

Elsa C. Anderson

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
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Education:

2019 **PhD**

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Department of Biological Sciences
Ecology and Evolution Group
Dissertation: *Vacant and Verdant: examining Chicago's vacant lots as a socio-ecological system*

2017

Certificate in College Teaching
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Graduate College

2015

Masters of Science
DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Department of Biological Sciences
Graduated with Distinction
Thesis: *Nest site selection, use, and re-use by Red-headed Woodpeckers (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) in Cook County, Illinois, USA*

2011

Bachelors of Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Department of Animal Sciences
James Scholar, Graduated with High Honors
Minor: Spanish

Professional Positions:

Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies
Post-doctoral Researcher

Selected Professional Honors:

Fulbright Student Grantee: Germany, 2019

Research Interests and Activities:

I am an urban ecologist and my primary interest is in understanding the complex interplay between human activities and ecological patterns and processes. I primarily examine plant communities, as these communities are directly manipulated by a variety of human activities, and the resulting community patterns have interesting spatial and temporal dynamics. I specialize in integrating social and ecological knowledge into holistic understanding, and make a deliberate effort to engage diverse voices and produce actionable and useful tools and information for urban land management and planning.

Selected Publications:

- Anderson EC**, Minor ES. 2020. Management effects on plant community and functional assemblages in Chicago's vacant lots. *Applied Vegetation Science* 23(2):266-276.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/avsc.12480>
- Egerer MH, Fouch N, **Anderson EC**, Clark M. 2020. Connectivity of community gardens in socio-biological space in three US cities. *Scientific Reports* 10:452
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-61230-9>
- Anderson EC**, MH Egerer, N Fouch, MJ Davidson, and M Clarke. 2019. Comparing community garden typologies of Baltimore, Chicago, and New York City (USA) to understand potential implications for socio-ecological services. *Urban Ecosystems*. 22(4):671-681.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-019-00855-9>.
- M Clark, Davidson M, N Fouch, MH Egerer, and **EC Anderson**. The role of community gardens in improving cities' resilience to climate change. *People, Place, and Policy*. Special issue: "The Politics of Urban Green Space". 12(3): 241-251.
<https://doi.org/10.3351/ppp.2019.3396732665>
- Anderson EC** and ES Minor. 2019. Assessing social and biophysical drivers of spontaneous urban plant diversity and structure in vacant lots. *Science of the Total Environment* 653:1272-1281.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969718343511>
- Minor ES, **EC Anderson**, JA Belair, M Garfinkel, and AD Smith. 2018. Urban green infrastructure and ecological networks for urban biodiversity conservation. in *Urban Biodiversity: from research to practice*. Eds. A. Ossola and J. Niemala. Routledge—Taylor & Francis.
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781315402574/chapters/10.4324%2F9781315402581-12>
- Shaughnessey CA, **EC Anderson**, M Kasparian, JM LaMontagne, and JS Bystriansky. 2017. Survival and osmoregulation of the purple marsh crab (*Sesarma reticulatum*) at varying salinity and pH. *Journal of the Canadian Society of Zoologists* 95(12):985-989.
<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjz-2016-0199#.XD3Ws1xKjIU>
- Anderson EC**, ES Minor. 2017. Vacant lots: an underexplored resource for ecological and social benefits in cities. *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening* 21:146—152.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S161886671530114X>
- Anderson EC**, JM LaMontagne. 2015. Nest site selection by Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) across three spatial scales in an urban environment. *Urban Ecosystems*. DOI 10.1007/s11252-015-0491-3
<https://www.springerprofessional.de/en/nest-selection-by-red-headed-woodpeckers-across-three-spatial-sc/5805156>
- LaMontagne JM, RJ Kilgour, **EC Anderson**, and S Magle. 2015. Tree cavity availability across forest, park, and residential habitats in a highly urban area. *Urban Ecosystems* 18: 151-167.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11252-014-0383-y>