

Subject: Planning For The Huron River Valley

From: Julie Ritter

Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2023 10:08 AM

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Subject: Planning For The Huron River Valley

Hello Everyone,

I congratulate the City's Planning Community on appointing your new steering committee. I can see from the steering committee members that you are hoping to achieve a variety of viewpoints, some of them not previously included.. I look forward to participating as the process goes forward.

The Huron River Valley has already come under intense development pressure from various actors in the City, both public and private. But there is a different way to enhance the value of this precious, unique resource.

If the Huron River is to be "activated" as the popular word is bandied about, please consider incorporating *the work of Kongjian Yu*. This forward thinking landscape architect from China has received many prestigious awards in the past. Most recently he was honored with the 2023 Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize, a bi-annual, international award.

Mr. Yu's work focuses on integrating the ecology of the area with the management of the water along rivers and other bodies of water. His projects are sometimes called "sponge cities" because of the focus on stormwater management that uses innovative designs of natural wildlife habitats and plant choices. People interact with this environment through walkways, parks and so forth.

Here is a link to his company Turenscape: <https://www.turenscape.com/en/about/cdo.htm>

Here are links to articles about him and his work.

<https://www.dezeen.com/2023/10/17/kongjian-yu-2023-cornelia-hahn-oberlander-award/#>

<https://www.harvarddesignmagazine.org/articles/kongjian-yu-turenscape-landscape-architecture-urban-design-architecture-beijing/>

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90967819/meet-the-landscape-architect-turning-cities-into-sponges>

<https://www.dezeen.com/tag/turenscape/>

<https://landezine.com/landscape-architects/turenscape-landscape-architecture/>

Two of his books are available in English. And there is another one, particularly, that is written about Mr. Yu and his work for the Western audience:

Designed Ecologies: The Landscape Architecture of Kongjian Yu

ISBN 10: [3034607385](#) / ISBN 13: [9783034607384](#)

Published by Birkhäuser Architecture, 2012

Please take a few minutes to check out his work and see that this approach would be a wonderful addition to the future of the City of Ann Arbor and the Huron River.

Thanks for your attention. Good luck going forward!

Respectfully,

Julie Ritter

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"Consciously apply mystery to everything." - Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Lakota elder