

Central Arizona-Phoenix

Long Term Ecological Research

CLOSER LOOK AT ECOLOGY OF URBAN SYSTEMS

LTER sites have tended to focus upon pristine locations well removed from the myriad effects brought about by extensive human modification of ecosystems. The CAP LTER site provides a unique addition to the LTER network by focusing on an arid-land ecosystem profoundly influenced, or even defined by the presence and activities of humans and is one of only two sites that specifically study the ecology of urban systems.

The multifaceted CAP LTER project is aimed at answering the question: How does the pattern of development of the city alter ecological conditions of the city and its surrounding environment, and vice versa? To answer this question, social, physical, and biological scientists from Arizona State University and a host of community partners are working together to study the structure and function of the Phoenix urban ecosystem, assess the effects of urban development on the Sonoran Desert, and define the impact of ecological conditions on urban development.

Website: <http://caplter.asu.edu>

