Lot-by-Lot: Baltimore Strategies for Creating a New Urban Landscape through Vacant Lot Reuse



Moderator: Mark Cameron

Presenters: Miriam Avins, Rashelle Celestin, Valerie Rupp, Beth Strommen

Agenda

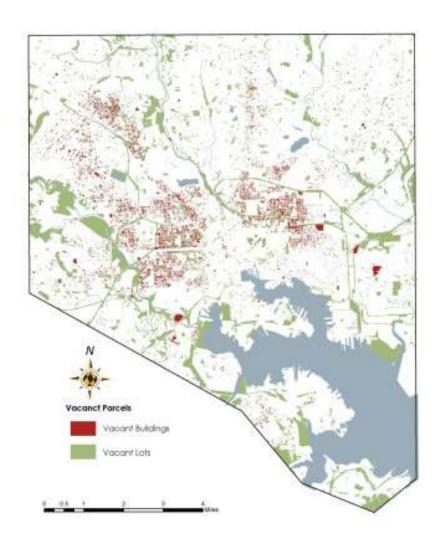
- Overview
 - Vacant lots in Baltimore
 - Baltimore City initiatives
 - Featured nonprofit programs
 - Parks & People Foundation
 - Baltimore Green Space
- Charrette
- Q&A Panel



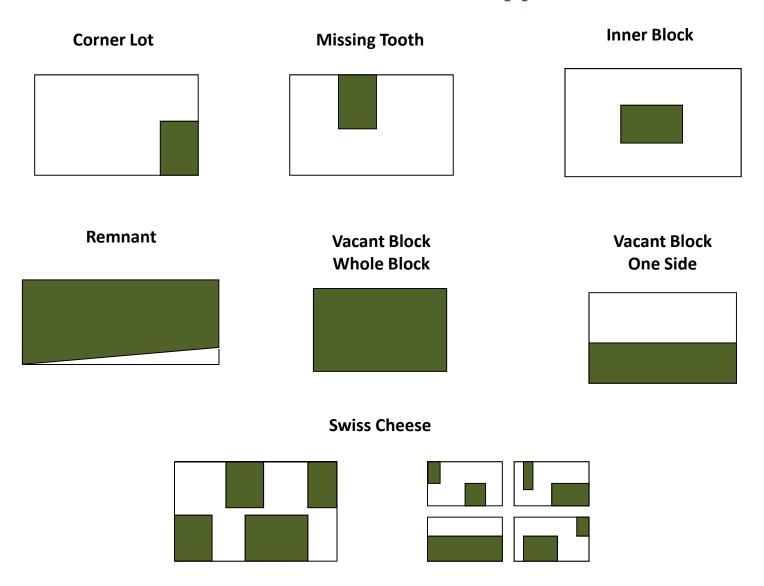
Beth Strommen, Director, Office of
Sustainability
City of Baltimore Department of Planning

Currently.....

- 30,000 vacant properties (14,000 vacant lots + 16,000 vacant bldgs)
- Only 25% owned by the City
- Vacant properties concentrated in 'distressed' neighborhoods
- Vacants to Value Program is working well in areas not considered 'distressed'.



Most Common Vacant Lot Types in Baltimore



Challenges associated with vacant properties

- Weak housing markets / insufficient housing demand
- Abandonment is random gap tooth vacancy and demolition
- Poor condition of the vacant land
- Trash and dumping
- Crime and safety (fire)
- Maintenance is costly
- Costs / time for demolition and acquisition



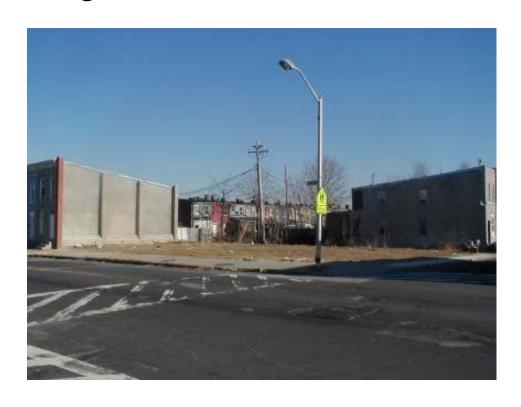


Over the next ten years... 4,000 structures will be demolished

Change to Grow (Mayor's Ten-Year Financial Plan)

Accelerate the demolition component of the City's Vacants to Value initiative by capitalizing a new Blight Elimination Fund.

