

Environmental Stewardship in Baltimore

A new research study will look at environmental stewardship organizations in Baltimore. Through interviews and surveys, we seek to understand:



- Who are the environmental groups working in Baltimore?
- What types of stewardship activities are they working on, and where?
- Which organizations work together? What do these collaborative networks look like?
- What are the environmental and social conditions that cause stewardship organizations and networks to form in a community?
- How do these stewardship networks affect the social and environmental conditions in communities where they work?

The results of this work will be shared so that Baltimore residents, public agencies, and environmental organizations can have a more complete picture of the stewardship work that is being done in their city.

Why study environmental networks?

Long-term, ongoing environmental stewardship efforts must include the active participation of community residents. Community-based groups have the ability to mobilize residents' concern for their community and its environment. Local environmental groups are especially well suited to be a liaison between citizens, private institutions, and public agencies. Additionally, these organizations generally know a neighborhood and the people who live there, and can take a localized approach to environmentalism.

While case studies show that an individual organization can contribute to building stronger communities and improving the environment, they are only one part of a larger picture. Given the collaborations and overlap among environmental stewardship organizations, it is important to look at the networks that tie them together. To truly understand how stewardship organizations impact communities, we must examine how organizations work with each other, with individuals, and with public and private institutions. Only by understanding the characteristics of the stewardship network can we understand the complex collaborative system that is involved in shaping the local environment.

Want to learn more?

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This project is part of graduate research looking at stewardship networks in Baltimore and Seattle. For more information about work in Seattle, visit www.fs.fed.us/pnw/ruwit/gcra

Baltimore and Seattle research builds on stewardship work by the Forest Service in New York City. Information about that project can be found at: http://nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc/focus/stewardship_mapping