

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Please submit this form along with your case study. We ask that you keep your responses here as concise as possible. This information will be posted on the IPSI website unless otherwise requested. Please inform the IPSI Secretariat if there are any responses you would not like made public.

Basic Information

Title of case study <i>(should be concise and within approximately 25 words)</i>			
Enhancing Livability Through Urban Land Conservation: NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Pocket Parks, and Retrofitting URDL			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
International Land Conservation Network (ILCN)			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Kristen Wraithwall, research consultant to the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	manuscript	Language	English
Keywords <i>(3-5 key concepts included in the case study)</i>			
Urban Land Conservation, Park Access, Retrofitting, Green Infrastructure, Climate Resilience			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>	08/18/2022		
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	https://landconservationnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Case%20Profile%20on%20NeighborSpace%20030422.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
United States									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Baltimore County, Maryland									
Latitude/longitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
39.29029, -76.60705									
Ecosystem(s) <i>(please place an “x” in all appropriate boxes)</i>									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural		In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban	x	Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area <i>(within 50 words)</i>									
The social, environmental, and economic conditions of present-day Baltimore County are the result of a series of planning, funding, and conservation decisions dating back to the post-World War II era, a period which the Baltimore City Planning Department refers to as a period of “suburbanization without end.”									

Bolstered by Federally subsidized home loans and an influx of soldiers returning from war, the Counties surrounding Baltimore City expanded at astonishing rates in the decades following WWII; by the 1950s, between 7,000 and 8,000 homes were being constructed each year in the Baltimore suburbs. At the same time, the City population dropped—by 10,000 in the 1950s and 35,000 in the 1960s—as white residents fled to the suburbs and low-income and African American communities were forced to relocate as the City demolished entire neighborhoods for the creation of highways.

Description of human-nature interactions in the area (*land-use, traditional resource management practices etc. – within 50 words*)

This case focuses on the development of a first-of-its-kind geospatial information systems (GIS) prioritization methodology for conserving and retrofitting parcels as small as .15 acres to improve park access, livability and climate resilience in urban and suburban areas in Baltimore County, Maryland. Based heavily in the feedback and stated priorities of local residents and stakeholders, the project helps assess the conservation value of a parcel of land based on its potential for improving the social, environmental, and/or economic factors of livability of a nearby community. The case assists urban land conservation organizations, residents and communities, city planners, legislators and regulators, and other interested parties in informing approaches to urban land conservation and park access that improve livability and resilience in cities facing climate change impacts. The development of the project itself, and the multi-sector partnerships required to make the project successful, has taken more than a decade. The project, which has had positive initial response, may be adapted to or inform land conservation in cities around the globe, from Latin America to the Asia.