Strategically
planned whole
block demolition
rather than
scattered site / gap
tooth





USING VACANT LAND TO CREATE GREENER NEIGHBORHOODS





By strategically planning new demolition and combining it with creative greening techniques,





we have the opportunity to change vacant properties from a problem ...

...into a resource for transforming communities



























The Growing Green Initiative (GGi) is a City-led effort to use sustainable, innovative, and costeffective practices for stabilizing and holding land for redevelopment, and reusing vacant land to green neighborhoods, reduce stormwater runoff, grow food, and create community spaces that mitigate the negative impacts of vacant properties and set the stage for growing Baltimore

This initiative will support a number of other City initiatives and goals, including:

- Stabilize distressed neighborhoods by greening and maintaining vacant lots so that they are assets and not liabilities
- Strengthen the social fabric of neighborhoods by helping communities and non-profits adopt and green vacant land
- Attract new development by re-using vacant land for permanent, public benefit such as strategically placed new open space
- Support City MS4 stormwater permit requirements, and support new economic development by providing
 opportunities to construct cost-efficient stormwater management best-management practices on vacant land
- Increase the City's tree canopy by planting trees on or near vacant lots
- Create jobs and job training opportunities and increase access to locally grown, healthy foods in Baltimore's food deserts by creating new farms on vacant land



Elements of the Growing Green Initiative

- Improving City policies and processes to support greening as buildings are demolished and land assembled
- Working to develop a strong vacant lot maintenance strategy.
- Developing and supporting public/private partnerships (City / Community Groups / NGO's / State and Federal Gov't / Developers)
- Using investment and partnerships to leverage resources (State and Federal Gov't / NGO's / Foundations / Citizens and Private investment)
- Using a 'Green Pattern Book' to guide greening strategies

GROWING GREEN INITIATIVE: ROLES

CITY AGENCIES

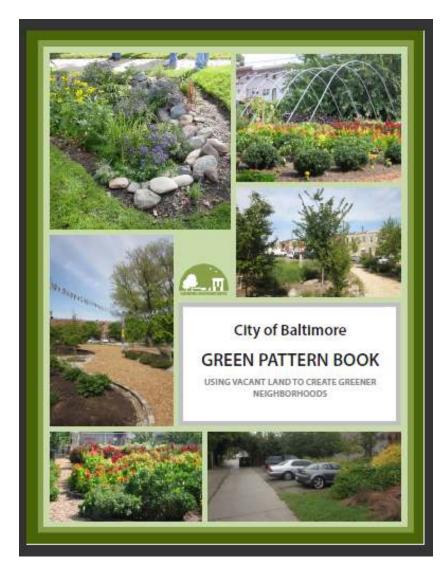
- Growing Green Work Group
- Acquire lots through tax sale and foreclosure (HCD)
- Use the Green Pattern Book in making decisions about reusing vacant land
- Agreements / leases / MOU's
- Refer applicants to NGOs
- Participation in pilot projects
- Participation in community outreach and engagement
- Vacant Lot Maintenance
- Support Vacants to Value and GGi using designated Blight Elimination Funds

COMMUNITY GROUPS CDCs / FAITH BASED

- Adopt vacant lots and create community-managed open spaces (gardens, etc)
- Monitor lots (311)
- Use Green Pattern Book for neighborhood scaled planning for vacant land reuse
- Participate in a pilot vacant lot maintenance program

NGOs

- Provide technical assistance to groups greening vacant lots
- Provide assistance to groups wanting to adopt vacant lot
- Provide funding assistance
- Use the Green Pattern Book in making decisions about reusing vacant land
- Participate in GGi policy meetings to provide feedback and identify partner opportunities
- Adopt and care for vacant lots
- Assist with vacant lot maintenance
- Support Power In Dirt (Parks and People Foundation)



The Green Pattern Book is a tool to support the greening of vacant land by City agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and individual residents by creating a 'common language'.

