



## A Resource List

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### THIRD THURSDAY WEBCAST SERIES

The Third Thursday Webcast Series is a monthly webcast held at the lunch hour and made possible through support from The Home Depot Foundation. The goal is to provide training opportunities for local urban and community forestry practitioners. The trainings highlight successful programs and practices that you may want to adapt in your communities. Webcasts are open to all.

### TOPIC

Smart Growth intersects with urban forestry on many levels: energy costs, crime, livability/sustainability, and more. Urban design is no longer isolated solely to buildings. Trees are part of the natural infrastructure, and their beneficial effects on urban landscapes are becoming better known. Understanding SmartGrowth trends can help you position your projects and programs to better integrate with building and land use trends. "Green infrastructure" is a term that is appearing more and more frequently in land conservation and development discussions.

More information at:

[http://actrees.org/site/stories/smartgrowth\\_and\\_urban\\_forestry.php](http://actrees.org/site/stories/smartgrowth_and_urban_forestry.php)

[http://actrees.org/site/stories/smartgrowth\\_and\\_urban\\_forestry\\_part\\_ii\\_city\\_p.php](http://actrees.org/site/stories/smartgrowth_and_urban_forestry_part_ii_city_p.php)

### TRAINERS

#### **Dannielle Glaros**

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Congressman Eric Olson  
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#### **Ben Welle**

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#### **Dan Staley**

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#### **Dan Kildee**

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[www.co.genesee.mi.us/treasurer/intro.html](http://www.co.genesee.mi.us/treasurer/intro.html)





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TRAINERS (continued)

### **Dannielle Glaros**

In 2002, Dannielle started working with the State of Maryland in a new office, the Governor's Office of Smart Growth. Through this position, she worked inside state government to influence policy, work on legislative issues on behalf of the Governor, and bring together various state agencies and nonprofits in collaborative efforts to change the development pattern in Maryland and revitalize urban areas. Since then, she has also worked as a consultant with various organizations such as Smart Growth America, where she created the National Smart Growth Council.

### **Ben Welle**

Ben Welle is program coordinator for TPL's Center for City Park Excellence. He conducts research on nationwide urban park issues and works with local governments on their urban park strategies, including the confluence of parks and stormwater management, the economic benefits of parks, and the relationship of cars and parks. Prior to TPL, he worked in the Twin Cities at the Community Reinvestment Fund and at the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. He has a masters degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in communications from Hamline University. In collaboration with Greg McPherson, Trust for Public Lands has been conducting studies on the economic benefits of urban parks to cities, specifically their stormwater retention. In addition, the study looked at property values, surveyed parks users, and extrapolated on health affects and medical costs. It was funded by a NUCFAC grant in 2005, and preliminary data will soon be available.

### **Dan Staley**

Dan Staley is an Urban Planner in Aurora, CO. His current practice integrates land use and environmental planning to maximize the benefits of green infrastructure for the built and natural environments. He has implemented town-wide form-based code, written water-conserving landscape and streetscape regulations, and developed long-range plans that include LEED-ND principles. He graduated from the University of California at Davis with a degree in Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry and the University of Washington at Seattle with a graduate degree in Urban Planning (with an Environmental Planning concentration). Dan was most recently the Senior Planner for the Town of Castle Rock, CO. Prior to that he ran a small landscape design and construction business in Sacramento.

More information at: <http://danstaley.net>

### **Dan Kildee**

As County Treasurer, Dan Kildee has saved taxpayers millions of dollars with smart financial management. He also created the first land bank in the State of Michigan, which recently was named winner of the Harvard University's Innovations in American Government Award for Affordable Housing. Dan is the recipient of the Michigan Excellence in Land Use Leadership Award and a past Advocate of the Year from the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. He is a lifelong resident of Genesee County, a graduate of Flint Northern High School, the University of Michigan-Flint, and a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

More information at: [www.dankildee.com](http://www.dankildee.com)





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### **ABOUT SMARTGROWTH**

In communities across the nation, there is a growing concern that current development patterns are no longer in the long-term interest of our cities, existing suburbs, small towns, rural communities, or wilderness areas. Though supportive of growth, communities are questioning the economic costs of abandoning infrastructure in the city, only to rebuild it further out.

