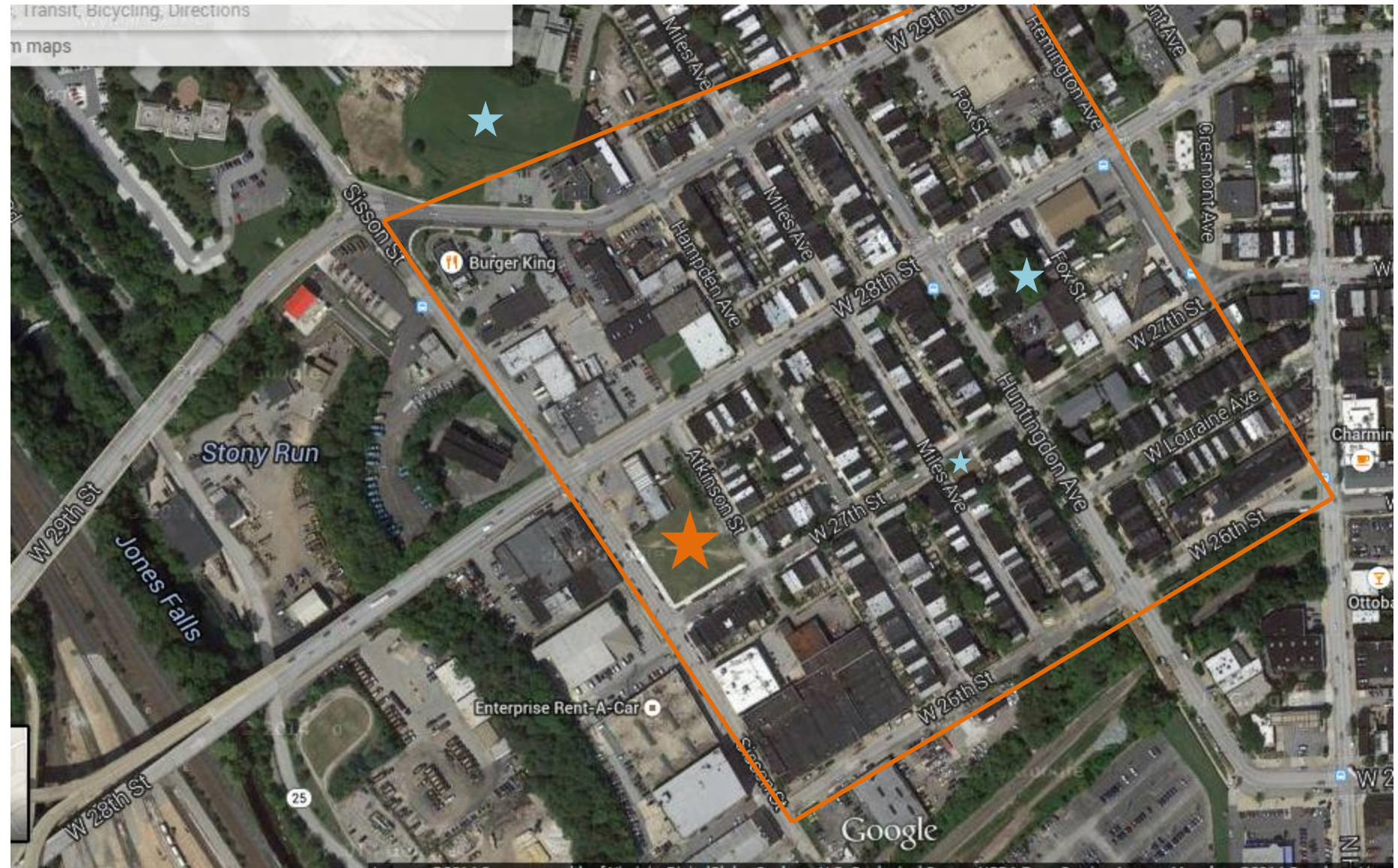


Goals for this meeting

- Share what we can do on the site under our “Adopt-A-Lot” agreement
- Find out what the Remington community would like to see the lot used for
- Share results from our neighborhood survey.
- Small group breakout discussions
- Ask for volunteers to help in the next steps of the project



The Sisson St. Lot – approximately 160 feet x 155 feet + 46 feet x 55 feet section



The Sisson St. Lot – the largest area of open space south of 29th St.