Contents

<p><i>Note: The following fields are used for information about activities described in the case study or the production of the case study itself, and contents may vary depending on the nature of the case study. For example, a case study about on-the-ground activities may include the rationale, objectives etc. for the activities; a case study about a SEPLS-related policy may describe the policymaking process; or a case study describing a SEPLS may address particular practices used there. Please make an effort to fill as many fields as possible.</i></p>			
Status (“ongoing” or “completed”)	ongoing	Period (MM/YY to MM/YY)	2009-2021
<p>Rationale <i>(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed – within 50 words)</i></p>			
<p>By protecting and stewarding upstream lands, establishing green spaces in cities to absorb stormwater overflow, protecting mangrove ecosystems, conserving wetlands, and other such work, land trusts have formed key partnerships with public agencies and private businesses seeking to secure water quality and quantity and manage rising seas. The conservation and land management these civic organizations have done ensures that communities and regions retain intact and functioning watersheds, river basins, riparian corridors, floodplains, shorelines, and permeable city spaces amid changing and unpredictable conditions.</p>			
<p>Objectives <i>(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study – within 50 words)</i></p>			
<p>Understand the development and application of land conservation strategies with multiple co-benefits to improve park access, livability and climate impacts in urban areas.</p>			
<p>Activities and/or practices employed <i>(within 50 words)</i></p>			
<p>NeighborSpace of Baltimore County was founded in 2002 to begin to address the dearth of open space. By protecting and improving green space for small pocket parks, gardens, trails, and other natural areas, NeighborSpace seeks to improve livability. NeighborSpace defines livability by the sum of social, environmental, and economic factors that affect quality of life—a guiding principle that has driven NeighborSpace to conserve 21 parcels totaling 100 acres within the county. The organization has succeeded by developing close working relationships with the Baltimore County government, local universities, and—most important— community-based organizations.</p> <p>NeighborSpace has turned the toolkit for large, rural landscape conservation on its head, fitting parcels as small as 0.15 acres into urban and suburban environments. In partnership with the National Park Service, it has developed a first-of-its-kind GIS prioritization methodology for assessing the conservation value of a parcel of land based on its potential for improving the social, environmental, and/or economic factors of livability of the nearby community. This resource—which relied heavily on the feedback and stated priorities of residents—is one of the many ways in which NeighborSpace can serve as a leader and a model for other urban and suburban land trusts across the United States and elsewhere.</p>			
<p>Results <i>(within 50 words)</i></p>			
<p>To date, NeighborSpace has conserved 21 parcels with a total area of 100 acres throughout the URDL. A clear leader in Baltimore County, they are the only green space nonprofit within the URDL utilizing GIS modeling and conservation plans developed in partnership with residents and other key stakeholders. They are also the only non-profit receiving a portion of the County’s LOS waiver fees. The revenue from LOS waiver fees—along with funding from individual donation and grants—has enabled NeighborSpace to make real change in communities throughout the URDL. In addition to managing open space sites across the URDL, NeighborSpace has been an important advocate for open space protection at the County level.</p>			
<p>Lessons learned <i>(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities – within 40 words)</i></p>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language Matters: Use terms that concern the resident the most, relating to their and their children’s health 2. Strong Community Partnerships are Key: Not only do community organizations maintain the park sites and coordinate volunteers, but they have the ability to make these spaces important pieces of the community fabric. 3. Utilize Multiple Platforms for Outreach and Engagement 4. Leverage Local and Regional Partners 5. Prioritize Youth Engagement 			
<p>Key messages <i>(within 40 words)</i></p>			

The majority of best practices, resources, and funding related to land conservation are dedicated to rural and large landscape conservation, however many of the parcels NeighborSpace takes on are “leftover” spaces that were unused, collecting garbage, or even the former site of a gasoline leak. Their greatest impacts on climate change come through leveraging policy, promoting community engagement and education, and increasing awareness of the importance of open space for improving the local urban heat effects, water quality, air quality, and more.

Relationship to other IPSI activities *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*

Funding *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*

NeighborSpace’s work has close relationship with Baltimore County, funding through the county’s local open space waiver fees is absolutely essential. According to county law, developers must set aside 1,000 square feet of open space for each newly constructed dwelling unit. If they cannot, they are allowed to seek a waiver from the county and pay a fee in lieu of open space. Since 2004, the county has allocated a portion of those waiver fees to NeighborSpace to support its conservation work. In 2004 Baltimore County Council approved an allocation of up to 10 percent, and in 2013, they increased the amount to 20 percent of all fees (Patch 2013). In fiscal year 2018, the county collected nearly USD \$600,000 in fees. NeighborSpace’s 20 percent cut makes up a substantial portion of its operating budget. A clear leader in Baltimore County, it is the only green space nonprofit using GIS modeling and conservation plans developed in partnership with residents and other key stakeholders. It is also the only nonprofit receiving a portion of the county’s local open space waiver fees.

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Please place an "X" in the "direct" or "indirect" boxes next to any of the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets to which the work described in this case study contributes as appropriate. Note: please mark only those that the case actually has made or is making a contribution, not those to which it could make a potential contribution in the future.

Target	Description	Direct	Indirect
	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.		
	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.		
	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.		
	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.		
	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.		
	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.		
	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.		
	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.		
	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.		

	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.		
	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.		
	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		x
	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
	By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.		
	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.		
	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.		
	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		
	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

Please place an “x” in the “direct” or “indirect” boxes next to any of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to which the work described in this case study contributes as appropriate. Note: please mark only those that the case actually has made or is making a contribution, not those to which it could make a potential contribution in the future.

SDG	Description	Direct	Indirect
 1 NO POVERTY	End poverty in all its forms everywhere		
 2 ZERO HUNGER	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture		
 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	x	
 4 QUALITY EDUCATION	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all		
 5 GENDER EQUALITY	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls		
 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		
 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all		
 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all		
 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation		
 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Reduce inequality within and among countries		
 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	x	
 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns		
 13 CLIMATE ACTION	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts		

	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>		
	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss</p>		
	<p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>		<p>x</p>
	<p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development</p>		