Three-fourths of Americans believe that being smarter about development and improving public transportation are better long-term solutions for reducing traffic congestion than building new roads. Nearly three-quarters of Americans are concerned about the role growth and development play in climate change. Half of those surveyed think improving public transit would be the best way to reduce congestion, and 26 percent believe developing communities that reduce the need to drive would be the better alternative. Only one in five said building new roads was the answer.

Spurring the smart growth movement are demographic shifts, a strong environmental ethic, increased fiscal concerns, and more nuanced views of growth. The result is both a new demand and a new opportunity for smart growth. The features that distinguish smart growth in a community vary from place to place. In general, smart growth is about design, transportation choices, economics, housing, and community quality life in health and environment. Smart growth invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs. New smart growth is more town-centered, transit and pedestrian oriented, and has a greater mix of housing, commercial, and retail uses. It also preserves open space and many other environmental amenities.

Some of the Smart Growth principles and issues below describe in greater details the various aspects of planning and development that make up smart growth:

- \* Create Range of Housing Opportunities and Choices
- \* Create Walkable Neighborhoods
- \* Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration
- \* Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
- \* Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective
- \* Mix Land Uses
- \* Provide a Variety of Transportation Choices
- \* Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)





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### SUCCESS STORIES- Governments

#### **City of Garland (Garland, TX)**

A portion of the property taxes in the City of Garland are based on impervious surfaces. Based on a study they conducted, they found that the city's tree cover saves the municipality from having to handle 19 million cubic feet of stormwater annually, a savings of \$3.8 million. So poorly planned developments with excess impervious surfaces were actually costing the city more money.

#### **City of Tallahassee (Tallahassee, FL)**

Through a CITYgreen analysis, the City of Tallahassee found that the existing tree cover kept 784 tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere annually, which saved the city \$760,000 in energy savings, \$1.06 million in air pollution removal, and \$2.6 million in stormwater runoff reduction. Based on this analysis, the city is looking at new ways to mitigate against poorly planned development practices that are costing the city more in utilities and air pollution cleanup.

#### **State of Maryland- Office of SmartGrowth (Annapolis, MD)**

In 1997, under former Maryland Governor and SmartGrowth visionary Parris Glendening, Maryland burst into the national spotlight with the passage of its Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation initiative. The initiative gained broad national recognition and praise and began to change development patterns in Maryland. Maryland has adopted the principles of Smart Growth, which provide guidance for new development, infill development, and redevelopment. By incorporating a range of consistent goals, Maryland has made a significant impact in curbing sprawl and improving urban areas. The State has over 80 programs furthering Smart Growth and is actively trying to "Make Smart Growth Smarter."

More information at: [www.mdp.state.md.us/smartintro.htm](http://www.mdp.state.md.us/smartintro.htm)

#### **Howard County Replants Abandoned Road (Howard County, MD)**

Since every little bit of soil and vegetation helps to reduce runoff into streams, floodplains, and the Chesapeake Bay, Howard County officials decided to rip off asphalt from an abandoned 640-foot spur of Guilford Road in Columbia and plant in its place 200 trees and shrubs, with Ellicott City environmental center watershed planner Paul Sturm estimating the amount of rainwater that will filter through the ground instead of gushing into the nearby Little Patuxent River at 394,000 gallons annually.

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.org/news/bystate.asp?state=MD&res=1280](http://www.smartgrowth.org/news/bystate.asp?state=MD&res=1280)

#### **Providing a Variety of Transportation Choices (Brea, California)**

In the 1980s, the city of Brea, in Orange County southeast of Los Angeles, was faced with a serious decline and abandonment of its downtown. It responded by working with its citizens and developers to envision and build a dynamic mixed-use town center. The city acquired 60 acres of the city center and removed blighted buildings, relocated business to appropriate locations, and remade downtown as the heart and soul of Brea. The new downtown is centered on the narrow, two-lane, pedestrian-friendly Birch Street, which is perpendicular to Brea Boulevard. The success of Brea's downtown depended on effective and innovative city government, gaining and using citizen input through the "Brea by Design" workshops, and working with experienced urban developers. Narrow streets, specially paved crosswalks, street trees, wide sidewalks, and a lot of street furniture make downtown Brea an inviting place for shoppers.