This document includes information on:

- Visioning
- Site selection
- Guidelines
- Resources

How Do We Grow a Green City?

Promoting eight different green "patterns" for re-using vacant land:

- Clean and Green
- Community Managed Open Space
- Urban Agriculture
- Green Parking
- Stormwater Management
- Urban Forests
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mixed Greens









GROWING GREEN INITIATIVE PROJECTS

"Clean and Green" Pattern Projects

~75 %

- Care A Lot Program
- Vacant Lot Turf Study
- Traveling Art
- Urban Grazing
- Fencing









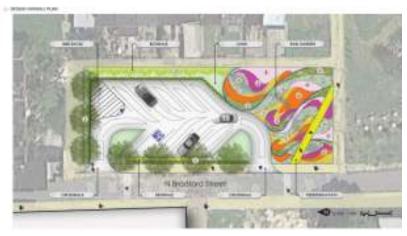




Other 7 Green Pattern Projects

~25%

- Homegrown Baltimore Farms
- Stormwater Mitigation Sites
- Baltimore Growing Green Design Competition Sites







Baltimore Growing Green Design Competition: Vacant Lots Transformed

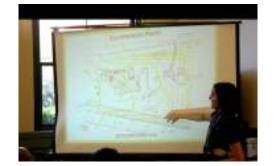


GGI and Competition Announced May 2014 with \$300,000 in funding for winning designs









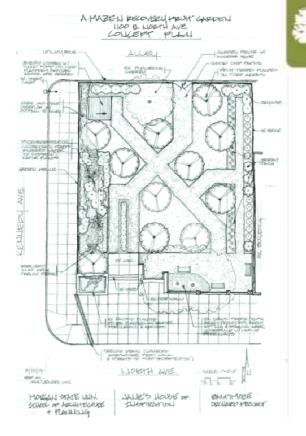
3 Public Workshops held and attended by 60+ participants from residents, community associations, NGOs, and design/engineering firms

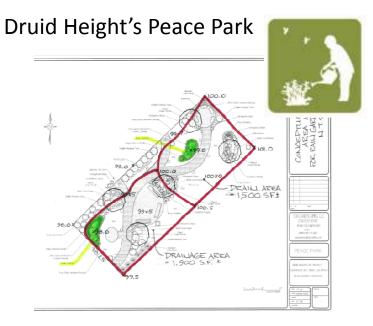
11 Teams comprised of community members, NGOs, and design engineering firms submitted applications and designs in August 2014

7 Winners Announced in September 2014 Award Ceremony



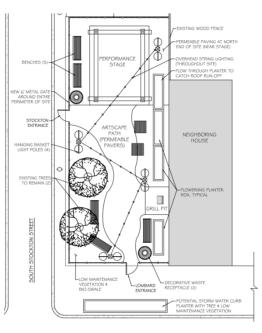
Jane's House of Inspiration Recovery Fruit Orchard





Bridgeview Greenlawn's Community Enhancement Project





Hollins Roundhouse's Lots of Art



32nd and Harford Road Gateway Garden





Baltimore Housing Land Resources Division

Rashelle Celestin, Asset Manager Rashelle.Celestin@baltimorecity.gov



What Are We Facing?

- 4,232 vacant lots owned by MCC
- Blight
- Annual maintenance sosts





- Request is made to Dept. of General Services (usually via telephone)
 - request vetted by checking location, ownership, occupancy type and responsible agency and whether they need water access
 - logged into Access spreadsheet
 - DGS prepares cover letter and Adopt-A-Lot license and sends to licensee for signature
- Once the document was received, Adopt-A-Lot license is circulated for signatures
 - This is the part of the process that took the most amount of time.
 Everything was done by interagency mail and Adopt-A-Lot licenses sit around for too long.
 - goes to responsible agency(s) for signature
 - goes to law department
 - back to Dept. of General Services
 - out to licensee
- Limited permission given



Revamping the Adopt A Lot System

- Make the process electronic
- Extend license terms
- Expand permissions
- Give gardeners access to water





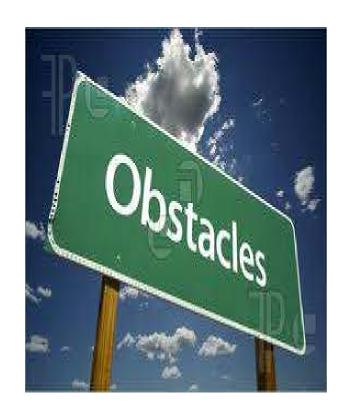




Water??

