

Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network (NEURON Conference)  
hosted by the urban ecology collaborative



*Watershed approaches to  
urban stream rehabilitation:  
Practice, Education and  
Research  
Feb 9-10 at Boston College*





## Presenters Today

Colleen Murphy-Dunning, *Executive Director*,  
Urban Resources Initiative, Yale University

Jessica Schmierer, *Administrative Coordinator*,  
Boston College Environmental Studies Program

Eric Strauss, *Science Director & faculty member*,  
Urban Ecology Institute & Boston College





Urban Ecology  
COLLABORATIVE

Today's presentation...

NEURON Meeting in February 9 & 10

Urban Ecology Collaborative Overview

Cities and the Environment Journal



**For more information  
contact:  
neuronconf@gmail.com**

**Hosted by:**



**SAVE THE DATE:  
February 9th & 10 2009**

Boston College  
Higgins 644B  
140 Commonwealth Ave  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

For more information contact:  
Jess Schmierer  
neuronconf@gmail.com  
(617)552-2477



The Allegheny River flowing through Pittsburg, PA serves as an ecological and social lifeline to one of our member cities in the Urban Ecology Collaborative.

Join us for the 3rd annual NEURON meeting focused on urban and community forestry issues, associated research, applications, and education. NEURON is once again hosted by the Urban Ecology Collaborative and this year's theme is:

**Watershed approaches to urban stream rehabilitation: Practice, Education and Research**



### **Call for Presentations on Current Urban Stream Rehabilitation Projects**

*We are looking for contributions from scientists, practitioners and educators to present their work on urban stream rehabilitation. The conference format will be 20 minute presentations followed by group discussion. Presenters are invited to submit papers for review for a special NEURON conference proceedings edition in the electronic journal Cities and the Environment. Please contact Jess Schmierer at neuronconf@gmail.com with presentation proposals.*



### **Who Should Attend?**

*Representatives from NGOs, universities, schools and local, state or federal-level agencies and municipalities interested in urban forests are encouraged to participate.*



### **Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA**

*Meet us at beautiful Boston College, in the Boston metropolitan area.*

# Sample of NEURON Presentations

- Richard Smardon, SUNY Syracuse,  
*Models for organizing multiple stakeholders for purposes of waterway revitalization and restoration.*
- Julie Dyer Wood, Charles River Watershed Association,  
*Blue City Initiative - Brings together techniques such as Low Impact Development (LID), Green Building, Green Infrastructure, Green Corridors, and stormwater management in service to urban sustainability*
- Fred Dillon, FB Environmental Associates Portland, ME, A community-based collaborative approach to restoring Long Creek, which courses through Maine's most urbanized areas.
- Charles Lord, Boston College,  
*Reassessing the environmental justice history and legacies of Baltimore*

# Emerging from our Fall 2007 meetings in Chicago and Boston...

A clear need to integrate our work into the various communities to which we are in-service.

ULTRA programs must reach local neighborhoods and prepare stakeholders for active roles in transformative efforts

Vertical integration of efforts to reach stakeholders of all ages and professions

This charges us with creating effective tools and strategies and to radically reconsider *Educational Outreach*



