

**Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES):
Urban Long-Term Ecological Research**

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Abstract

The Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) is a Long-Term Ecological Research project that investigates metropolitan Baltimore as an ecological system. The program brings together biological, physical, and social scientists to collect new data and synthesize existing information on how both the ecological and built components of Baltimore work. We also seek to understand how Baltimore's ecosystems change over long time periods. We focus on all components of the urban system, ranging from the center city to fringe exurban lands, and including suburbs and agricultural areas in the metropolitan matrix. The ecological knowledge we create helps support educational and community-based activities. Interactions between the project and the Baltimore community are an important part of our project.