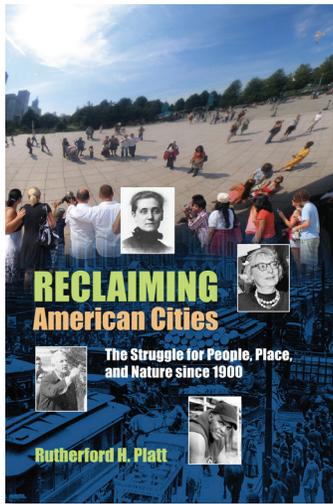


# NEW FROM **massachusetts**



## **RECLAIMING AMERICAN CITIES** The Struggle for People, Place, and Nature since 1900 **RUTHERFORD H. PLATT**

*How American cities are becoming more pluralistic, green, and humane*

For most of the past century, urban America was dominated by top-down policies serving the white business and cultural elite, the suburbs, and the automobile. In the 1990s, this model finally began to erode as local citizens, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders began asserting their own needs and priorities. This new era of “humane urbanism” seeks to make cities and suburbs greener, healthier, safer, more equitable, more efficient, and generally more people-friendly.

As Rutherford H. Platt points out, humane urbanism can take many forms, from affordable housing and networks of bike paths to refurbished waterfronts and urban farms.

“Platt’s book offers a breathtaking historical sweep of attempts to shape the physical and social organization of U.S. cities—and why some of them succeeded while many others failed.”—JENNIFER WOLCH, Dean, UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design

“A sophisticated, thorough, and comprehensive history of city planning in the United States over the last 125 years.”—ALEX MARSHALL, author of *How Cities Work: Suburbs, Sprawl, and the Roads Not Taken*

“Each generation remakes the city in its own image. The past provides the problem and the future provides the opportunity. Rutherford Platt’s excellent new book provides a perspective, literally a viewpoint, from which to see and contemplate the American urban landscape, and the people and ideas that have shaped it over the last century. Highly recommended!”—ERIC W. SANDERSON, author of *Terra Nova: The New World after Oil, Cars, and Suburbs* and *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*

**Rutherford H. Platt** is professor emeritus of geography and planning law at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and editor of two prior University of Massachusetts Press books: *The Ecological City* (1994) and *The Humane Metropolis* (2006). Please see [www.humanemetropolis.org](http://www.humanemetropolis.org) for more information.

\$28.95 paper, 320 pp., 41 illus., ISBN 978-1-62534-050-4

**University of Massachusetts Press**

Amherst & Boston

[www.umass.edu/umpress](http://www.umass.edu/umpress)

To order call 800-537-5487, order online, or visit your local bookstore.

For Europe and the UK:

[www.eurospanbookstore.com/massachusetts](http://www.eurospanbookstore.com/massachusetts)

S541

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

# Reclaiming American Cities

## The Struggle for People, Place and Nature Since 1900

*Preface* ix

*Introduction: A Train Journey into the Past and Future* 1

### **Part I: The Patrician Decades, 1900–1940**

1. American Cities in 1900: A Patchwork of Silk and Rags
2. Competing Visions in the Progressive Era

### **Part II: The Technocrat Decades, 1945–1990**

3. The Central City Renewal Engine
4. The Suburban Sprawl Engine
5. Battling the Bulldozer: The Indiana Dunes and Other Sacred Places
6. Legacies of Sprawl: A Witch's Brew

### **Part III: The (More) Humane Decades, 1990–Present**

7. Replanting Urbanism in the 1990s: A Garden of Acronyms
8. New Age “Central Parks”: Two Grand Slams and a Single
9. Reclaiming Urban Waterways: One Stream at a Time
10. Humane Urbanism at Ground Level

*Epilogue*

*Notes*

*Further Reading*

*Index*

