

Baltimore Ecosystem Study

Long Term Ecological Research

BALTIMORE STUDY EXPLORES HUMAN INTERACTIONS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

The Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) aims to understand metropolitan Baltimore as an ecological system. The program brings together researchers from the biological, physical, and social sciences to collect new data and synthesize existing information that sheds light on how the ecological and the engineered systems of Baltimore work.



As a part of the national LTER Network, we also seek to understand how Baltimore's ecosystems change over long time periods. The ecological knowledge we create helps support educational and community-based activities, and interactions between the project and the Baltimore community are important components of our project. Such an integrative project includes many disciplines and many research and educational institutions, both in Baltimore and beyond.

The strong focus on interaction with diverse community groups and the interaction with social science has created great interest and insight into the multiple ways that we can understand nature and the environment. In fact BES research generally reflects the five components of Feng Shui (water, wood, earth, fire, and metal).

- ◆ Our research has a major focus on water, with emphases on watershed studies and on human manipulation of water cycles.
- ◆ With the U.S. Forest Service as a major partner, we are also studying the dynamics of forest trees and their wood and non-wood products.
- ◆ The analysis of soils, including the metals that are mobilized by human activities and deposited in them, is another major component of our research program.
- ◆ Fire, particularly within human-created combustion chambers, e.g. cars, is a major characteristic of urban ecosystems, making it an inherent component of our research.

We welcome the opportunity to explore further the potential of human activities to create and destroy harmony among these factors.

Website: <http://www.beslter.org/>