

# Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Catalyzing Redevelopment Opportunities for Thrivable Communities

Panel Presentation – New Partners for Smart Growth

January 29, 2015; 4-5:30 pm

Baltimore, Maryland



# Panelists

- \* **Dana Coelho**, Urban & Community Forestry, Rocky Mountain Region, US Forest Service (moderator)
- \* **Roy Simon**, Office of Water, US EPA
- \* **Michael Rains**, Northern Research Station and Forest Products Laboratory, US Forest Service
- \* **Devon Buckels**, Colorado State Forest Service
- \* **Mike Galvin**, SavATree





THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP  
& THRIVABLE COMMUNITIES  
14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH CONFERENCE  
BALTIMORE, JANUARY 29, 2015

# Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- ◆ Key initiative of EPA's Urban Waters program
- ◆ EPA, DOI and USDA co-leads
- ◆ **Vision:** "Through our Partnership, we will **revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them**, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival."

## *Partnership Principles*

**Promote clean urban waters**

**Reconnect people to their waterways**

**Promote water conservation**

**Use water to promote economic revitalization**

**Encourage community improvements through active partnerships**

**Be open & honest; Listen to communities to learn.**

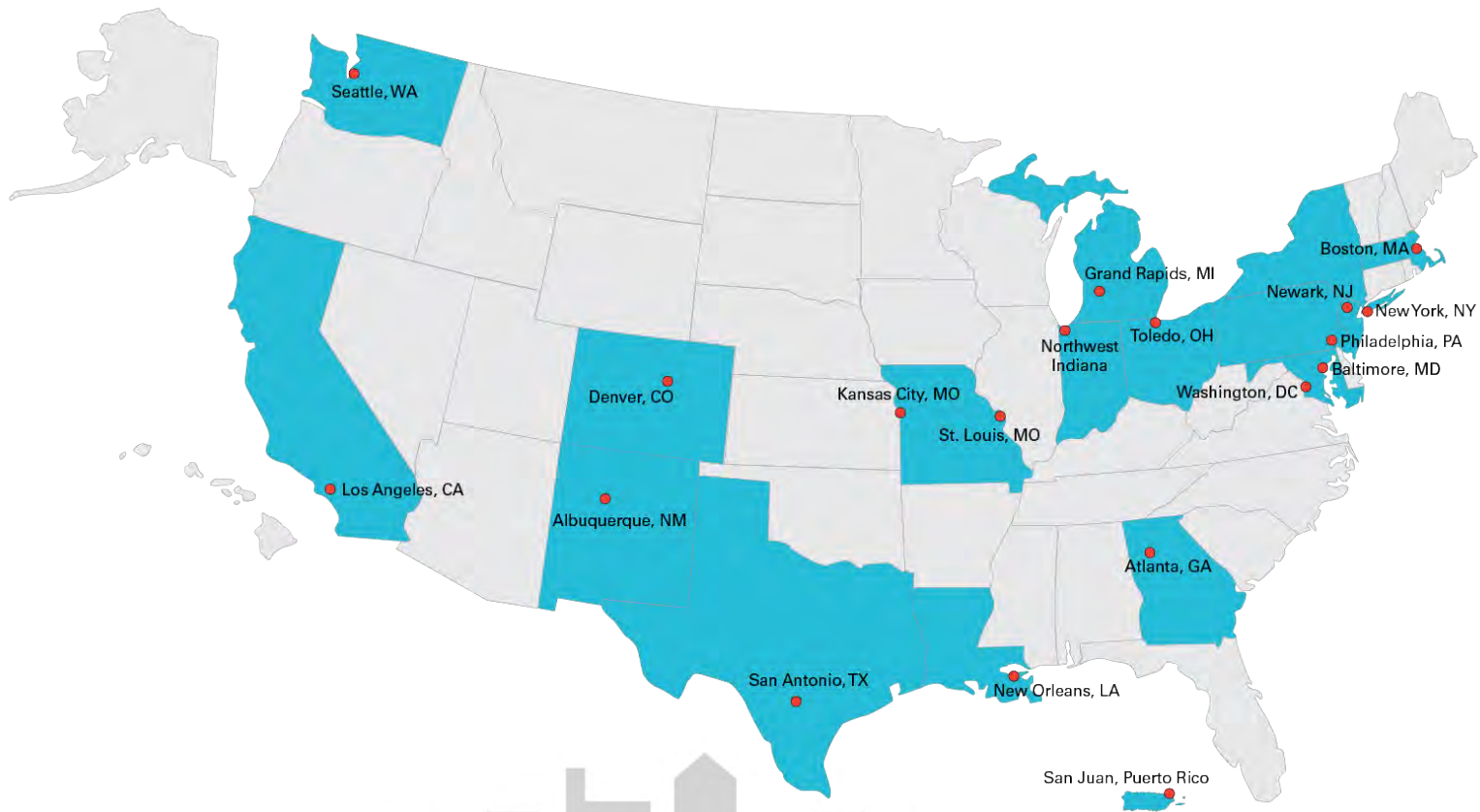
**Measure success & evaluate to fuel future success**

# Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Powerful Inter-Agency Platform supported by WH CEQ and DPC  
Breaking down federal program silos; Engaging communities first.



# Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations



# What can a local Urban Waters Partnership initiative achieve?

## Imagine...

- All waters clean for fishing and recreation and for cleaner intake water for drinking
- All Urban Waters locations with economic progress in communities that surround them, including distressed communities
- That people's lives are better in communities surrounding urban waters
- The people in urban, suburban and rural communities on the same river or lake collaborating to clean up the river or lake and connect culturally



# Imagine Clean Water for Fishing and Recreation, and Cleaner Intake Water for Drinking

- Urban rivers and lakes are clean enough in cities to be fishable and support recreation, and if used for drinking water, cleaner water for intake to drinking water systems
- Fish caught are eatable and families can fish for free (with reasonable restrictions)
- Urban residents can enjoy the river through boating or sitting by the river or walking on a trail through wonderful trees on wonderful clean trails





# Imagine Economic Progress in *All* Communities that Surround Urban Waters Locations

- New businesses and projects, like green infrastructure, green streets, playgrounds & roofs are driving new jobs for urban residents
- Water-friendly manufacturing businesses are opening or expanding near urban rivers and lakes and supplying new middle-class paying jobs because businesses want to be near beautiful urban waters
- New projects and jobs for urban residents are being created near urban waters to build public housing, weatherize old buildings, build trails, establish urban farms and food distribution, re-green vacant lots, plant trees, establish orchards



# Imagine that People's Lives are Better in Communities Surrounding Urban Waters



We could have better physical surroundings in neighborhoods with:

- New refurbished housing
- Clean streets
- New green infrastructure for green streets, green playgrounds, green sidewalks, green buildings/roofs
- New trails, trees and parks
- Weatherized public housing or housing for middle-class families
- Green schools
- Green restored vacant lots with trees and parks

# Imagine Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities Connecting Culturally and Collaborating to Clean Up Shared Rivers and Lakes



- From the headwaters of the South Platte River in Denver through to the City of Denver – collaboration between the urban, suburban and rural-based people near the river, working together on the same day to clean up “Their River” for multiple goals such as recreation on the whole river and clean drinking water.

- Or here in Baltimore, from the headwaters of the Patapsco through into the City, people from rural to suburban to urban working for and on the River.
- Developing a joint cultural interest among these three segments of American Society (urban suburban, rural) using the River as a Cultural Collaboration Vehicle



# National Urban Waters Actions and Approaches

**2010 – Present**

**National Urban Waters Federal executives and appointed workgroup launched:**

**Partnership Vision, Mission & Principles**

**Locations Learning Network**

**Partnership Work Plan**



**2011 – 2014**

**Designating and building 19 Partnership locations with federal, state and local government, local NGOs and businesses**

**Establishing Ambassadors**

**Working with national NGOs, foundations corporations**



**2015 – 2016**

**Advancing and documenting progress in 19 locations**

**Publishing a “How To” Handbook & sharing this tool for all urban locations in the nation**

**Identifying and spreading best practices with locations**

# Examples of Accomplishments from Partnership Locations

In **Atlanta, GA**, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance is working in underserved communities and engaging residents and youth in outdoor and volunteer activities to protect and restore local green spaces.



In **Los Angeles, CA**, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership is cleaning up the Los Angeles River upstream to downstream with local partners. One primary goal is to restore sections of the river to its natural state and promote use of the riverfront.

