

Green Network Plan Public Meeting #1 - Greening Examples & Preferences Activity Summary

June 15, 2016

The goal of this activity was to collect opinions about which types of green spaces are preferred by residents and what they like or dislike about particular types of spaces or methods of greening.

A total of 24 green space images were provided on large sheets of paper. Participants were provided with Post-it notes, pens, and a strip of six dot stickers. Participants had the opportunity to review the green space images and use the Post-it notes to share thoughts about what they liked or didn't like about the examples. They also had the opportunity to use the six stickers to "vote" for their preferred examples, distributing their dots in any combination they chose. Where participants agreed with the thoughts of other participants, they added check marks to the Post-it notes already posted. These are indicated below with numbers following the comments.

There was also an additional blank sheet of paper titled "What did we forget?" This provided an opportunity for participants to express their thoughts on other types of green spaces that they would like to see that might not have been represented in the examples.

Each Post-it note is summarized as a single bullet under the corresponding green space example photo. The number of dots contributed for each example is also tallied for each example photo. The comments from the "What did we forget?" section are summarized at the end of this document, along with the photos receiving the most and the least votes of preference as part of the activity.





Preferred (Number of Dots): 35

Likes:

- Beautiful peaceful shady (+1)
- Multi-purpose space (+1)
- Peaceful, tranquil, multi-use potential (+1)
- Love the community gathering area – shade is great! Shakespeare in the park. (+1)
- It's the trees! Restful, sculpted, green, shady. Can sit on a low wall & think. (+1)
- This is nice, create more of this scene. (+1)
- Love the green amphitheater style seating and long trunked trees
- Multi-use space; serene, lots of trees
- Love multi-use space, shade
- Amphitheater

Dislikes:

- Don't see accessible path to center ramp



Preferred (Number of Dots): 33

Likes:

- Very important to have trails for walking / biking (+1)
- Easy maintenance, healthy & public/accommodating (+1)
- Lighting! (+1)
- Looks cool vertical design
- Nice repurposing of otherwise “wrecked tech” space
- This shape looks nice
- Multi-function space, passive enjoyment of nature
- Recreational use, network of trails
- Like the lighting and dual use
- Looks intentional – manicured but not too manicured
- I love it
- Nice, Detroit! Room for graffiti, art that evolves
- Like how it is beside city (see tops of buildings in background) but also a sanctuary away

Dislikes:

- More trees, shrubs, diversity in vegetation could be improved with canopy for shade (+1)
- Non-native plants – boring
- More plants for habitat – bees, birds, butterflies
- Not a fan of ditch lilies
- No benches for stopping , sitting
- Needs natural surveillance



Preferred (Number of Dots): 6

Likes:

- Mural (+2)
- Art
- Art, trees
- Like incorporating art, although maybe not the best photo
- Like the use of artwork and different types of plants used. Maybe more water permeable ground cover would be nice
- Must still be uniquely Baltimore. Including art galvanizes support of other demographics & provides jobs to community artists
- That's great. Create more of this.

Dislikes:

- Art in the garden is great but the garden could be more vibrant
- Ground cover instead of grass?
- This is the most high maintenance garden in Baltimore! (Although obviously I love it anyway)
- Misused space – should be a foundation for tall apartment/condo building
- What do I do here? Lean on the building in the thin band of shade for about 3 minutes.
- I see minimal green in this space amid a lot of mulch and rocks. It looks like it wants to discourage life, not celebrate it (not the mural, that's great)
- Looks barren
- Too much stone



Preferred (Number of Dots): 17

Likes:

- Nice walkway over plantings but more trees/benches/interest for the area to the left would be good. (+1)
- Like the wood boardwalk (+1)
- For stormwater management & beautiful (+1)
- Keep trees
- Play sports?
- Very functional – one large, versatile space

Dislikes:

- More trees please (+1)
- Need trees (+1)
- Plant water tolerant trees in the wet areas (+1)
- Need more trees... maybe fruit trees on lawn
- Seating looks too low



Preferred (Number of Dots): 0

Likes:

- Good low maintenance solution
- Great place for flowers & herbs – has potential!

Dislikes:

- This space seems uninspired (+2)
- Where is bench? (+1)
- Wildflower garden?
- This is ugly – need grass.