More information at: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/brea.htm>



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### **Developing Closed Military Bases: Baldwin Park (Orlando, FL)**

The U.S. Navy announced the closing of its Orlando Naval Training Center in 1993, and the base officially closed three years later. Although the community initially felt a sense of loss, the demand for developable land within Orlando meant that opportunities abounded for redevelopment. Today, the former base is Baldwin Park, an award-winning development only a few miles from downtown Orlando. When the city received the base from the federal government, it transferred it to a private developer who rebuilt the base's infrastructure. The developer recycled old material to build new roads and storm water filtration systems and parkland. The developer worked with Audubon of Florida to create viable ecosystems in Baldwin Park by restoring natural features that had been displaced when the base was built 50 years earlier. The developer also preserved the base's mature trees as much as possible and planted 4,000 new street trees. Baldwin Park can house 8,000 residents, support 6,000 permanent jobs, and generate more than \$1.5 billion in property tax value, more than \$30 million in annual property tax revenue, and more than \$180 million in payroll. The transformation of this closed naval center won the EPA's National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2005 and the National Arbor Day Foundation's "National Building with Trees Award of Excellence" in 2004. More information at: [www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/bases\\_into\\_places.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/bases_into_places.pdf), pp. 27-29

### **The Crossings (Mountain View, CA)**

The City of Mountain View, 30 miles south of San Francisco, transformed a failing 1960s auto-oriented mall into a vibrant neighborhood that offers a variety of transportation choices. The 18-acre infill project, developed by TPG Development, demolished the original shopping mall and replaced it with homes, retail shops, and a daycare center, all oriented toward the new San Antonio Avenue Caltrain commuter rail station. When the original mall failed, the city proposed reclassification of the site from retail to residential. Citizens asked for low densities with open space. Public education programs convinced the community that higher density was appropriate for a transit-oriented site. The developer's original proposal was for a more auto-oriented, mixed-use development. The city rejected the proposal, and the design firm of Calthorpe Associates was hired to conduct community design meetings, which resulted in their final plan. Now, narrow tree-lined streets and sidewalks and small pocket parks all combine to create a walkable and bikeable neighborhood.

More information at: [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/crossing.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/crossing.htm)

### **Plan Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge, LA)**

Plan Baton Rouge is the city's master downtown plan to preserve adjacent open space, while promoting development closer to its core and along designated smart-growth corridors. Among other aspects, the plan sets aside land near newly acquired parks for transit-oriented projects along bus lines and a proposed light rail, and offers developers financial incentives and faster approvals to encourage a shift from strip malls to mixed-use building designs, with ground-floor shops and businesses, upstairs residential units, wider sidewalks, trees and backside parking.

### **Measuring the effects of mixed land uses on housing values (Washington County, OR)**

Washington County studied the impacts of mixed land use neighborhoods on the price of single family houses. The research used Geographic Information System (GIS) and available socio-economic data to measure and quantify the relationship between house values and green space. What they found was that housing prices increased with their proximity to- or with increasing amount of- public parks or neighborhood commercial land uses.

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/research/researchpapers-landuseandenvironment.htm](http://www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/research/researchpapers-landuseandenvironment.htm)





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### SUCCESS STORIES- Developers

#### **Developers Partner with Greenbelt Alliance (San Francisco, CA)**

Developers trying to build smart growth developments in the San Francisco Bay Area have an unusual ally, a conservation organization called the Greenbelt Alliance. Smart developers have found that a Greenbelt Alliance endorsement can help level the regulatory playing field that is tilted against smart growth in many communities. In 1987, the Greenbelt Alliance realized that to conserve open space, communities would have to build more compactly to accommodate new growth and provide affordable housing. To address this concern, the alliance began endorsing affordable, compact housing developments as a complement to their open space conservation programs. Since then, the alliance has added mixed-use development projects that include affordable housing to the program. From 1990 to 2004, the Greenbelt Alliance has endorsed 95 development projects and 17 neighborhood plans that, if built, would create more than 48,000 residences within existing city limits. By endorsing these projects, the Greenbelt Alliance is making smart growth easier to build while simultaneously reducing pressure to build over green space. More information at: [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/compact.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/compact.htm)