The Site

History and recent cleanup

- The site was formerly used as a horses' stable, a bottling plant for a milk company and most recently as a commercial laundry.
- Results from the City's soil tests showed that the soil was contaminated by these users. (They have not shared the results with us yet.)
- In November 2014, the City put down 2 feet of top soil to prevent users from coming into contact with the contaminated soil below.



New soil

Landscape fabric to prevent soil from washing off the site

The Site

Current uses

- Kids playing sports – baseball, football
- Dog walking
- 9 raised beds in a community garden (removed in November)
- Community events (yard sale, recycling bin giveaways)
- 5 fruit trees along 27th St.



We'll be having a pruning workshop in early March to trim them back and keep the trees healthy!

Now that we have official permission, what would you like to see the lot used for?

**First, let's look at the
'Adopt-A-Lot' program and
find out more about what
we are allowed to do there.**

Adopt-A-Lot

Overview

- Adopt-A-Lot is a way for Baltimore City residents to use vacant lots in their communities.
- Only City-owned vacant lots are available for adoption.
- Since 2011, more than 1100 lots have been adopted, totaling 49 acres.
- The program is overseen by the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Adopt-A-Lot

The license

- The license gives permission for the user to occupy and use a parcel of city-owned vacant land as a **community-managed open space**.
- Under a license, the City can **revoke** its permission to enter and use the property **at any time** and give the user 30 days notice to vacate.

Adopt-A-Lot

How long does the agreement last?

- First-time adoption agreements are for **one** year.
- Agreement renewals can last up to **five years**.
- If you and your community have maintained your lot for five years, you may be eligible to apply to have it protected longterm as a land trust site through Baltimore Green Space.

Adopt-A-Lot

What can I do on a lot?

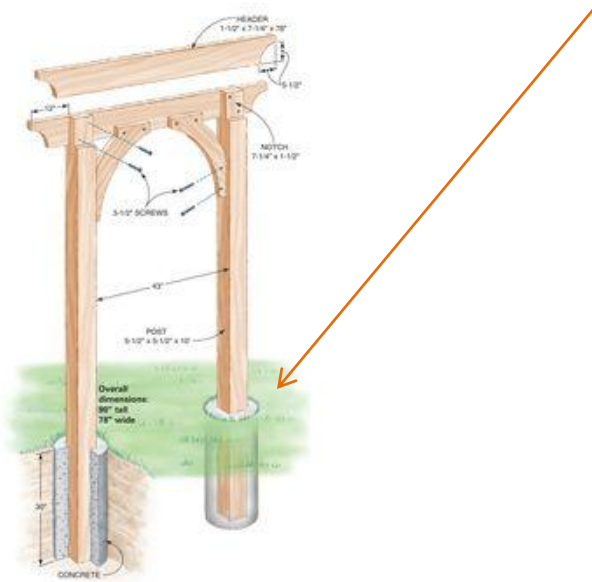
- As long as it benefits your community, the creative options are endless, such as:
 - a green space
 - a flower garden
 - a vegetable garden
 - a chess park
 - horseshoe pit
 - art /sculptures
- License agreements do not permit you to install:
 - a permanent structure (see more on next slide)
 - parking
 - a dog park
 - playground equipment or a pool

Adopt-A-Lot

What are 'permanent structures'?

Permanent

- a house
- structures that are installed in concrete



Temporary

- garden sheds
- picnic tables
- benches
- portable canopies
- gazebo
- hoophouses (plastic greenhouses for gardening)

