



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

**Ecosystem
services and
biodiversity
preservation
in Prairie
suburban
areas**



Tuesday March 19th, 2024 at 3:00pm MT

Presenters: Dr. Oscar Zapata and Dr. Ana Karinna Hidalgo,
University of Saskatchewan

Register for Free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OxxHjpY1SdmDbmzK7pIGGg

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Presentation Summary:

The production of ecosystem services is essential for cities to adapt to climate change in the Canadian Prairies. Practices that reduce water consumption, control extreme temperatures, protect urban wildlife, and promote physical and mental health will be fundamental to preserving individual and community well-being.

Our research focuses on the design and sustainability of markets for ecosystem services in suburban areas of Canadian Prairie cities. In this presentation, we discuss our research findings concerning the challenges and opportunities to create a market for suburban ecosystem services in Alberta and Saskatchewan. We will present homeowners' challenges in becoming ecosystem service providers, including monetary and nonmonetary factors and the willingness to pay for the benefits associated with ecosystem services of native/pollinator gardens.

Climate-resilient cities are needed to preserve residents' well-being. This research informs policy and planning in urban areas by determining the feasibility of a market for suburban ecosystem services and identifying the incentives producers and users require to engage in such a market

About the Presenters:

Oscar Zapata holds the Centennial Chair in Community Energy Development and is an Assistant Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the University of Saskatchewan. His work focuses on understanding the broad socio-economic elements of sustainability, including the understanding of human behaviour and the decision-making process in climate change scenarios. He studies the role of factors that consciously (i.e., prices or endowments) or unconsciously (i.e., identity, beliefs, scarcity, adversity or climate conditions) explain people's behaviour, thereby determining economic and social outcomes. Oscar holds a Ph.D. and master's degree in Economics (University of Calgary) and a master's in Sustainable International Development (Brandeis University).

Ana Karinna Hidalgo is an urban planner and designer passionate about the built environment, health and equity. She is a lecturer and Professional Associate in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Saskatchewan; her interdisciplinary research focuses on how natural landscapes and native vegetation in urban areas can improve people's well-being. She has presented her research and teaching outcomes at local, national and international conferences. Designer and planner by training, Ana Karinna holds a doctoral degree in Environmental Design and a Master of Planning from the University of Calgary. She also has a master's in higher education and educational research, a specialization in urban environmental management, and a bachelor's in design.

PCAP's Prairie's Got the Goods Week is an annual series of webinars focusing on the goods and services provided by the native prairie ecosystem.