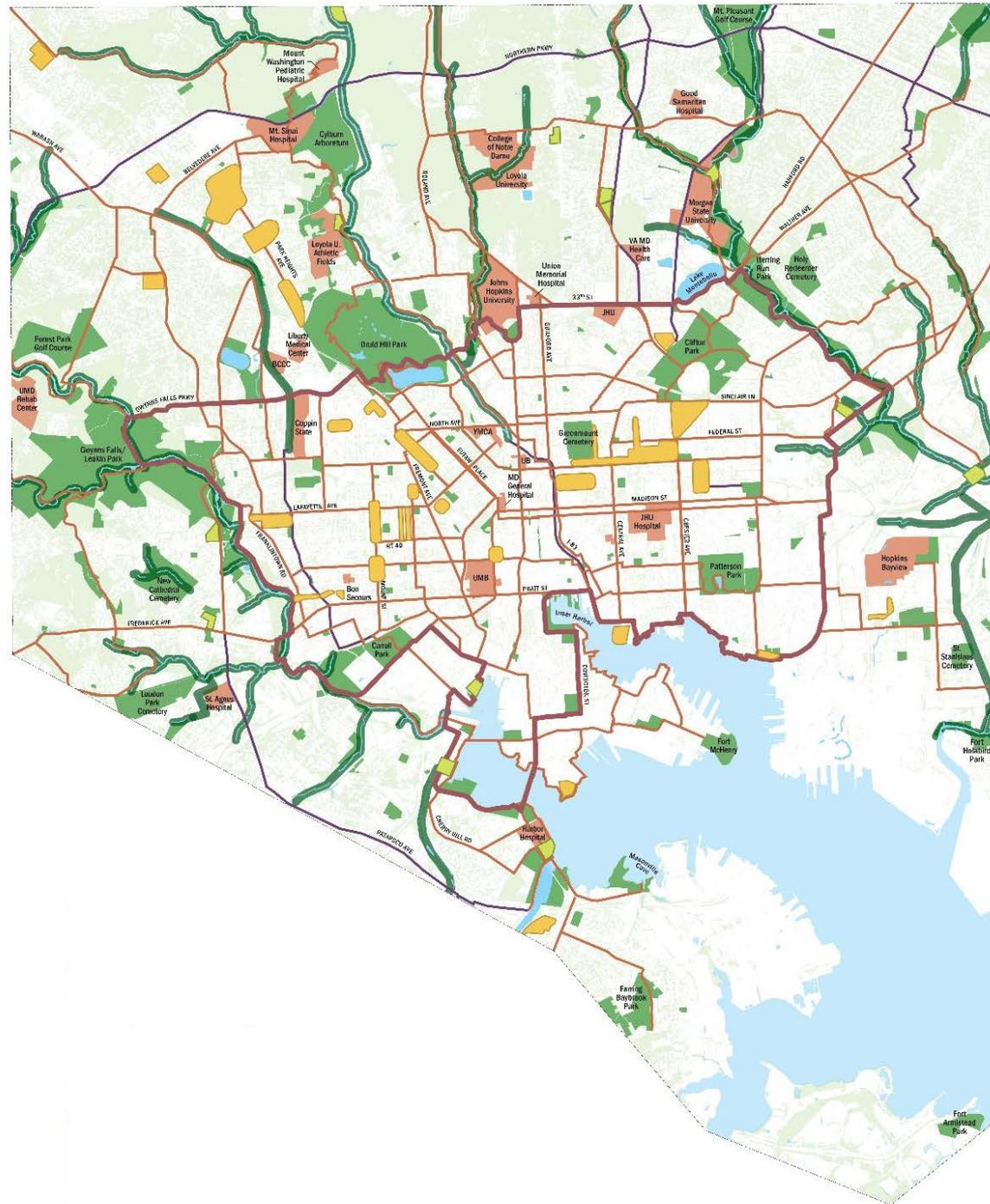


INTRODUCING

THE BALTIMORE CITY GREEN NETWORK VISION PLAN



GOALS OF THE GREEN NETWORK PLAN

Protect and enhance the unique ecological resources of our city

Support economic growth and sustainable redevelopment of vacant lands across the city

Improve the quality of life of city residents and strengthen the social fabric of our community

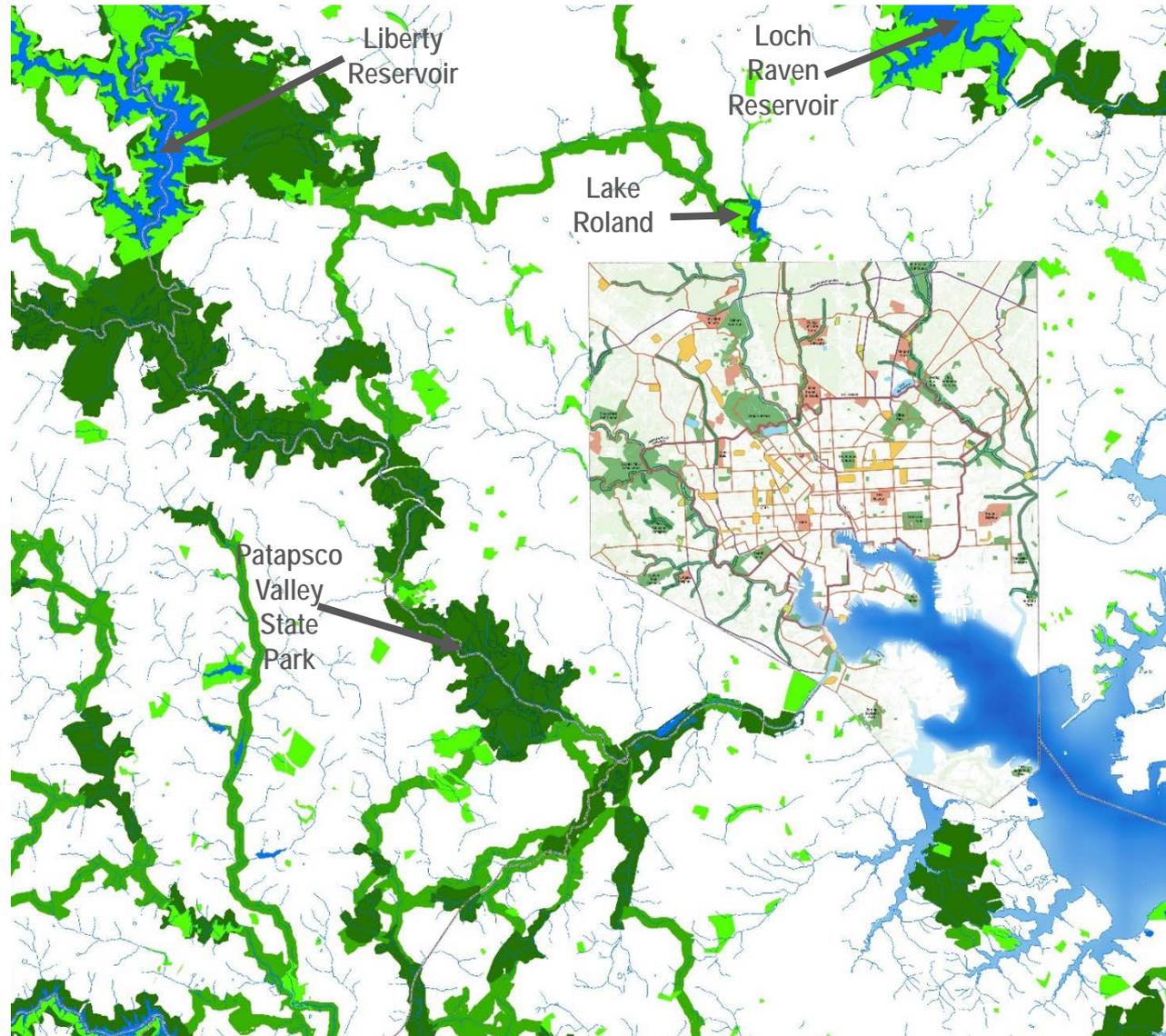
- Improve and support health and wellness of city residents
- Educate about the benefits and function of natural resources
- Provide safe access through the city



SETTING THE CONTEXT

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

Through the Green Network Plan, Baltimore City has the opportunity to connect to regional green infrastructure corridors and hubs including Patapsco State Park and our regional reservoirs.



