



garfield

green zone project

Bloomfield Garfield Corporation

Prepared By:

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

evolve environment::architecture

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PREFACE

The Garfield Green Zone Project is intended to test the proposition that intentionally protected and improved green areas in Garfield offer a positive strategy for anchoring future revitalization of the hillside community. The purpose of this project is to work with the Garfield community to determine how a “Green Zone” might support other community aspirations.

Working with community members, Bloomfield Garfield Corporation has asked Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) and its partner EvolveEA to undertake the first phase of this work. This Phase I report summarizes the tasks undertaken to date, findings and early recommendations for action.

The three potential phases of work include:

- +Assessment of existing conditions and information needed for a successful clean-up of the area;*
- +Identification of options for potential reuse of the area including views, paths and other visible improvements; and, finally,*
- +Development of a vision and strategy package to help guide specific green infrastructure improvements.*

The goal was to complete the first phase by spring 2015 and see whether it is feasible and desirable to continue to other phases. The 2030 Garfield-Bloomfield plan identified green spaces as an important asset for the community as it redevelops. This project is intended to take that recommendation in a more specific direction.

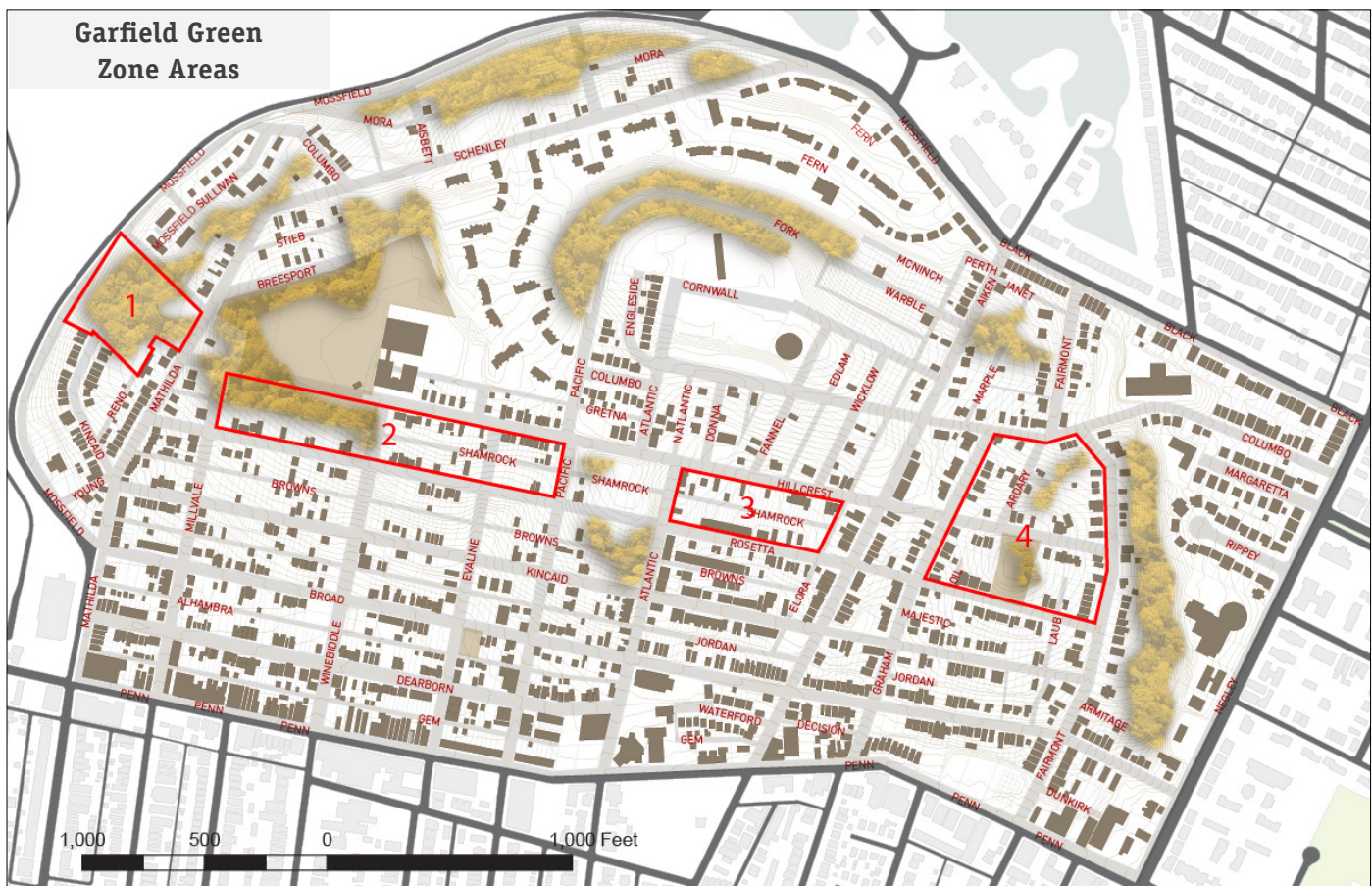
SITE OBSERVATIONS

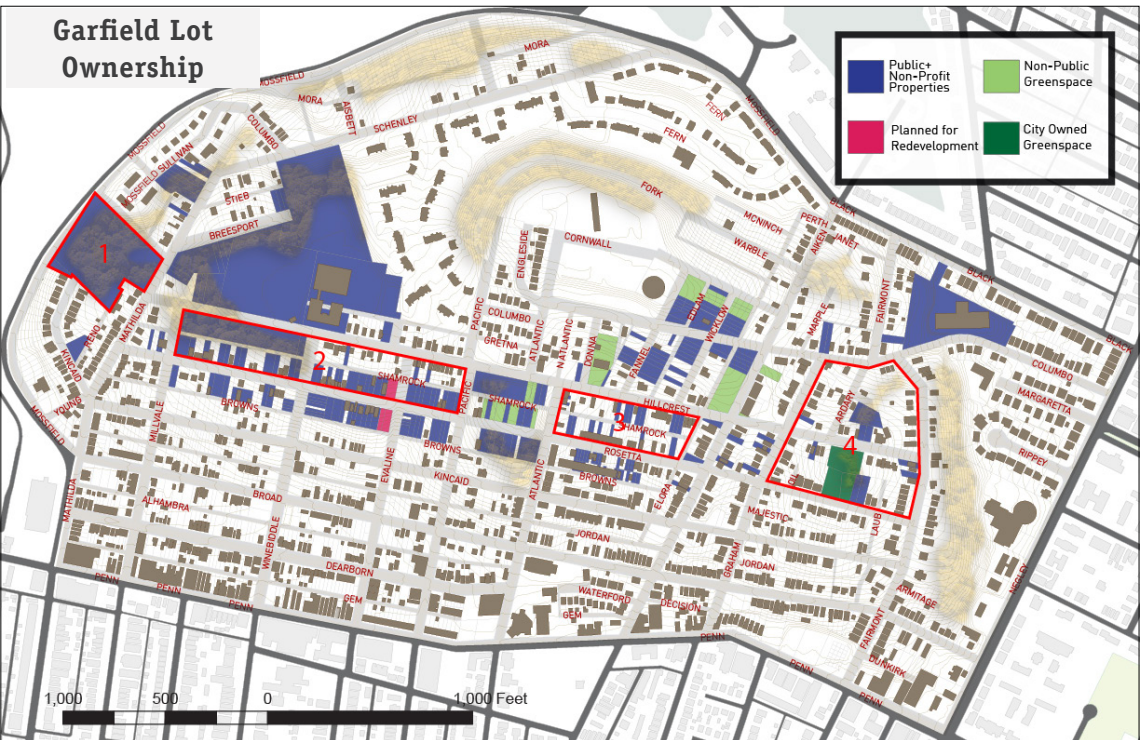
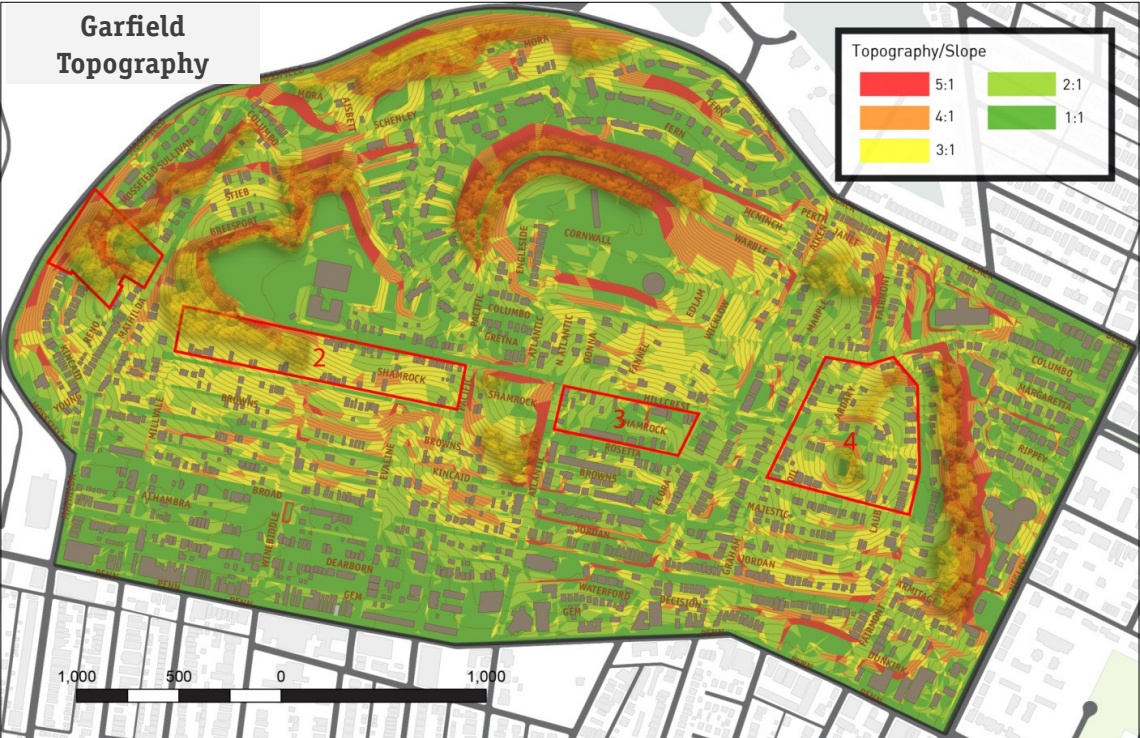
Creating An Inventory