Preferred (Number of Dots): 4

Likes:

- The more natural look is a nice contrast. Also easier to maintain
- Able to walk through
- Great for access down streets/neighborhoods
- The seating area is good but more planting needs to be added

Dislikes:

- No shade
- Need more trees
- This is OK, get weed and feed. More trees and shrubs
- Doesn't appear hospitable to people to stay/gather/etc. Unsubstantial planting, no shade.
- More of a pass through
- Misused space. Should be the foundation of a tall apartment building for affordable housing



Preferred (Number of Dots): 5

Likes:

- I like that it is next to a school & contrails rainwater run-off but the plants could be more varied (+2)
- Like that this is connected to a school
- Incorporating educational opportunities by providing proximity to community use
- Near school – every school should have a green space for learning & playing
- Nice rain garden for stormwater management
- Nice native plantings; stormwater remediation

Dislikes:

- While this is great at a school, it doesn't seem inviting or aesthetically pleasing (+1)
- Dislike – no play area/children/youth recreation opportunity
- If it's a school, where is the play area?
- No people using
- Bench?
- Don't like the weeds



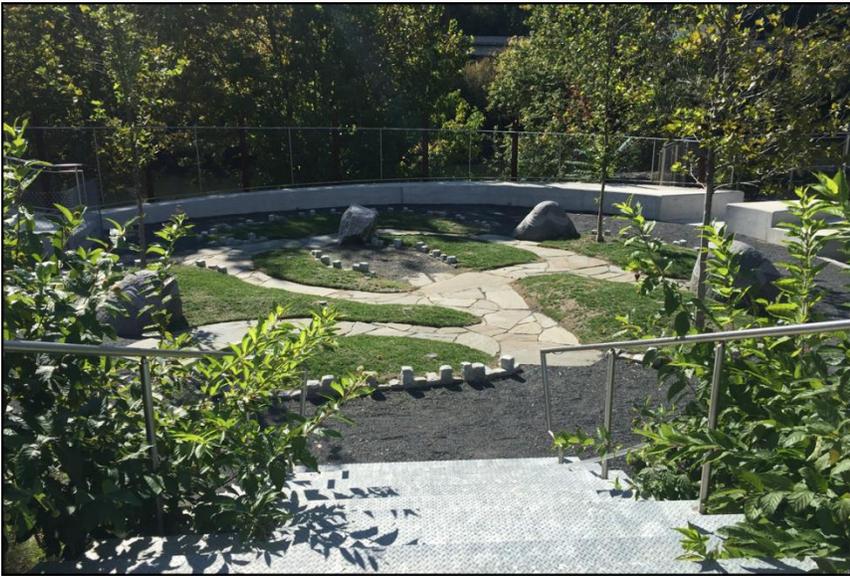
Preferred (Number of Dots): 14

Likes:

- Love passive recreation space/lawn for those who live in rowhouses/apartments (+2)
- Happy families!
- Welcoming, inviting, versatile open space with attractive & diverse shady features; lets public decide how to enjoy it
- People live in adjacent properties. This family would not use this space in this way if the community did not feel stable.

Dislikes:

- Need seating
- Bench?
- Benches
- Stone, cement, or sustainable wood seating/tables
- Surely there is more to green spaces beyond turf



Preferred (Number of Dots): 15

Likes:

- Attractive shape (+1)
- Central gathering area (paved)
- Interesting natural play space
- Public accommodating; easy maintenance

Dislikes:

- Don't like little rocks
- Is there a ramp somewhere out of the photo?
- Contrived
- Where are the people?
- I'd rather this were a walking labyrinth for meditation, inspiration, introspection. As it is, it is just confusing
- I don't know what you do here. You look at it. It's organized but – like those sand zen gardens with stone and baby rake. Hmm



Preferred (Number of Dots): 22

Likes:

- Flowering trees (+3)
- Plant fruit trees feed people (+2)
- I love the flowering trees, but if they could be fruit trees that could be harvested & donated to a homeless shelter or food bank, that would be best (+1)
- My favorite. Easy to mow with the large green space and shade trees. Trees must be planted naturalistically not in straight rigid rows (+1)
- Great space. Large. Lots of trees.
- It's so open and has the potential for multiple possibilities
- The promise of spring and hope's renewal

Dislikes:

- No natural surveillance from adjacent community
- Open fields of area parks are being cluttered with new trees obstructing play areas and open views
- Trees planted in a row in an open field
- Open simplicity natural
- Deceptively high-maintenance. Also has issues during drought.