- Partnered with Bureau of Water & Wastewater
- Established fixed rate of \$120 for the garden season
- Created a service request for installation of spigots in water vault

- Convening appropriate agencies
- Amending license language
- Integration with data systems and website
- Providing water







Adopting a city-owned vacant lot can improve the living conditions in your neighborhood. You and your neighbors can create a peaceful, space for everyone to share. It not only improves your neighborhood, it helps the City become a beautiful and productive place to live for everyone!

We've STREAMLINED the Process!

In addition to calling 410-396-4111 or emailing V2V@baltimorecity.gov, you now have the option of researching vacant lots and applying for an Adopt-A-Lot license online!!

Click here to view the list of vacant lots that are available to adopt.

Click here to apply for an Adopt a Lot License.

We're GIVING YOU ACCESS to Water!!

Thinking about how you are going to water your new greenspace or garden? The City has partnered with the Water Department to give adopt-a-lot participants access to water for a low fixed-rate of \$120.00 per garden season (March 1st thru November 30th). *If you have already adopted a lot and just need water, you only need to complete this form.

Click here if you would like to apply for water for your garden

We're CONNECTING You to Resources!!

There are many non profit groups that can assist you with starting up a garden, greenspace or continuing your existing garden. You can also download our tips for converting a vacant lot in a garden.

Click here for links to resources.



D Do	oing Business	+
	arm & Property egistration	+
D co	ode Enforcement	+
D Co	mmunity Services	+
D Re	esident Services	
	ousing Choice ucher Program	+
□ Pu	iblic Housing	
D Do	ocument Central	
D PI	ans and Reports	
D E-	Newsletters	
Вне	elpful Links	

Services for

Developers

Jobseekers

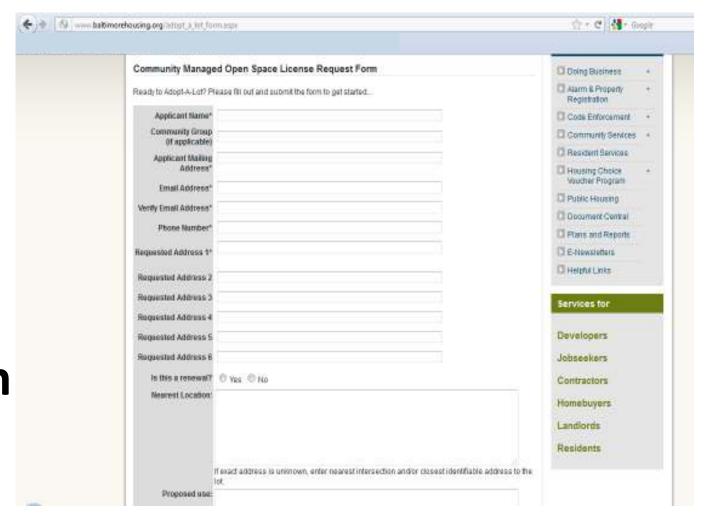
Contractors

Homebuyers

Landlords

Residents

Online
License
Request
Form
Submission



You Can Adopt One of These Lots!!

