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Anderson, Byron P.

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**Review: Grassroots to Global: Broader Impacts of Civic Ecology**  
by Krasny, M. E.

**Reviewed by Byron Anderson**  
*DeKalb, Illinois, USA*

*Grassroots to Global: Broader Impacts of Civic Ecology*. Edited by Marianne E. Krasny. Comstock Publishing Associates, an imprint of Cornell University Press, 2018; ix, 264 pp. ISBN: 978150174979 hardcover, US \$95; ISBN: 9781501721977 paperback, US \$28.95. Printed on recycled, acid-free paper.

*Grassroots to Global* is about reclaiming broken places. Civil ecology is based on humanity's connection to nature. Civic ecology practices are small-scale innovations that initially emerge outside of government bureaucracies and build on current traditions, such as, community gardening, litter cleanups, and tree planting. These practices use civic engagement as a strategic action to integrate science, policy and decision making in urban environmental stewardship. Citizen participation holds promise for changing social norms and building a culture of caring for public and degraded spaces. Civic ecology enhances an individual's connection to the rest of nature. The book provides a wide range of practices spanning locations from Detroit, Michigan to Bangalore, India.

Civic projects vary in size. A garden case study in Baltimore involved private, university, public citizens and government personnel. Drury University's rebuilding efforts engaged hundreds of volunteers in Joplin, Missouri to rebuild a large park following a tragic tornado. Spot fixes in India coordinated by The Ugly Indian, a nonprofit in Bangalore, engage small numbers of volunteers for about three hours in cleaning up visible filth. Civic ecology practices seek out key players to participate in carrying out the projects. The practices are sensitive to civic engagement in communities of color, for example, countering gentrification as restoration takes place in inner cities. Civic engagements often include faith-based institutions, for example, African American and Latino

Christian churches in Chicago encourage people of color to recognize both their connection to nature and the responsibility to take care of it.

Marianne Krasny is Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Director of the Civic Ecology Lab at Cornell University. She is also author of *Civic Ecology: Adaptation and Transformation from the Ground Up* with Keith G. Tidball (MIT University Press, 2015). *Grassroots to Global* evolved from a 2015 workshop of scholars and practitioners, who set to work on "...bridging small, self-organized environmental action with larger governance and management impacts..." (p. 2). The text is enhanced with a variety of charts and pictures, and it clearly has a global reach. "Civic ecology" is a new term to the lexicon and *Grassroots to Global* is probably the best introduction to the topic. The book is highly recommended for public and academic libraries, and should interest to both practitioner and lay readers.

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Byron Anderson, [beau804@yahoo.com](mailto:beau804@yahoo.com), Retired/Northern Illinois University Libraries, DeKalb, IL 60115 USA

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