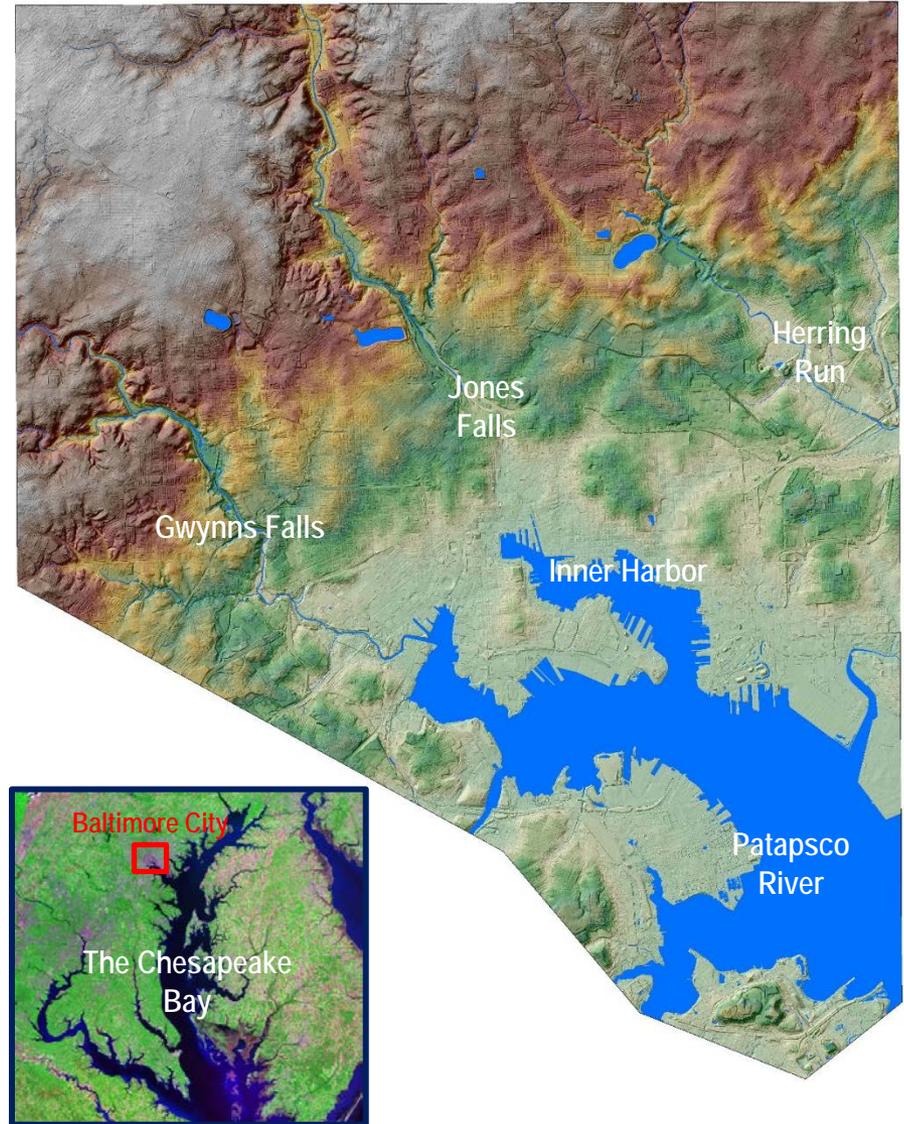
SETTING THE CONTEXT

THE WATERWAYS THAT DEFINE OUR CITY

Baltimore developed along the stream valleys that connect to the Inner Harbor. These natural systems supported our industry and our place in the national economy.

The Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run are the 3 main streams that empty into the Inner Harbor and join with the Patapsco River to drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

These waterways are a key part of the **Green Network** that this plan aims to define and celebrate for all residents.

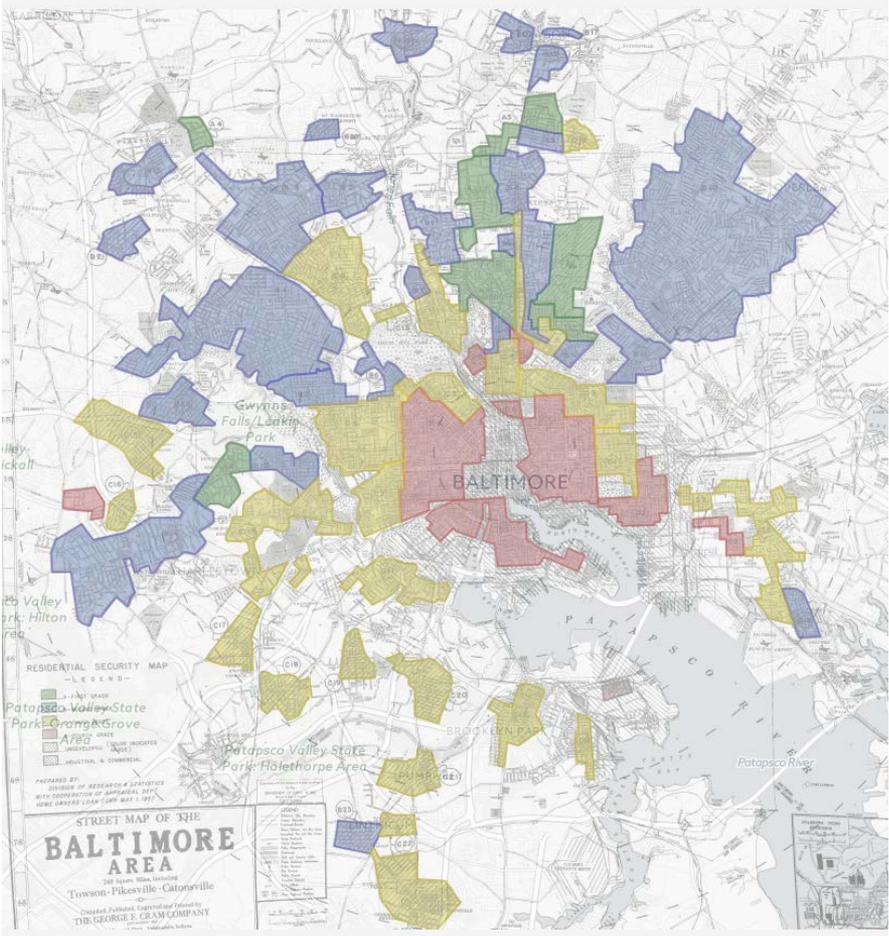


SETTING THE CONTEXT

SOCIAL LEGACY – DISINVESTMENT

This Green Network plan aims to provide new opportunities for areas experiencing high levels of vacancy and lower levels of economic investment.

Greening and improved maintenance of green spaces and vacant lots can improve the economic vitality of neighborhoods still adversely affected by the legacy of harmful policies like mortgage redlining. The Green Network Plan envisions increased access to open space, recreation, and natural areas for residents who live in communities that lack adequate green amenities.

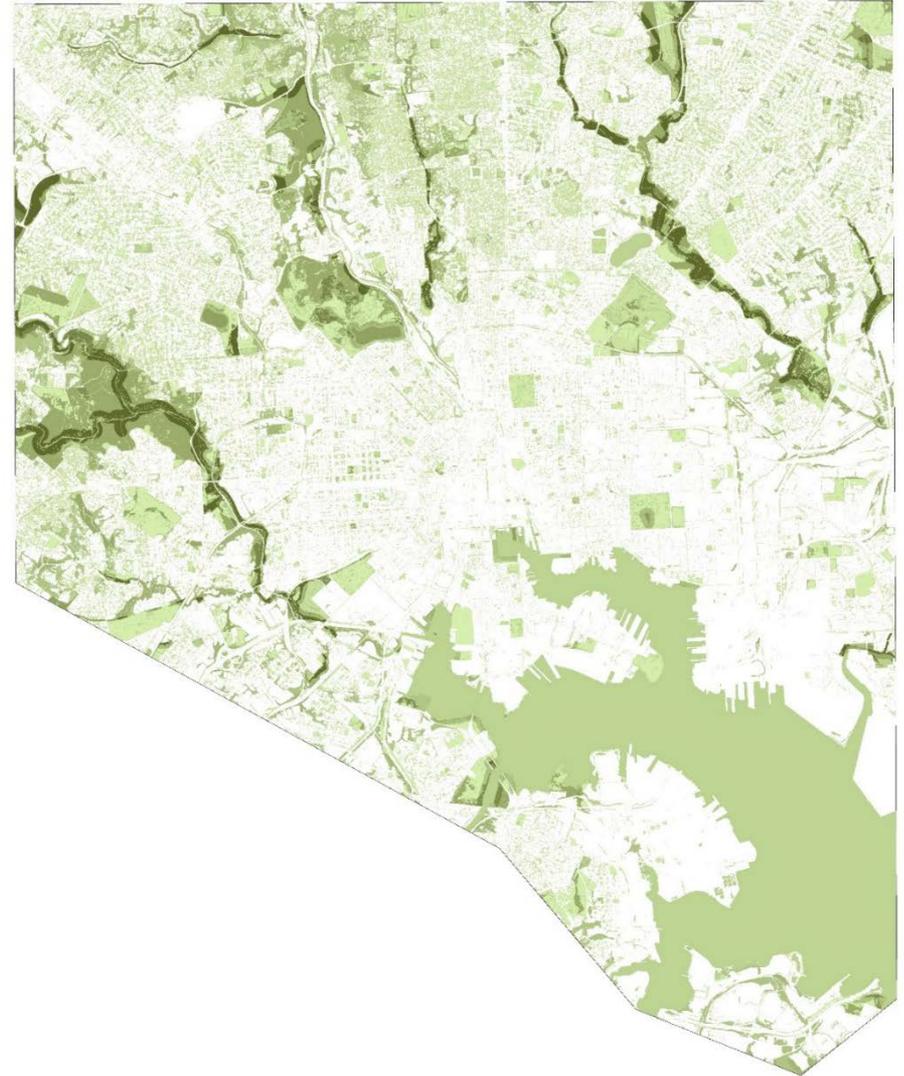


SETTING THE CONTEXT

EXISTING GREEN NETWORK

Environmental benefits and open space access already exist in many parts of Baltimore City, visible in this map of our existing green network spaces: **parks, forest cover, streams, community managed open space, stormwater practices, urban farms, pocket parks, recreation, and cemeteries.**

The Green Network Vision Plan will create **stronger connections and improved access for all city residents**, while improving economic conditions and environmental quality.



