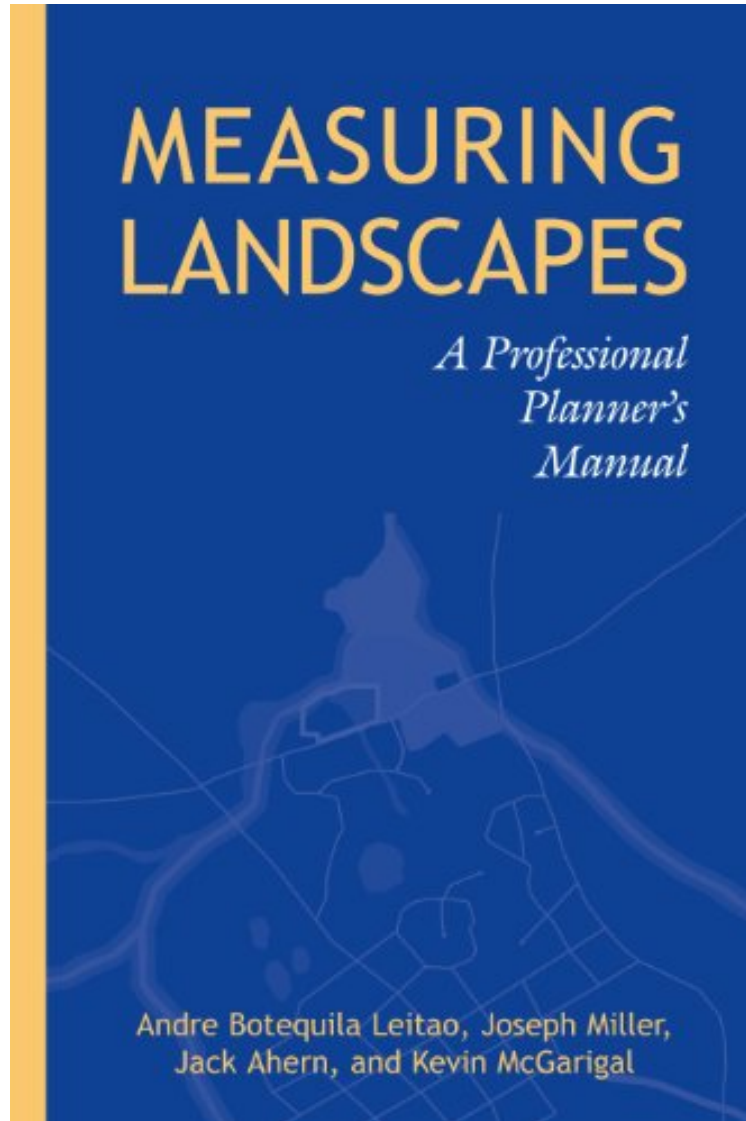


[Ebook free] Measuring Landscapes: A Planner's Handbook

Measuring Landscapes: A Planner's Handbook

Andre Botequilha Leitao, Joseph Miller, Jack Ahern, Kevin McGarigal
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Andre Botequilha Leitao, Joseph Miller, Jack Ahern, Kevin McGarigal : Measuring Landscapes: A Planner's Handbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Measuring Landscapes: A Planner's Handbook:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Measuring Landscape Area and ConnectivityBy Stanaforth T. HopkinsA compilation and update of Dr. Garigal's (University of Massachusetts Amherst) work on FRAGSTATS - a computer software program designed to compute a wide variety of landscape metrics for categorical map patterns - that can be found on the Fragstat's website.The original software (version 2) was released in the public domain during 1995.

This practical handbook bridges the gap between those scientists who study landscapes and the planners and conservationists who must then decide how best to preserve and build environmentally-sound habitats. Until now, only a small portion of the relevant science has influenced the decision-making arenas where the future of our landscapes is debated and decided. The authors explain specific tools and concepts to measure a landscape's structure, form, and change over time. Metrics studied include patch richness, class area proportion, patch number and density, mean patch size, shape, radius of gyration, contagion, edge contrast, nearest neighbor distance, and proximity. These measures will help planners and conservationists make better land use decisions for the future.

"Measuring Landscapes: A Planner's Handbook is an important addition to the reference material, allowing practitioners to understand landscape ecology and its associated tools. This book introduces the concepts of landscape ecology, has a strong focus on how planning relates to these concepts, and is a real practical exploration of the tools of landscape metrics. Overall, the book is well written and provides the readers with key information on the concepts and practical issues in using landscape metrics. Measuring Landscapes is compact but still comprehensive. Its length makes it very suitable for a single term course in landscape ecology in a planning or natural resource program. Additionally, the book's length makes it very suitable for practitioners. I also recommend this book to all related fields (wildlife management, parks management, geography, geology, and forestry) that have an interest in researching, managing, conserving, and protecting healthy landscapes. Changing the way we view, measure, and think about these landscapes is an important step in making them sustainable." (Natural Areas Journal)