



GREEN NETWORK PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION DRAFT RECOMMENDATION THEMES

1. Ensure predictability, transparency, and fairness for new green projects.

- Address issues related to maintenance, enhancement, and protection for existing green spaces.
- Designate or establish a single administrative entity to manage new GNP projects.
- Provide clear messaging on what it means for a site to be in the GNP.
- Establish consistent and equitable guidelines for community engagement.

2. Improve City permitting processes for new green projects.

- Research other jurisdiction's approaches to permitting.
- Provide training for permitting staff on issues specific to green projects
- Work closely with relevant City agencies to consider fast-tracking processes for GNP project Approvals

3. Provide more support for community-driven and private green projects.

- Address specific resource needs, such as water, soil, and building materials.
- Identify a mechanism for management of green sites if community groups lose capacity to do so.
- Develop a clear, central source for information for volunteers/communities who want to engage in green space creation and maintenance; formalize process for coordination between City and community groups managing green spaces.

4. Create opportunities for workforce development related to green projects.

- Work jointly with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development and other partners to develop and track a centralized workforce development program to support GNP maintenance.
- Develop a network of potential employers (public, private contractors, anchor institutions, etc.), and coordinate with them so that the skills training offered matches their needs.



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FUNDING & FINANCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION THEMES

1. Elevate GNP uses as a priority for disbursement of City public funds through existing processes such as the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a six-year plan outlining capital improvements for the City of Baltimore, including long term investments in physical infrastructure such as roads, monuments, and parks.

- Use GNP as part of evaluation criteria for new capital projects.
- Study how to support GNP through other City greening-related dollars such as demolition funds, Critical Area and other fees.

2. Seek dedicated funding for maintenance of GNP projects.

- Ensure that any new revenue source, including a new tax or fees (*discussed further below*) would be dedicated to maintaining existing GNP assets, including vacant lots.
- Ensure any new projects developed as part of the GNP include a long-term maintenance funding strategy. Explore carving out a portion of funding for new projects to be placed into an account for maintenance.

3. Participate in planning efforts to optimize storm water and sewer system investments to support both goals of the GNP and Chesapeake Bay water quality.

- Coordinate on current MS4 permit activities with permit holders including City Department of Public Works, City Department of Transportation and the Port of Maryland.
- Coordinate with stakeholders to ensure future MS4 permit design incorporates GNP goals to extent feasible. *MS4s refer to regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems; MS4 activities are designed to reduce discharge of pollutants from sewer systems.*

4. Pursue funding opportunities from other levels of government – State and Federal.

- GNP administrative entity/entities will coordinate with State, Federal and other public agencies to apply for relevant funding, identify actions to maximize available funding, and ensure GNP is prioritized when possible.



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5. Pursue private and philanthropic funds

- Develop fundraising campaign strategy, including building relationships with funders to target GNP related investments.
- Develop creative strategies that may include membership campaigns, corporate support or signature events.

6. Conduct study to assess feasibility of a dedicated new public revenue source.

- Evaluate opportunities to raise local revenue through tax or targeted fees, at a minimal annual cost to the average household.
- This issue should be considered jointly with other city agencies, and with regional stakeholders in Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Strong consideration should be given to dedicating revenues to unfunded program elements, particularly maintenance of vacant lots and other GNP properties.

Examples: St. Louis River Greenways metropolitan wide park referendum; Newark, New Jersey's new open space bond; and Philadelphia "sugar tax" in support of health-related measures.

7. Explore Tax Increment Financing tools or similar mechanisms

- Green investments are shown to raise property values in nearby and adjoining communities. Many communities create mechanisms to capture the anticipated increase in revenue to support the initial capital investments.
- Further study to assess the feasibility and economic value is necessary, working with an external consultant.

8. Create Task Force to analyze other alternative finance and creative funding opportunities for GNP projects.

Examples: "Environmental Impact Bond" issued for DC Water in 2016 for best management practices, the Prince Georges County P3 projects and Newport Rhode Island project bundling to combine green improvements, needed transportation infrastructure and real estate opportunities.



How far does \$5 million for greening go?

I Large Five-Acre Park	25 Neighborhood Parks/ Playgrounds	100 Enhanced Greening Sites	1,000 Clean & Green Sites	2,500 Vacant Lots Maintained
Includes amenities such as trails, athletic courts, restrooms, playground equipment, etc. on land already owned by the City.	Includes acquiring the land and installing playground equipment.	Includes art, benches, plantings, fencing, pathways, stormwater facilities, etc. on a site approximately equal to ten rowhouse lots.	Includes clearing debris and plant overgrowth, mowing, and basic fencing on a site approximately equal to ten rowhouse lots.	Includes mowing three times per year and cleaning quarterly for one year.

How would you spend \$5 million?

Each sticker is worth \$1 million. “Spend” your \$5 million by placing your stickers under the project that you want to support. All of the items listed below (except the first) are \$1 million, and you can put some or all of your stickers under each project. If you choose the large park, you must spend all of your stickers on that project.

I Large Park: \$5M (use all stickers)	5 Neighborhood Parks: \$1M	20 Enhanced Greening: \$1M	200 Clean & Green: \$1M	500 Lots Maintained: \$1M

The Benefits of Greening Baltimore



High-quality parks boost residential property values by as much as **15 percent** ⁽¹⁾

One tree ⁽⁵⁾ generates: **\$31,250** worth of oxygen



\$62,000 air pollution control



\$37,500 water



For every **\$1 spent** on trails, **\$3** can be saved in direct **medical costs**. ⁽⁶⁾

Physician-diagnosed depression was **33 percent** higher in residential areas with fewest green spaces. ⁽³⁾

A single large tree can produce the cooling effect of **ten air conditioners** operating **24 hours a day**. ⁽⁸⁾



10 more trees on a city block improved perceived health on par with being **7 years younger** or **\$10,000 richer** ⁽⁷⁾

Children who live within **two-thirds of a mile** from a park with a playground are **five times** more likely to be a **healthy weight**. ⁽²⁾



In Macon, Georgia, a revitalized city park **reduced incidence of crime and violence** by **50%** ⁽⁴⁾



Sources:

1 **Economic Value of Urban Parks**. City Parks Alliance.

2 **Parks and Healthy Kids Fact Sheet**. National Recreation and Park Association.

3 **Parks and Improved Mental Health and Quality of Life**. National Recreation and Park Association.

4 **Power of Parks**. National Recreation and Park Association.

5 **Strategic Tree Planning**. Institute for Environmental Solutions.

6 **Trail Expenditures Shown to Reduce Health Care Costs**. National Trails Training Partnership.

7 **The Pretty Much Totally Complete Health Case for Urban Nature**. City Lab.

8 **Trees of Strength**. NC State University Cooperative Extension.