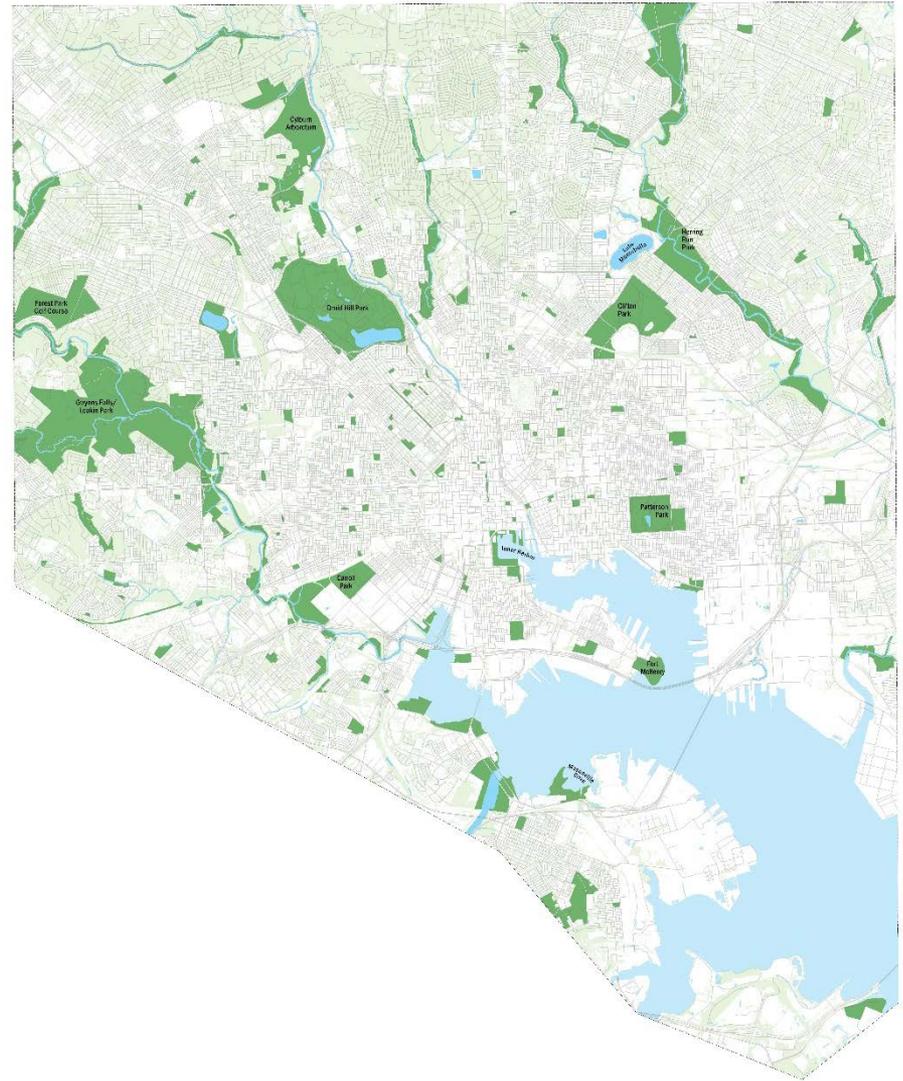
SETTING THE CONTEXT

EXISTING PARKS

One vital part of our existing green network is our parks system. There are large parks associated with our three main waterways that are destinations for residents from across the city, but there are not always easy ways for all residents to access these parks.

There are also many smaller parks that serve individual communities.

The Green Network Vision Plan **aims to strengthen the connections between our communities and our park system**, while ensuring that residents have access to open space for rest, play, and healthy living within their neighborhoods as well.



SETTING THE CONTEXT

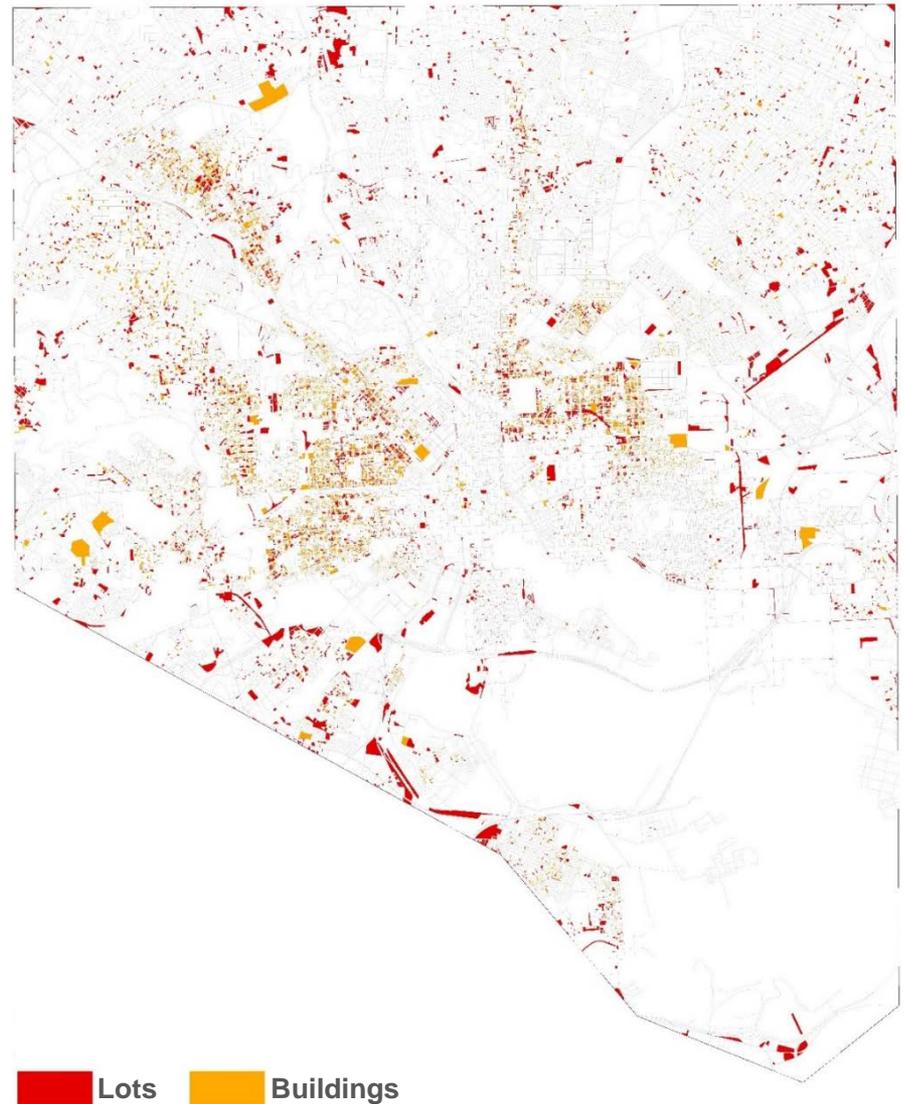
VACANTS

Baltimore City currently has approximately 30,000 vacants.

- 16,000 vacant buildings
- 14,000 vacant lots

The Green Network Vision Plan views vacants as an opportunity to replace blight with attractive, new green spaces.

Neighborhoods challenged with high vacancy tend to have fewer green amenities. Correcting this imbalance and providing residents better access to nature and recreation has been shown to have public health and safety benefits.

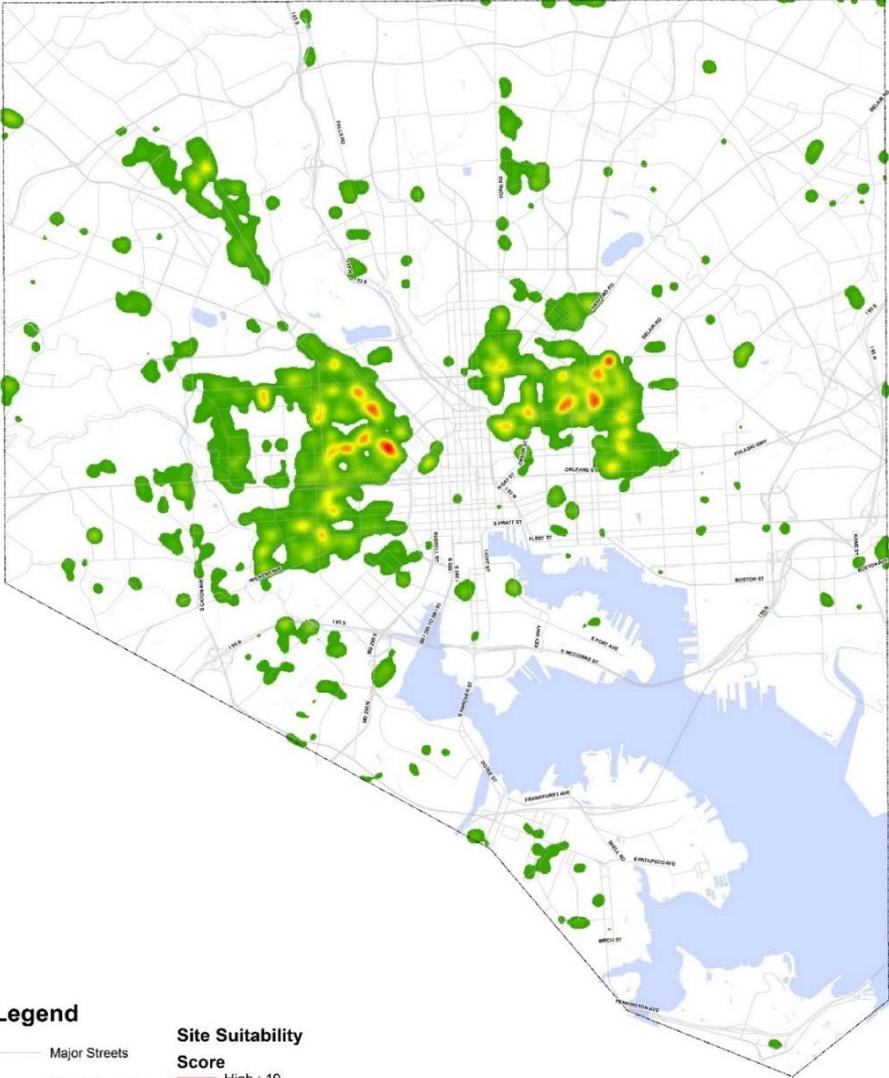


ANALYSIS

HOT SPOTS: THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES

This Hot Spots map, highlighted in red and yellow, shows the **best places to begin building the Green Network**.

