

# Baltimore Green Space News

preserving neighborhoods' treasured open spaces



Spring 2011

## Green Space Census

Baltimore has more than 16,000 vacant lots. Many are a drag on the city's quality of life. But with the efforts of local residents, some have become urban oases. Places like community gardens in urban food deserts. Or pocket parks with trees and flowers visited by songbirds and butterflies that miraculously find them. All are places where neighbors work and play together. Baltimore Green Space works to make sure these assets are recognized and saved.

### But where *are* the green spaces?

In fall 2010, Baltimore City government announced its "Vacants to Value" initiative, a new program to spur development of vacant lots and houses. The Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) wanted to make sure that it did not inadvertently sell land for development that was in community use, but there was no existing inventory of community-managed open spaces. So they came to Baltimore Green Space.

It took a little time...but we did it! During the late fall, more than 50 volunteers armed with smartphones fanned out across Baltimore to document the exact locations and sizes of community-managed open spaces. We analyzed the data over the winter, and on March 1 provided HCD and the Department of Planning with a list of 111 sites (made up of 462 lots) in community use so they will not be sold.

### Check out the Map!

Have a look at the map of the 111 sites on the reverse, or on our website, [baltimoregreenspace.org](http://baltimoregreenspace.org). The sites are concentrated in a ring around downtown. What does this tell us? That even in some of Baltimore's roughest neighborhoods, those hit by waves of disinvestment, there's an enduring spirit. Our intrepid "greeners" create places of great beauty and liveliness. And that's something we should all celebrate with the arrival of spring.

*Thanks to all our partners in this project: Baltimore Ecosystem Study • City of Baltimore • University of Maryland, Baltimore • University of Maryland, Baltimore County • Abell Foundation • Baltimore Community Foundation • Parks & People Foundation • Social Work Community Outreach Service • and all the volunteers*

### Community Space Spotlight: **PIGTOWN HORSESHOE PIT**



For more than 30 years, the Pigtown Horseshoe Pit at 1217 Bayard Street has hosted games, barbecues, and an annual tournament. In 2007 the lot was sold by Baltimore City to a developer, but due to the neighborhood's activism the Zoning Board did not grant the variance the developer needed in order to build.

Since then, the developer and the City concluded a land swap, and in 2010 the Pigtown Horseshoe Pit was protected by Baltimore Green Space.

## Learn More

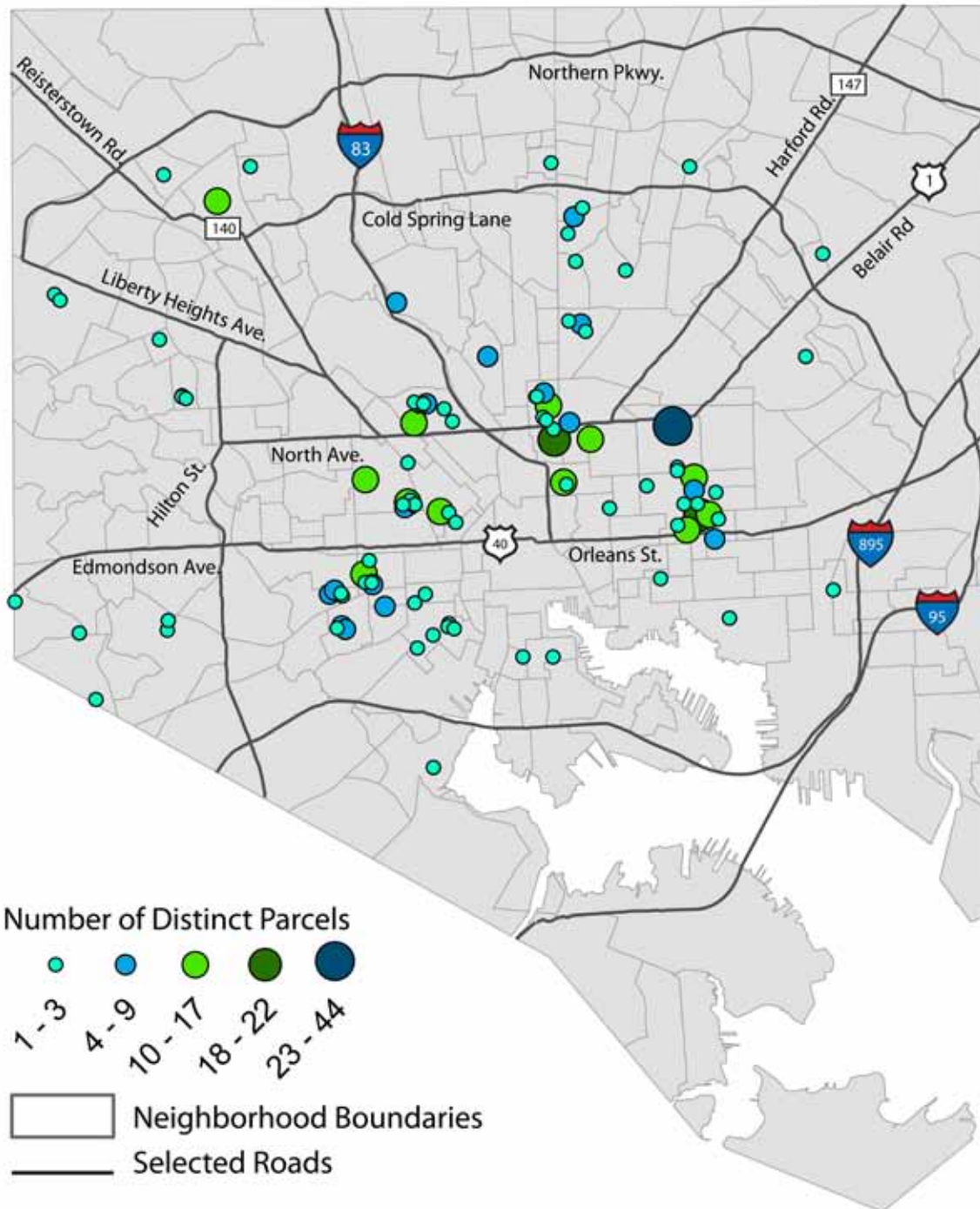
Want to learn more about Baltimore Green Space?

Visit [baltimoregreenspace.org](http://baltimoregreenspace.org)

Or become a friend on Facebook!



# Baltimore's Community-Managed Open Spaces (111 spaces made up of 462 lots)



T. Myers, UMBC, 2011

## Baltimore Green Space

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Baltimore Green Space works to protect community gardens, pocket parks, and other open spaces created and cared for by city residents.

At the request of community groups, Baltimore Green Space acquires community-managed open spaces and provides support to those who care for them. This allows communities to ensure that their urban oases endure without taking on the responsibilities of acquisition, ownership, and liability.