Complex Urban Ecosystems

Center for Urban Resilience

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Urban Ecosystems

• An urban ecosystem includes
  – people among the living things, and the structures they build among the nonliving things.
Urban Ecosystems are Complex Interconnected Systems

• In urban ecosystems, humans influence ecological factors (plants, air, soil, animals)

  AND

• Human decisions (where to build houses, parks, highways, schools) are influenced by ecological factors.
An Urban Ecosystem is like a puzzle. To understand how an urban ecosystem works you need to understand that the four factors have impacts on each other.