#### **AIG Greens Atlantic Station (Atlanta, GA)**

As the foundation rises at the once-contaminated site of the former Atlantic Steel mill in Midtown Atlanta, Jacoby Development chairman and CEO Jim Jacoby is promoting the \$2 billion, 138-acre, mixed-use Atlantic Station is a smart-growth and "green" construction model. Once a strip mall and Wal-Mart developer, Atlantic Station will have 6 million square feet of office space, 1.5 million square feet of retail space, 1,000 hotel rooms, a parking garage for 7,000 cars, and 3,000-5,000 apartments, townhouses, and single-family homes. Central air-conditioning for commercial buildings will lower their energy bills; a sewage system will be protected from stormwater overflow by a two-acre retention pond that will double as a community lake surrounded by a four-acre park, many of 2,800 newly planted trees will shade trails and sidewalks, and five lanes of the nine-lane 17th Street bridge across the Downtown Connector to Atlantic Station will be reserved for pedestrians, bicyclists and a shuttle bus. Expecting these pedestrian and other amenities to encourage walking and exercise. More information at: [www.atlanticstation.com/press\\_171.php](http://www.atlanticstation.com/press_171.php)

#### **A Walkable Neighborhood (Bethesda, MD)**

Bethesda Row, located near the edge of downtown Bethesda, Maryland, illustrates the revitalization of a suburban commercial district into a mixed-use, walkable downtown. The development, being built in several phases by The Federal Realty Investment Trust, creates a thriving, pedestrian-friendly streetscape. Both the sidewalk design and parking solutions are key to making the project a walkable neighborhood. The developer sought permission from the county to put sidewalk cafe seating next to the street while putting public sidewalks next to the storefronts. Street trees and curbside parking protect the seated restaurant patrons from street traffic. More information at: [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/bethesda.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/case/bethesda.htm)

#### **Planning, Designing, and Building for Health**

There are challenges but also opportunities for the health sector to design and build facilities that promote community health. Past and current strategies include environmental sustainability and environmental health issues, such as the siting of buildings and the use of green materials. More information at: [www.actrees.org/site/stories/planning\\_designing\\_and\\_building\\_for\\_health\\_he.php](http://www.actrees.org/site/stories/planning_designing_and_building_for_health_he.php)





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### SUCCESS STORIES- Foundations

#### **Awards of Excellence for Community Trees- The Home Depot Foundation**

In partnership with the US Conference of Mayors, the Awards of Excellence identify, recognize, showcase and celebrate the success and benefits of public/private partnerships in developing healthy communities through tree plantings. The goal is to share outstanding examples of successful collaborations between nonprofit organizations and cities to demonstrate that healthy, safe and economically vibrant communities can be achieved through innovative and strategic planning and successful implementation of tree planting programs. The program started in 2006, and designated four recipients in 2006 and 2007.

More information at: [www.homedepotfoundation.org/awards\\_trees.html](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/awards_trees.html)

#### **Alcoa Foundation- Planting a Greener Future (Indiana)**

An Alcoa Foundation grant is helping communities across Indiana have a greener future. The \$100,000 grant, awarded to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Community & Urban Forestry (CUF) program, will be matched by local funds and will pay for the planting of 4,000 trees in 13 communities. The CUF program offers technical and financial assistance to cities and towns that want to restore their urban forest. Under the CUF Program, municipalities and nonprofit organizations across the state were invited to apply for up to \$10,000 in funding for tree-planting projects on public property. Those receiving a grant were required to match the amount equally with cash or in-kind labor and donations. Some of the tree-planting grants are being used to reforest urban areas where ash trees soon may no longer be standing, while others will fund efforts to fill in the sprawl areas to provide tree buffers to help absorb pollutants, noise, and carbon.

More information at: [www.alcoa.com](http://www.alcoa.com)

#### **Robert Wood Johnson Studies How Trees & Neighborhood Design Affect Health and Obesity (Minnesota)**

As part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (New Jersey) \$12.5 million Active Living Research project, the University of Minnesota is launching a first-of-a-kind comparative study of neighborhood design and resident lifestyle. The School of Public Health's assistant professor Kathryn Schmitz is saying local surroundings may account for 75 percent of a person's reason to be outdoors and walk rather than keeping inside or depend on a car. Knowing whether 'trees are more important (to walkers) than street lights', or short blocks than separation from cars, can help urban designers counter the expensive problems of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases that plague the nation.

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.org/news/bystate.asp?state=MN&res=1280](http://www.smartgrowth.org/news/bystate.asp?state=MN&res=1280)



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### SUCCESS STORIES- Land Banks

#### **Genesee County Land Bank**

Michigan had a tax foreclosure process that hopelessly mired tax reverted properties in a legal limbo. This contributed to urban decline in Flint by keeping properties off of the tax roll and out of circulation for up to seven years. In 1999, the Michigan State Legislature created a new, streamlined system for returning tax-reverted properties to productive use (P.A. 123 and a subsequent P.A. 258). This changed the way foreclosed properties were handled by giving outright ownership of these properties to the local County Treasurer after only two and a half years.