Preferred (Number of Dots): 21

Likes:

- Love incorporation of art in nature (+3)
- Illustrates the examples of stormwater management in an urban environment. Also really like the artwork. (+3)
- Like the combo of art and stormwater management. Visually attractive and functional. (+1)
- Play areas help program a space! Designated uses help. (+1)
- Nice art work
- Art to bring in and heighten value & purpose for environmental enhancement
- Multi-use
- Multiuse space with tables
- Love green cut grass, no weeds

Dislikes:

- Too much space dedicated to impermeable surface (+1)
- Needs more green (+1)
- Uneven surfaces (around trees) are already less accessible so please improve drainage. Don't pave between trees
- The plant areas need to be maintained
- Attractive & low maintenance. Weeds are contained to run off area.
- No people



Preferred (Number of Dots): 2

Likes:

- Aesthetically pleasing like art to be appreciated
- Historic fence
- This lot was put into production as an urban farm (Whitelock Community Farm) this summer. Needs an updated picture.

Dislikes:

- Poor access, uninviting, bland (+2)
- Only grass? Needs trees, seating, and access (+1)
- This space needs more plants to make it useful to pollinators and inviting (+1)
- No Trees
- Not environmental friendly; trees, plants
- Shrubs and flowers needed; too much grass
- Don't like the base expanse of grass. Too much upkeep/water for our city. Needs to have shade to preserve water and more varied plants.
- Minimal opportunity taken advantage of space for nature/people, art, etc.
- Could be used to grow food.



Preferred (Number of Dots): 10

Likes:

- Tables bring people together (+1)
- Shade
- Great spot
- Cozy/serene corner in a city. Great!
- Great spot to read/rest – beautiful stone work. Why not? Too small for a football field.

Dislikes:

- If public, would have to be diligent about maintenance – trash pickup (+1)
- Seems very private, not easily accessible
- No visible accessible entrance, no access seating at tables
- Seems like an outdoor café; would tables, etc. get stolen?
- I would be concerned that the umbrella & tables would disappear. Use something more permanent.
- Multipurpose



Preferred (Number of Dots): 28

Likes:

- All schools in city should use greenhouse to teach gardening (+1)
- Great teaching/learning space (+1)
- Space for food growing, not sitting
- Food gardening
- This would be a great way to teach kids where their food comes from
- Great for a community garden, would be great in food deserts
- Growing food
- Makes urban land productive
- Colorful
- Nice for small neighborhood in city
- Multiple functions in one space

Dislikes:

- No accessible seating space
- I see the picnic table – this is a high energy work space.
- Needs shade
- Better signage and need a few trees



Preferred (Number of Dots): 26

Likes:

- Shady (+1)
- Looks like nice, quiet space (+1)
- Shaded benches are a great asset to society. (+1)
- Cool, calm, quite, private; I see water. I want to read here, meet a friend to talk.
- Seating looks private; good mix of paved path & grass
- Nice quiet space shady would be nice in areas in hear islands
- Nice space

Dislikes:

- Isolated (+1)
- I'd be concerned about security at night in this space
- Security concern
- Too much paving
- Too much paved space for me
- Bland



Preferred (Number of Dots):25

Likes:

- Wild looking flowers, not much maintenance required (+2)
- Bird, bees, butterfly habitat, plus recreation for kids; multipurpose (+2)
- Native Plants – low water, low maintenance; recreation (+1)
- Nature opportunity combined with other uses
- Upton needs this; will help with preventative health
- Attractive plants and vegetation around an outdoor fitness area encourages people to work out
- Native plants & place for sports
- Lush plantings

Dislikes:

- Plants fenced/gated
- Will be full of multiflora rose and trash fines in a few years; high maintenance costs



