**Environmental preservation** is the strict setting aside of natural resources to prevent the use or contact by humans or by human intervention. In terms of policy making this often means setting aside areas as nature reserves (otherwise known as wildlife reserves), parks, or other conservation areas. These areas usually restrict or prohibit activities that may cause damage to habitat or wildlife. Such activities may include: logging, hunting, fishing, mining and so on. Just as often legal devices such as laws and regulations may be employed, such as the Endangered Species Act in the United States, which is not dependent on designating a specific geographic area aside for conservation. A government's environmental policy will determine which areas or species, etc. are protected and how.

*Environmental preservation* is different from *conservation*; *conservation* allows for sustainable development, whereas *preservation* is complete restriction.

**Open space:** Smart growth uses the term “open space” broadly to mean natural areas both in and surrounding localities that provide important community space, habitat for plants and animals, recreational opportunities, farm and ranch land (working lands), places of natural beauty and critical environmental areas (e.g. wetlands). Open space preservation supports smart growth goals by bolstering local economies, preserving critical environmental areas, improving our communities quality of life, and guiding new growth into existing communities.

The availability of open space also provides significant environmental quality and health benefits. Open space protects animal and plant habitat, places of natural beauty, and working lands by removing the development pressure and redirecting new growth to existing communities. Additionally, preservation of open space benefits the environment by combating air pollution, attenuating noise, controlling wind, providing erosion control, and moderating temperatures. Open space also protects surface and ground water resources by filtering trash, debris, and chemical pollutants before they enter a water system.

A **green belt** or **greenbelt** is a policy or land use designation used in land use planning to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas. The original concept (Umweltamt) for the City of Frankfurt is of Ernst May in the 20's. Similar concepts are **greenways** or **green wedges** which have a linear character and may run through an urban area instead of around it.
Principles of Environment Preservation

- Refuse, Reuse, Recycle: don't acquire what you don't need. When you do acquire stuff, make sure they are reusable or at least recyclable.
  - Reuse: cloth bags for groceries instead of paper/plastic.
  - Recycle: donate old furniture, computers, clothes, books instead of trashing them.
- Use recycled material wherever you can (and products thereof).
- Avoid waste (unnecessary expenditure) of time, energy, money, material, resources. This is a good thing to do in general. Of course, the relative pros and cons need to be considered on a case by case basis. (Example: walking to work is not an excuse to come late to work everyday.)
- Encourage businesses that behave responsibly. Discourage those that don't.
- Use common sense:
  - Don't acquire stuff just so that they can later be recycled. Example: recycling plastic water bottles, paper/plastic/thermocole cups is good. Even better is to reuse a bottle or a cup (say, to refill from a water fountain).
  - Avoid being taken advantage of by people/companies that try to make a quick buck in the name of saving the environment. Examples: dubious 'organic' labeled products, organic products sold at an exorbitant price, 'alternative' anything that is sold at a premium that doesn't make sense, etc.

Restoration ecology is the study of renewing a degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystem through active human intervention. Restoration ecology specifically refers to the scientific study that has evolved as recently as the 1980s. Land managers, laypeople, and stewards have been practicing restoration for many hundreds, if not thousands of years (Anderson 2005), yet the scientific field of "restoration ecology" was first identified and coined in the late 1980s by John Aber and William Jordan. The study of restoration ecology has only become a robust and independent scientific discipline over the last two decades (Young et. al 2005).

The Society for Ecological Restoration defines ecological restoration as an “intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity and sustainability” (SER 2004). The practice of ecological restoration includes wide scope of projects including, but not limited to: erosion control, reforestation, removal of non-native species and weeds, revegetation of disturbed areas, daylighting streams, reintroduction of native species, as well as habitat and range improvement for targeted species. The term "ecological restoration" refers to the practice of the discipline of "restoration ecology".

In the view of biologist E. O. Wilson