👚 - C 🛂 - Google

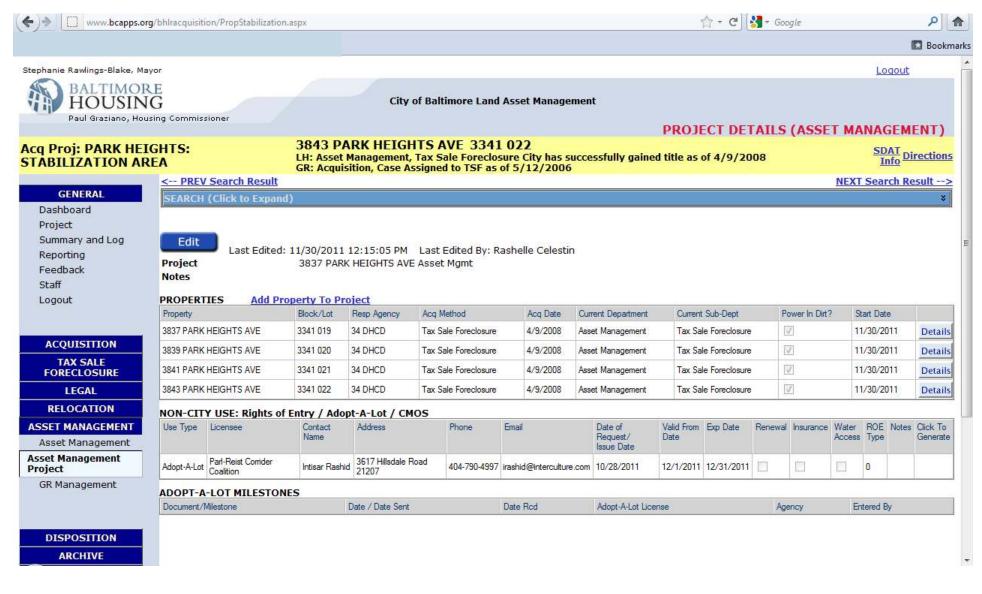
*Lots designated as "Adopted" or "CMOS" are not available

*Although a lot appears on this list, it is not automatically eligible for adoption. Once your application is received it will be reviewed for eligibility and you will be notified.

Access to the City's Vacant Lot Inventory

Adopted Lot	Power In Dirt Target Area	Community Managed Open Space		
1572 007	2413 E CHASE ST	BIDDLE STREET	12-3X70	DHCD
1572 008	2415 E CHASE ST	BIDDLE STREET	12-3X70	DHCD
1572 009	2417 E CHASE ST	BIDDLE STREET	12-3X70	DHCD
1572 010	2419 E CHASE ST	BIDDLE STREET		DHCD
0325 086A	NS OF ROBERT ST, 284 FT +/- NE OF EUTAW PL	BOLTON HILL	0.968 ACRES	DHCD
0344 024	SWS MASON ST 38-6 FT, SE OF LAURENS ST	BOLTON HILL	18X60	DHCD
0355 034	1743 PARK AVE	BOLTON HILL	30X85	DHCD
0400 071	SWS MASON ST 49 FT, SE OF W LAFAYETTE AV	BOLTON HILL	5-6X20-7	DHCD
0204 069	SS BOOTH ST 218 FT W OF, SMALLWOOD ST	BOOTH-BOYD	37-6X52-6	Tax Sales
0206 029	11 S PULASKI ST	BOOTH-BOYD	12-6X61	DHCD
0206 054	2011 BOOTH ST	BOOTH-BOYD	12X49	DHCD
0000 055	2012 DOOTH ST	BOOTH BOVE	10010	DUCD

Managing the Data



SUCCESS!!

- In the 13 months leading up to 6/30/11 there were a total of 162 lots adopted
- In FY 12, from the launch in August thru May 31stst In 9 months there were 649 lots adopted
- This reflects a **300.6%** increase in the number of properties adopted as a result of the initiative
- As of 12/30/14, there were **1,046** lots adopted
- Turnaround time has been reduced from 4-6 weeks to TWO weeks







Partnering With Land Trusts

Approved a policy to allow sale to approved land trusts for \$1.00 for permanent preservation as a community managed open space







Side Yard Program

- Allows sale of city-owned vacant lots to adjacent owneroccupants and non-owner occupants for a fixed price of \$500 per 1500 square feet
- Allows sale of city-owned vacant lots to non owner occupants for a fixed price of \$1,000 per 1500 square feet, respectively





Ash Street Garden



Upton Gardens of Hope









Valerie Rupp, Assistant Director of Community Greening & Great Parks Programs

valerie.rupp@parksandpeople.org



ONE PARK





Background & Programmatic Resource Overview





Resources for Vacant Lot Improvement

- Land Access
- Training & Technical Assistance
- In-kind and Financial Resources
- Collaboration and Stakeholder Coordination
- Project Design and Management
- Volunteer Project Management
- Landscape & Tree Services (social enterprise)