This hot spot map is built from existing and historic layers of our parks, streams, trees, open space, and vacant properties to identify **opportunities for new and better green space connections in our city**.



ANALYSIS

FOCUS AREAS

As part of the Green Network Plan process, community workshops were held in **four clusters of neighborhoods, or Focus Areas**.

The four initial focus areas are:

- **West Baltimore:** Harlem Park & Sandtown-Winchester
- **Southwest Baltimore:** Boyd Booth, Carrollton Ridge, & Shipley Hill
- **Central:** Druid Heights & Upton
- **East Baltimore:** Broadway East, South Clifton Park, Biddle and Middle East

Community members expressed their neighborhood challenges and goals, and helped identify **pilot greening projects** for their neighborhoods.



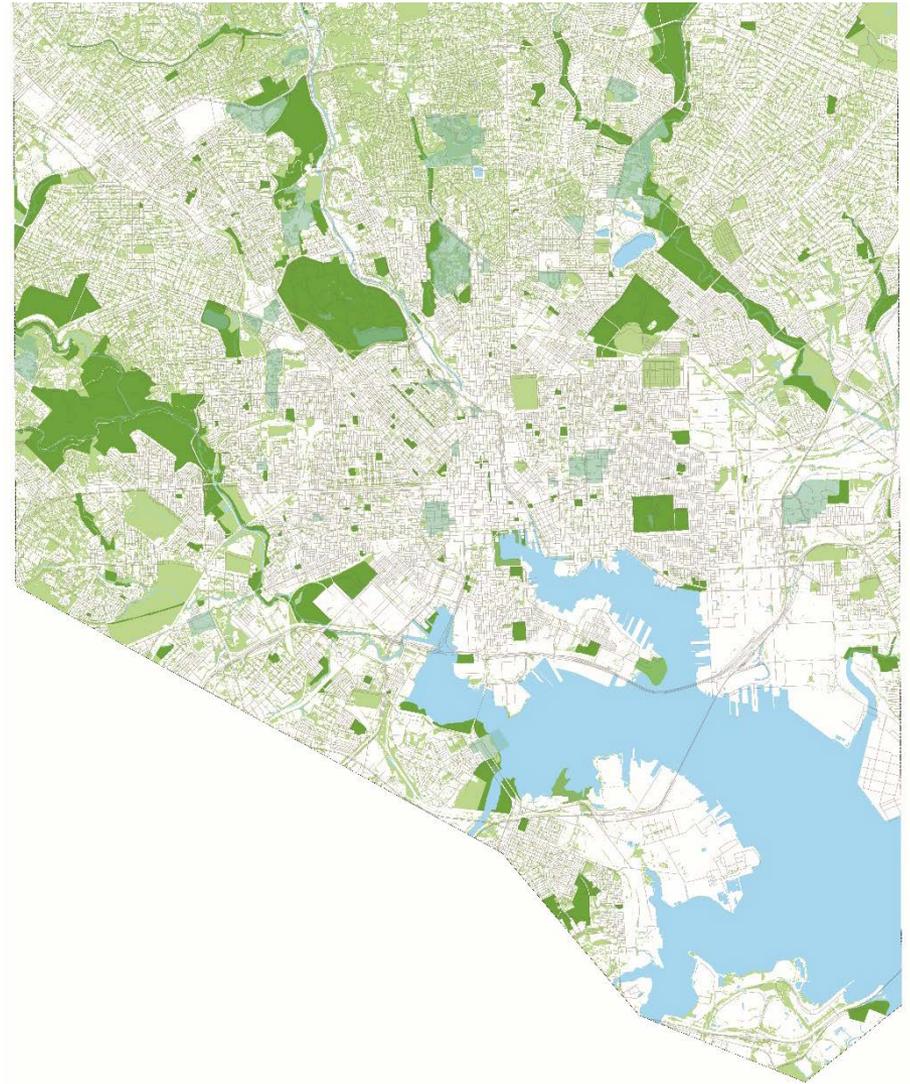
CREATING THE NETWORK

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Using all of the available data, as well as input from community residents, and feedback from stakeholders and city leadership, the Green Network has begun to take shape.

The next series of slides presents each key element of the City's **DRAFT Vision** for the Baltimore City Green Network Plan.

The plan is based on a set of **Corridors and Nodes** that together establish the Green Network Vision for the next 10- 20 years in Baltimore City.



CREATING THE NETWORK



CORRIDORS

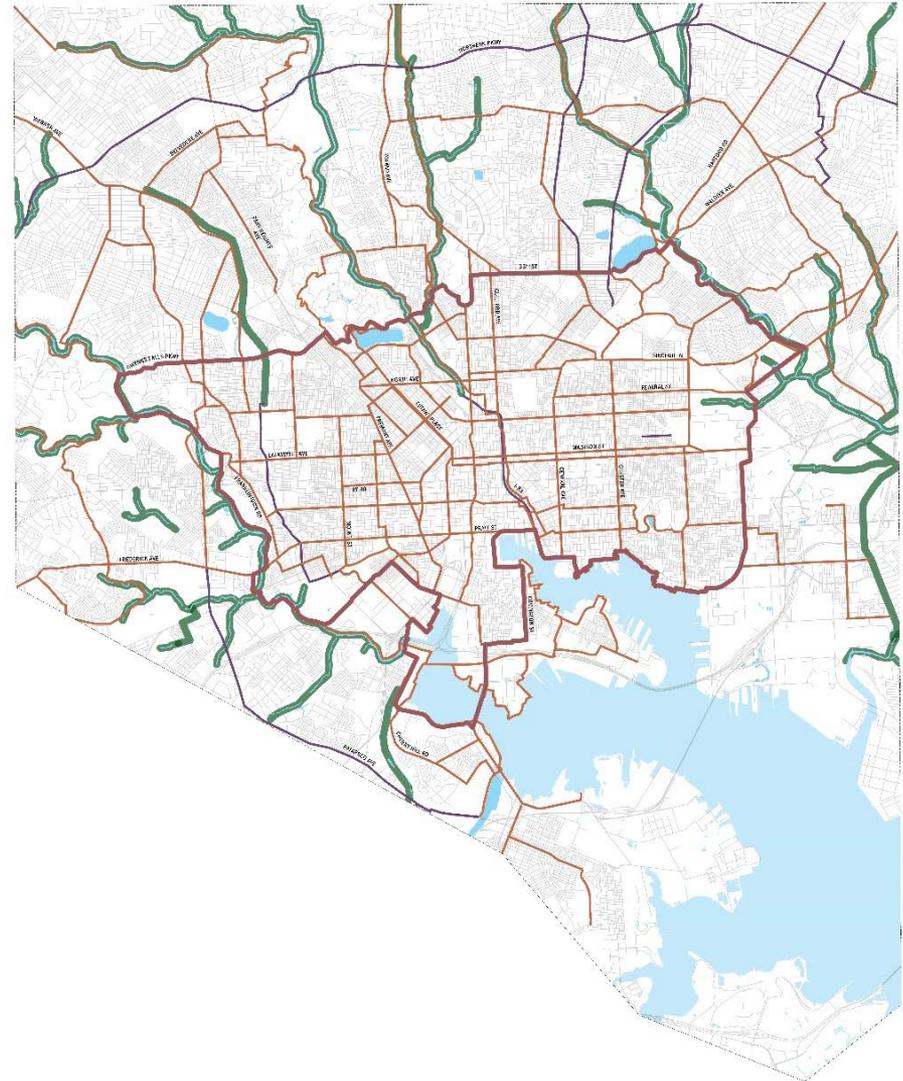


Green Network Corridors

Tree-lined boulevards will connect parks and open-spaces to schools and neighborhood retail districts. Enhanced stream corridors will provide habitat for wildlife and healthier waterways. These corridors of tree-lined streets, shaded trails, attractive plantings, and stormwater features will connect residents to nature and neighborhoods to one another.

There are three categories of corridors:

- People Corridors
- Parkway Corridors
- Nature Corridors



CREATING THE NETWORK

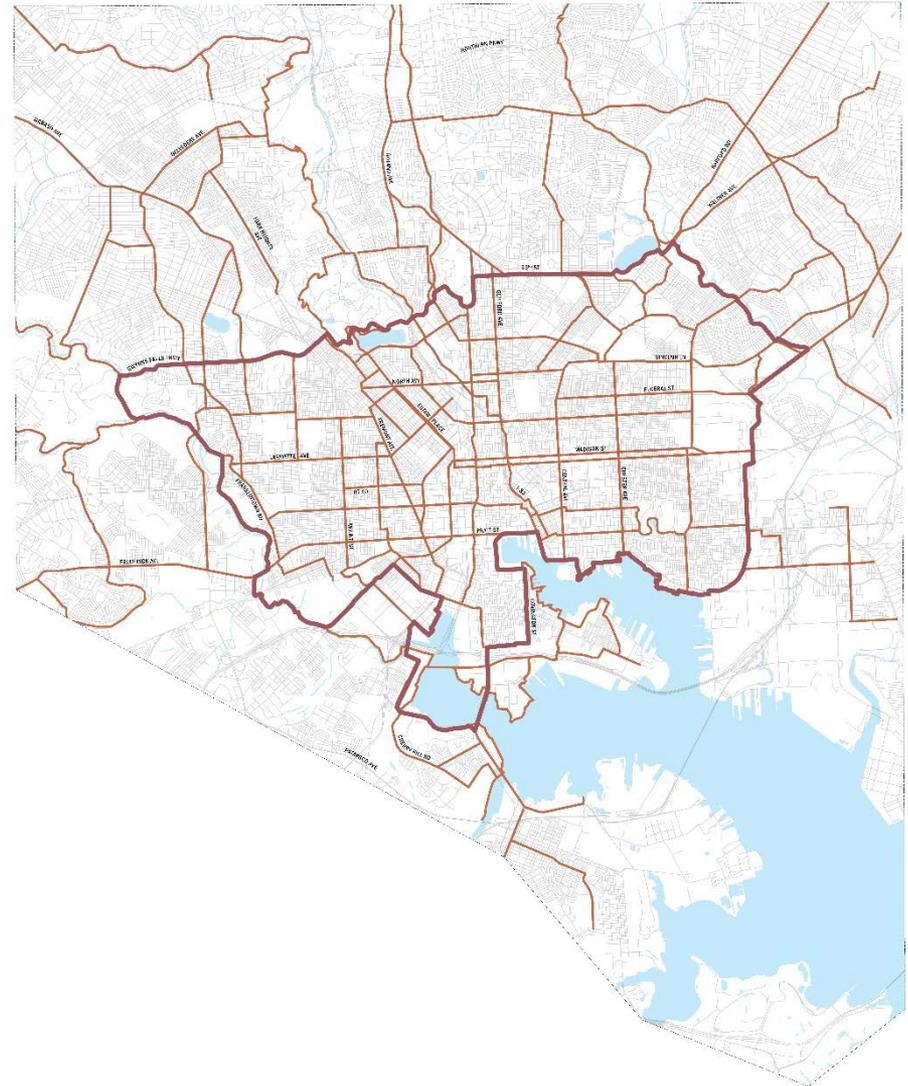


PEOPLE CORRIDORS

People-focused corridors will make safe connections for residents who walk or bike to schools, stores, parks, recreation centers, and more.

The proposed 35-mile Rails to Trails Loop is an important part of this corridor network, connecting neighborhoods and Green Network corridors around the city.

Corridors will include greening and elements such as street trees, median plantings, and bumpouts, improved sidewalks, protected bikeways, and improved and new trail connections.



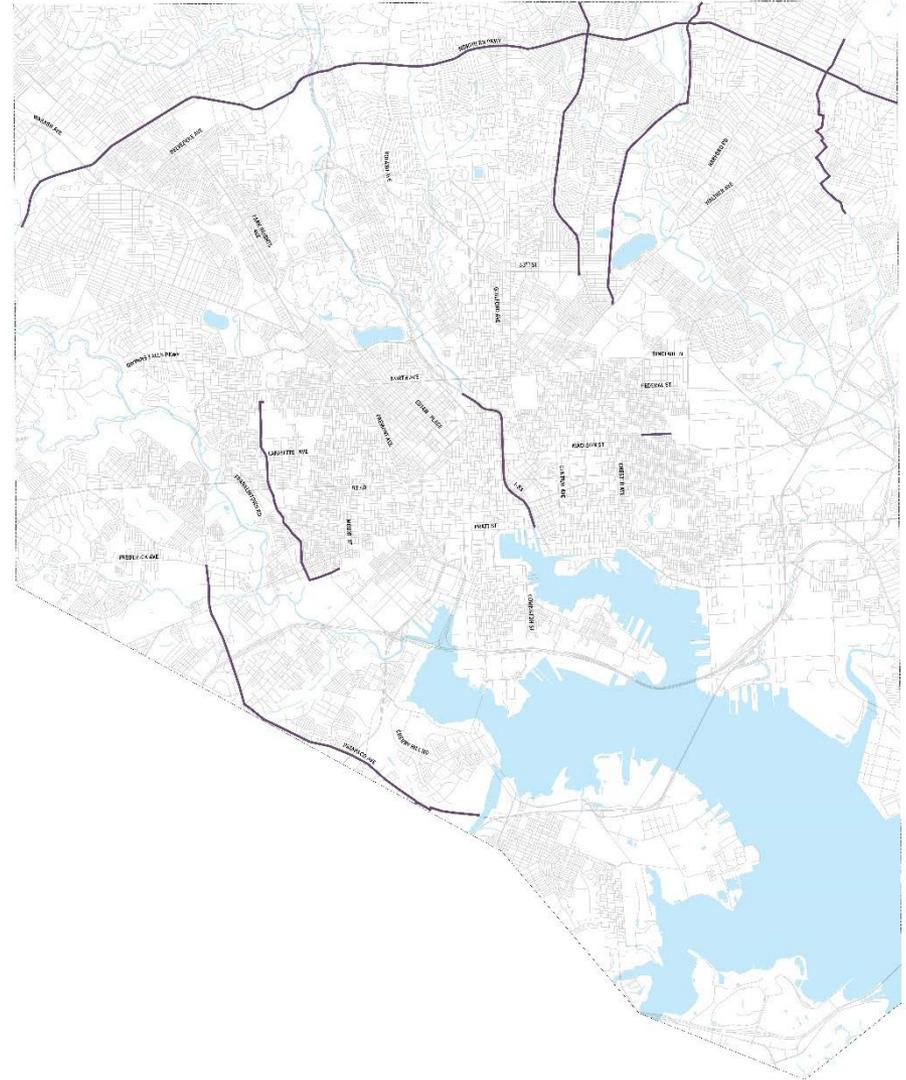
CREATING THE NETWORK



PARKWAY CORRIDORS

These busy vehicular **corridors include parkways and boulevards, as well as streets that align with historic streams.**

The plan recommends that these important connections to the network include stormwater management and increased tree canopy, as well as wildflower and shrub plantings in medians and street edges.



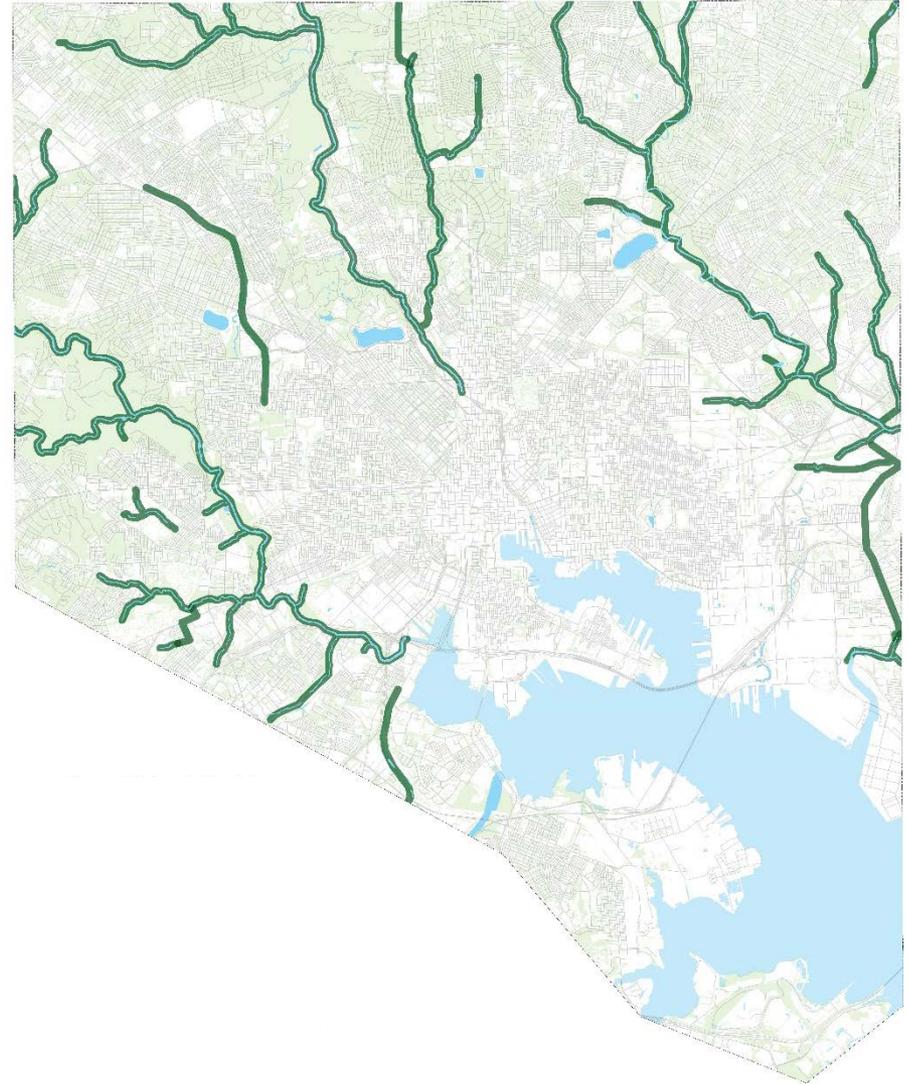
CREATING THE NETWORK



NATURE CORRIDORS

Our stream valleys--the Jones Falls, Herring Run, and Gwynns Falls streams--define Baltimore's landscape. These important **Nature Corridors need to be preserved and enhanced**, in order to support the health of our streams, Inner Harbor, the lower Patapsco River, and Chesapeake Bay. In some cases, these are the last semi-intact natural areas in the city.

The Nature Corridors also provide **habitat for native wildlife**. We need to preserve and expand these corridors with increased native tree canopy and understory plantings, management of invasive species, and stream channel restoration.