In **Philadelphia, PA**, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is training and educating local residents through its job training program. The program has a course on stormwater and green infrastructure to train skilled workers and expand Philadelphia's workforce



# What's Next?

## Building the Partnership. Growing our Impact:

- Launch the Partnership's Handbook for communities nationwide
- Work with the 28+ national NGOs signed on to the Partnership
- Deepen our work within the 14 federal agencies in the Partnership

Questions? Please visit:

[www.urbanwaters.gov](http://www.urbanwaters.gov)

# New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

## Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Catalyzing Redevelopment Opportunities For Thrivable Communities (A Panel Discussion: USDA Perspective)

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**Presented By:**

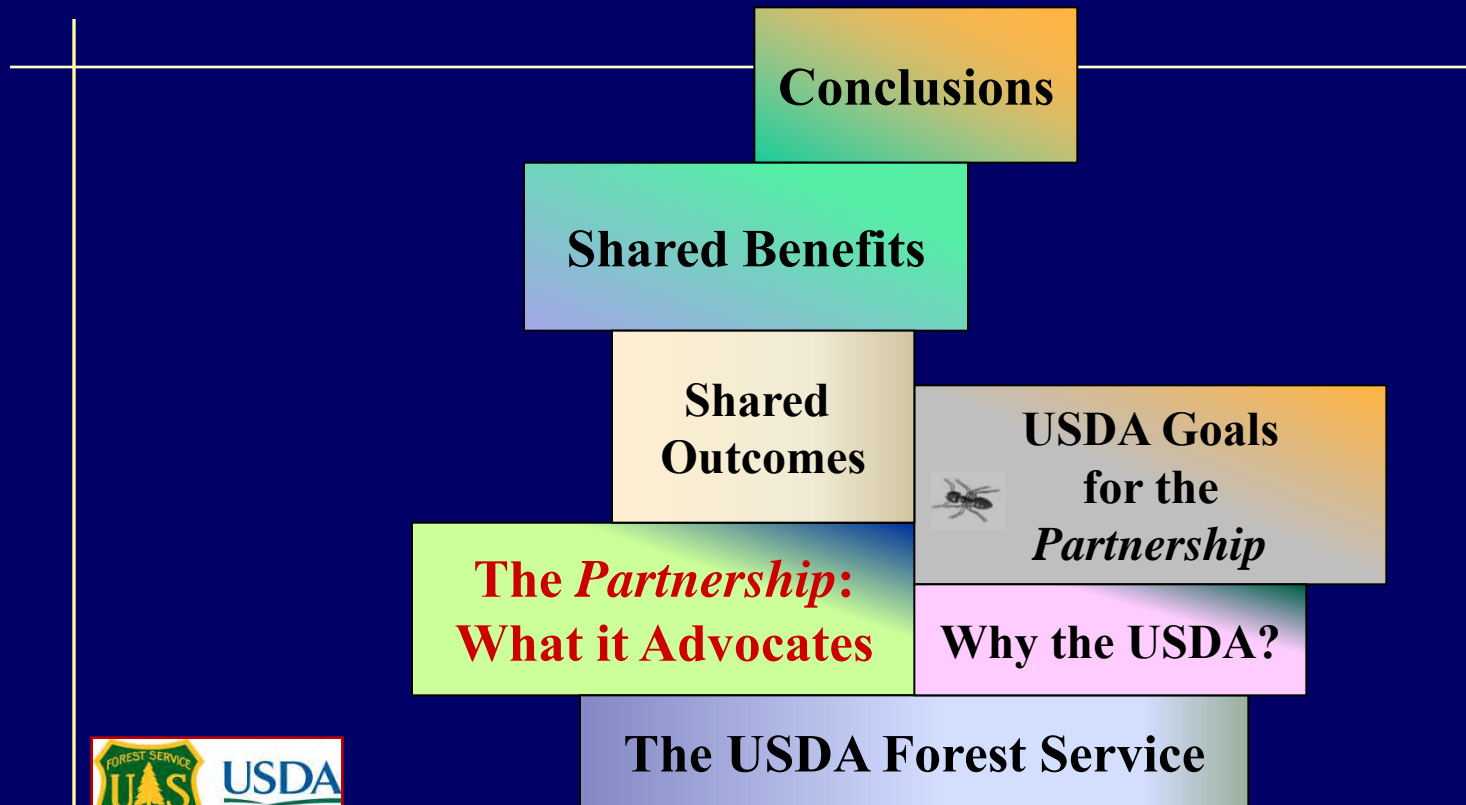
**Michael T. Rains**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**(USDA Representative)**



**January 29, 2015**  
**Hilton Baltimore Hotel**  
**Baltimore, MD**



# The *Partnership*...What This Segment Will Cover:



**URBANWATERS**  
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



## The *Partnership*...The USDA Forest Service

**“...To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”**

Mission Statement of the USDA Forest Service

**Simply put, the USDA Forest Service slogan:**

**”...caring for the land and serving people.”**



**URBANWATERS**  
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

UWFP.3

## The *Partnership*...What is Advocates

**Creating** opportunities for new jobs leading to careers in conservation.



**Restoring** rural and urban forests and their related streams, wetlands, and riparian areas.

**Adopting** water conservation measures to ensure sufficient quantities of clean water.

**Deploying** science-based “best management practices.”

**Improving** Environmental Literacy.

**Leveraging** the combined authorities and resources of the federal agencies.



**URBANWATERS**  
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

**CRADIL**

## The *Partnership*... Why The Forest Service?

“...The Forest Service has a direct *and* indirect role on about 80 percent of our nation’s forests: 885 million acres, including 138 million acres of urban forests where most Americans live.”

Simply put, we are a dominant conservation agency along a complex rural to urban land gradient.



**URBANWATERS**  
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

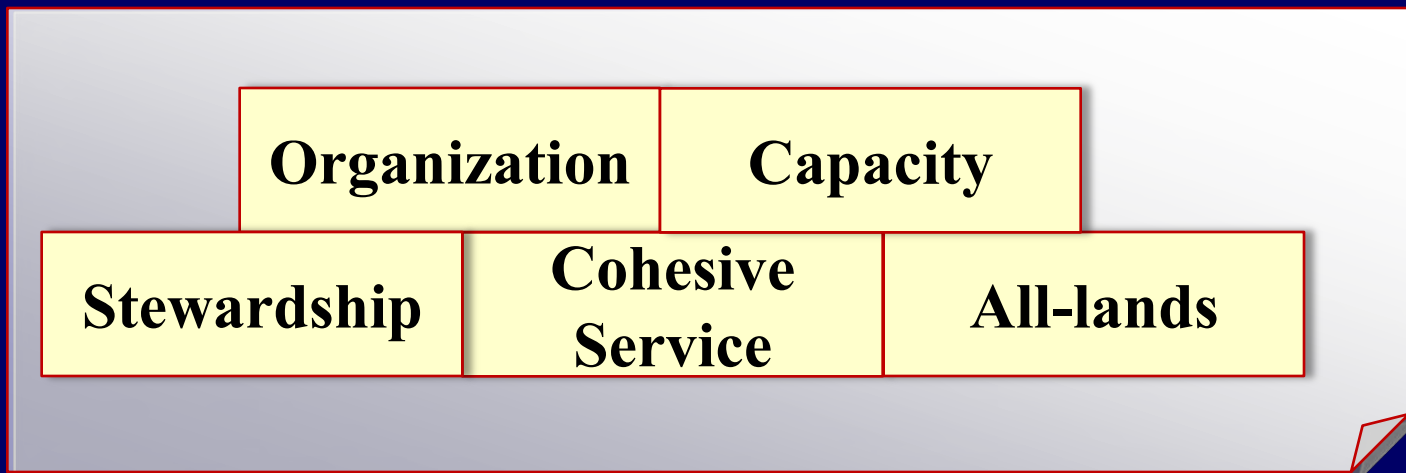
**CRADIL**



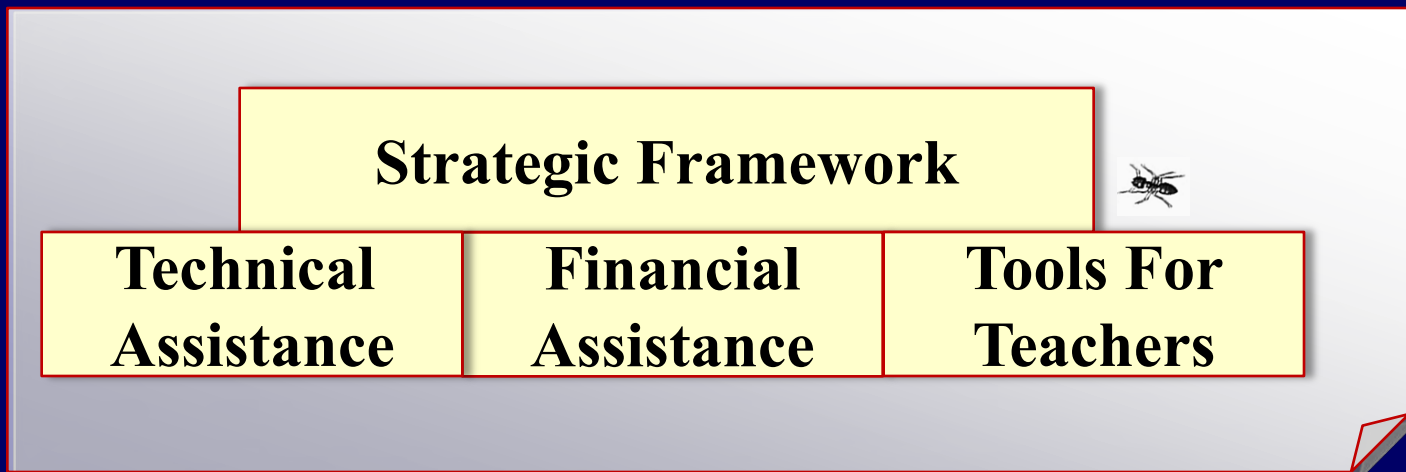
Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

