

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
**2011-2012 Grad Grants for Research in Urban Ecology, Spring Competition**

In 2011 CAP LTER is continuing its program in support of graduate student research. Grad Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to graduate students conducting research within the CAP LTER study area on some aspect of urban ecology. These projects do not necessarily have to be part of current CAP LTER research activities, but priority will be given to work that compliments and potentially enhances ongoing LTER research or that uses LTER data resources or sites.

**Allowable Expenses**

The grants will be for up to \$4,000 and may be used for any category of expenditure (e.g., subsistence for self or wages for an undergraduate research assistant, materials/supplies, equipment, and/or travel, including travel to a scientific meeting to present CAP-related research results). Around five grants will be awarded this spring. Note, however, that graduate RA monies are not supported under this program. Monies for subsistence will be awarded as a stipend with awardees responsible for taxes on this amount of funding. All other awards will be managed through CAP LTER, and awardees will work with the CAP grants manager and appropriate staff to spend the awarded funds as per their budget. Budgets must be fully spent **within one year** of the award, or funds will revert to the program.

An ongoing feature of these grants is that we invite students to apply for this money to support joint projects with two students. The cap on these joint grants will also be \$4,000.

**Other Grant Conditions**

Students must agree to provide CAP LTER with the data gathered along with the appropriate data documentation, subject to the access restrictions in the CAP LTER data policy. Previous awardees must document that they have complied with these requirements. Awardees must also present a poster at CAP's annual symposium within a year of their award.

**To Apply**

Applications should be submitted electronically (via e-mail) to CAP LTER Project Manager, Marcia Nation ([Marcia.Nation@asu.edu](mailto:Marcia.Nation@asu.edu)) by **March 11, 2011**.

The student should arrange for a letter of reference from his/her major professor to be sent via email to Marcia Nation ([Marcia.Nation@asu.edu](mailto:Marcia.Nation@asu.edu)) also by **March 11, 2011**.

Please address any questions you have about the grad grants to Marcia Nation.

**Proposal Review**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of previous grad grant awardees and CAP investigators. An award decision will be made and communicated by **April 30, 2011**. All students will receive written reviews from the proposal review committee at that time. Reviews will be based on the following criteria (in order of importance):

1. Intellectual merit (overall quality of the science proposed, and feasibility of the research).
2. Contribution of the project to the overall goals of the CAP LTER project and to ongoing CAP research through citing CAP publications and datasets.
3. Potential significance of the results to general understanding of ecological theory or human-ecosystem interactions.
4. Results from prior support, where applicable (including compliance with LTER data policy).
5. Demonstrated need.

## **Application Instructions**

Applicants must submit their proposals electronically by midnight **March 11, 2011**. The text should be in 12-point font with 1" margins and **should not exceed page limits stipulated below (not including literature cited and budget)**. The proposal should contain the following components:

1. A descriptive title for the proposed research project.
2. An abstract of the proposed research endeavor, which succinctly states the central research question and methods to be employed in the project. (Place this under the heading, **Abstract; 250 word maximum**).
3. A full project description (under the heading, **Proposed Research, no more than 3 pages including tables and figures**), covering the following:
  - An introductory section that briefly reviews the current literature on the proposed topic to provide theoretical context for (and importance of) the research question;
  - A clear statement of the research question and/or research objectives/ hypotheses;
  - A description of the research design, including the methods to be used (or appropriate citations);
  - A discussion of expected results and/or predictions from the proposed work;
  - A description of the significance of the proposed work to theory in the field of interest, to CAP LTER research, and/or to urban ecology;
  - If applicable, results from previous CAP LTER funding (including any presentations or publications);
  - Proposed use of CAP resources (can be listed in tabular form— includes sites, datasets, instrumentation, imagery, other facilities);
  - Statement of intention to provide results, data, and data documentation (subject to the access restrictions outline in the CAP data policy) to the CAP LTER Information Manager and evidence that data from previous awards has been submitted to CAP LTER;
  - If a proposal is a resubmission, applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the proposal with a short "Response to Previous Reviews" that highlights key reviewer suggestions and how these have been addressed.
4. References cited (in addition to the three pages of project description)
5. A budget with detailed categories including a narrative justification, under the heading **Budget (1 page maximum)**.