CREATING THE NETWORK



NODES

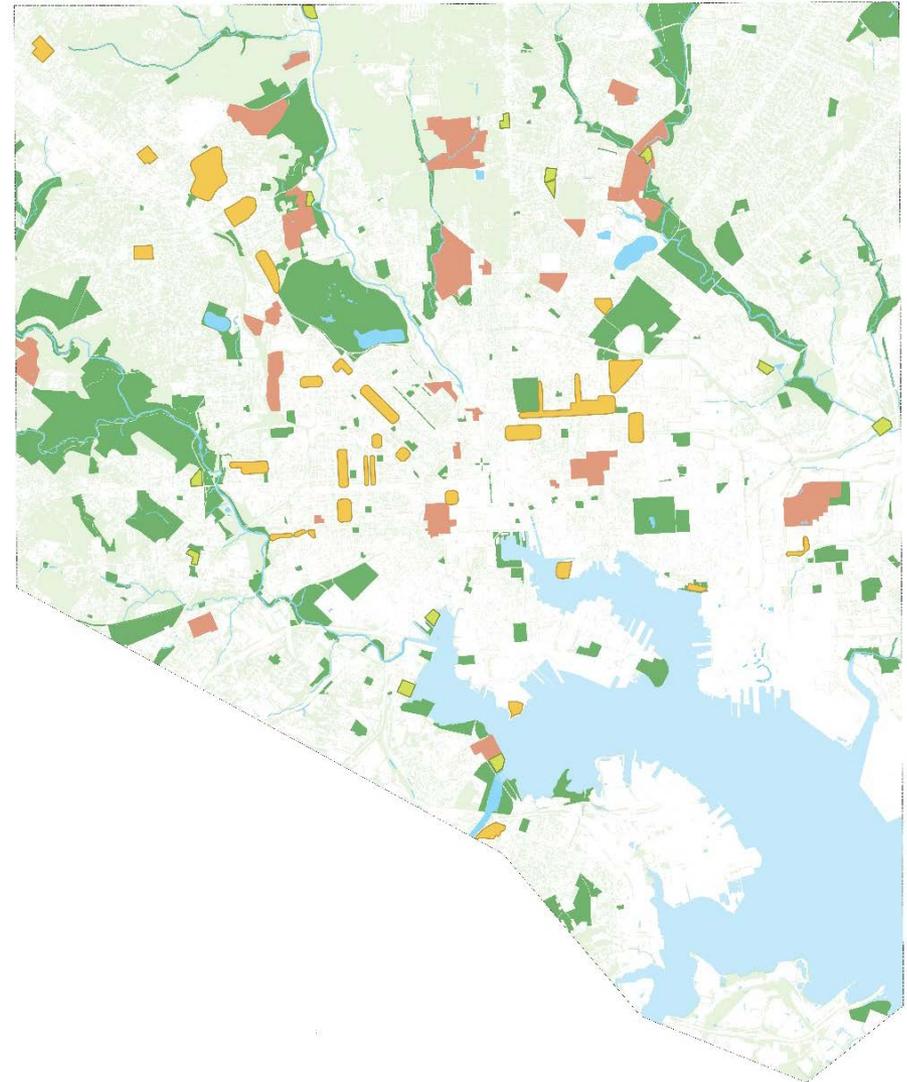


Green Network Nodes are where people and nature meet. Nodes might be parks, recreation areas, forest patches, open spaces for gathering or play, or green spaces within new development areas. Nodes are connected to each other by the Green Network corridors.

Nodes may have trees, benches, murals, flower gardens, sports fields, recreation centers, urban farms, playgrounds, stormwater treatment amenities and water features.

There are three categories of Nodes:

- Community Nodes
- Nature Nodes
- Existing Open Space and Anchor Institutions



CREATING THE NETWORK

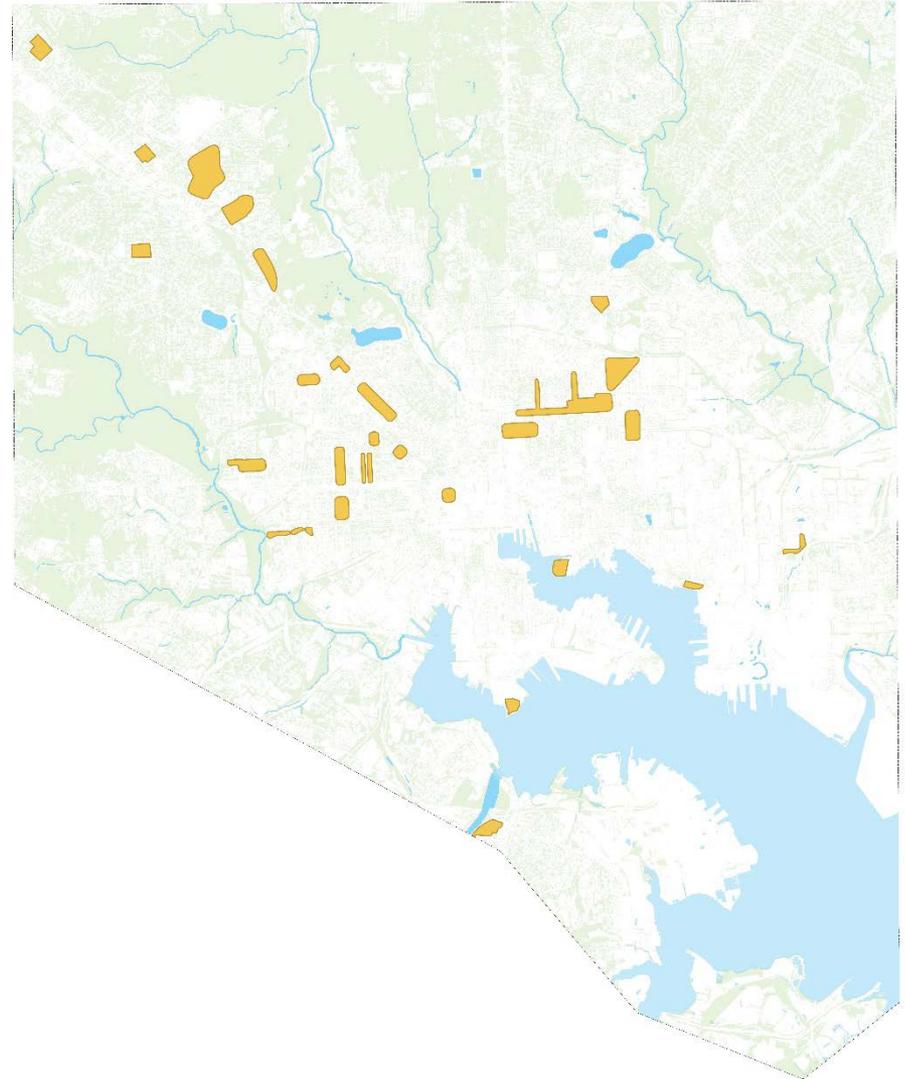


COMMUNITY NODES

These nodes **provide spaces for recreation, greening, new open space, and other amenities that support neighborhood social fabric and local real estate markets.**

Depending on the neighborhood, nodes might be areas for new development, community open space, or nature areas. They might have a spacious park or a new spot for urban farms or gardens that contribute to the local economy. The node might have a new playground, public art, or space for community events.

There also could be new habitat features like shade trees, meadows, or water features for stormwater management that bring new life to a basic green space.



CREATING THE NETWORK

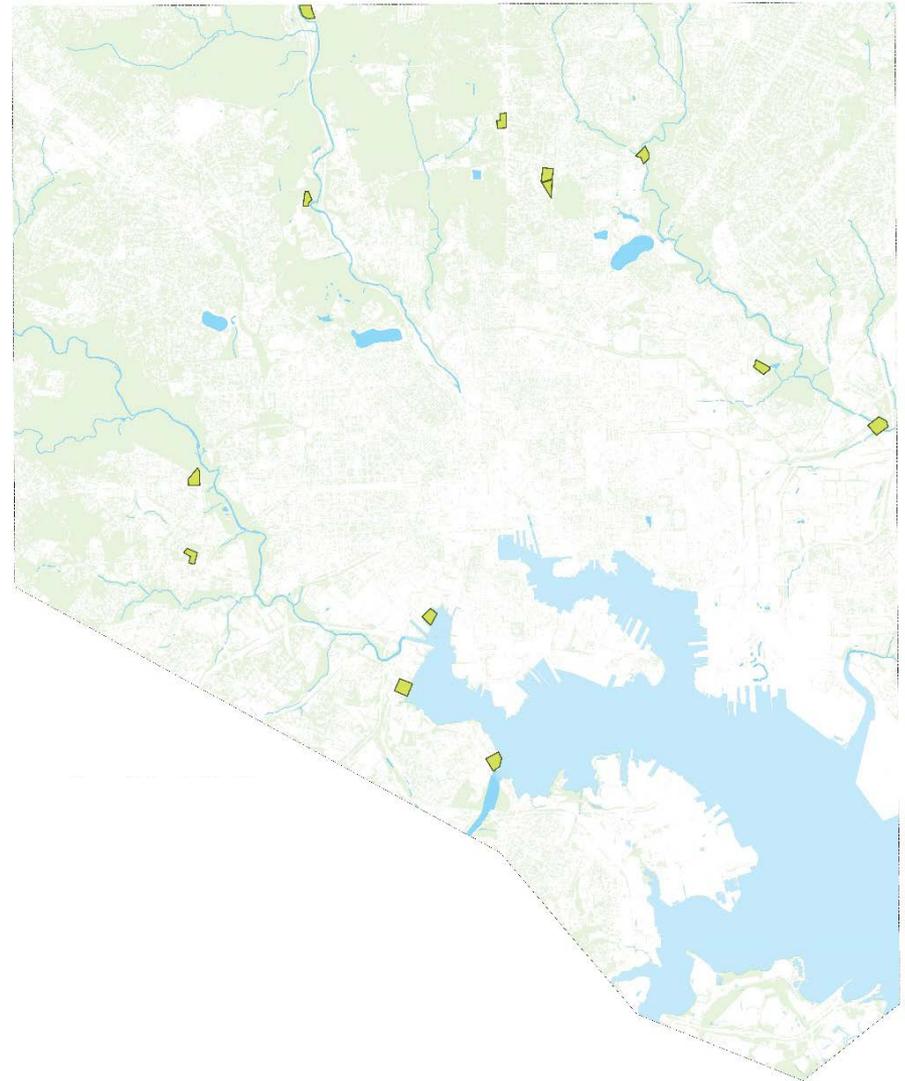


NATURE NODES

Relatively scarce in a dense urban setting, **Nature Nodes are locations for enhancing and expanding habitat** in forest patches, floodplain and wetlands near the nature corridors. These nodes provide habitat “stepping stones” for wildlife as they move across the city.

