

No1 Intensive Course: 1/10

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Returning Nature to the City

As urbanization continues, natural spaces often disappear rapidly. Some cities now turn abandoned industrial land into wildlife parks. The purpose is not simply to create attractive scenery but to
5 rebuild a functioning ecosystem. At one former railway yard, fuel had contaminated the soil. Before removing it, researchers examined every organism already living there. Some insects and grasses had adapted to the difficult conditions.

10 The city removed the most polluted soil and planted native trees to facilitate recovery. Stones and dead wood were added to provide habitat for birds and insects. Within a few years, plants began to flourish. The park absorbed rainwater, reduced flooding, and cooled the surrounding neighborhood in summer. Impressed by these results, another municipality connected several small green areas
15 so that animals could move more safely through the city.

Such projects still involve risks. A newly introduced species may become prevalent and threaten native wildlife, while excessive pesticide use may kill useful insects. Therefore, each project must be regularly evaluated.

20 Housing scarcity also leads some people to argue that urban land should be used for homes instead. Supporters reply that green roofs and tree-lined housing can serve both purposes. Although urban ecosystems remain fragile, they are more likely to thrive when scientists and residents cooperate. Their different needs can
25 coincide if planners listen carefully to both sides.

(本文語数:220 語)

Questions

(1) What did researchers do before removing the polluted soil?

- ① They examined the organisms that were already living at the site.
- ② They introduced foreign insects that could survive in polluted areas.
- ③ They asked local residents to plant trees throughout the railway yard.
- ④ They covered the whole area with stones and dead wood.

(2) What was one practical benefit of the restored railway yard?

- ① It provided enough land for new apartment buildings.
- ② It reduced flooding by absorbing rainwater.
- ③ It completely removed high summer temperatures.
- ④ It prevented animals from entering nearby neighborhoods.

(3) Why must urban rewilding projects be regularly evaluated?

- ① Their parks usually become too expensive for cities to maintain.
- ② Native plants cannot survive unless pesticides are used frequently.
- ③ Introduced species and pesticide use may damage native wildlife.
- ④ Residents often oppose every attempt to create urban green spaces.

(4) According to the passage, how can cities balance housing and nature?

- ① By moving all wildlife away from residential areas.
- ② By using every available piece of land only for housing.
- ③ By allowing scientists to make decisions without residents.
- ④ By designing housing with features such as green roofs and trees.

□1 coincide [kòuinsáid]	動 ①《coincide with ... で》…と同時 に起こる ②一致する
□2 contaminate [kəntæmənéit]	動 ①～を汚染する ②～に悪影響を及 ぼす
□3 ecosystem [í:kousìstəm]	名 生態系、エコシステム
□4 evaluate [ivæljúèit]	動 ～を評価する、～の価値を見極める
□5 facilitate [fəsílètèit]	動 ①～を促進する ②～を容易にする ③労働を軽減する
□6 flourish [fló:riʃ]	動 繁殖する、繁栄する
□7 fragile [frædzəl]	形 ①もろい、壊れやすい ②虚弱な
□8 habitat [hæbətæt]	名 生息地
□9 municipality [mjù:nisəpəléti]	名 ①市当局 ②地方自治体
□10 organism [ó:rgənizəm]	名 ①生命体、生物 ②有機的組織体
□11 pesticide [péstəsàid]	名 殺虫剤
□12 prevalent [prévələnt]	形 慣習・病気・噂などが広く行き渡って いる
□13 scarcity [skérsiti]	名 不足、欠乏
□14 thrive [θráiv]	動 ①人・事業などが繁栄する ②植物 などが成長する
□15 urbanization [ə:rbənizéiʃən]	名 都市化