

Green Network Plan Public Meeting #1 – Green Network Plan Goals Activity Summary

June 15, 2016

To guide the activity, seven large sheets of paper were hung on the walls. Each sheet had a category and “word cloud” of related words printed on it to provide a framework for generating thoughts and ideas about project goals. Participants were provided with Post-it notes and pens and could contribute as many ideas for each category as they wanted. Each Post-it note is summarized as a single bullet under the corresponding category on the following pages. When other participants agreed with a point already included on a Post-it, they were encouraged to add a check mark to that note. Numbers following particular bullet points indicate the number of check marks that thought received from others.



Economic Opportunity

- Grow food not lawns - many benefits to community supported agriculture (+4)
- Allowing youth to dedicate time to these projects for a monetary benefit (Youthworks) (+1)
- Having programs like tax incentives to promote rehabilitating home ownership (+1)
- Urban agriculture (+1)
- Permaculture
- Produce meaningful work / employment; prioritize before green space
- Realistic revitalization is too daunting
- Equip residents with skills to renovate vacant homes
- Green jobs
- Development without displacement
- Yes, affordable home ownership as part of greening plan
- Green sustainable jobs – training, development, urban farming
- Jobs for city youth to maintain lots
- Steady long term jobs employing local residents
- Please make environmental jobs available
- More free educational opportunities for youth and paid internship programs
- Spur opportunity for redevelopment
- Enforce Section 1342 USC E-Verify Law I-9 ICRA Form 1986
- Encourage business & organizations to sponsor specific projects & use the new green space to host business/organization events. Create incentives.
- Not just demo jobs – apprenticeships in building, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, cabinet making, etc.
- Demonstrate how strong community supported open space can attract business, housing, & reinvestment. Must be done/promoted together.
- Jobs jobs jobs. Economic growth, workforce development funding
- Biohabitats & Others – Hiring MBE's – what is the history?
- Currently buildings are paying property taxes & support the city. Many of us are assessed at 2x what we could sell for. We are told “problem” neighborhoods cost more in services. How will green spaces pay their share? Will taxes increase?
- Maintenance & construction jobs
- Sponsored community maintenance from city – maintenance jobs hired locally to a space

Environment

- Native Ecology (+2)
- Harvesting rain water , controlling run-off (+2)
- Permeable surfaces for stormwater management (+1)
- Planning spaces that encourage all life - not completely human & car centric (+1)
- The spaces should be beautiful & good for pollinators & should control rainwater run-off. The Patterson Park Audubon society & the Chesapeake Bay Society should be used as resources. (+1)
- Habitat (+1)
- Taking into account heat islands and food deserts (+1)
- Regenerative opportunity for natural systems throughout Baltimore and access by all (+1)
- Bee friendly planting, habitat, trees, air quality, water quality (+1)
- Bee friendly plants
- Solar panels for flat roofs
- Green Roof
- Beauty
- Forest edges need cleaning - “weedy” edges make forest look unsafe and unwelcoming
- Provide quality habitat for urban wildlife (especially pollinators and birds)
- Forest patches - as community forests, forest gardens, forest stewards, Baltimore Green Space
- Lighting
- Food gardening
- Wetland creation & enhancement in harbor/Middle Branch
- Rethink industrial zoning in Critical Areas/Stream Buffers
- Use space for buildings. Exurbia is for wilderness and farmland.
- The issue of lead in buildings that are demolished – how to prevent from getting into soil and water?
- Clean water, flood control, climate change, adaptation, bird & pollinator habitat
- Energy reduction – shading for houses and buildings
- How do we capture and recycle energy – water, shade, food gardens, tree canopy
- Reduce, reuse, recycle more