Summer UTC interns in Boston

Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network (NEURON Conference)  
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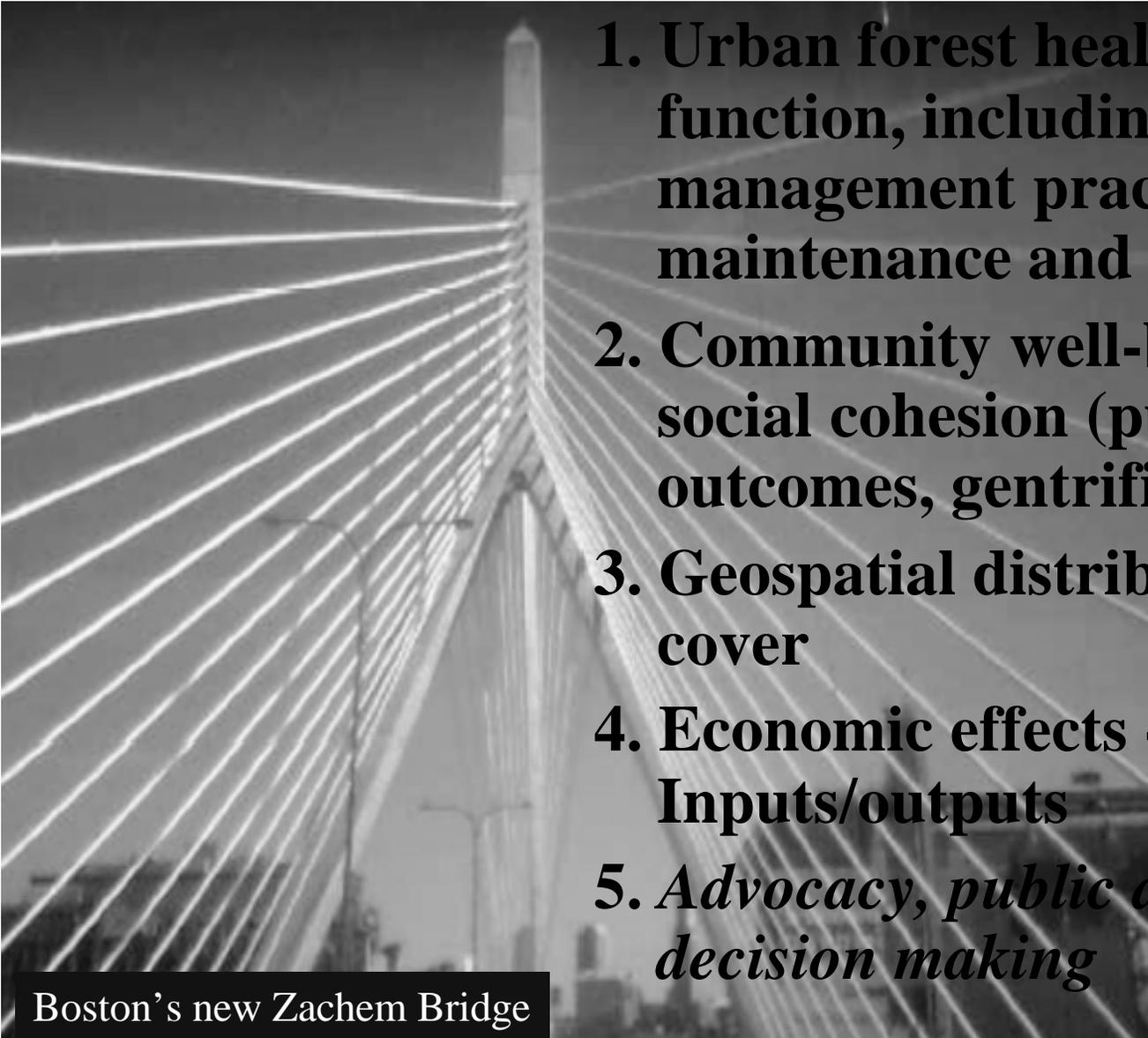


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***Focus 2008 –  
Urban Long Term Research Areas  
(ULTRA's):  
Developing Platforms and a Network for  
Education, Training and Outreach***

# Boston's Top Five ULTRA Topics

- 1. Urban forest health and function, including best management practices, canopy maintenance and regeneration**
- 2. Community well-being and social cohesion (public health outcomes, gentrification)**
- 3. Geospatial distribution of forest cover**
- 4. Economic effects -  
Inputs/outputs**
- 5. *Advocacy, public awareness and decision making***



Boston's new Zachem Bridge



# Urban Ecology Collaborative Mission

*To cultivate healthy, safe  
and vibrant cities through  
collective learning and  
united action.*

