



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: Avian Diversity in Urban Parks

UMBC mentor name(s) & department:

Dr. Kevin Omland, Department of Biological Sciences

Partner mentor name(s) & institution:

Dr. Allison Colden, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Carmera Thomas-Wilhite, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Brief project description:

The Bridgeview/Greenlawn Community Enhancement Project is a winner of the Growing Green Design Competition in 2017. The project transformed a vacant, asphalt-covered lot on Riggs Avenue into a pocket park for the neighborhood that provides stormwater management and potential environmental benefits. We aim to determine the extent of the ecological benefits to public health and ecosystem health in this urban setting. Specifically, we will explore the biodiversity and abundance of migratory and resident birds in this plot compared with size-matched plots in urban and rural settings, testing the hypothesis that transforming neighborhood lots to pocket parks provides ecosystem benefits.