Land Access

- Power in Dirt (city-owned)
- Self-help nuisance abatement assistance and referrals









Training & Technical Assistance

- Free trainings Examples:
 - Project development
 - Community organizing
 - Grantwriting
- Skill-building workshops Examples:
 - Building raised beds
 - Raising chickens in the city
 - Rain garden management





In-kind and Financial Resources

- Community Grants
 - Neighborhood Greening Grants
 - Clean Water Mini-Grants
 - Garden Irrigation Fund
- Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN)
 - Materials & supplies
 - Tool libraries
 - Give-away days
 - Hands-on volunteer learning days







Collaboration and Stakeholder Coordination

- Partnering with community groups, governments, business
 - Grant opportunities
- Partner in City of Baltimore programs Growing Green Initiative, Power in Dirt and TreeBaltimore
 - Develop vacant lot reuse strategies
 - Annual adopted lot assessment
 - Grant seeking/joint projects
 - Plantings and giveaways
 - Partner involvement in advisory committees

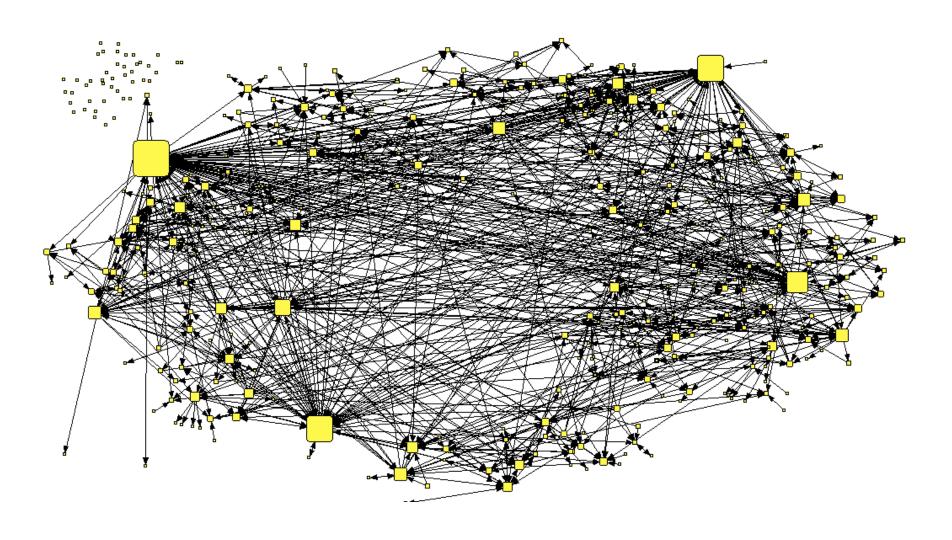


Image from "Preliminary Results of the Baltimore City Stewardship Mapping & Assessment Project (Stew-MAP)" presentation by Michele Romolini, Ph.D. (January 3, 2013)



Project Design and Management

- Urban Forestry
 - Community engagement and projects
 - Partnerships (TreeBaltimore, etc.)
 - Training and Technical Assistance
 - TreeVision
- Green infrastructure projects



Volunteer Management

- Community organizing
- Preparation and on-site coordination
- Tools
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Training
- Post activity reflections





Landscape & Tree Services

- Fully licensed and insured contractual team
- Workforce development programs
- Community involvement







Miriam Avins, Executive Director miriam.avins@baltimoregreenspace.org













Criteria

- Request comes from the community
- Community can maintain the site for the long term
- Site really benefits the neighborhood
- Match between the soil and how the site is used



Process

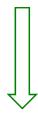
- BGS meets with Site Manager and others.
- Application filled out. Goes to board.
- Research. Another board vote.
- Acquisition.
- Celebration! Insurance! Annual visit!
 Technical Assistance!



Greeners' Needs



Research



Programs and Advocacy









Garden Irrigation Fund

anaces:

Deadline: March 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

More information coming soon atwww.parksandpeople.org

The Garden Irrigation Fund (CIF) is a competitive fund that can provide up to \$3,000 in The Garden Irrigation Fund (CIF) is a competitive fund that can proceed a free spaces. services to install irrigetion in community-managed green spaces.

