

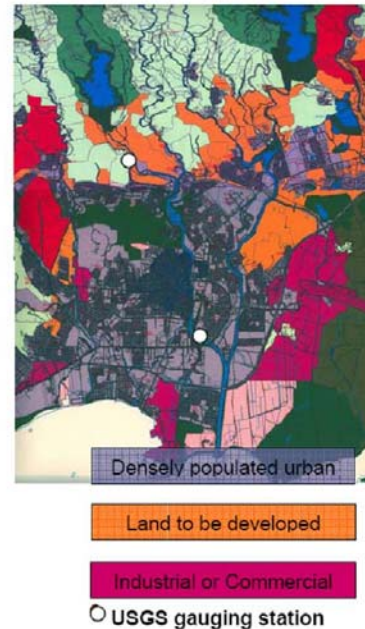
Ponce, Puerto Rico Urban Site
17.99812N 66.62724W

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History: The area was an important settlement for the Pre- Colombian Taino people. The city was founded in 1692. It is now the third largest city in Puerto Rico. Development of a large international transshipment port has recently begun and will increase trade, development, and industrialization in the area.

Key Contribution to Domain and Continental issues:

The site is proposed for study of the effects of hurricane passage, global climate change, pathogen outbreaks, and introduction of invasive species. Ponce is a large city with room to grow and a land use plan to organize that growth. Ponce is part of a dry zone land use gradient proposed for the domain and contrasts with Gurabo, a city in the moist forest life zone. Mobile unit campaigns across various types of urban development can monitor the interaction of climate change and land use.



Key Characteristics: Population is over 200,000 people and density of Ponce County is over 670 per km², but most of the population resides in the southern third of the 300 km² county, near the ocean. The city lies in the dry forest life zone. Average annual temperature is 26.5°C and rainfall is 100 cm/yr.

Existing Infrastructure: Ponce's water system has been entered into a GIS. It has a land use plan and a history of following its plans. Three universities and a medical school are located in Ponce.

Facilities: Universities have a record of performing ecological research. Hotels are present in the area and universities have dorms. The Pontifical Catholic University of PR, where we would place relocatable tower pads, has labs, internet, etc.