The nature nodes attract important wildlife for pollination in wildflower gardens and woodland patches. They provide habitat for wildlife that help keep our ecosystems healthy. They help catch, slow and clean rainwater. These nodes are cooler, shadier spots for people to spot urban wildlife like birds, butterflies, and fish.

Nodes may be small areas of upland woods, a restored floodplain forest, or a shoreline restoration.



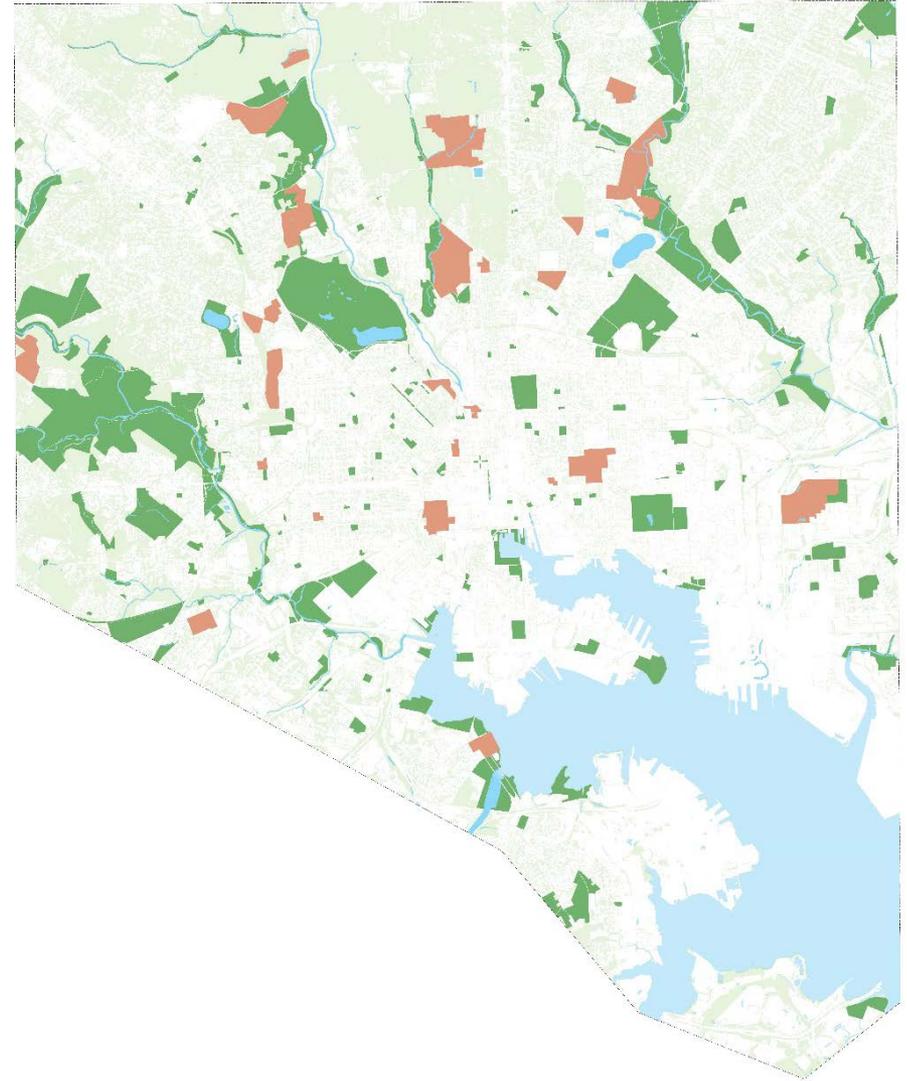
CREATING THE NETWORK



EXISTING OPEN SPACE and ANCHOR INSTITUTION NODES

These nodes include city parks, universities, cemeteries, hospitals, the Inner Harbor promenade and Fort McHenry. These nodes are used for social gatherings, play, recreation, and habitat. The City and private landholders can manage their sites for ecological as well as educational stewardship and healthy living. These are also important catalysts for economic investment and revitalization.

These existing nodes are important amenities for recreation, respite, habitat, and water quality, as well as community health and wellness.

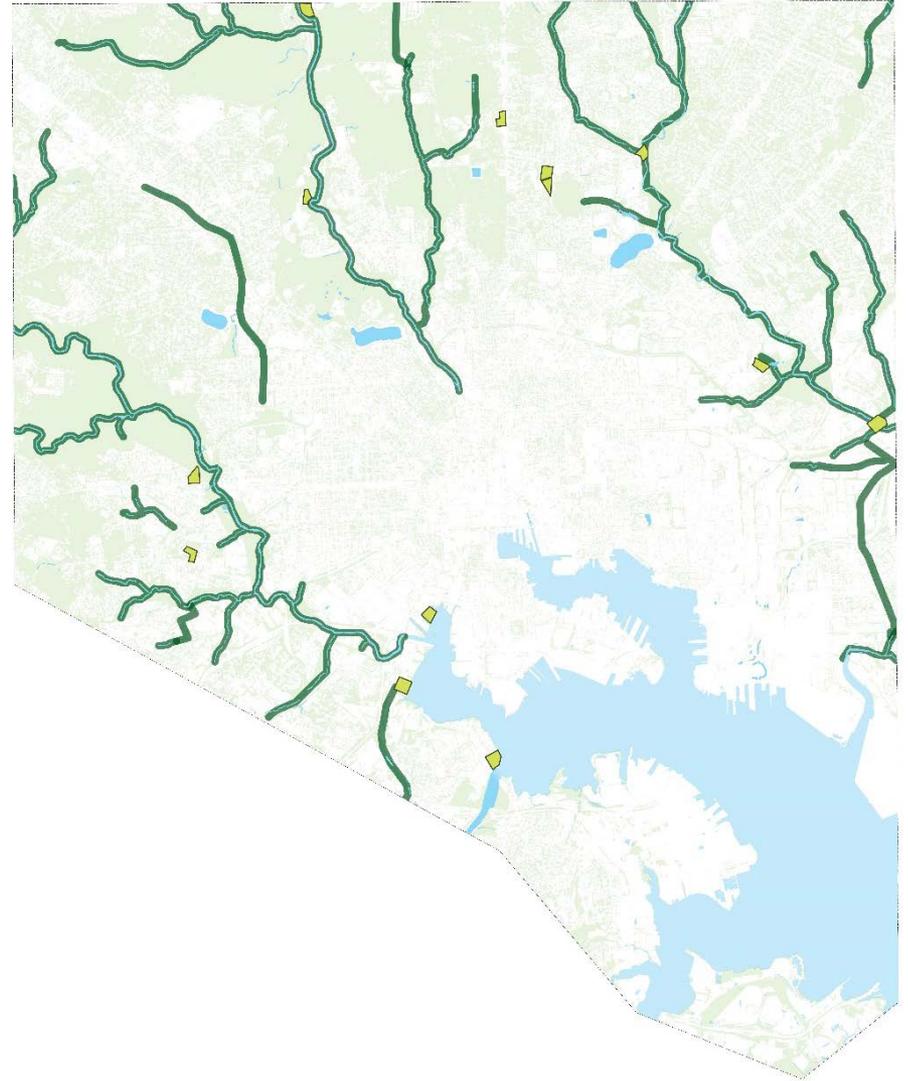


PLANNING A NETWORK

CREATING A GREEN NETWORK

Seen together the **Nature Nodes and Nature Corridors** provide the foundation for a network that helps improve the environment of the city. These nodes and corridors celebrate the streams and other natural resources we enjoy.

Our community's health is connected to the health of our natural environment and these spaces must be enhanced and protected.

