

BES Annual Meeting October 15, 2026
Stillmeadow Community Fellowship
5110 Frederick Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229
<https://baltimoreecosystemstudy.org/events/>

Remote viewing:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/95658939606>

Or Telephone : 203-432-9666 (2-ZOOM if on-campus) or 646 568 7788

One Tap Mobile: +12034329666,,95658939606# US (Bridgeport)

Meeting ID: 956 5893 9606

Agenda

8:15 Coffee and Conversation

8:45 Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements
Dexter Locke, US Forest Service

Session 1: Moderated by Beatriz Shobe

9:00 **Michele Romolini, Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience.**
Isabel Torres, Jaline McPherson, Isaac Hametz, Ralinda Wimbush, Courtney Morgan, Varun Gole. *Network Brokers to Facilitate Knowledge Coproduction in Community Forestry: Implementing Maryland's 5 Million Tree Initiative in Baltimore*

9:15 **Fellag Lucas, Nord Federation - Secours Populaire Français.** Belin Hyacinthe:
Learning from STEW-MAP: Adapting a Territorial and Relational Approach to Social Action in Northern France

9:30 **Regis Maubrey, Greenway international.** Nathalie Lombard: *Transatlantic exchanges on remediating and restoring polluted soil for urban agriculture*

9:45 **Yemi Seriki, Sagro Farms - Baltimore Forest School.** *Coffee as Conservation: Connecting Baltimore to Bird Friendly Landscapes*

- 10:00 **Archana Sharma, Morgan State University.** Archana Sharma, Kirsten M. Leong, Jagath Munasinghe, Joseph P. Brewer II, and Esther A. Obonyo: *Co-producing sustainable built environments in AI era: Integrating traditional knowledge systems into green building rating standards to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*
- 10:15 **Katie May Laumann, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).** Conor Keitzer. *Resilience Assessments for Maryland's Communities: Past and Future Work*
- 10:30 Break

Session 2: Moderated by Morgan Grove

- 10:45 **Gabriel Pickus, Baltimore Forest School.** *Nature Bridges*
- 11:00 **Peter Groffman, City University of New York:** Synthesis of long-term BES water quality data
- 11:15 **Claire Welty, UMBC/CUERE and CBEE.** Mary McWilliams, Andrew Miller, Jack Malone, Robert Bathurst: *Evaluation of pollutant removal effectiveness of stormwater facilities using high-frequency water quality sensors.*
- 11:30 **Kehinde Bosikun, UMBC.** Joel Moore, Claire Welty: Urbanization alters mineral weathering and stream water chemistry in Dead Run watershed, Baltimore.
- 11:45 **Sophia Burnett, Legacy Metals JHU.** Katalin Szlavecz: *Healthy Soils, Healthy Green Spaces*
- 12:00 **Lunch provided, Visit Stillmeadow Peace Park**
- 1:15 **Posters and Networking**

Session 3: Moderated by Michele Romolini

- 2:15 **Mike Alonzo, American University.** Darryn Waugh, Ali Eyni, Thomas McCarty, Isabel Horst, Dexter Locke: *Does the Sycamore forest patch cool its surroundings? A bike-based air temperature investigation.*
- 2:30 **Justin Nowakowski, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.** Aidan Kirchgraber, Shelley Bennett: *Birdsong and extreme heat: landscape and trait-dependent responses.*
- 2:45 **Beatriz Shobe, Johns Hopkins University.** Meghan Avolio, Nancy Sonti: *The interplay of interannual climate variability, genetic relatedness, and site type on urban tree growth and mortality.*
- 3:00 **Stella Marti, Johns Hopkins University.** Meghan Avolio, Nancy Sonti: *Comparing the growth and physiology of street and park trees in Baltimore.*
- 3:15 **Nancy F. Sonti, US Forest Service.** J. Morgan Grove, Max R. Piana, Richard A. Hallett, Michael S. Martin, Yorell Tuck: *Co-producing urban silviculture: a stone soup approach to transdisciplinary science.*
- 3:30 **Gemma Feild, UMBC.** Christopher Swan. *The impacts of urbanization on woodland snake communities: A case study of Central Maryland.*
- 3:45 **Closing remarks, Networking and Visit Stillmeadow Peace Park**

5:00 – 8:00 Keystone Community-Based Science Convening

 Difference Makers Center: 3639 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215
 **17** Wednesday, October 15th, 2026

Join us for an evening of community, learning, and collaboration at the Keystone Community-Based Science Convening.

This gathering will highlight research projects that are driving scaled community outcomes in Baltimore and beyond. Hear directly from community organizations and their research partners as they share stories of successful partnerships that are shaping healthier, more sustainable futures.

✨ Come connect with neighbors, researchers, and change-makers working together at the intersection of science and community impact.



Food and drinks will be provided!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Poster Presentations

Nicole Barbour, Towson University. Alyssa Cruz, Madelyn Clayton, Stella Ward, Toluwani Idowu, Harald Beck. *The Baltimore City Canid Project*

Namrata Dhobekar, Morgan State University. Archana Sharma. *Investigating architectural design syntax of energy efficiency: Preliminary Research on courtyard buildings and thermal comfort.*

Kathryn Dixon, University of Maryland and Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Claire M. Barlow, Hana A. Fisaha, Shruthi Kishore, Bianca Sanchez, Megan Stallard, Carey Pelc, Rylee Wernoch, Katrina Pagenkopp Lohan, Rebecca L. Hale, Rachel E. Rosenberg Goldstein. *Evaluating Microbial Water Quality and Rapid Detection Methods for Urban Recreational Water Safety*

Jaire Long, Towson University. Alice Besterman. *A Comparative Assessment of Sesarma Reticulatum Impacts Across Salt Marsh*

Stella Marti, Johns Hopkins University. Meghan Avolio, Nancy Sonti, Megan Curtiss. *Work in Progress: Impacts of maintenance duration, wood anatomy, and planting site on urban tree longevity*

Mary McWilliams, UMBC/CUERE. Claire Welty; Peter Groffman; Jon Duncan; Andrew J. Miller; Jack Malone. *Characterization of stream chemistry of storms from high-frequency sensor data at BES field sites*

Wolf T Pecher, The University of Baltimore. *Predicting Functional Capabilities of Microbial Communities from Road Salt Exposed Urban Soils Using 16S Amplicon Sequencing Data*

Megan Schumacher, UMBC. Dawn Biehler. *Baltimore Cemeteries as Historic Urban Green Spaces*

Maggie Sehnert, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Kendal Morris, Pat Megonigal, Alice Stearns, Mark Norris. *Tree branch removal effects on leaf gas exchange measurements*

Archana Sharma, Morgan State University. *Associated Ecology Diagrammatic Approach for Prioritizing Urban Stream Restoration*