With this new process, Michigan opened the door for communities to reclaim, reinvest in, and rebuild their neighborhoods. Thus, the Genesee County Land Reutilization Council (LRC) was created. In 2004, after the State of Michigan passed the land bank legislation, the LRC became the Genesee County Land Bank Authority (GCLBA). The GCLBA uses the new tax law as a constructive community development tool: avoiding the potential neglect or misuse that comes from selling land at auction, the County is able to acquire abandoned land through the foreclosure process and determine the best use of that land. The GCLBA assembles land for transfer to adjacent homeowners, develops long and short-term green spaces, and assembles land for new housing and commercial development. The objective is to restore the integrity of the community by removing dilapidated structures and redeveloping abandoned properties.

Since its inception in 2002, the Genesee County Land Bank has taken the lead in applying the economic tools created under this new system by playing an active role in stabilizing neighborhoods and revitalizing the City of Flint and the surrounding areas. The Land Bank encourages re-use of more than 4,000 residential, commercial and industrial properties that it has acquired through the tax foreclosure process. This is accomplished through partnerships with public, private and nonprofit partners as well as with the proceeds from the tax foreclosure process, proceeds from GCLB sales and rental programs, grants, loans, and bonds.

The Land Bank has 10 programs: Planning and Outreach, Brownfield Redevelopment, Development, Adopt-a-Lot, Clean and Green, Demolition, Housing Renovation, Sales, Side Lot Transfer and Foreclosure Prevention. The Foreclosure Prevention Program is a collaborative effort between the Land Bank and the Genesee County Treasurer's Office to prevent tax foreclosure on homes. Unfortunately, before the Land Bank, the law provided no way for local officials to intervene to help a family facing the loss of their home. A family facing tax foreclosure was at the mercy of a tax lien holder, usually an out-of-state investor with a personal financial interest in the property being foreclosed. The law allows the county treasurer to postpone foreclosure for a homeowner facing a 'substantial financial hardship.' More information at: [www.thelandbank.org](http://www.thelandbank.org) and [www.geneseeinstitute.org](http://www.geneseeinstitute.org)

#### **New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)**

Blighted properties are those properties that have been declared vacant, uninhabitable, and hazardous by an administrative hearing officer. It is an official legal designation. While there are many properties in New Orleans that are in a generally dilapidated state, many of them are not considered legally blighted. NORA is in the midst of acquiring blighted property. This requires completing an expropriation hearing. Once NORA has completed the hearing and complied with all applicable laws, NORA will make property available to interested purchasers. NORA has also been designated as the eventual recipient of the Road Home properties and its plan for these properties (and many public comments to this plan) are available. More information at: [www.noraworks.org](http://www.noraworks.org)

#### **Cuyahoga County, OH**

A radical plan to help turn around decaying Cuyahoga County neighborhoods through a land bank cleared the Ohio Senate in December 2008 by a near unanimous vote. The legislation allows officials in the state's most populous county to set up a nonprofit land reutilization program to accept or buy foreclosed or abandoned properties. Modeled



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after the Genesee County program, the land bank would give properties beyond repair a date with a wrecking ball while others would be held in a trust. A couple differences that Cuyahoga Republicans insisted on were: 1) That the land bank be used to clear land, not rehabilitate homes. 2) Limit the program to Cuyahoga County and keeps the land bank from acquiring any new property deeds after two years. The two-year pilot program began in February 2009. More information at: [http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/12/cuyahoga\\_commissioners\\_back\\_la.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/12/cuyahoga_commissioners_back_la.html)

### **Baltimore, MD**

The Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development has designed a plan that create a land bank for the city. Baltimore City houses nearly 30,000 abandoned properties that reduce the quality of life in neighborhoods. Their land bank entity that would acquire, maintain, and sell abandoned properties to eliminate the problems created by these vacant homes. The proposal is to amend the city code to allow a city department the authority to sell abandoned property. In addition, the land bank is expected to do away with redundant approvals and streamline the process for selling city-owned properties, thereby eliminating the added expense and delay for affordable housing developers. If the City Council approves the legislation, the land bank could be running by the end of 2009.