This program is designed to help community-managed green spaces.

Community Development of service with the City of Baltimore Department of Housing and Can demonstrate a need for an onsite line to be

- Any community group managing a green space in Baltimore City may apply. Any community group managing a green space in Baltimore City may apply amount, a maximum of \$3,000 ar providing funds in excessive of the award Review Criteria

- projects should
- rojects should:

 engage and provide benefits to the neighborhood and/or the lurger Boltimore community.

 include active valunteer involvement in the management of the green space.

 show clear and lagical plans for maintenance and sustainability of the green. Demonstrate a reasonable need for irrigation
 Demonstrate a reasonable need for irrigation
 Demonstrate a reasonable need for irrigation
 Demonstrate a reasonable need for irrigation

include active valunteer involvement in the management of the green space.
space ond logical plans for maintenance and sustainability of the green.

Demonstrate a reasonably need for irrigation seasons.

Seasons will be given to sites that have been in existence for three or more growing All GIF applicants will receive an estimate for installing on irrigation line of the project site.

All GIF applicants with the pre-approved contractor selected by GIF partners to keep All GIF applicants will receive an estimate for installing an irrigation line at the project site.

casts at a minimum and ensure that proper procedure is followed.

The project site is followed. GIF awardees must work with the pre-approved contractor selector that proper procedure is followed.

To discuss a potential project are blain an application, please contact Valerie Rupp, Community

Poundation at valerie rupp@parksandpeople.org or 410 To discuss a potential project or obtain an application, please contact Valerie Rupp, Community

448-5663 ext. 11d.