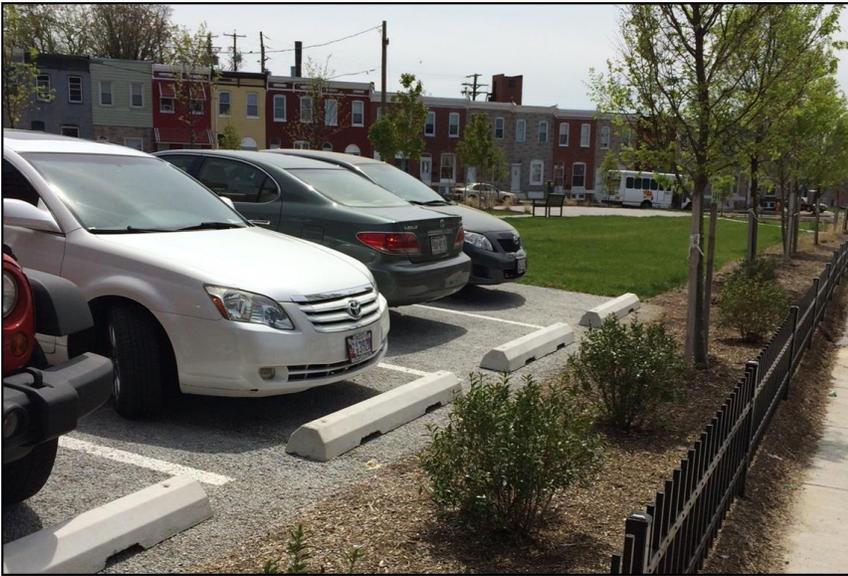
Preferred (Number of Dots):24

Likes:

- Dense greenery, trails, place to sit and meditate (+2)
- I like the feeling I get from this picture of being immersed in nature. The vegetation is dense and is kind of this urban oasis. (+2)
- I like the density and mix of vegetation. Cooling, provide habitat, connection to nature. (+1)
- Need to protect water ways (+1)
- Forest patches (+1)
- Mystery - What is beyond corner? (+1)
- Carbon sequestration and stormwater management (+1)
- Natural wild country feel
- Night lighting is great!
- Walkable. Lighting.

Dislikes:

- Safety factor access into + out of space (+2)
- Less grass
- I don't like the overgrown bushes and weeds. Keep it clean and maintained.
- I'd be concerned about security at night in this space.
- Would like wider paths for different users.



Preferred (Number of Dots): 2

Likes:

- Catching polluted runoff from impervious surface and cars (+1)
- Green opportunities every where
- Parking for easy access

Dislikes:

- BLAH! (+1)
- Plants are too much of an afterthought in this space (+1)
- Lip-service to green (+1)
- Too empty, not enough invitation for people to engage with the space (+1)
- Not natural, provides little eco benefit (+1)
- Car-centric
- This looks a little sad, almost as though plants were an afterthought



Preferred (Number of Dots): 16

Likes:

- Attracting other senses – smell (+1)
- Great density of plants in small lot
- Green space not limited to parks – should be visible all over our city. Maximizes resident happiness (+1)
- A beautiful community instills pride
- Empowering individual homeowners to be able to incorporate green spaces in their own property
- I like that the space is around where people are already dwelling in between/next to their homes
- Beauty is a value to be incorporated
- Great color & plantings help us see the seasons change. Not just grass. Water can get there.
- Colors, no mowing
- Put some pine trees on lot

Dislikes:

- Looks difficult to access to work on it (+2)
- High maintenance non-native plants (+1)
- Orange mulch and white rocks (+1)



Preferred (Number of Dots): 3

Likes:

- Access to park for adjacent rowhouses; permeable paving in urban soils
- This can work if a bird feeder and benches are available

Dislikes:

- Horrible – you don't "green" a place with more pavement (+3)
- No seating place (+2)
- No seating. No people.
- Too much hardscape
- Pavement does not provide any real green space in are with lots of pavement
- The paving is too prominent in this plan. The grass should be eliminated and more native plants used for biodiversity
- More plants – bird, bee, butterfly; less mulch/brick; benches; not enough green, soccer, recreation, kids
- If any space needs trees, this is the one
- No trees, barely any vegetation, don't like paved ground
- Get rid of the weed plants
- Don't ever see used



Preferred (Number of Dots): 17

Likes:

- Lovely planting combinations
- Aesthetic appeal; looks like rocks address stormwater runoff
- Great as rain garden for areas that flood easily
- Beautiful and functional stormwater management
- Multiple types of surface = good stormwater management. Very important in age of increasing storm intensity and failing stormwater infrastructure
- Awesome
- Appeal for large areas – structure, natural, low maintenance. I could lose myself here.