UWFP.5

# The Partnership...The Forest Service Goals



# The Partnership...Shared Outcomes



**Outcomes**



Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

# The Partnership...Shared Benefits

**More Livable Urban Areas**

**Improved  
Ecosystem Services**

**Cleaner  
Air and Water**

Benefits

Outcomes



**CRADIL**



Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

# The Partnership...Conclusions



1. This is a *Conservation Legacy Event*
2. Improves people's lives by banding together
3. Improves the resiliency of our natural resources
4. Illustrates how a *Public-Private Partnership can and should work*

Benefits

Outcomes



CRADIL



**URBANWATERS**  
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

# The Partnership...Questions?




Benefits

Outcomes



## The Urban Waters Federal Partnership



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ♦ Department of the Army (Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)) ♦ U.S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration (EDA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)) ♦ Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) ♦ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ♦ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)) ♦ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ♦ U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) ♦ U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) ♦ U.S. Department of Education (DE) ♦ and, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ♦  
 ...as of January 2015





# South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference  
January 28-31, 2015  
Baltimore Maryland

Devon Buckels, AICP  
Urban Waters Partnership Coordinator  
Colorado State Forest Service  
[Devon.Buckels@colostate.edu](mailto:Devon.Buckels@colostate.edu)

**2011-2012**

- Pilot launched
- Quarterly meetings with networking and relationship building
- Geomapping Project
- Idea of Water Innovation Center raised in private sector

**2013**

- Hired Coordinator
- Created Mission, Goals, Priorities, Workgroups
- Continued quarterly meetings and networking
- Systems Mapping - priorities
- Developed project concepts:
  - Regional Water Center concept (evolved into The Water Connection)
  - Water Quality Assessment
  - Green Infrastructure
- Models for regional collaboratives and water centers

**2014**

- Established Leadership Team
- Adopted Charter calling for transition
- Developed concept of The Water Connection to:
  - Engage private sector
  - Facilitate transition
- Advanced Water Center idea to NWC – Outcome: Water Resources Center
- Continued to build portfolio of work for UWP – WQ Assess. and GI

**2015**

- Build UWP and The Water Connection in parallel
- Market Analysis and Business Plan
- Coordinate with priority projects to demonstrate value
- Advance GI
- Water Quality Assessment = baseline

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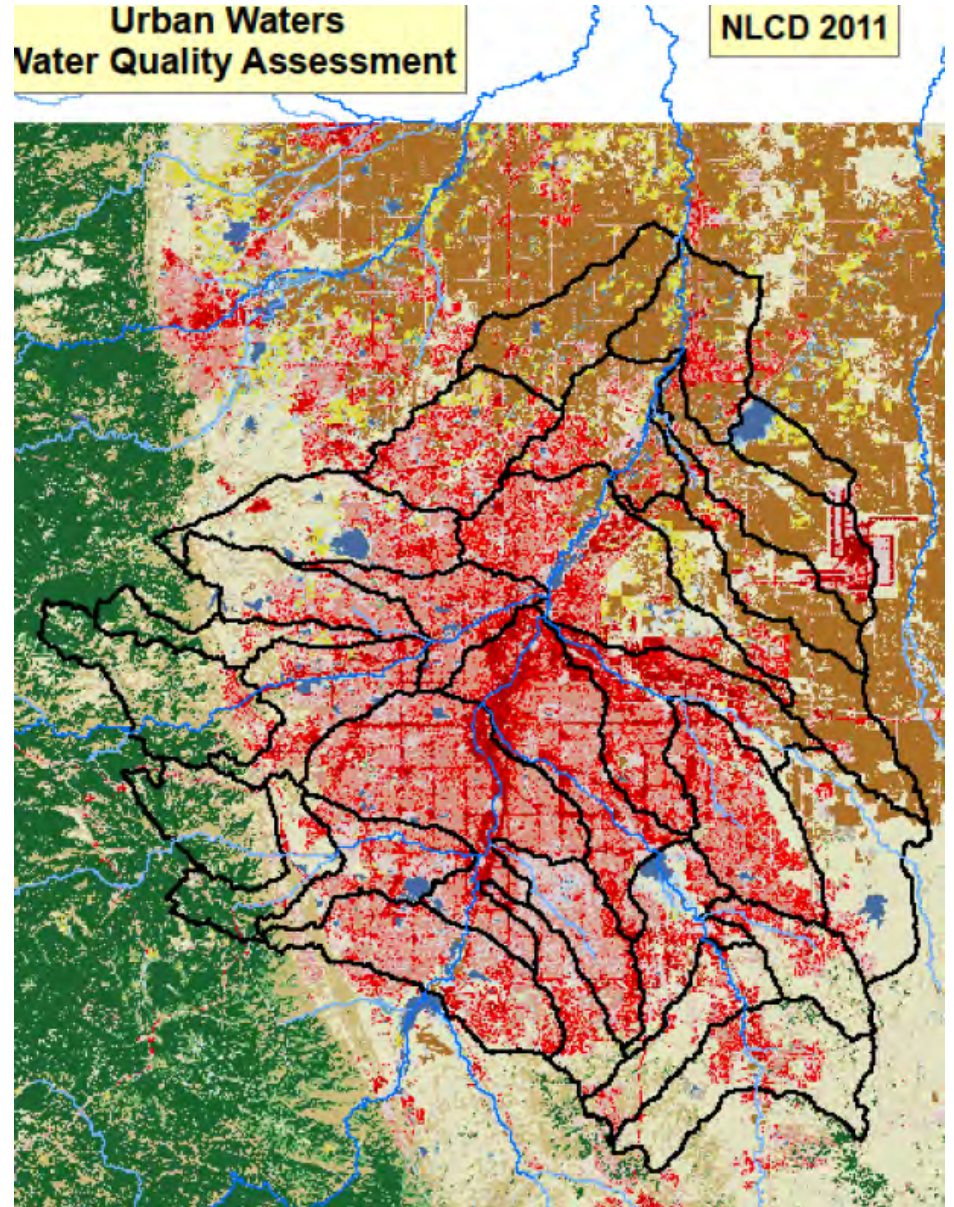
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# Water Quality Assessment

## Partners

EPA  
USGS  
ATSDR  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Denver Environmental Health  
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District  
Littleton / Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Groundwork Denver  
South Platte CURE (non-profit)  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte



# Green Infrastructure



# Natural Capital

## Assessment of Ecological Infrastructure



## Ecosystem Services





The Water Connection

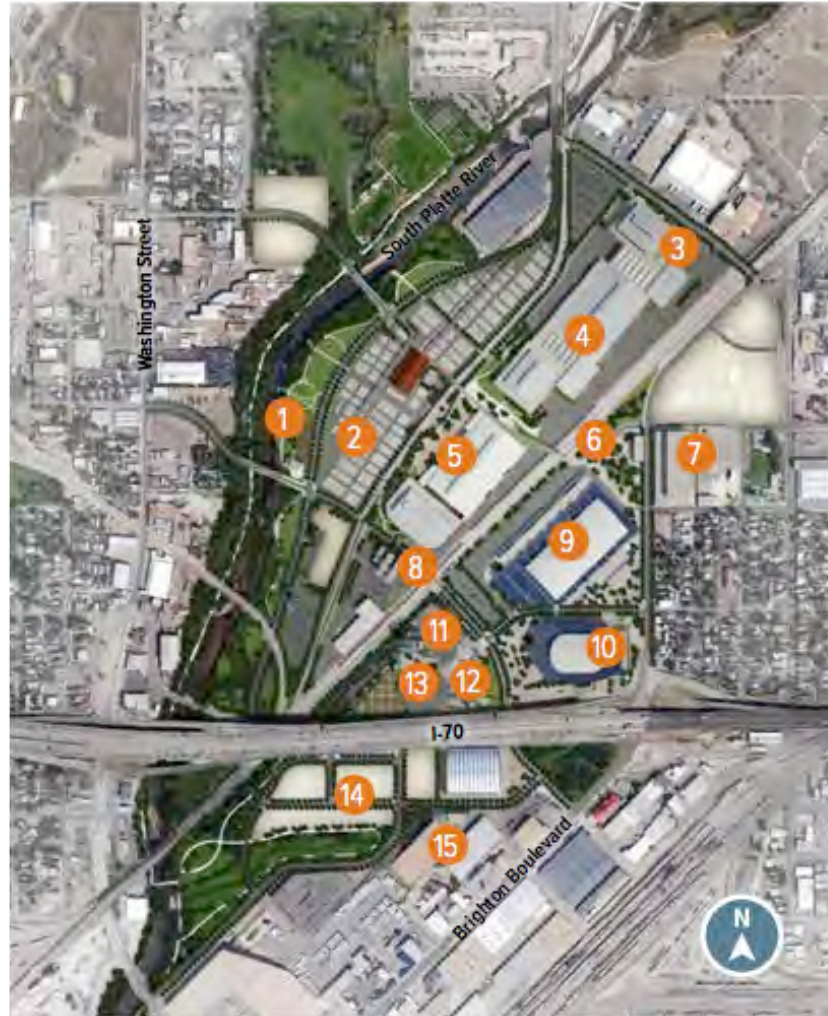
# Who? Urban Waters Partnership +

## Why?

- Share responsibility for action.
- New voices.
- Grow the pie.
- Maximize visibility and access.
- Presentation / Image.
- Hedge against uncertainty.



