

Exploring Urban Ecology through Community Gardens

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For many urban residents, community gardens serve as alternatives to city parks as sites for people to enjoy and learn about nature, socialize, and hold cultural events, as well as grow food. The goal of this workshop is to explore ways in which community gardens can be used as sites for education, research, and citizen science. We will begin with visiting a community garden and brainstorming ideas about the education and research potential of the site. Next we will present an overview of community garden research, and of the Cornell Garden Mosaics (www.gardenmosaics.cornell.edu) and Portland Community Gardens (<http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/CommunityGardens.htm>) programs. Finally, we will hold a discussion of how to collaborate on future community garden education, research, and citizen science projects. ESA and community members who conduct K-12 programs, and faculty seeking opportunities for their students to participate in service-learning, urban ecology, and citizen science projects, will benefit from the workshop.