Education & Stewardship

- Teaching children at a young age not to litter have educational programs in inner city schools starting at elementary (+1)
- Youth jobs for community (+1)
- A lot of events so people have positive associations with public space (+1)
- Community-sponsored maintenance, so children are engrained with environmental stewardship at a young age (+1)
- Access/exposure to natural resources; creative, culture-centric approach to teaching about environment (culture rather than science) (+1)
- Presentation to PCAB @ Baltimore Public Schools; Youth jobs in summer (+1)
- Youth empowered to “educate up” their own efforts (+1)
- There's going to be a lot of weeding and maintenance. We need to teach communities and children how to care or pay parks to mow the grass. (+1)
- Education for all ages
- Teaching children and adults to care and take great pride in their community (Renters & Homeowners)
- Provide hope for youth
- Every kid goes camping
- Provide opportunities for adults as well to learn what they can do to have a positive impact on the environment
- More internships and opportunities for student in schools
- Getting more kids and adults to appreciate green spaces by implementing more green but safe space. Letting community know these spaces are available
- Ideas from Baltimore city high school students
- Teaching social skills and etiquette to youth
- Teaching parents consequences of their actions
- It's great to have green spaces but with them should also come education – specifically there should be individuals designated to educate others about these environments
- All schools should have an urban garden – the lessons are valuable
- Make sure that youth (i.e. school camps, rec centers) have opportunities to be engaged in stewardship projects within their communities
- Partner with youth to learn vegetable gardening and become more self-sufficient and eat more healthily
- Before you can teach kids to take care of and enjoy nature and green spaces, you have to teach them to see the tree in the city, not the concrete
- Environmental field trips so kids appreciate and respect green space
- Bathroom facilities? Recycling? Trash? Leave no trace? Education on all.
- Landscape architecture students from Morgan State should help with planning the green space. Use the community to help the community
- Youth learning; senior awareness; environmental literacy
- Community service hours for graduation requirements tied to greening projects within school area
- Teaching youth about nature, community & stewardship – programming that ensures this

Access & Connectivity

- Walkability - variety of services accessible in walkable distances /areas (+3)
- More bike lanes (+3)
- Public transportation access (+2)
- Safe biking + walking public transportation access (+2)
- Good access, creating space that is inviting and feels safe; good visibility & lighting (+1)
- Bike trails (+1)
- Making public transportation such as subways and light rails cleaner and more reliable (+1)
- More tree-lined streets and green spaces for safer walking (+1)
- Public transit - promotion, easier access, planning along transit lines
- I want protected bike lanes like in Holland where there are curbs + medians between cars + bikes. We can incorporate this.
- Street network that starts with joining neighborhoods rather than severs or speeds folks out of City
- Highest value + care to other modes of transit. Example of inequity - roads plowed after storms while piles of snow + no shoveling of the bus stops & sidewalks owned by city agencies other than BCPS
- Take back Westport waterfront for park space
- Activity connected walkable biking access
- Education on safety issues, crime + safety lighting
- Connectivity between ecosystem people and infrastructure
- Trails in good repair
- Promoting youth engagement
- Sustainable, fast, reliable, affordable public transit
- Safety, walkability; slow down traffic
- Green space social network for event planning – collective calendar for accessibility of scheduling
- Network of green spaces – provide “green corridors” for wildlife, which will increase environmental impact of green spaces
- Connect all of the large green spaces in the city with green corridors even if it’s just a bike path or walking trail
- “Bikepath” does not equal bad roadway. It's hard to bike to Middle Branch Park from the GF Trail because roads are treacherous for bikes and inhospitable to walkers.
- Connect with the schools – find the person at the school responsible for community partnerships – elementary schools
- Green spaces as accompaniment/gravity center for (public) transit offset pollution and make the healthy and active transit method the easy method
- The awareness that during every trip, whether or not in a car, the person is a pedestrian at some point during their journey. So make every street, sidewalk, nature area safe for people.

