



RUTGERS

Human Ecology Brown Bag

Series Presents



Michelle L. Johnson

**Research Ecologist, NYC Urban Field Station
Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service**

**“Caring for our Environment:
Visualizing Civic Stewardship with
the Stewardship Mapping and
Assessment Project (STEW-MAP)”**

Increasingly, the critical role of civic organizations in urban governance is recognized. Some civic organizations advocate for, conserve, educate about, manage, monitor, and transform the local environment; in essence, they steward the city’s environment, including urban forests. The large number of individuals and organizations in cities result in complex governance networks; how these organizations together can affect ecological conditions has been theorized, but have been empirically measured infrequently. In 2017, the New York City Region Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) collected survey-based data on environmental stewardship organizational networks, spatial extent of stewardship efforts, and other organizational-level characteristics of environmental stewardship groups. Here, I present results of this survey on behalf of the STEW-MAP team and discuss implications for environmental governance in cities.

Michelle Johnson is a research ecologist with the USDA Forest Service at the NYC Urban Field Station. Trained in both social and ecological sciences, her research toolkit includes spatial analysis, quantitative social science, and field ecology methods. Her research areas at the NYC Urban Field Station broadly include urban natural resources stewardship and urban tree health, with a current focus on spatial analyses of environmental stewardship organizations’ activities, land use policy changes after disturbance, and social-ecological drivers of urban forest change. Dr. Johnson holds a B.S. in Biology from Eckerd College, a M.S. in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont, and a PhD in Ecology and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine.

Location: Blake 131,

Cook Campus

Date: Oct. 24th, 2018

Time: 12:30 to 2:00 PM