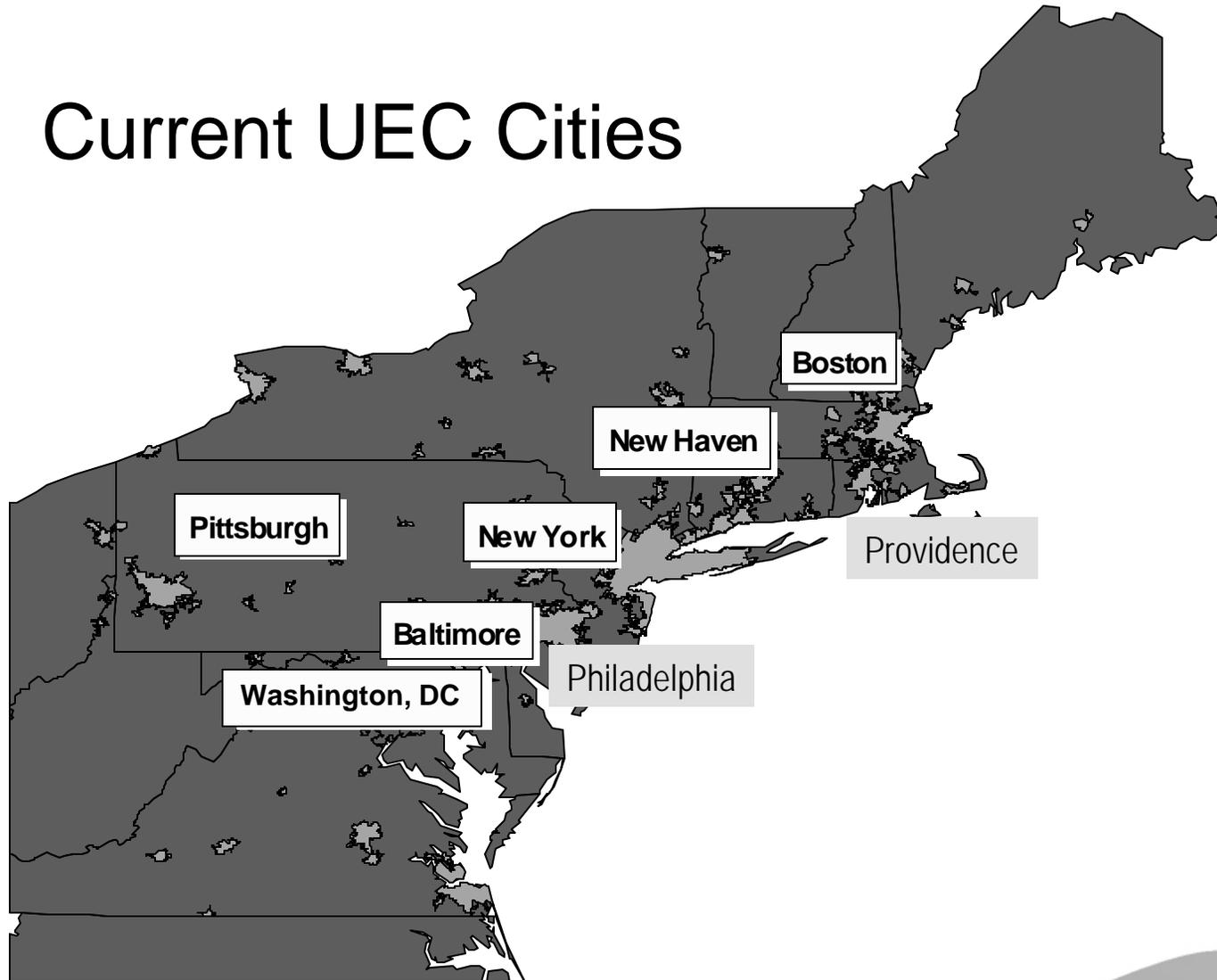
[www.urbanecologycollaborative.org](http://www.urbanecologycollaborative.org)

# Goals of the Collaborative

## *The goals of the UEC are to:*

1. Develop a unique, multi-city network for urban ecosystem research, restoration and training opportunities
2. Complete a set of “tools” for effectively addressing common urban ecosystem problems
3. Develop an integrated “toolkit” for sharing, standardizing, evaluating, and disseminating these tools

# Current UEC Cities



Many of our cities fall along the transect

“East Coast Megalopolis”



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# UEC Organization

## **Citywide Committees**

*Inclusive of various stakeholders*

## **Steering Committee**

*Members from all working groups and from each city*

## **Cross City Working Groups**

*Restoration Tools*

*Education*

*Collaborative Structures*

*Research*



Urban Ecology  
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### ▢ About the UEC

**The Urban Ecology Collaborative (UEC)** cultivates healthy, safe and vibrant cities through collective learning and united action and by:

Developing a unique multi-city network for urban ecosystem research and restoration

Completing relevant programs, or "tools" such as educational programs, urban forestry programs and advocacy programs to address common urban ecosystem issues

Developing and integrated "tool-kit" for sharing these tools, standartizing them, evaluating their effectiveness and disseminating them to our cities

- [History](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- [Support Services](#)

### ▢ Featured Projects



#### 2009 Neuron Conference Boston, MA

Posted 01/16/09 Group:  
[Steering Committee](#)

As you may be aware, the 3rd Annual NEURON (Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network) Conference will be held at Boston College on February 9 and 10, 2009. Neuron is once again hosted by th...

| [Learn More](#) | [Web Site](#) | [All Projects](#) |



#### Cities and the Environment

Posted 12/04/08 Group:  
[Steering Committee](#)

Ecological Landscaping – From Scientific Principles to Public Practices and Policies An interdisciplinary conference to explore designing and managing urbanized landscapes Proceedings from October 200...

| [Learn More](#) | [Web Site](#) | [All Projects](#) |

### ▢ Partners & Collaborators

Use the pull-down menus to select which partners and collaborators you would like to see or go directly to the full list (unfiltered).

