



# GREEN NETWORK PLAN

## BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW



### What is the Green Network Plan?

The Green Network Plan is creating a bold vision for re-imagining vacant and abandoned properties and transforming them into community assets. The plan will provide a thoughtful blueprint for turning vacant properties into parks, gardens, urban farms, open space and future development sites to benefit residents, promote economic development, and make Baltimore communities more connected and sustainable. The Green Network Vision will set a framework to focus City, State and private-sector investments for years to come.

The plan will include three components, which are featured in draft form at stations throughout the room:

- A city-wide vision plan for creating an interconnected network of green spaces.
- Pilot area greening and development strategies for areas in East, Central, West, and Southwest Baltimore.
- Recommendations to support long-term implementation.



### What has the planning process included so far?

#### **Public Feedback Opportunities**

This is the third of four rounds of feedback into the planning process. The first round of feedback included input on project goals, greening preferences, and opportunity locations for stabilization, demolition, or greening of vacant properties. The second round included sharing initial analysis and public input on opportunities and obstacles related to existing open spaces, access, and community needs. Comments and ideas gathered through this round of feedback will be incorporated into the Draft Green Network Plan document. The draft plan will be shared through a comment period and public meeting session, to gather input to help finalize the plan for adoption by the Planning Commission.



#### **Leadership & Advisory Team Participation and Guidance**

One of the earliest parts of the process was the formation of a Leadership Team and Advisory Team to provide guidance for the creation of the Green Network Plan. These groups include community leaders, City, State and Federal government representatives, non-profit and community based organizations, philanthropy and the private sector, bringing a range of perspectives to the process. Some members have lent their expertise to subcommittees related to Implementation, Funding & Financing, Land Use & Design, and Outreach & Engagement.

#### **Local Planning & Design Expertise**

A highly qualified consultant team led by Biohabitats is assisting the Plan development process. The team, which includes Floura Teeter Landscape Architects, Living Design Lab, Toole Design Group, and Advanced Placemaking, brings expertise in environmental planning, urban design, landscape architecture, bicycle and pedestrian planning, real estate, and economic development.



# GREEN NETWORK PLAN

## VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, & GOALS



### Vision

**A bold & actionable plan for an urban green network that connects and supports the residents of the City of Baltimore and creates a system of healthy, vibrant and resilient places.**

### Guiding Principles

- P1. Empower residents through an inclusive planning process, striving for environmentally and socially just opportunities.
- P2. Include a wide-representation of community stakeholders in the planning process, integrating the existing efforts and goals of those stakeholders in the green network plan.
- P3. Strengthen economic and social relationships between community groups, anchor institutions, and developers.
- P4. Prioritize opportunities that address community needs, creating lively and livable neighborhoods and inviting public spaces in the urban landscape.
- P5. Create spaces that are conducive to family and kid-friendly activities.
- P6. Enhance neighborhood identity and civic pride through improved and cohesive aesthetics and place-making.

### Goals

#### ***Goal 1 - Protect and enhance the unique ecological resources of our city (Environment/ Ecology)***

- O1. Enhance ecosystem services in the urban landscape.
- O2. Improve ecological connectivity and habitat quality to support diverse habitats for native and migratory species.
- O3. Protect and improve the quality of the city's waterways, urban tree canopy, and other natural resources by integrating green infrastructure practices throughout the city.
- O4. Expand awareness and understanding of urban green infrastructure & natural resources conservation.

#### ***Goal 2 - Support economic growth and sustainable redevelopment of vacant lands across the city (Economic Opportunity)***

- O1. Transform vacant properties into attractive and productive assets, improving neighborhood conditions, stabilizing property values, and increasing tax revenue.
- O2. Identify strategic development opportunities that can be catalyzed by green infrastructure.
- O3. Support green jobs, small-scale entrepreneurial opportunities, community revenue-generation, and workforce development initiatives.
- O4. Leverage future investments, support innovative public-private partnerships, and support the future development of financing options for the creation, maintenance, programming, and management of the green network.

#### ***Goal 3 – Improve the quality of life of city residents and strengthen the social fabric of our community (Quality of Life & Connectivity)***

##### **G3.1 - Improve and support health and wellness of city residents**

- O1. Increase access to fresh and local foods and other goods and services supported by an integrated green network.
- O2. Provide inclusive and safe access to a variety of open spaces to promote active lifestyles for all members of our community.
- O3. Create a variety of spaces that support active recreation, healthy lifestyles, and well-being through enhanced outdoor activities (biking, hiking, recreation, etc.) for all ages.

