



Internship report: Eva Malis

In a worldwide context of rapid urban development and environmental change, urban green spaces can help to mitigate some of the negative impacts of urban development on environmental and social wellbeing. Urban green spaces are a central topic of study in urban ecology, but knowledge on urban blue spaces has not been explored nearly as deeply as urban green.

The Chinese city of Shanghai has a network of waterways amidst heavily urbanized landscapes and has already established a growing number of green corridors along these waterways. Constructing more green corridors along riparian habitat can serve Shanghai by providing beneficial ecosystem services to the local people and ecology (Li et al 2008). By developing our understanding of the spatial patterns and the ecological services provided by Shanghai's riparian corridor ecosystems, a number of city planning and environmental design questions can be answered.

This project analyzes the spatial patterns and ecosystems services of riparian green corridors in Shanghai to identify the trends of successful service-contributing corridors to inform future planning of green corridors along major riversides. Sampling a variety of riparian forest corridors in Shanghai along the Huangpu River and Suzhou Creek, we compare the land use and land cover change and ecosystem services along a spatial gradient. These results can be used to prioritize restoration and ecological design efforts, which can impact Shanghai's temperature mitigation, water quality, biodiversity, and public health.