In March 2009, Baltimore's Planning Commission unanimously endorsed Mayor Sheila Dixon's proposal for a new agency to streamline the sale of city-owned vacant property. The proposal for the quasi-governmental Land Bank Authority would take control of the bulk of city-owned vacant property and markets it to responsible users. Small developers would benefit from the plan because they would one point of contact to purchase city land. Previously it could take up to two years to buy a rowhouse from the city. Skeptics feel that current purchasing processes can be fixed without creating what they call a new, untested bureaucracy that would operate outside the scrutiny of city government as well as the financial viability of the new entity.

Specific amendments include: 1) A provision requiring that the executive director of the new entity be a city resident. 2) That the new authority maintain its property in a way that is "safe and secure." 3) That the property in the land bank should revert to the city if the new entity dissolves and the requirement that the land bank's progress be carefully measured. 4) That the land bank be reauthorized every two years (opposed by the Housing Commissioner who said such a restriction could make it difficult for the new entity to borrow money).

More information at: [http://actrees.org/files/Research/baltimore\\_landbank.pdf](http://actrees.org/files/Research/baltimore_landbank.pdf)

### **Little Rock, AR**

The purpose of the Commission is to reverse urban blight, increase home ownership and stability of property values, provide affordable housing, improve the health and safety of neighborhoods within the City of Little Rock, and maintain the architectural fabric of the community. The Commission focuses its limited resources on those target areas of the City that show significant signs of decline with the objective of achieving a concentration of revitalization and stabilized or improved property values that will spur private investment in surrounding areas. Signs of decline could be, for example, the highest concentrations of vacant structures, the most criminal activity, the highest poverty rates, the least owner occupied housing or the least capacity for self-revitalization. In the selected target areas, the Commission may: 1. Seek to acquire individual or contiguous groups of properties, strategically located in the general vicinity of established public or private institutions. 2. Attempt to clear title on all parcels it acquires. 3. With respect to its parcels and the surrounding neighborhoods, advocate for actions that will help stabilize or enhance property values, such as seeking an affordable method for clearing titles on parcels owned by others; requesting that City Directors and departments demolish unsafe and, vacant structures, make street repairs as well as sidewalk and drainage improvements; concentrate code enforcement ; concentrate federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Funds; and 4. Offer its parcels individually or in groups as it may determine is in the best interests of the neighborhood and in a manner consistent with LRO No. 19,911.

More information at: [http://actrees.org/files/Research/littlerock\\_landbank.pdf](http://actrees.org/files/Research/littlerock_landbank.pdf)





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### CANOPY CHALLENGES / MILLION TREE INITIATIVES

Many cities are in the throws of announcing or carrying out large canopy planting goals, in many cases, million tree initiatives. The publicity is great for trees and urban forestry, but there are also many valid concerns and challenges including: where to plant in urban areas, tree giveaways- no one's checking if planted, mortality rate for small trees is 50% at best, maintenance relies on local commitment (homeowner), financial resources that don't materialize (\$3.2 of \$70 million in LA), trees grow into benefits (longer term outlook), number goal is arbitrary, and nonprofits cannot always scale up as much and as fast as officials call for. Some of the cities seeking to address these concerns are:

#### **MillionTreesNYC**

MillionTreesNYC is a Citywide, public-private initiative with an ambitious goal: to plant and care for one million new trees across the City's five boroughs over the next decade. By planting one million trees, New York City will increase its urban forest- street trees, park trees, and trees on public, private and commercial land- by 20%, while achieving the many quality-of-life benefits that come with planting trees. The City of New York will plant 60% of trees in parks and other public spaces. The other 40% will come from private organizations, homeowners, and community organizations. This initiative is the result of a partnership between Mayor Bloomberg and Bette Midler, the founder of the New York Restoration Project.

More information at: [www.milliontreesnyc.org](http://www.milliontreesnyc.org)

#### **Baltimore To Double Its Canopy**

Currently, Baltimore is losing tree canopy. However, Baltimore City is committed to reversing this trend and increasing the tree canopy. TreeBaltimore is the city's initiative to double its canopy goal. A study performed by MD Department of Natural Resources & USDA Forest Service measured Baltimore's existing tree canopy and placed it at 20%. Using this information, the city adopted a 40% goal in thirty years, or doubling. The initiative works within Baltimore's Urban Forest Management Plan, which is available for public review. The plan identifies ways to: preserved existing trees and forests, improve the tree-growing environment, select trees for diversity and suitability, increase space for tree planting opportunities, improve the regulatory framework, educate the public on the value of trees and tree care, and build capacity for tree planting and care in the public and private sectors.