-- List by City ▾

-- List By Organization Type ▾

-- List By Organization Name ▾

### ▢ Working Groups

Working Groups are the UEC's collaborative teams focused on specific projects. There are a number of these groups, all accessible through this WEB site using the links below.

- [Steering Committee](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Collaborative Structures](#)
- [Restoration Tools](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Green Jobs](#)

### ▢ Resources

- [GIS Metadata and Maps](#)
- [Non/Spatial Metadata](#)
- [Featured Projects](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Minutes](#)

### ▢ Document Search

To search documents in the Virtual Lab Database, you can enter a keyword or build a Boolean search using any or all of the criteria at right.

-- City ▾

-- Working Group ▾

-- Type of Document ▾

-- Type of Organization ▾

-- UEC Organization ▾

-- Document Date Range ▾

# CITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

AN ELECTRONIC WEB-BASED JOURNAL

- On-line Peer-reviewed journal of urban ecology
- Publishing both Theory and the work of practitioners
- Second edition is out now!

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## Cities and the Environment

Publishes peer-reviewed scholarship on urban ecology research and urban ecology education.

Encourages submission of scholarly works of the following types: well-written, relevant articles; multi-media products such as simulations, video streams, audio productions and other visualization tools.

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[Urban Principles for Ecological Landscape Design and Maintenance: Scientific Fundamentals](#)

Chris A. Martin  
[Landscape Sustainability in a Sonoran Desert City](#)

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[Conserving Biodiversity in Urbanizing Areas: Nontraditional Views from a Bird's Perspective](#)

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[Disproportionality as a Framework to Target Pollution Reduction from Urban Landscapes](#)

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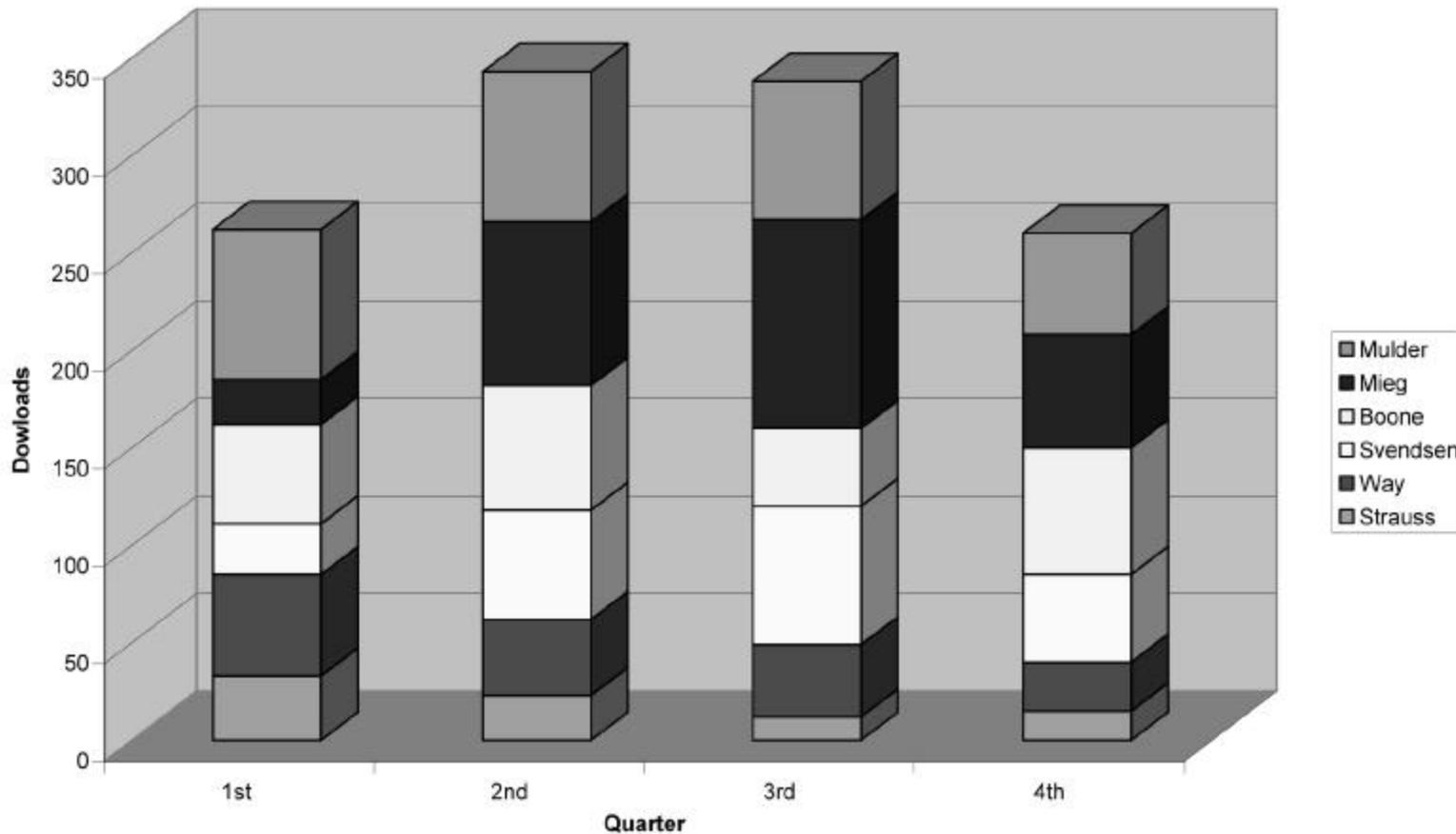
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[New Approaches to Ecologically Based, Designed Urban Plant Communities in Britain: Do These Have Any Relevance in the United States?](#)

