

CATE Volume 1: *Editor's Greeting*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Cities and the Environment*. Our mission is to bring together research scientists, urban practitioners and community-based professionals in a multi-media forum of peer-reviewed articles that address the challenges of understanding and managing urban ecosystems. Our goal is to contribute to the development of healthy and sustainable urban communities by providing engaging and practical information to urban stakeholders. Details of our organization can be found on our home page.

The novel format of this journal reflects the vision of its founding collaborators, which include members of the Urban Ecology Collaborative, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, the Boston College Environmental Studies Program and The Urban Ecology Institute. CATE will feature basic research articles written to expand our understanding of urban ecological theory, as well as articles that report best practices in urban environmental management. The journal structure allows for comments and addenda to articles to be added as received. The web-based nature of CATE allows the impact of the articles to grow through time as additional material bolsters the authors' original contribution. In addition, our editors have developed a special section for urban education that will include both theoretical and practitioner components. Here at CATE, we are committed to providing a forum for urban science educators and to provide linkage between the scientific and educational communities. We are eager to report the

efforts of urban ecologists who are teaching in both the formal and informal settings. The journal will also be a forum to report out the findings presented at our annual meeting of the Urban Ecology Collaborative held at Boston College

The next issue CATE will include papers from the annual urban ecology research conference at Boston College that will focus on the Forest Service Initiative on *Urban Long Term Research Areas* (ULTRA's). Certain editions of CATE will have specific themes and be hosted by guest editors. In 2009, CATE will feature a special issue on *ecological landscaping* hosted by Loren Byrne of Roger Williams University. An additional topic for development in the journal is *Pollination Services and Food Security in Urban Landscapes*. The editors at CATE encourage you to suggest a theme of interest for the journal and are eager to provide a forum for your scholarship.

We are indebted to the gracious support of the Boston College Libraries and the Berkeley E-Press for hosting *Cities and the Environment* and to the Forest Service for providing support for staff time on this project. Our staff includes *Managing Editor*, Anne Cumming from the Forest Service, *Copy Editor*, Jessica Schmierer from the Boston College Environmental Studies Program and *Assistant Editor*, Dean Szumylo from Duke University. They have done yeoman's service in bringing this first edition to press. The hard work of our Editors, Morgan Grove from the Forest Service, Paige Warren from University of Massachusetts, Alan Berkowitz from the Institute of Ecosystems Studies and Mike Barnett from Boston College have

forged a strong identity for this journal. Thanks go out to our many reviewers, without who's insight, this edition would not be possible. Finally, I wish to extend a personal note of thanks to Michael Rains and Thomas Schmidt at the Forest Service for their unwavering support of this project.

To our dear readers of urban ecology, we appreciate your patronage and look forward to your comments and submissions. We can promise you a commitment to the support of novel scholarship, a rapid review and a lively discussion. We wish you the best and hope that *Cities and the Environment* will be an essential forum for this vital science.

Eric Strauss
Senior Editor, *Cities & the Environment*