More information at: [www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/treeBaltimore.html](http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/treeBaltimore.html)

#### **City of Denver Greenprint- Tree by Tree Initiative**

In order to achieve true sustainability, mayor John Hickenlooper is integrating trees into SmartGrowth plans for the city to ensure that all neighborhoods be safe, have good schools, and offer access to a high quality of life. Denver's Greenprint initiative will plant 1 million trees by 2025, tripling the canopy from 6 to 18 percent. A key part of Denver's sustainability effort is water conservation, and trees are helping conserve 22 percent more system-wide in the next decade, 35 years earlier than previously planned. Doing so will rely on integrating trees into homebuilders' energy efficiency and landscaping designs, while also encouraging water conservation ordinances in adjacent regions.

More information at: [www.greenprintdenver.org/](http://www.greenprintdenver.org/)

#### **Los Angeles Million Trees LA**

With the support of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles will plant one million trees by 2012. The city is working with the USDA Forest Service, PSW Research Station, Center for Urban Forest Research, Davis, CA to prepare a science-based tree canopy analysis to identify priority areas using satellite imagery and recommend the right kinds of trees that will give the greatest ecological and societal benefits. Special attention will be given to schools, under-served communities, and those areas along the Los Angeles River.

More information at: [www.milliontreesla.org/](http://www.milliontreesla.org/)





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### **Boston Plants 100,000 Trees**

Boston will plant 100,000 trees during the next 13 years, with the bulk of the plantings to take root in the city's least green neighborhoods, Mayor Thomas M. Menino will announce today. By expanding the urban forest by some 20 percent to cover more than one-third of the city, leaders hope to reap a range of benefits, including cooler temperatures in summer, absorption of carbon dioxide and storm water runoff, and increased psychological well-being among residents. As part of the initiative, the mayor will also announce a new partnership with the US Forest Service that designates Boston as an urban experimental forest- one of three such sites in the country- where scientists and arborists will conduct research to document the effects of trees on people and the environment.

More information at: [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)

### **Indianapolis to Plant 100,000 Trees**

Mayor Bart Peterson and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. (KIB) announced a major initiative to plant 100,000 trees in Indianapolis over the next ten years. The announcement of the "NeighborWoods" initiative targets communities across Indianapolis most in need of more tree coverage. The initiative is aimed at improving air and water quality, increasing neighborhood property values, encouraging economic and retail vitality, and creating neighborhood environments that reduce domestic violence, property crime, and violent crime.

More information at: [www.kibi.org](http://www.kibi.org)

### **Salt Lake County One Million Trees**

Mayor Corroon announced One Million Trees for One Million People, a ten-year campaign to plant one million trees in Salt Lake County by 2017. The campaign was designed based on community partnerships and collaboration. The initiative is aimed to capitalize on the following benefits of trees: higher property values and reduced crime rates, to energy savings and cleaner air, to improved water quality and flood control, trees enhance the beauty, comfort, health, and sustainability of neighborhoods and communities.

More information at: [www.milliontrees.slco.org/index.html](http://www.milliontrees.slco.org/index.html)

### **Sacramento: Greenprint**

The Greenprint initiative is a multi-decade regional program created to meet its sustainability and livability goals by expanding urban forests and optimizing the benefits of tree canopies. Supported by official resolutions from twenty-two cities and four counties in the greater Sacramento region, the Greenprint initiative represents a model for the nation in regional collaboration, environmental enhancement and land stewardship. A major focal point of the Greenprint initiative is to double the region's urban tree canopy – a planting of up to 5 million new trees that will dramatically enhance the landscape and canopy cover. It will educate hundreds-of-thousands of citizens in sustainable landscape practices. It will foster regional collaborative public, private, and non-profit ventures. It will enlist tens-of-thousands of citizens in volunteer planting and stewardship activities. It will influence the way the citizens of the region view their communities and urban environment, and their responsibility for its health.

