



The High Line Park, New York City – http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2012/08/02/garden/02HIGHLINE_SPAN/02HIGHLINE_SPAN-articleLarge.jpg

Escape from the Concrete Jungle

By Casey Dickerson



The High Line in New York City is a great use of unused space to bring greenery into a concrete jungle. It was an old abandoned rail line that has been converted into an elevated garden space. In my 20 years of life I have visited many large cities such as Chicago and as far away as London and Paris. While visiting these cities I recoiled due to the hardness of the landscape around me and the lack of plant life. I am

convinced there needs to be more greenery there. To further validate the claim that urban environments need more greenery to provide a sense of wellness for people, I would review the work of Olmsted and Vaux who were activists for bringing parks into large cities and even helped plan Central Park in New York City (Cook and Vanderzanden, 2011).

In my younger years, I always looked for an escape from the house, to get away from everything. I would escape into the woods to climb trees and play in the cool clear streams behind my house. Being under the canopy of the trees, in this natural setting, eased my mind and relieved any stress I was feeling at the time.

Some people in cities may not share my point of view.



Central Park, New York City – <http://www.centralparknyc.org/assets/images/2014/things-to-see-and-do/gapstow-bridge-1.jpg>

Some people may believe that this use of space is a waste which, instead of being used as a park, should be used as office or manufacturing space. As a result of investigating this claim, I now intend to seek out nature and green space as a relief from stress and hardscape more often.

References:

Cook, T.W. and Vanderzanden, A. (2011). *Sustainable landscape management*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.
Casey Dickerson is a junior Clemson University horticulture major from Iva, SC in Dr. Vincent's Sustainable Landscape Garden Design, Installation, and Maintenance class, HORT 3080 CT2 (critical thinking).