Engage with the National Western Center Partners to implement projects that are directly in line with UWP goals and priorities.



Illustrative Master Plan

## Key Site Elements

- 1 Water Resources Center and South Platte Riverfront
- 2 Stockyards/Event Pavilion
- 3 CSU Equine Sports Medicine Clinic
- 4 Equestrian Center
- 5 Livestock Center
- 6 NWC Transit Station
- 7 Shared Use/TOD Parking Structure
- 8 Livestock Exchange Building/Flex Space
- 9 Trade Show/Exhibition Hall
- 10 New Arena
- 11 CSU Center
- 12 Colorado Commons
- 13 Stadium Arena Market
- 14 Coliseum Redevelopment
- 15 Forney Transportation Museum



A word cloud featuring various terms related to water, economics, and innovation. The most prominent words are 'Water' and 'Economics', both in large, dark brown, bold fonts. Other significant words include 'Local Water' (written vertically), 'Entrepreneur', 'Innovation', 'Partnership', 'Business', 'Technology', 'Problem-solving', 'Technological', 'Business', 'Summits', 'Tracking', 'NREL', 'Awareness', 'Start-up', 'Organizations', 'Internships', 'Data-driven', 'Forum', 'Change', 'Environmental', 'Companies', 'Dialog', 'Multi-sector', 'Advancement', 'Urban', 'Demonstration', 'Cutting-edge', 'Projects', 'Think-tank', 'Partner', 'Mentoring', 'Industries', 'Visibility', 'Chamber-Commerce', 'Entrepreneurial', and 'Entrepreneur'. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster, with colors ranging from dark brown to light tan.

**Urban Waters Federal Partnership:  
Catalyzing Redevelopment  
Opportunities for Thrivable  
Communities**

Mike Galvin

# URBANWATERS

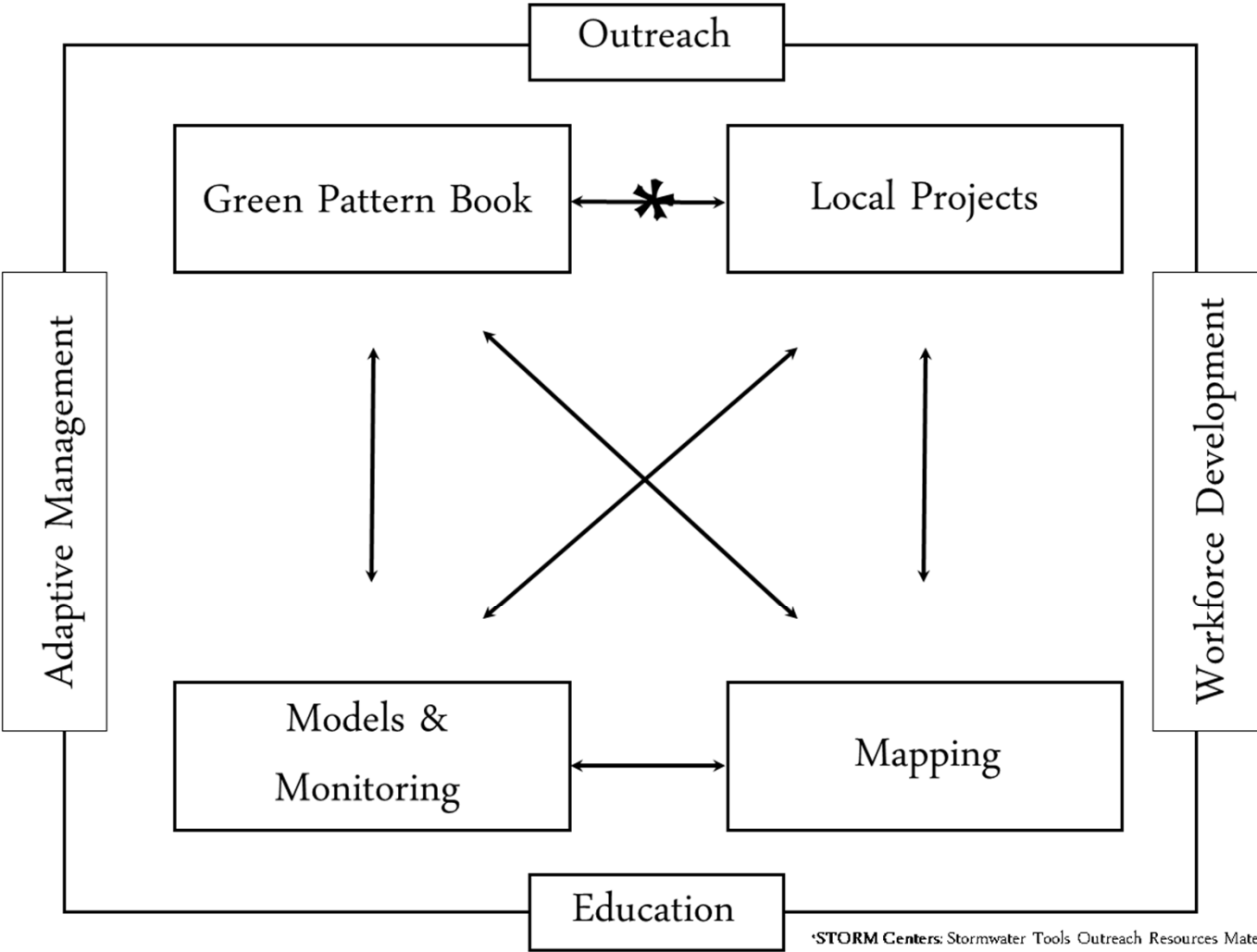
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

*Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities.*

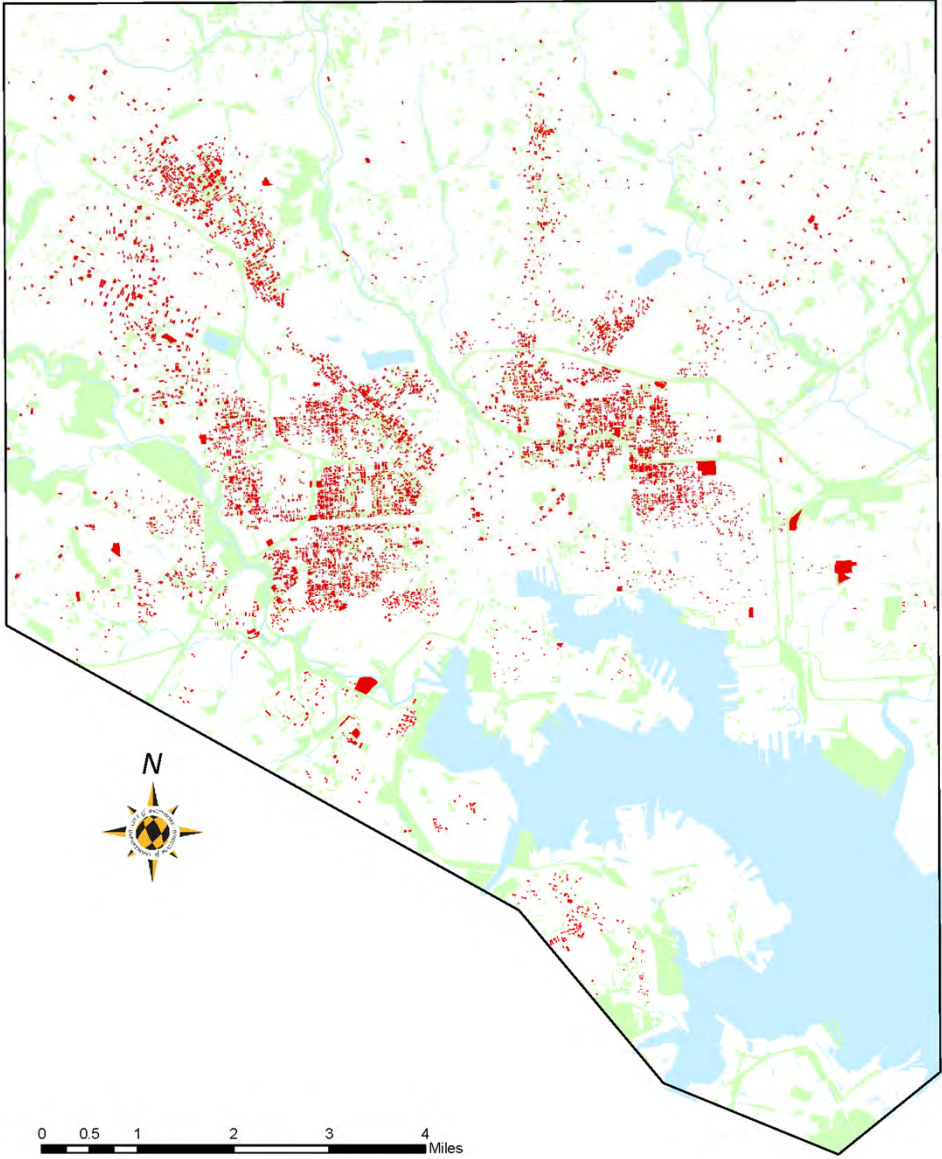
## Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership

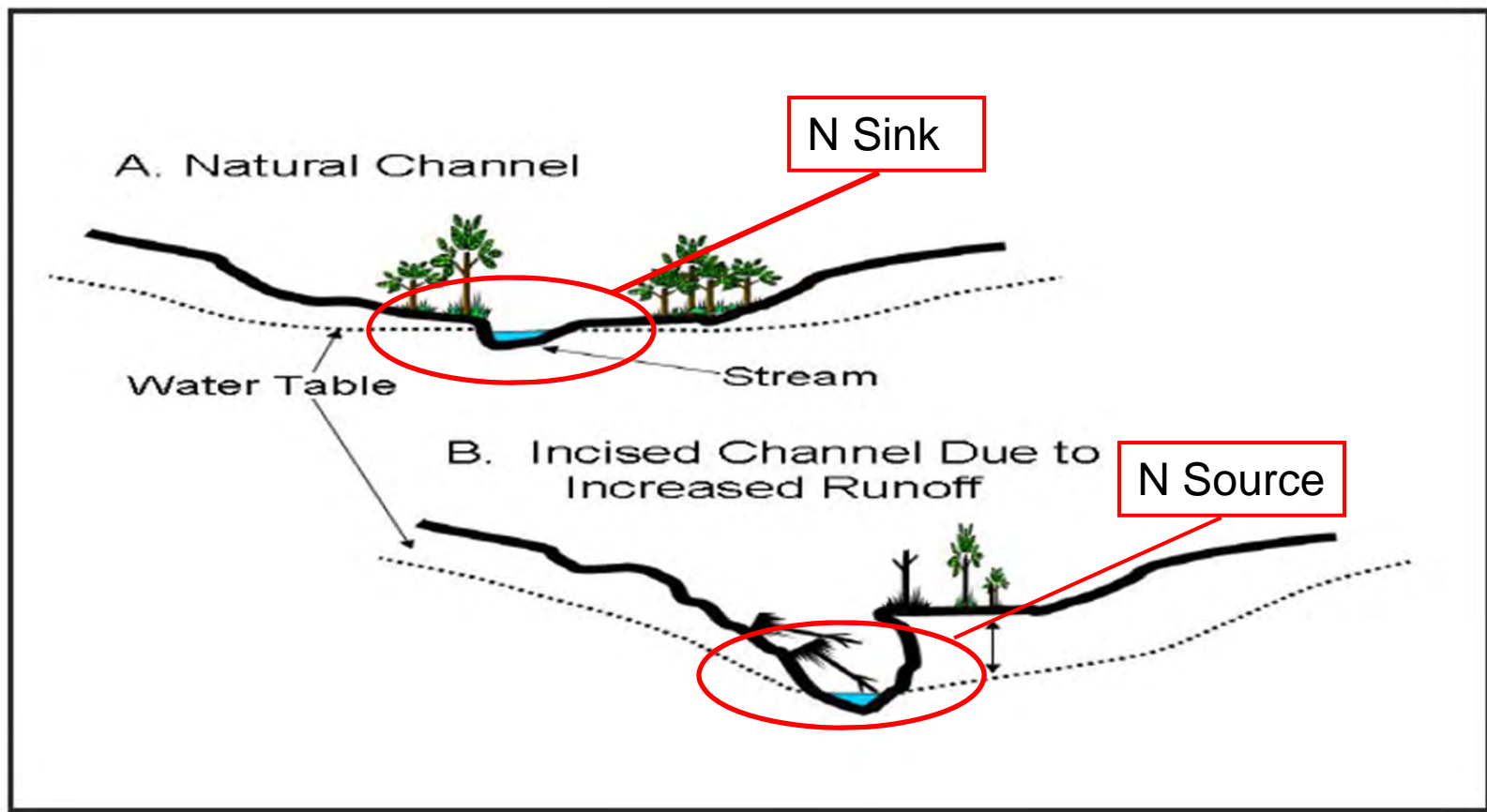


Baltimore Urban Waters

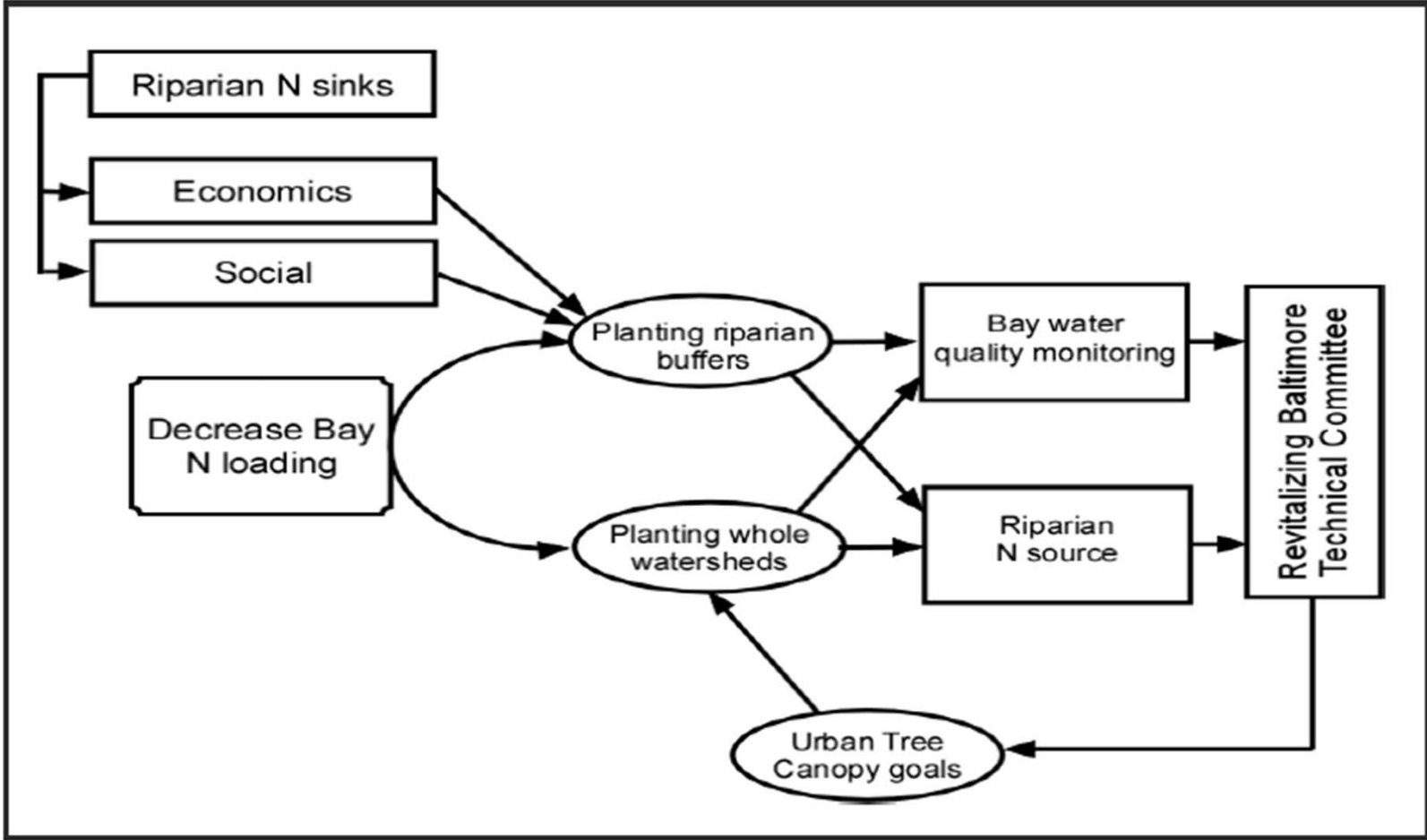


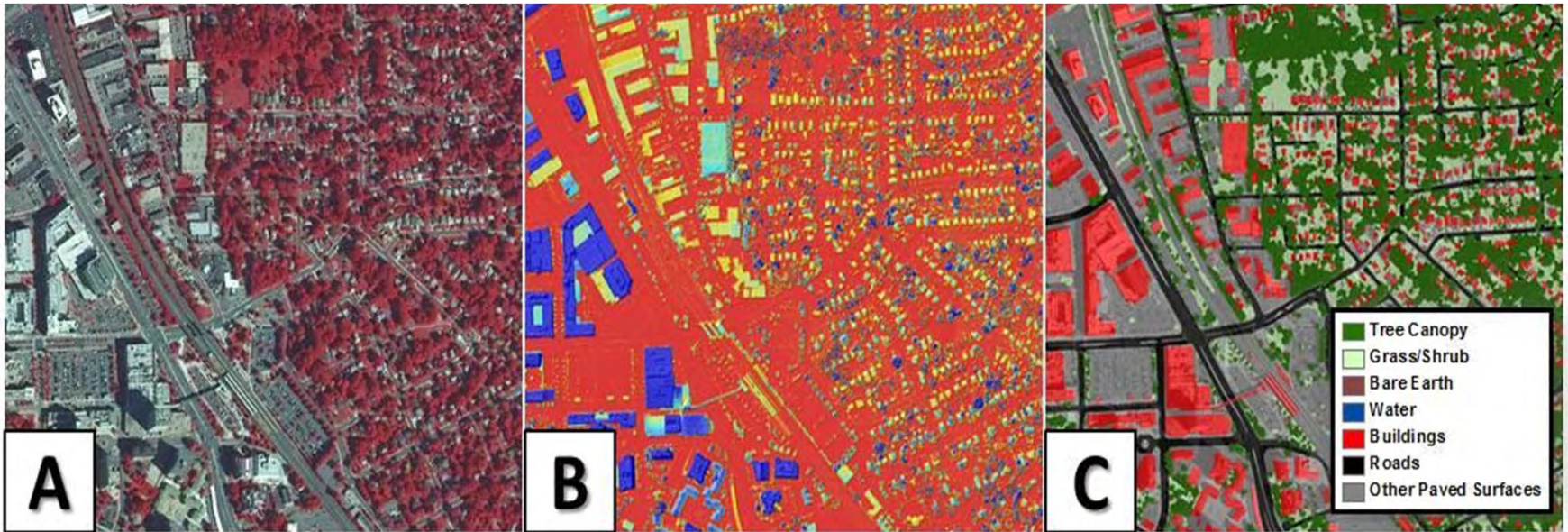


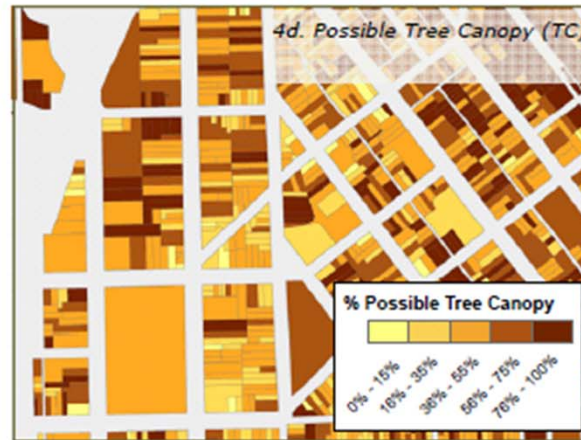