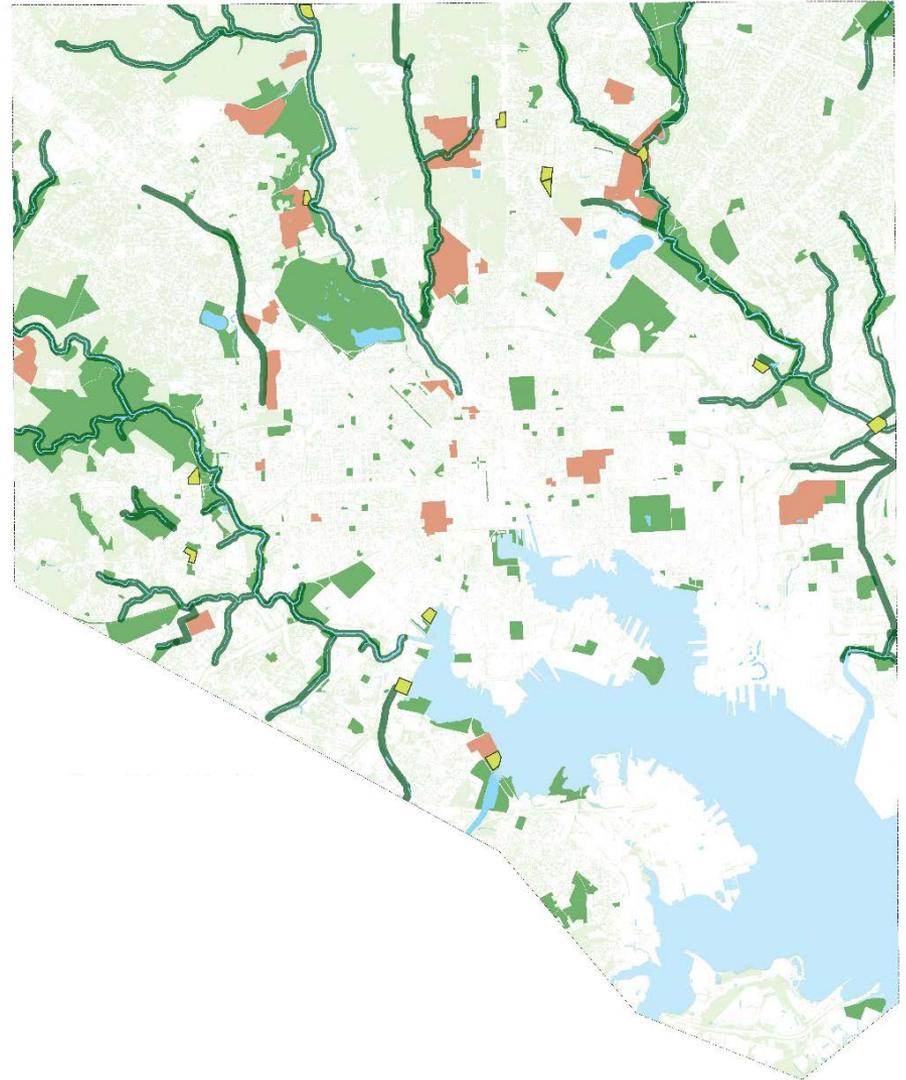


PLANNING A NETWORK

CREATING A GREEN NETWORK

When we **add the Nature Nodes and the Nature Corridors to the Existing Anchors and Open Space Nodes**, our natural network continues to be strengthened. The Parks highlight the importance of preserving and caring for the streams that define our city and directly touch many of our communities.

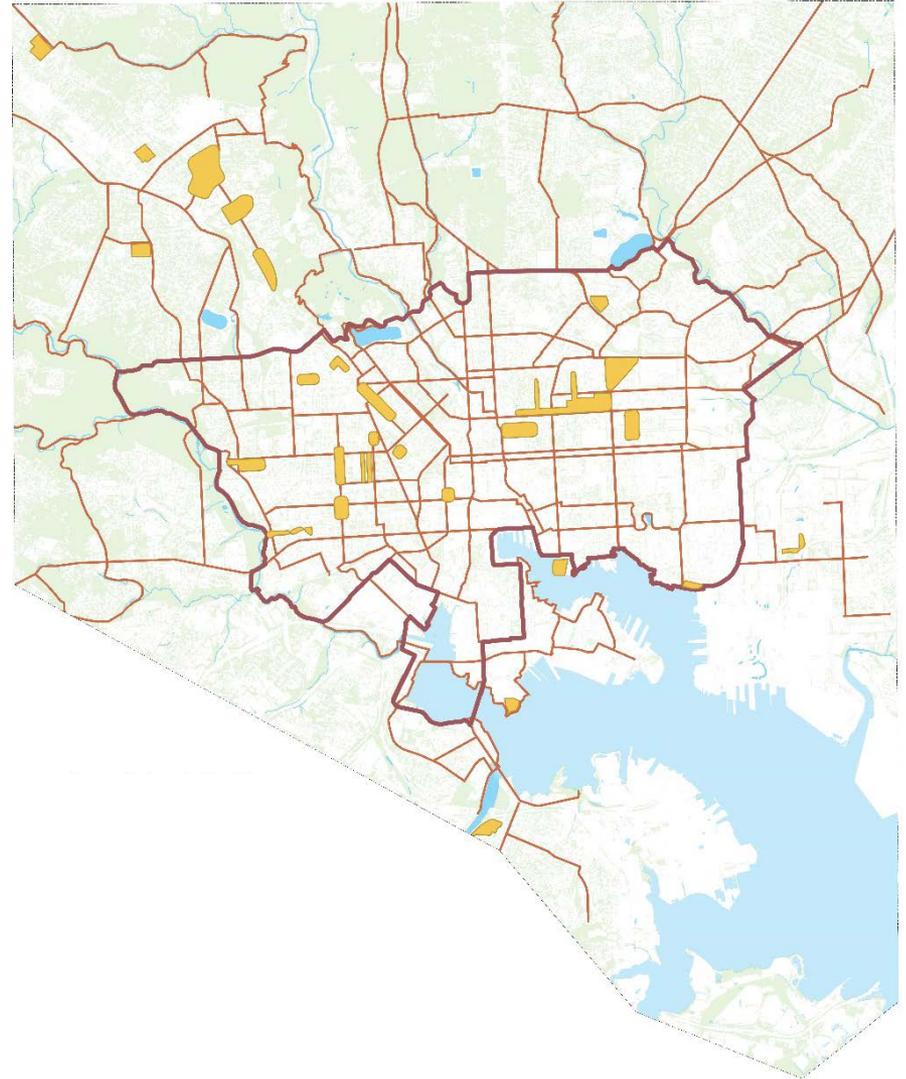
We also see the gaps in the network, where there are areas in need of more green space and better connections. The Vision Plan addresses these gaps with proposed community nodes and corridors, providing everyone improved access to our open spaces.



PLANNING A NETWORK

CREATING A GREEN NETWORK

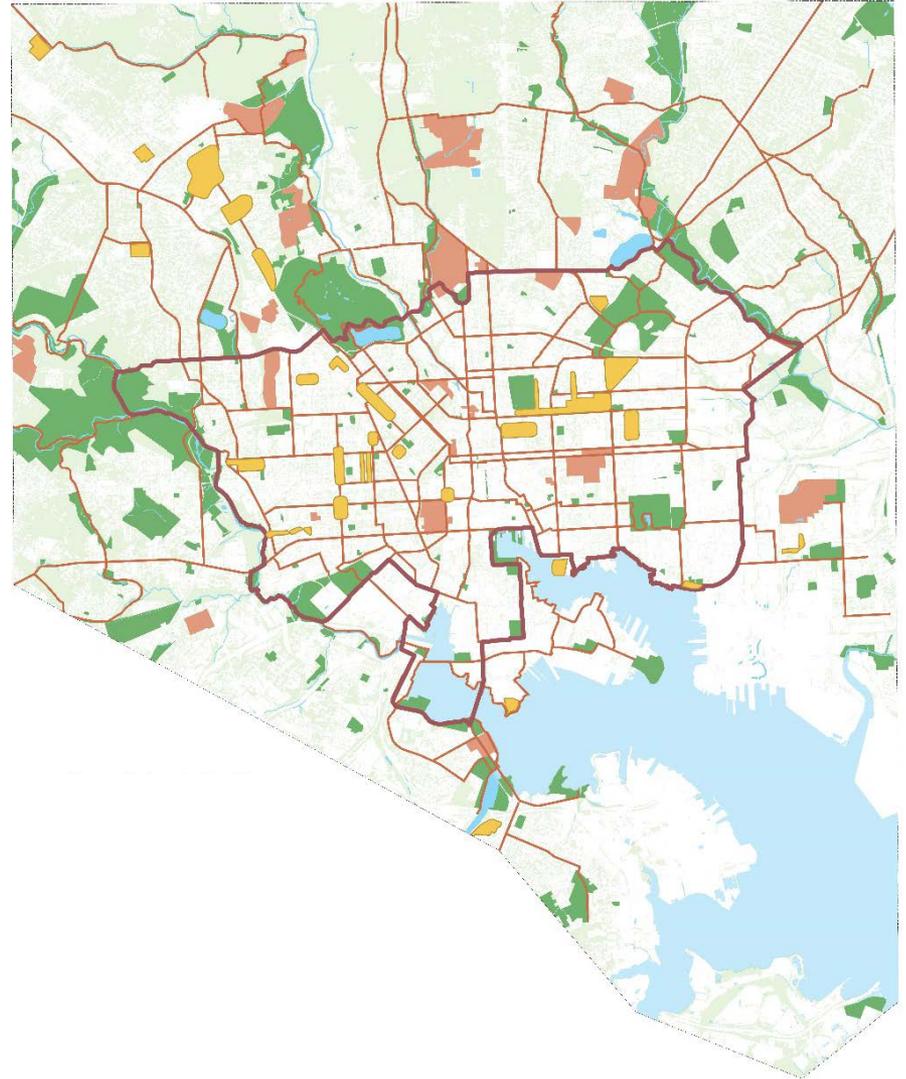
Together the **Community Nodes and Community Corridors** provide the network that connects communities across the city with each other, between home and school, parks and shopping. Safe routes allow access to areas of community revitalization and new open spaces for recreation, nature and enjoyment.



PLANNING A NETWORK

CREATING A GREEN NETWORK

As the new **Community Nodes, Community Corridors, and Parkway Corridors** are added to the **Existing Parks and Anchor Institutions** we see a network that is strengthened by providing more equitable access for all communities to open space, recreation, nature, and opportunities for employment and new investment.



THE GREEN NETWORK VISION PLAN

As the full Green Network Plan comes together, connecting **Nature and Community**, a new vision for a greener, healthier and more sustainable City takes shape.