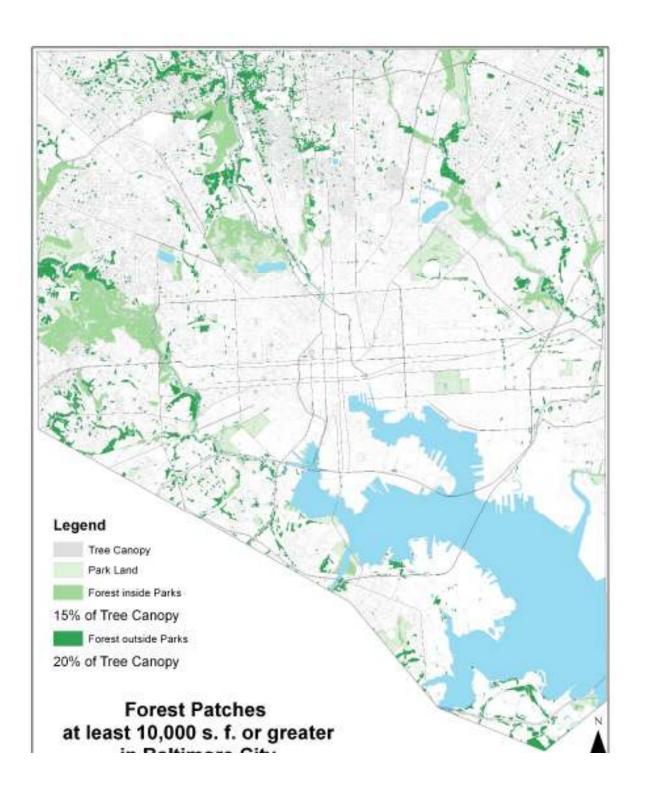


trotti en Space

lina

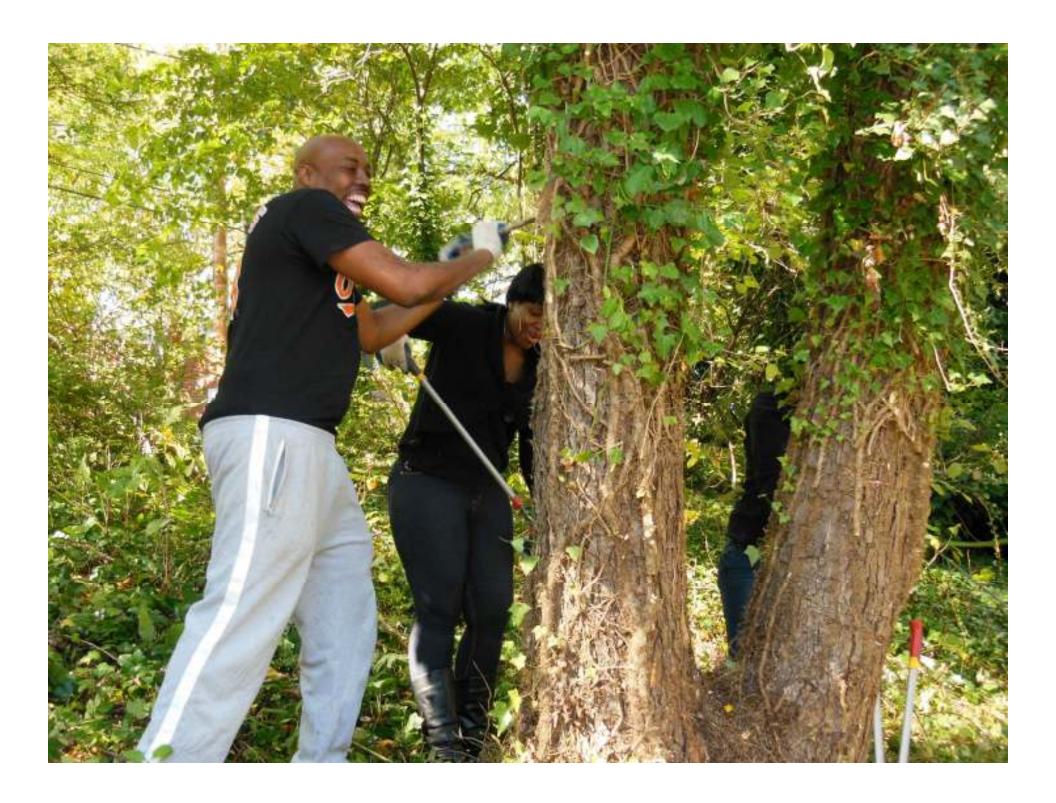
Garden	naces:
Garden Irrigation Fund	Vear Started Site: Record Type
Site: Site Name (T)Here: A Park 1222 W Lombard St. Clean & Green 1209 South Loudon Ave 200 South Loudon Ave 2109 Orleans Street 2109 Orleans Street 301 S. Calhoun Street 301 S. Calhoun Street 4004 Frederick Ave 4017 Ivanhoe Ave. 4017 Ivanhoe Ave.	Unknown Community Managed Site Community
542 North Land 542 North Land 64b Branch Bike Park	2011 Community Managed Site Clean and Green 1138 068 1606 Llewelyn Ave 21213
6th Branch Bike Park	2011 Community Managed Site Clean and Green 138 072 138 108 163
6th Branch Bike Park	2011 Community Managed Site Clean and 2011 Community Managed Site 2011 Community Managed Site 2011 Community Managed Site 2011



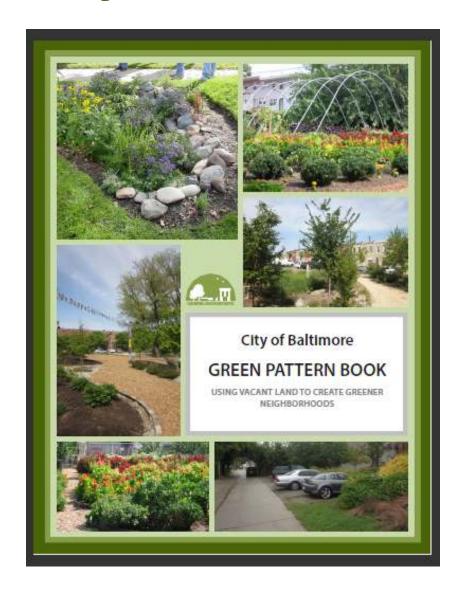








Lot by Lot: Charrette



Lot-by-Lot: Baltimore Strategies for Creating a New Urban Landscape through Vacant Lot Reuse



Moderator: Mark Cameron

Presenters: Miriam Avins, Rashelle Celestin, Valerie Rupp, Beth Strommen