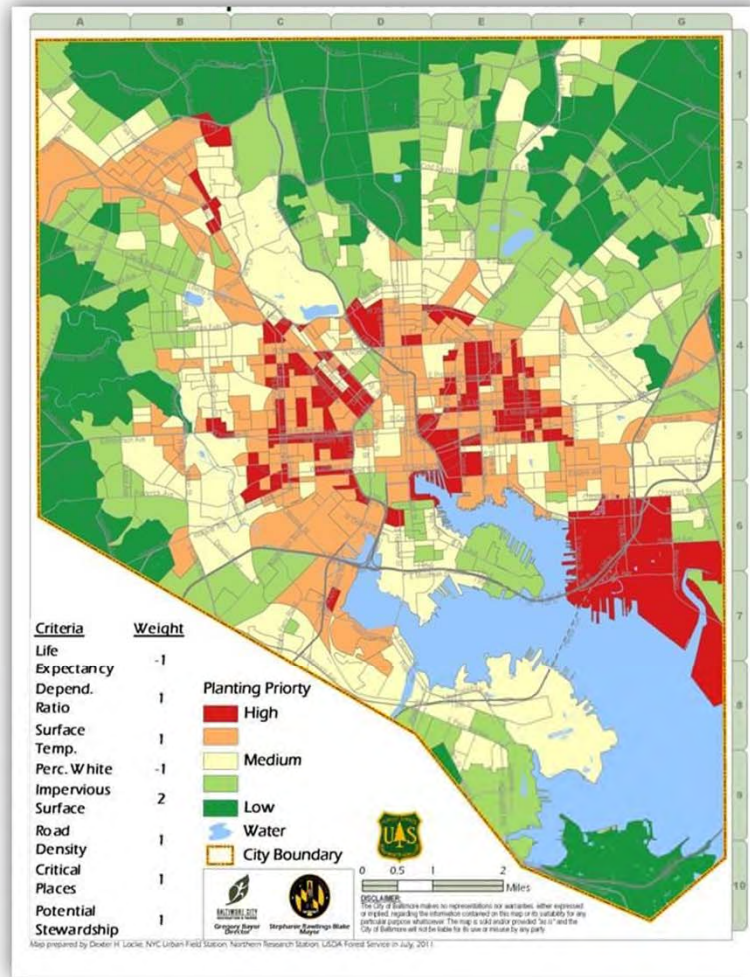
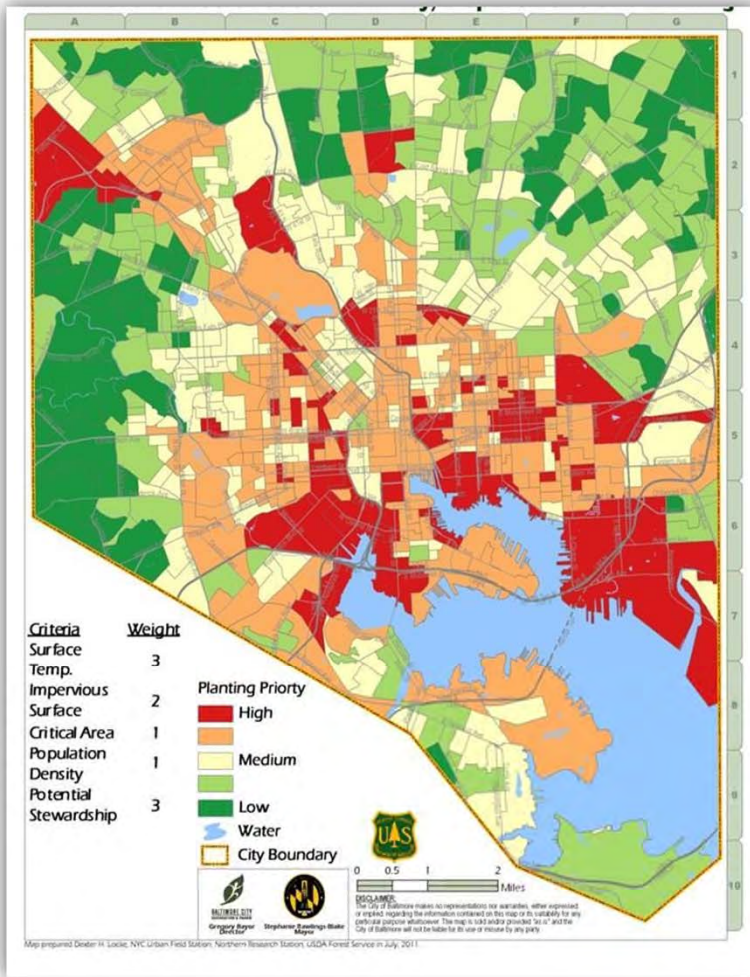


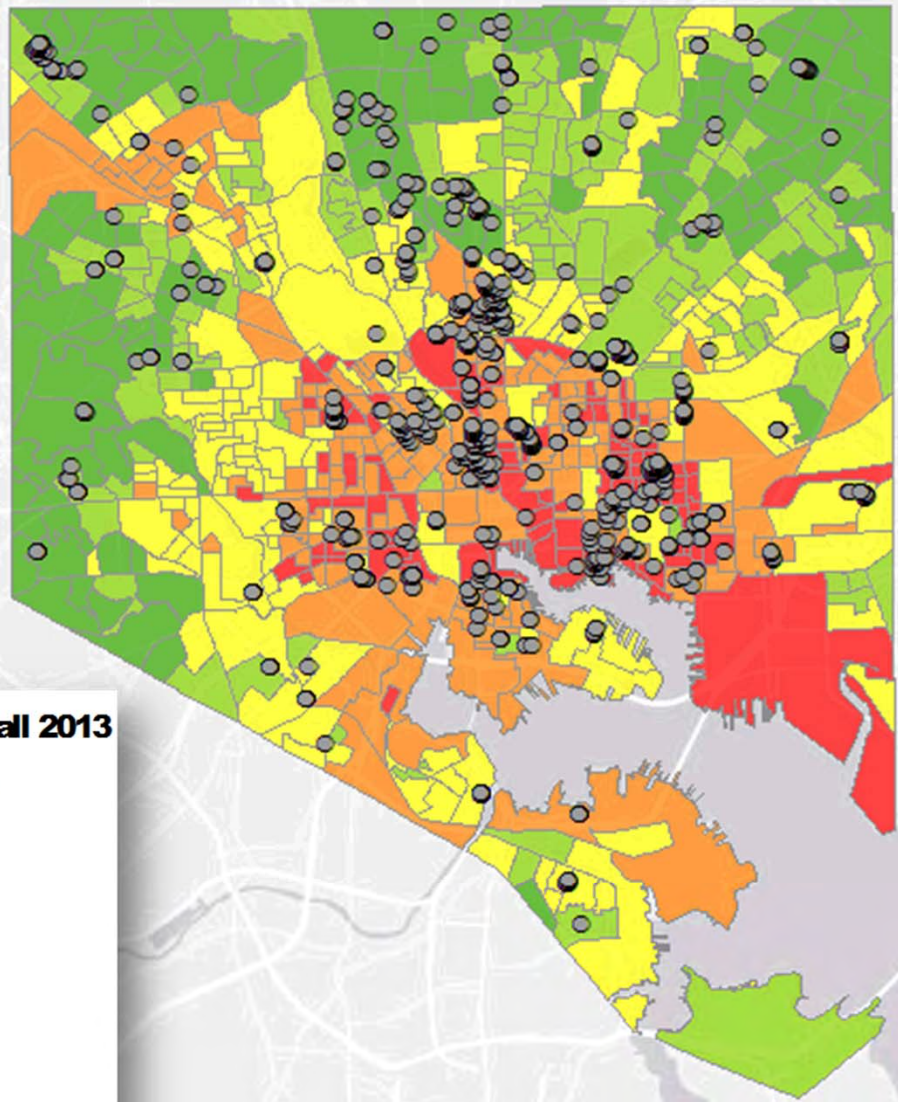
From Pickett et al. 2007 Journal of Contemporary Watershed Research & Education 136:44-55.