Dislikes:

- No benches
- Lack of people
- Beautiful plants; where is accessibility?
- Needs more riparian trees; lose the evergreen



Preferred (Number of Dots): 52

Likes:

- Illustrate importance of urban agriculture opportunities to connect communities with fresh produce (+1)
- Gardens promote sense of ownership. These places need stewardship. (+1)
- Gardening areas are really needed in our community. If this was near a school it could be used to teach kids where food comes from and how to grow flowers & vegetables (+1)
- Good opportunity to learn/teach how to grow food
- Food to grow – learning skills; Food to eat – sustaining life; Food to sell – making a living
- This is amazing. Donating vegetables from the community garden back into the community would be a great way to combat food deserts
- Great urban garden. Please visit & gather harvest.
- Urban garden
- Anywhere food is grown is a good space
- Food access.
- Possible welfare-to-work gateway job for returning citizens/homeless?
- Great – urban gardening promotes social and environmental sustainability
- Works for me! People interact. Work gets done by locals. Food gets shared.
- Great opportunity for urban gardeners & build community
- Maintained community garden
- No bench

Dislikes:

- No bench (+1)
- No benches
- Needs space to gather as well as garden and cultivate
- Other uses not visible
- Urban farms should be in pocket areas
- Very specific use, only serves those who enjoy gardening, may be good use of space if supported; difficult to maintain



Preferred (Number of Dots): 31

Likes:

- Create network of bike paths (+3)
- Natural feel to it; great potential for pollinator habitat (+3)
- Great for beneficial insects (+3)
- I love the use of native plants in this space (+2)
- Biodiversity (+1)
- Path looks accessible
- Walkable, bikeable; good visibility over/through plants
- Great open trails for walking or biking; native plants
- Love bike path and varied plantings
- Great open trails for walking or biking; native plants
- Native looking habitat & aesthetic incorporated with trail system

Dislikes:

- Needs seating (+1)
- No bench
- Plants look like weeds; choose another plant or bush
- No trees



Preferred (Number of Dots): 8

Likes:

- There's parking and space to hang out and beautiful plantings! 3 for 1! (+1)
- Good use of a small lot, mulch is nicely used, it looks nicer than pavement
- Great outdoor space
- Clean
- I like this with mulch

Dislikes:

- Boring – so much more could be done here (+1)
- No bench
- In someone's backyard
- Boring. Lack of planting in planting beds. Mulch as an amenity.
- Flowers? Native plants?

What did we forget?

- Grow Food, Not Lawns (+3)
 - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
 - Benefits:
 - Environmental (Local production of healthy food)
 - Air quality (lower transportation emissions, O₂ production, CO₂ sequestration)
 - Water infiltration, catchment system for Agriculture to reduce runoff & sediment transport
 - Soil fertility building
 - Social: community involvement crime prevention, employment opportunities, healthier citizens, greater quality of life, & many more
 - Economic: lower health care costs, (pay the farmer now, or pay the doctor later), employment opportunities for production, processing & distribution (mobile delivery service of locally produced goods), higher property values etc.
- Orchards (free and open to the public) (+2)
- More food forests like the one at Clifton Park (+2)
- Close access to water a MUST! (+2)
- Would like to see some artificial wetlands creation done with drainage ponds. (+1)
- Decorative Fountains!! (+1)
- Will High School Students (Baltimore City) be a part of the planning process (+1)
- Combined green and water spaces (+1)
- Where's Patterson Park in these examples? Where are Baltimore's historic residential squares? Big and bold won't happen with vacant lot reuse. (+1)
- Use Green Network space for more recreational opportunities for youth, ballfields, etc. (+1)
- Residential square (+1)
- Integrated spaces: green infrastructure as part of other infrastructure like public transit and mixed use spaces (+1)
- Where is "network" linking spaces throughout city (somewhat similar to Olmsted) (+1)
- It would be nice to see green spaces that incorporate water (lake, pond, stream, etc.) (+1)
- Green activity spaces – playgrounds, sports areas
- Green rooftops, green walls, buildings/ businesses already existing becoming green spaces
- Permaculture the City
- Marble Granite or Brick Pavements Pervious
- Neighbors will have to take some responsibility for care & maintenance
- Dog exercise areas where you could be able to let a dog RUN
- Spaces that allow public participation (i.e. maintenance). This is important as many are concerned about the connection between the community & business/organizations

- Start early, but there should be a discussion on how this information could be used together to provide decision support
- Historic preservation or recycling of building materials
- This plan should be in 2 areas in the city. We will see a big difference if a lot of work is done. If we work all over the city it is difficult to see progress.