# Volume 1 Issue 1

[www.catejournal.org](http://www.catejournal.org)

Cities and the Environment  
2008 Downloads  
Volume 1, Issue 1

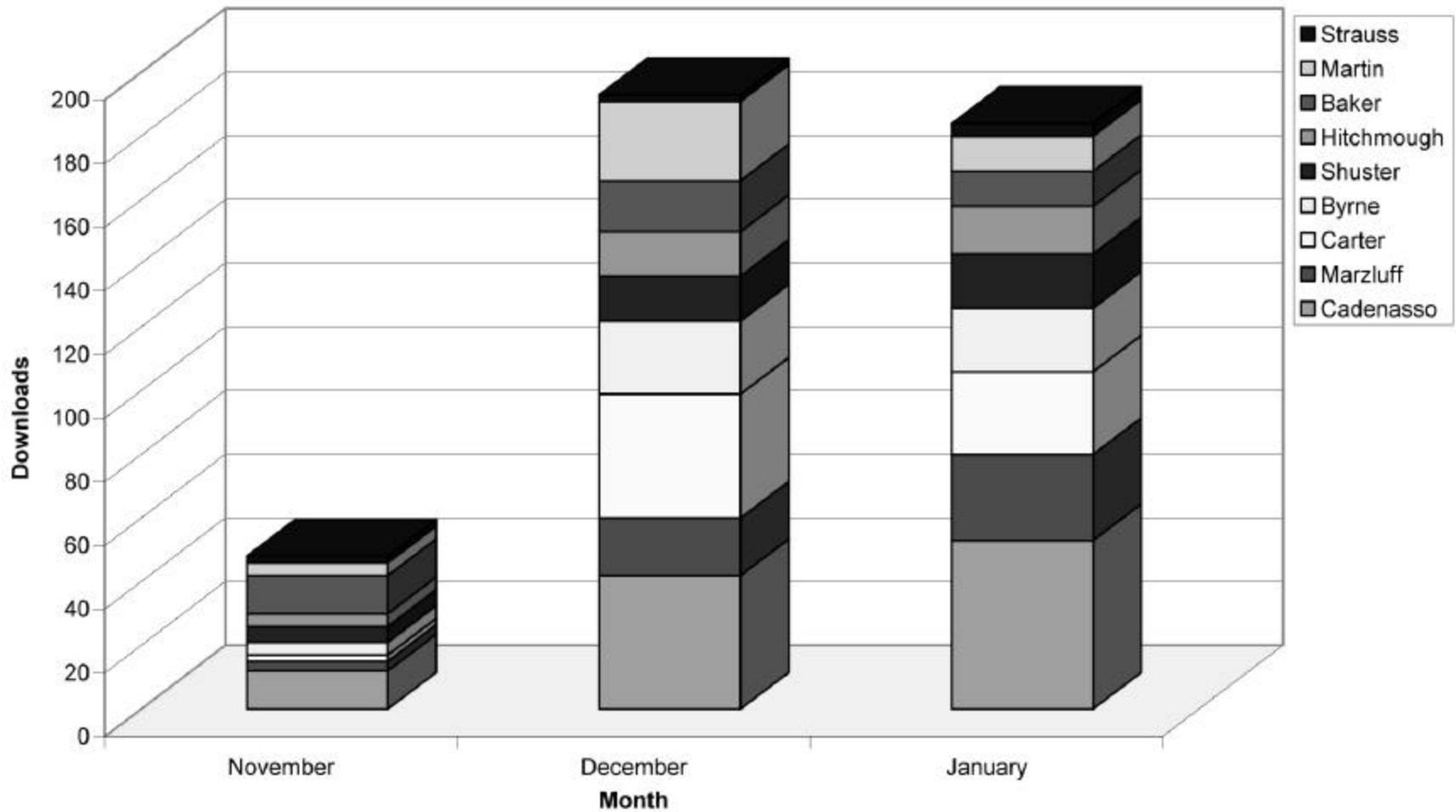


# Volume 1, Issue 2

## Special Issue on Urban Landscape Design

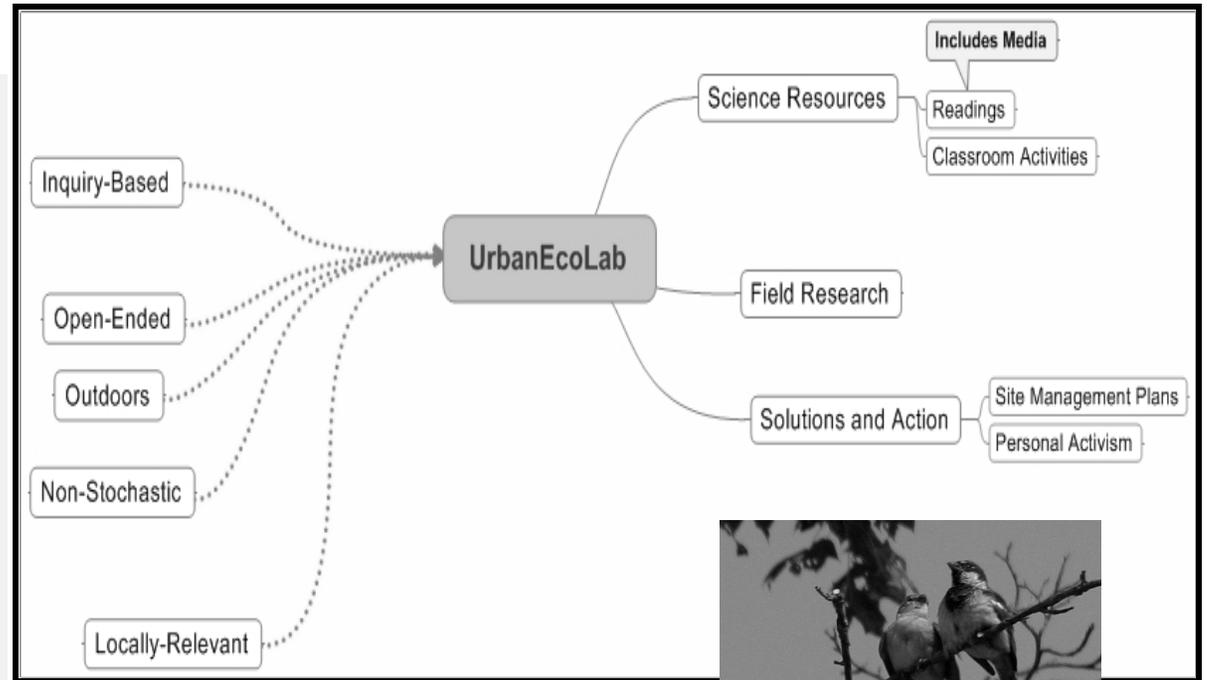
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**Cities and the Environment  
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Ecological Landscaping Issue  
Volume 1, Issue 2**



# Urban Ecology Curriculum

1. Digital Textbook in urban ecology for high school seniors
2. Designed to replace traditional environmental science curriculum
3. Investigation-based and completely multi-media in format - paper version as well (2010 delivery)
4. Infused with research & environmental justice case studies - standards based
5. Focus on experimental techniques - urban forestry, bioacoustics, water quality



*Students recording acoustic data from house sparrows - key activities for activities-based science education*