

The Role of Nonprofit Environmental NGOs in Urban Community Forestry: A Case Study Comparison of Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland



This research will use governance theory to examine the role of two environmental nonprofits, Casey Trees in Washington, D.C. and the Parks and People Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland in urban community forestry management at the neighborhood level. Additionally, it will explore how these organizations' stewardship practices affect urban forest conditions through revitalization in the neighborhoods of Petworth, D.C. and Franklin Square, Baltimore.

Through a series of semi-structured interviews and archival document analysis I seek to understand the following.

- The role of Casey Trees and the Parks and People Foundation in urban community forestry management in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore
- How Casey Trees and Parks and People partner with the city, state, and federal government entities, other NGOs, and citizen groups to promote urban community forestry
- The internal management and funding structure of Casey Trees and the Parks and People Foundation that promotes urban community forestry management in D.C. and Baltimore
- How Casey Trees and the Parks and People Foundation perceive they have changed urban forest conditions in the Petworth and Franklin Square neighborhoods through revitalization

Why is this research significant?

This research is significant to urban forestry management and managing environmental amenities in the following ways.

- Providing an in-depth analysis of how governance theory can be applied to urban community forestry on a citywide and neighborhood scale
- Addressing how local nonprofits fill the state gap in managing environmental amenities
- Providing an understanding of nonprofit structures and partnerships
- Identifying optimal and non-optimal urban community forestry management practices
- Understanding how nonprofits operate on the ground to effect change at a local level

This research will contribute to the Long-term Ecological Research-Baltimore Ecosystem Study. For more information contact Meghan Rodier, Ohio University Masters Candidate, at mr795209@ohio.edu.