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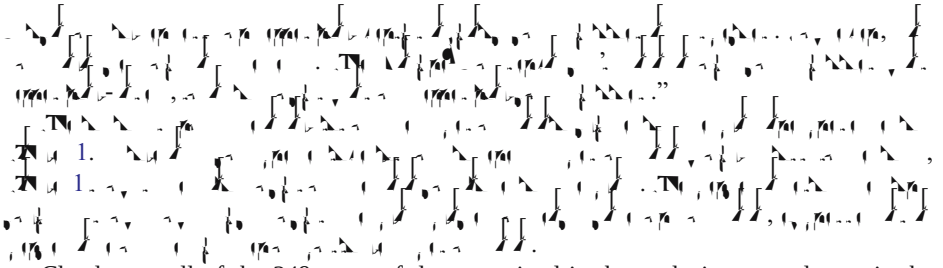
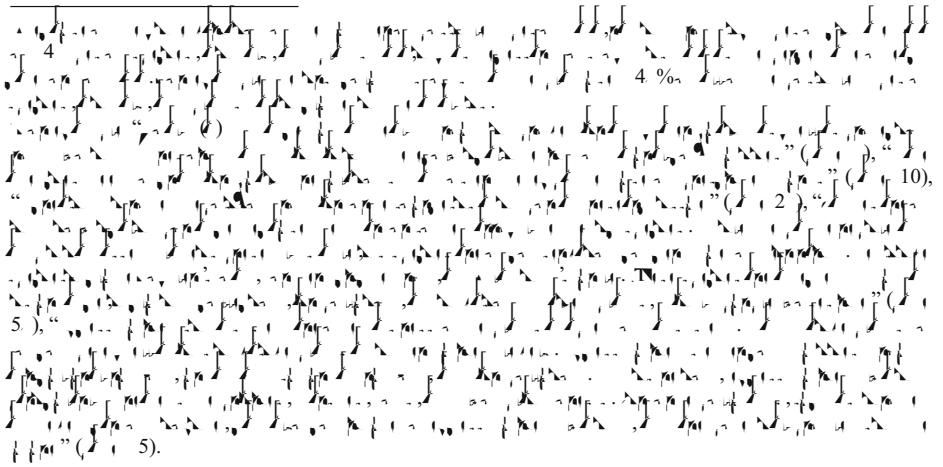


Clearly, not all of the 249 types of data contained in the analysis were relevant in the Chicago region; however, the list contained many basic types of data, such as human population, soil characteristics, location of existing parks, and current land use, which are normally considered background information in any plan (see similar discussion in Korfmacher and Koontz 2003). When viewed as a general guideline for the focus of information in the plan, the data do reveal some interesting findings. For example, the plan did not include any of the air quality data contained in the analysis. However, the Chicago metropolitan area is not in attainment with U.S. Federal Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Further, the plan lists several areas in which air quality impacts biodiversity.[9] Some of the interviewees noted a lack of hydrologists and water experts on the planning committee, and that lack of a stand-alone section on water issues was a point of contention throughout the planning process. The data reveals that some basic types of water data (not connected to natural communities) were not included in the plan. Conversely, the interviewees noted that experts in terrestrial biology and natural communities had a strong presence throughout the planning process; and geology, general environmental and ecosystem data—all mainly terrestrial-based information—rank among the types of data with the highest rates of use. Finally, some of the interviewees noted a lack of a human dimension in the plan and a lack of general citizen participation throughout the planning process. The data above reveal that land use, demographic, and other types of social data ranked near the bottom of the list of commonly used types of data.

This however, is not meant to be construed as criticism of the Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The plan was intended to focus on natural communities—and this data shows that it did exactly what it what it was intended to do. As the earlier discussion points out, the term biodiversity is a very broad issue, and planners can focus on any number of issues, such as



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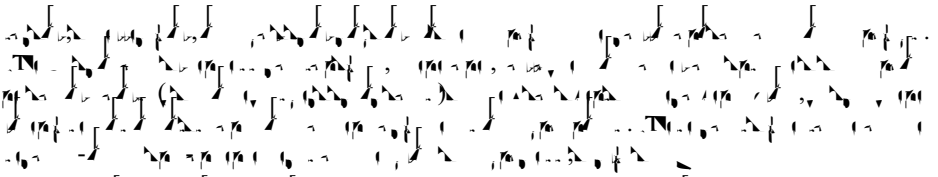

(1) [illegible] 2005), [illegible] Biodiversity Recovery Plan, [illegible] 10–15 [illegible].

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