Note: the City *may* keep any improvements if it terminates the agreement



community garden



community garden





horseshoe pit



hoophouse for year-round growing



Stepping stones
made with
concrete



Benches made
from wooden
pallets

Low-cost and temporary materials



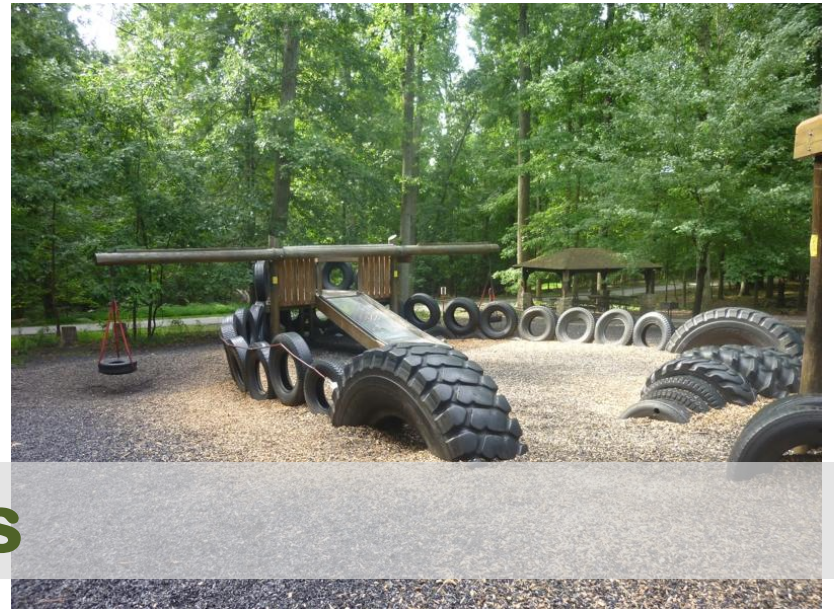
Stepping stones made of “tree cookies”

Sandbox with tree stumps



Hills built with soil and rocks

Tire park



non-permanent play areas



market farm



ornamental flowers





art and play area



natural seating and chess tables

Adopt-A-Lot

What about water?

- Water access may be available through an active water meter pit near your lot.
- Water can be turned on during the standard garden season (March 1 to November 30) for a flat annual rate of \$120. GRIA has applied for 2015 already.
- Water access must be renewed each year.

Adopt-A-Lot

Permits may be needed

- If your space requires any permits, your group must pay for them yourself.
- For example, if you would like to build a fence around your lot, you must apply to the city for a permit to build the fence and go through the same process as you would if you owned the lot yourself.

Survey results

61

respondents

50 live in Remington

10 attend school in
Remington

10 work in
Remington

Mix of locations:

24th St.: 400 block

27th St.: 200 block, 500 block

28th St.: 500 block

31st St.: 200 block

Atkinson: 2700 block

Fawcett St.

Hampden: 2600 block, 2700 block, 2800 block

Howard: 2700 block

Huntingdon: 2200 block, 2800 block, 2900
block, 3100 block

Lorraine: 200 block

Miles: 2700 block, 2800 block, 2900 block

Remington: 2800 block, 3100 block

Tuxedo: 400 block

Survey results

of respondents

- 38 Children's play area
- 38 Community garden
- 36 Movie night screenings
- 34 Seating area
- 28 Fruit tree orchard
- 23 Shaded area
- 21 Flowers
- 19 Performance area
- 2 Sports area (note: we should ask more kids!)
- 2 Horseshoe pit

Other ideas

- fenced dog area
- fenced in to hide the gas station and Sisson Ave.
- compost facility
- farmers' market
- rain garden
- just a park and greenspace
- community artwork (mural, stepping stones, sculpture, etc.)
- trees
- art fundraiser
- occasional neighborhood
- flea markets
- exercise area

Any more ideas to add?

Breakout groups

Find the group who is interested in the same community lot features as you (ex. children's play area). Answer the following questions:

- What would this look like? Describe or draw it!
- Who in the neighborhood would use this feature?
- Who in the neighborhood would help install this feature?
- Who in the neighborhood would help to maintain this feature?

Remember:

- We have the license to use the lot for one year to start.
- Consider how long it might take to design and install each component.

Adopt-A-Lot

To find a lot that can be adopted:

- Baltimore CityView shows availability of City-owned vacant lots and other established green spaces.
- The map is online at:
<http://cityview.baltimorecity.gov/cv/map.aspx?question=200>

Adopt-A-Lot

How do I adopt a lot?

- Fill out an application online at:
http://www.baltimorehousing.org/adopt_a_lot_form.aspx