Quality of Life

- Clean water for recreation & ecosystem function/education/appreciation
- Beautiful & clean so that residents can be proud
- Make sure green spaces are inviting & useable; not just looked at from afar
- Historic Preservation of vacant homes or green remodel
- Find ways to engage & design with (not for) aging population!
- Population is aging & aging in place is what everyone wants
- Open contiguous recreation space big enough for field sports – not just pocket parks. Big enough for exercise
- Human wellness & safety vital to exterior environments
- Healthy wellness
- Workshops on basic self-care & the importance of sustainability to health;
- Food identification, everything edible is not food for nutrition;
- Health Food Access
- Equity = Green open space
- Safety & walkability
- Pedestrians first!
- More lights in neighborhoods (solar lighting); There are way too many dark streets at night
- Don't drive investors/developers/companies away by having slow, excruciating process for improving city
- Analysis of resource gaps
- Have unique, world-class features that other cities can use as example
- Community aesthetics
- Help deter littering & illegal dumping
- Beauty!
- Fund Rec. & Parks!!!
- Walkability
- Joy!
- Importance of healing & quiet.
- Clean air – connection to asthma & allergies
- Safe public spaces to gather/play
- Condominiums and apartments diminish commutes & reduce pollution
- Allowing everyone to have equal opportunities & the chance to experience the beauty of the city!
- Diminishing food deserts (increasing food access)
- Energy efficient housing upgrades
- Low maintenance herb & flower gardens

Equitable Input and Access

- All neighborhoods; equity for disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Transparency in planning
- Residents need monthly meeting to decide how to improve the community
- Understand community's culture & how they use/plan to use open, green space
- Communicate via print media & face to face – the people who you need to reach the most do not have access to online communication! (Libraries/Community Centers)
- Informative & elaborative flyers
- Don't underestimate importance of this process & it's results
- Going out into the community to get involved in the planning process (Using places of worship as gateway)
- Give city land to resident-controlled Community Land trusts to create equitable structures of control of land for greening & affordable housing
- Residents don't have access to resources to improve neighborhood
- Ensure planned green space is strongly endorsed by community (design & assets)
- Vegetation preferred may be different depending on neighborhood
- More green spaces for typically neglected neighborhoods
- Meetings in these neighborhoods to spread the word
- I'm a white girl in a black neighborhood who gets the need to reach beyond the list-serve to reach the black community; the know how in the room can be connected to minority interests if we care to find those pathways
- The entire process assumes that people living in the neighborhoods think "green is great", my experience tells me that many don't. Many are scared of natural habitats. Education as to what greening is & why to the people in the neighborhoods is essential
- Can we bring the planning process to those who cannot make meeting?
- Equity for low-income neighborhoods, raising the level of poverty in the city
- Community Land Trusts
- "Get folks involved", outside of community ambassadors...how do you specifically plan to get the word out – "get folks involved", employed, engaged, informed about this outside of new media add. How did everyone tonight hear about this meeting?
- Community gardens: can post signs or notices to the public stating what food/veggies can be openly harvested or CSA's & community gardens work closely to feed the community that houses gardens
- Fast, efficient, high quality city services in all communities. Green space/park maintenance
- Ensure that underserved communities have access and can connect to local green spaces
- Access at all phases/levels of decision making
- Accessible language
- Accessible meetings (being considerate of time, location, childcare)
- Entry points not just environment, but transportation, development, etc.
- Walkability
- Where blocks are slated for stabilization, demolition, greening – how are we providing support to seniors?

- City officials at these meetings refer to neighborhoods & communities as though they are EXTERNAL to the city government agencies; these are OUR neighborhoods, not “these neighborhoods”...please be sensitive to this!
- Better public transportation
- Better public transit, lower rates circulator to lower income
- Greater food access (healthier)
- Social sustainability leads to environmental sustainability
- Bring fun to process to engage families & those pressed for time
- Affordable housing that’s nice
- Not just community ideas, but community volunteers in demo, rebuild, & management like through Habitat for Humanity
- Communications open to all age groups/demographics
- Communities need to own the land & control decisions about development

Other Goals, Thoughts, and Ideas

- How will the green network plan connect to 21st Century Schools initiative?
- How will the greening efforts implement a sense of “diversity” in neighborhood?
- Playgrounds made with natural materials in some spaces
- Brooklyn & Curtis Bay were not represented in maps; We do have vacant properties
- Don’t forget South Baltimore
- Green space does not equal amenity unless it is thoughtfully designed and/or programmed and maintained. Replacing blight with green space = more blight. Need people to activate space.
- How does the Green Network Plan relate to transportation infrastructure/new bus plan/bike path? Is there opportunity to green part of highway to nowhere as connector and community asset? What does the community think?
- Planning process need to be in two areas of the city. Please do not hit and miss. Let's complete one area at a time to see an improvement.