

PATTERSON PLACE COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES



*Funding, technical assistance and training provided by
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The varied types of green spaces in the Butchers Hill neighborhood act as a microcosm of the entire universe of community greening projects in the City of Baltimore. Carol Hartke, a thirteen-year resident of the neighborhood and a community gardener and activist believes, “the reclamation of green space is undertaken to meet community vision.”

In a city where one block can stand in stark contrast to the next, it makes sense that greening projects reflect such diversity. In this particular neighborhood, an area that is directly north of Patterson Park, residents react to both opportunity and desire. For example, a botched home demolition on Montford Street resulted in four inner-block vacant lots. Residents of the block seized the opportunity to transform the lots into their vision of green space, a grassy, shaded area that could be a relaxing space to enjoy.

When community greening takes place at this level, it is no wonder that particular block organizers take pride in their projects. It is interesting to note that people were once surprised to find green spaces in the middle of such busy urban neighborhoods. Now, there exists a quiet reverence for these

spaces, fostered by this type of grassroots activism and support.

No community group is without challenges and Patterson Place is no exception. In addition to responding to the northward revitalization of the Canton area, a community tree nursery has been an unfulfilled dream going on several years. Support has been provided by Neighborhood Design Center, Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention and Parks & People Foundation, yet the tree nursery has experienced problems of overgrowth, lack of volunteer manpower and physical constraints. Today, residents still persist in pursuing their dream.

It is this persistence and a true pride in their work that has helped Patterson Place pursue community ownership of land. Neighborhood residents have decided to take an ownership-based approach to protecting the green spaces because certainty about their future may increase their stake in the project. With positive reinforcement sure to come about by ownership, Hartke and other neighborhood leaders hope to lay the groundwork for future projects and protection efforts in this area of Baltimore City.

WHO

Carol Hartke, Community Activist

WHAT

Patterson Place Community Green Spaces

WHERE

Various places within the Patterson Place neighborhood, north of Patterson Park

WHEN

Start date unknown

WHY

To “fulfill the neighborhood”