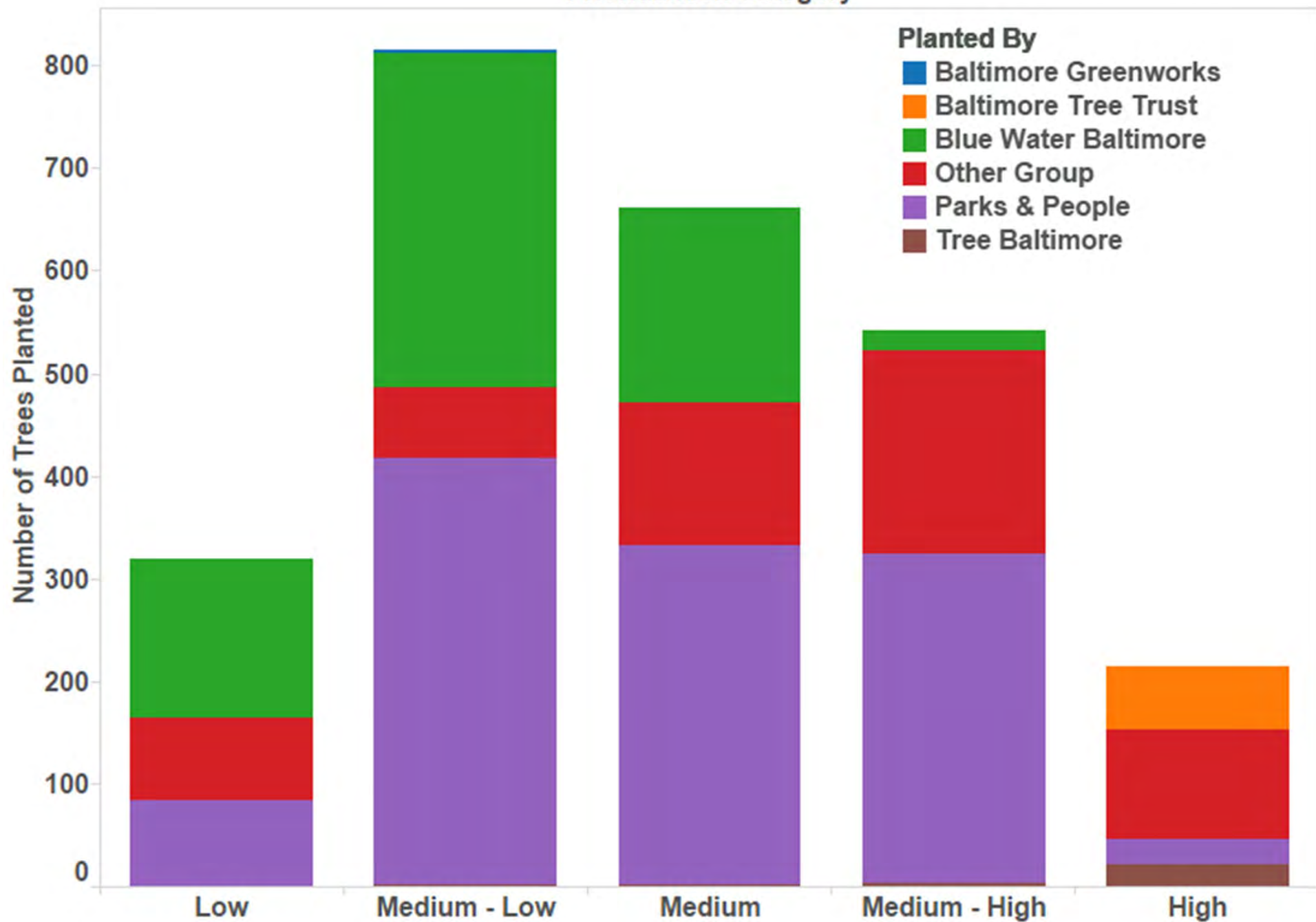


● **Tree Plantings, Fall 2013**

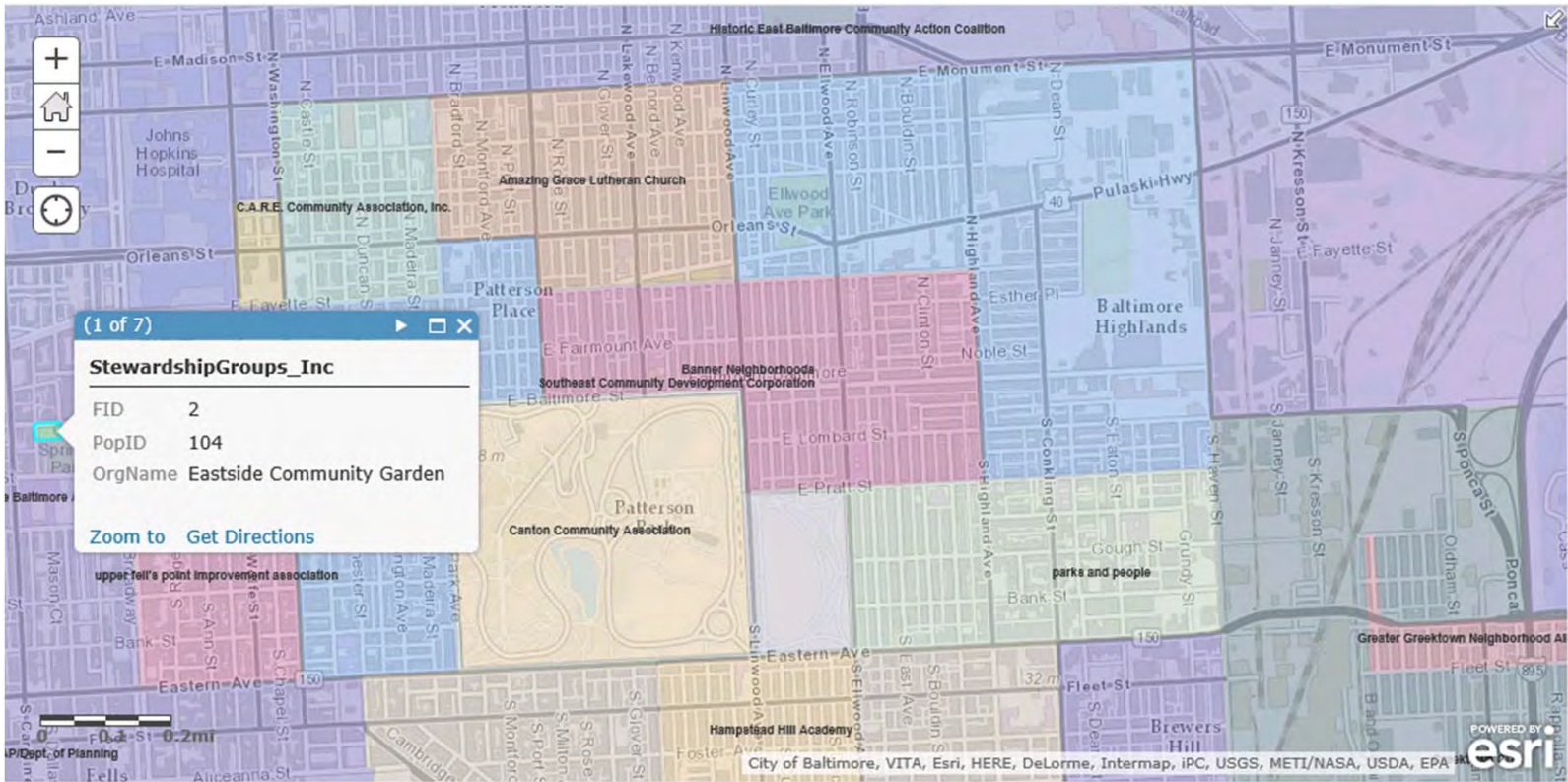
**Prioritization Category**

- High**
- Medium - High**
- Medium**
- Medium - Low**
- Low**

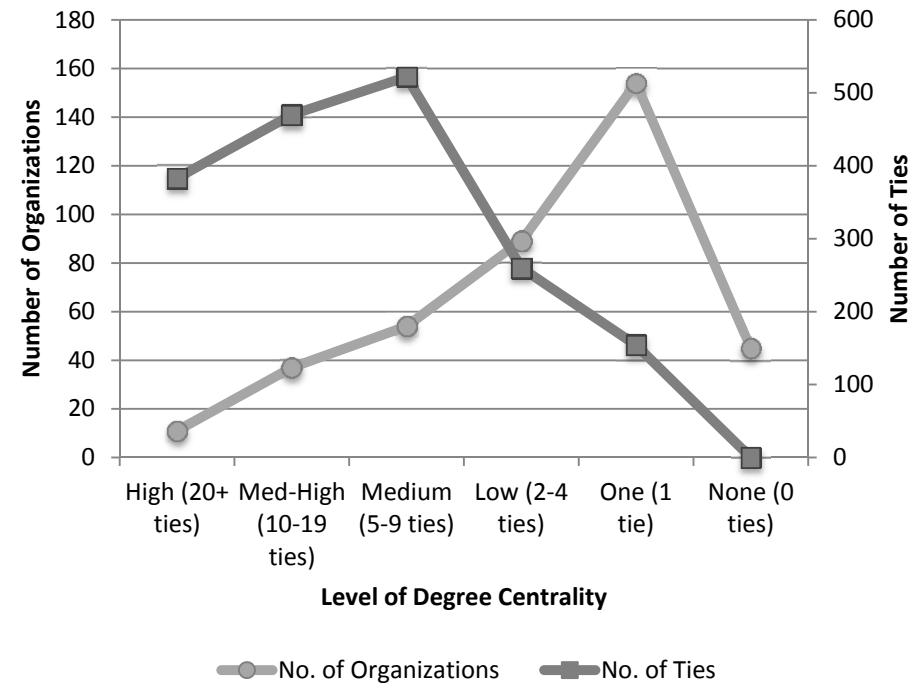
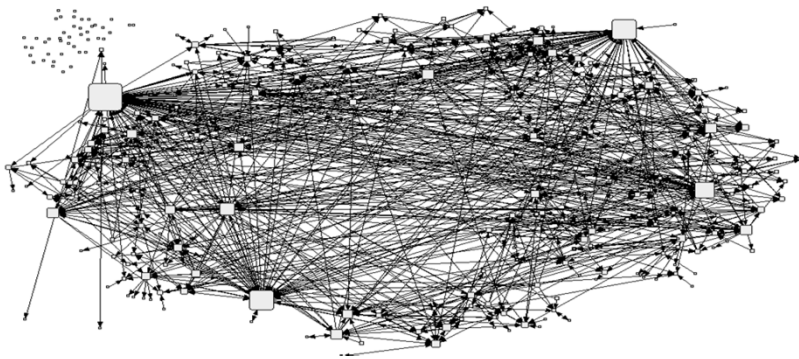
Prioritization Category







# How does the network change over time?

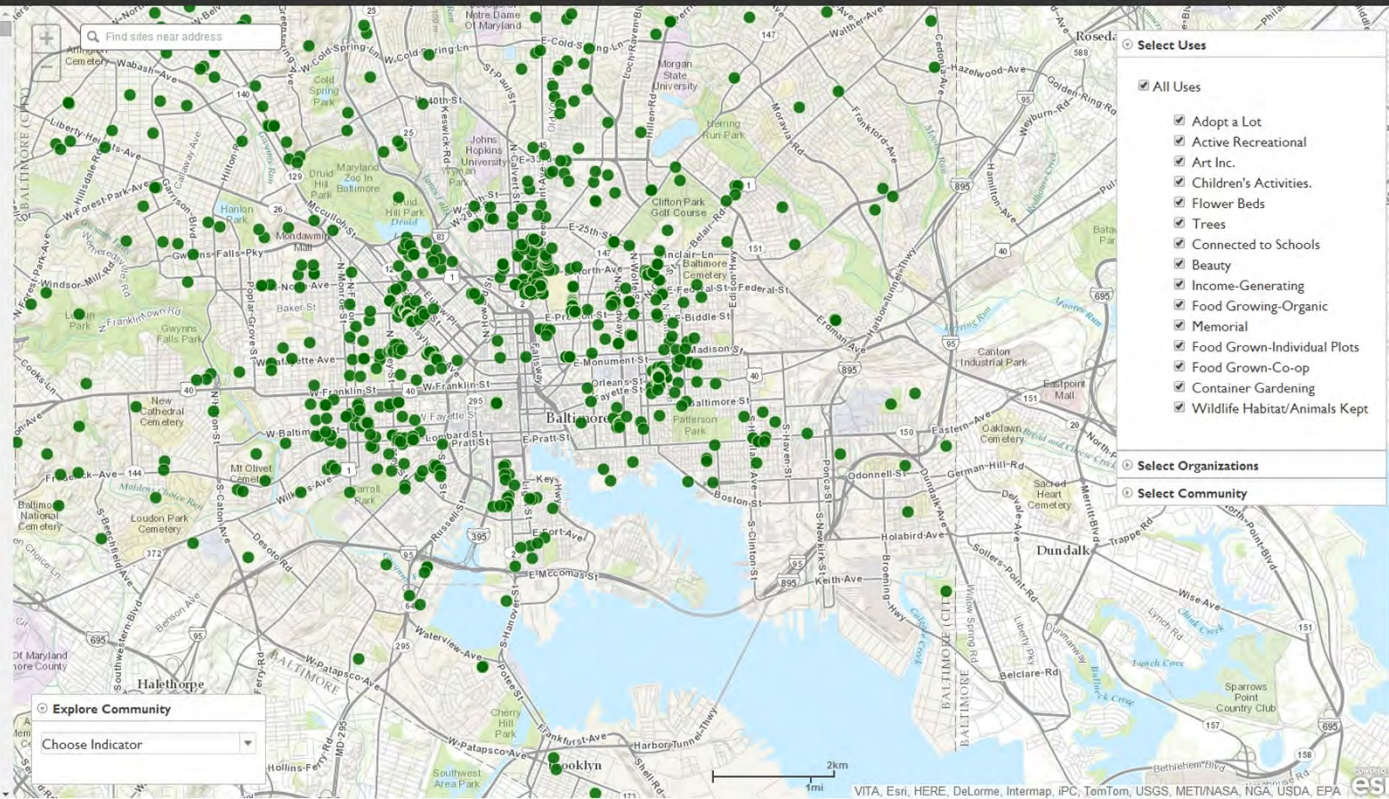


**BALTIMORE CITY  
WATER QUALITY DATA**

INTERACTIVE MAP OF COMMUNITY MANAGED OPEN SPACE  
CONTACT US  
ADD A NEW SITE

Search Garden Name

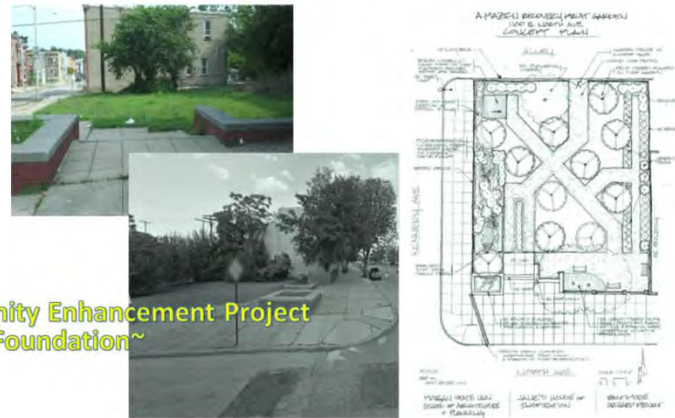
Find sites near address



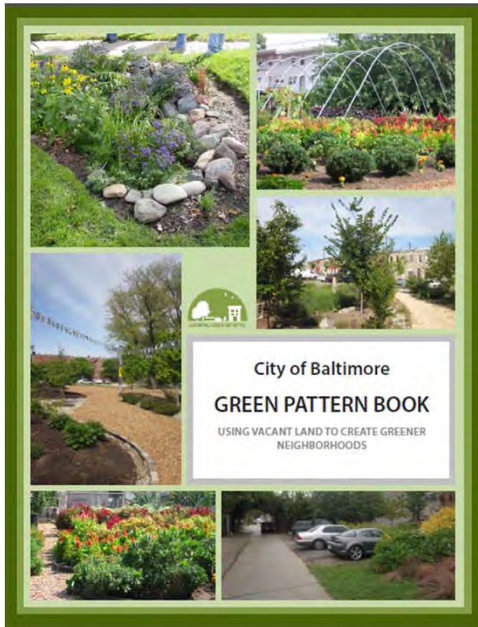
12690 – The Flower Factory  
 ~Real Food Farm~



A-Maze-N Recovery Fruit Garden  
 ~Jane's House of Inspiration~



Bridgeview/Greenlawn Community Enhancement Project  
 ~Chesapeake Bay Foundation~

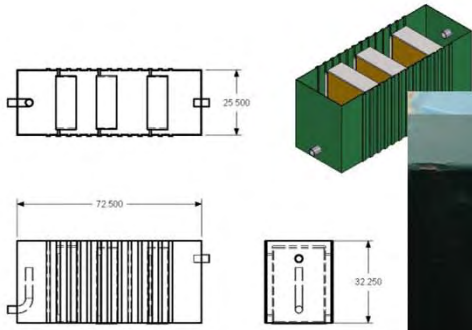


50 Row homes  
Deconstructed v. demolished



Per Unit:  
3,000 bricks  
400 sq ft flooring  
800 bd ft framing





Schematic Plan - Preliminary



# The Sustainable City

- Voluntary program
  - Coalition of the willing
  - Fed/State/Local/NGO
- Science-based
- Multifunctional approaches
- Human-dominated system
  - People, planet, prosperity

# URBANWATERS

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

*Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities.*

## Baltimore Urban Waters Partnership





# Discussion

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# Thank you!

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