More information at: [www.sactree.com/greenprint/index.html](http://www.sactree.com/greenprint/index.html)





## A Resource List

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### INFORMATION RESOURCES

#### **KnowledgePlex**

KnowledgePlex is a free online resource center for affordable housing and community development. They strive to be the most complete source of information about these topic areas with information on: relevant news and timely research, tools to collaborate with peers, important events and informative chats, and special reports. For example, their DataPlace Team recently announced two new tools that make exploring and customizing mapping data easier than ever. With Neighborhood Metrics you can generate ranked lists of places in the U.S. based upon multiple indicators of your choice. Widgets allow you to create maps and charts that plug into your blog or Web site. More information at: [www.knowledgeplex.org](http://www.knowledgeplex.org)

#### **National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education (College Park, MD)**

The National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education is a non-partisan center for research and leadership training on Smart Growth and related land use issues nationally and internationally. Located at the University of Maryland, the National Center for Smart Growth conducts independent, objective research in four general areas: land use and the environment, transportation and public health, housing and community development, and international development issues. It also offers a semi-annual Smart Growth Leadership Program to federal, state, and local governments and private sector decision-makers as well as a variety of other training and outreach activities. The Center staff and its affiliate faculty offer specialized education and training programs as well as Smart Growth study tours and workshops.

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/](http://www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/)

#### **Resources for the Future (Washington, DC)**

Resources for the Futures maintains papers on a variety of topics including transportation, infrastructure, land preservation, and community development. They have brought together government officials, academics, and environmental and development interests to debate the effectiveness and outcomes of SmartGrowth instruments such as priority funding areas, rural legacy easements, the role of state and local government in growth management, and the need for increased state-wide and regional coordination.

More information at: [www.rff.org/rff/Events/SmartGrowthat10.cfm](http://www.rff.org/rff/Events/SmartGrowthat10.cfm)

#### **Smart Growth Leadership Institute (Washington, DC)**

The Smart Growth Leadership Institute is dedicated to helping state and local elected, civic, and business leaders design and implement effective smart growth strategies. The Smart Growth Leadership Institute is a project of Smart Growth America and supports leaders with training programs and resources. The Smart Growth Leadership Institute works to help shape state and local initiatives to level the playing field for smart growth and develop policies and strategies that will promote resilient economies for all our communities.

More information at: [www.sgli.org/index.htm](http://www.sgli.org/index.htm)

#### **National Vacant Properties Campaign**

The National Vacant Properties Campaign exists to provide everyone- individuals, advocates, agencies, developers, non-profits, and others- with information resources, tools, and assistance to support their vacant property revitalization efforts. The Campaign is a project of Smart Growth America (SGA), Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.

More information at: [www.vacantproperties.org](http://www.vacantproperties.org)





## A Resource List

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### **EPA Smartgrowth**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency helps communities grow in ways that expand economic opportunity, protect public health and the environment, and create and enhance the places that people love. Through research, tools, partnerships, case studies, grants, and technical assistance, the EPA is helping America's communities turn their visions of the future into reality.

More information at: [www.epa.gov/livablecommunities](http://www.epa.gov/livablecommunities)

### **Smart Growth America (Washington, DC)**

Smart Growth America is a coalition of national, state, and local organizations working to improve the ways we plan and build the towns, cities, and metro areas we call home. The coalition includes many of the best-known national organizations advocating on behalf of historic preservation, the environment, farmland and open space preservation, neighborhood revitalization, and more.

More information at: [www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

### **Foreclosure-Response.org**

The Center for Housing Policy, KnowledgePlex, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Urban Institute have joined forces to launch Foreclosure-Response.org – a new Web resource that provides government officials, housing practitioners and advocates with up-to-date information on a broad range of state and local policy solutions related to foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization.

More information at: [www.foreclosure-response.org](http://www.foreclosure-response.org)

### **American Planning Association (Washington, DC)**

The American Planning Association brings together thousands of people- practicing planners, citizens, elected officials- committed to making great communities happen. The APA is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. The APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

More information at: [www.planning.org/policyguides/smartgrowth.htm](http://www.planning.org/policyguides/smartgrowth.htm)

### **Smart Growth Network (Washington, DC)**

Developed and maintained by the Sustainable Communities Network and supported with funding from the U.S. EPA, Smart Growth Network is the publisher of *This is Smart Growth* and *Getting to Smart Growth*, Smart Growth Online offers a searchable catalogue of reports, websites, tools and case studies dating from 1997 until today.

More information at: [www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)

