



Interdisciplinary Consortium
for Applied Research in the
Environment

National Science Foundation
Research Training Grant

*Broadening Participation Across the
Environmental Sciences in & around
Baltimore Harbor*



Project Title: Unravelling Biodiversity Patterns in Baltimore's Urban Forests

UMBC faculty mentor name & department:

Dr. Colin Studds, Department of Geography and Environmental Systems

Dr. Mathew Baker, Department of Geography and Environmental Systems

Partner mentor name & institution: Katie Lautar, Baltimore Greenspace

Brief project description:

Forest patches of at least 1 hectare make up approximately 20 percent of Baltimore's tree canopy. These forests absorb storm water, cool the air and provide habitat for plants and animals. Baltimore Greenspace is an environmental land trust that works to preserve open spaces in order to build community and promote a resilient environment. Working in conjunction with Baltimore Greenspace, we have discovered that urban forests can host substantial biodiversity, yet we still do not understand the factors that permit the cooccurrence of numerous species. The aim of this project is to examine existing data on soil, plants, birds and mammals to understand the patterns and processes that determine biodiversity in urban forest patches. The results of this research will help Baltimore Greenspace prioritize and advocate for urban forest protection.

