



Vacant Lots to Green Spaces

Working with the City of Baltimore to determine how over 17,000 vacant lots could be transformed into useable green space using a powerful query tool and suitability analysis

In 2014, the City of Baltimore produced the Green Pattern Book, a document that helps individuals and organizations understand how green infrastructure projects (e.g., community gardens, parks) could be developed on vacant land. Building on this effort, Chesapeake Conservancy has developed a query tool that displays the various physical characteristics of each vacant lot in Baltimore, such as slope, acreage, ownership, or proximity to schools. Understanding these characteristics is the first step towards determining which vacant lots are best suited for which projects.

The Conservancy has also developed an internal web application that enhances the desktop query tool and allows users to quickly sort and display the vacant lots that are appropriate for a green infrastructure project of their choosing. The application is backed by a suitability analysis that incorporates criteria originally defined by the Green Pattern Book.

