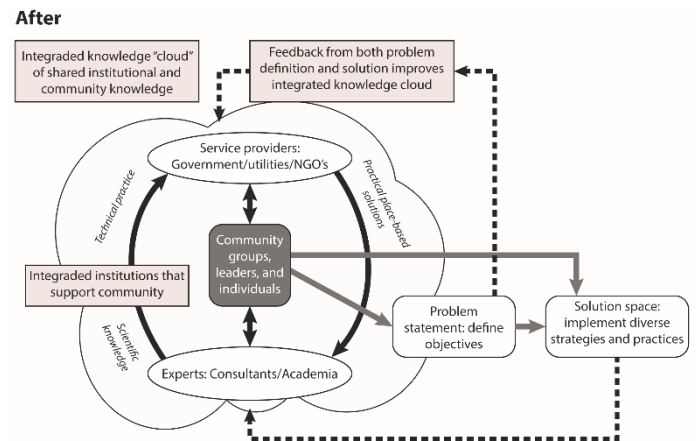
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Community Engagement in Urban Stream Restoration

Three papers in this BRIDGES cluster discuss the difficulties and limitations of effectively engaging local communities to develop stream restorations driven by community values. The authors highlight challenges of equitable participation by communities and the importance of community-value driven restoration goals. Key points include:

- There are several potential pitfalls to community engagement from a social perspective and assumptions made by scientists and practitioners that may present barriers to equitable community engagement (Cross and Chappell 2022).
- Historical trends showing inequities and environmental burdens associated with race, ethnicity, and income in urban stream restoration are described. Followed by a call for including human needs more fully into ecological restoration and describing how collaboration between communities, academia and government are also needed to achieve more sustainable and equitable outcomes (Díaz-Pascacio et al. 2022).
- Diverse values and perspectives can complicate objective setting. An assessment of values that describe how stakeholders' objectives can be balanced to achieve community engagement and stream restoration are described. Integrating interdisciplinary knowledge requires a holistic problem statement and community by institutional perspectives, values, and knowledge (Murphy et al. 2022).
- Urban stream restoration problems are complex and require expanded capacity and collaboration within transdisciplinary stakeholder groups. The BRIDGES papers (Cross and Chappell 2022, Díaz-Pascacio et al. 2022, Murphy et al. 2022) demonstrate the need for approaches to set realistic expectations and consider social context for urban stream management.



The success of restoration projects often hinges on community participation. Implementing effective community engagement has limitations and challenges, especially for researchers and practitioners lacking social science training; these articles offer guidance regarding the actions needed to achieve successful engagement for urban stream restoration projects.

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