##### **G3.2 - Educate about the benefits and function of natural resources to improve public understanding of the role that native landscapes play in the city's urban fabric**

- O1. Connect schools and community centers to the green network to create outdoor learning spaces.
- O2. Promote landscape stewardship through an enhanced appreciation for the environment's connection to the community.
- O3. Increase and improve access to playgrounds, athletics fields, and recreational spaces in and around schools.

##### **G3.3 - Provide safe access through city**

- O1. Improve development patterns to be more pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-oriented.
- O2. Support mobility within neighborhoods to provide safe access to quality open space, schools, and community centers, and improve the ability to walk or bike within the community.
- O2. Support pedestrian and bike-friendly access to major transit corridors, employment and commercial centers, open space, waterfront, and recreational amenities to improve livability and connectivity throughout the city.



# GREEN NETWORK PLAN ANALYSIS OVERVIEW



## Data Analysis Behind the Vision Plan

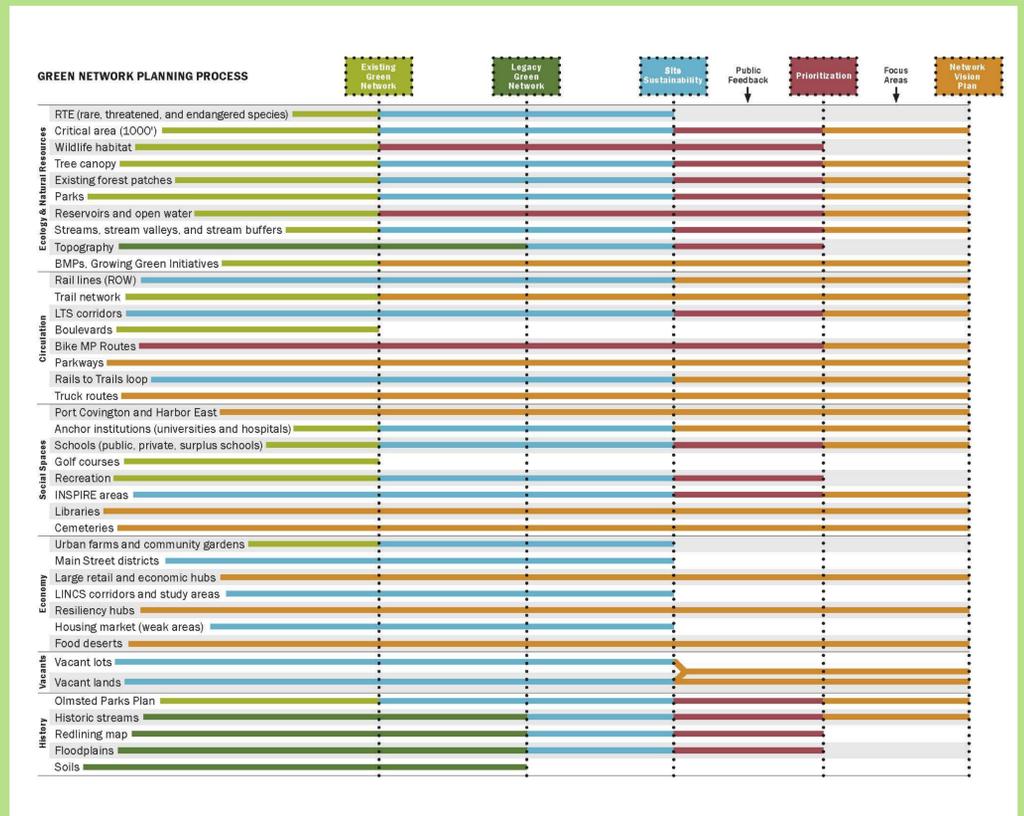
Much data analysis was done in the planning steps leading up to and supporting the development of the Draft Green Network Vision Plan.

In the data summary on the right, the left hand column summarizes key sets of data used in the analysis, including data on Ecology & Natural Resources, Circulation, Social Spaces, Economy, Vacancy, and History.

Across the top, the various steps in the analysis and planning process are shown: Existing Green Network analysis, Legacy Green Network analysis, Site Suitability analysis, Prioritization analysis, and Draft Green Network Vision Plan.

The colored box representing each step matches the colored line for the data used in that step. Where the dotted line for the step meets the colored lines for the data, the colored lines that match the color of the box indicate the data used in that analysis step.

Public feedback and pilot project locations identified through the



The layers below show some of the data that were combined in the analysis steps. Some of these maps represent a combination of data analyzed together.