Starting in October of 2014, Western PA Conservancy staff made several visits to the site and began an inventory that assessed trees and tree health, invasive vegetation, conditions hazardous to humans, sites with noticeable trash or dumping, and general opportunities for improvements. Visits focused on the Shamrock Way area as recommended by BGC staff and board members. Visits were made on two separate occasions in October and November, with additional visits in late November and December. Evolve staff joined the December site visit. The initial visits before leaf fall allowed identification of most tree and shrub varieties and allowed a general catalogue of vegetation in the area. Research on other basic conditions, such as land ownership and topography was also completed.

Green Zone Mapping

WPC and Evolve staff created maps based on on-site surveys and noted key nodes of interest as well as property ownership. The Green Zone corridor was initially separated into five segments for ease of discussion and planning. Site visits suggested the need to reduce the segments to four due to steep topography on the eastern end of the area, as well as lack of public land.





Area 01 | Wooded Area between Mossfield St. and Mathilda St.



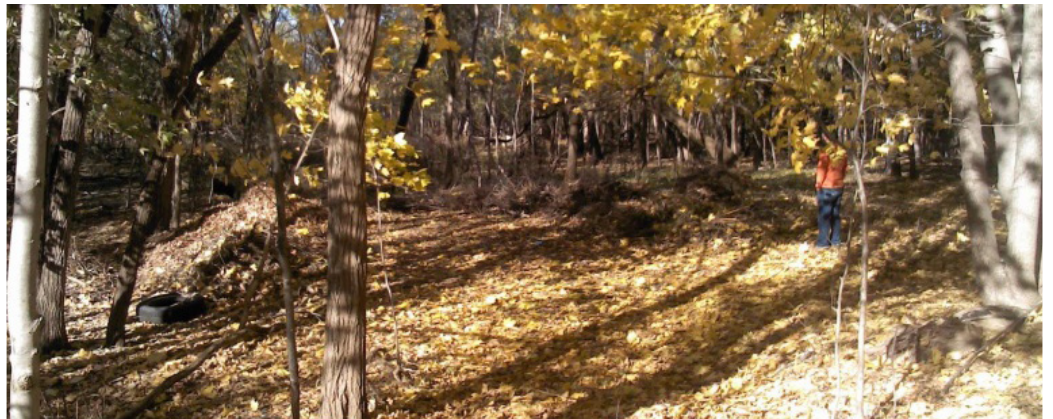
Overview

The site is a 3.5 acre forested hillside, owned by the City of Pittsburgh. The forest is a single-aged forest, composed of many of the native trees typically found on in Pittsburgh's urban forest. Tree species found to be present include: American elm, Black locust, Red oak, Black walnut, Siberian elm, Black cherry, and Mulberry. Invasive tree species include Norway maple, Ailanthus and Callery pear. Invasive Japanese knotweed is found in forest canopy gaps, where

increased levels of sunlight reach the forest floor. Other invasive plants found include honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and grapevines. Planting trees in the canopy gaps would help shade out the knotweed, reducing its presence on the site. Also, cutting the vines growing on trees and pulling out the invasive plants would be a good way to ensure the survival of existing trees and reducing the population of invasive plants.

Opportunities/Challenges

The site could be a suitable site for a trail connecting Mossfield Ave. to N. Mathilda St., then connecting to a trail leading to Shamrock Way. However, there is a significant slope near the Mossfield Ave. side of the site that may present a challenge to this idea.



Area 02 | Shamrock Way, from N. Mathilda St. to N. Pacific Ave.



Overview

This site contains pretty much every tree listed in Zone 1; however, it has a few additional tree species such as Sumac and White ash, and a few trees that appear to have been purposefully planted and are now found in vacant lots such as Norway spruce and Pin oak. Invasive plants that are present in Area 2 include honeysuckle,

grapevine, English ivy, Japanese knotweed, Siberian elm, Ailanthus, and Norway maple. Removing vines from the larger established trees is recommended to try and save the larger trees. A good majority of the invasive plants are found in vacant lots, where the vacant properties haven't been maintained in years.

Opportunities/Challenges

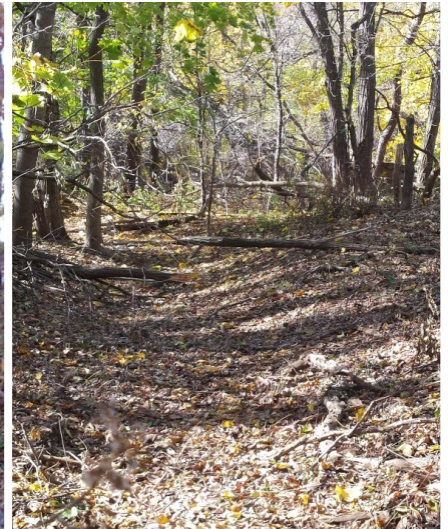
Area 2 has multiple sets of City steps. One set connects Hillcrest St. to Shamrock Way and then from Shamrock Way to Rosetta St. below at Winebiddle St. There is another set of steps at Evaline St. from Hillcrest St. to Shamrock Way. These are all used by residents to traverse the neighborhood, though there is quite a bit

of overgrowth around them and they are not necessarily in good shape.

As one can see from the map, there are a few properties in pink, currently owned by the URA, that have been given the green light to go ahead for development in the Green Zone in the time since this process commenced. Development in this space will significantly alter how a green zone plan is enacted.

Shamrock Way

Shamrock Way ends as a paved street at the Winebiddle St. stairs but continues as relatively flat ground into the woods toward Mathilda St. This location has been used in recent years as an asphalt dump. Old large items such as couches were once dumped in this area as well, though as one proceeds west, the large trash items become fewer.



Garbage Site

In addition, there is a large garbage dump just west of the N. Winebiddle St. stairs when looking up hill. This dump is very close to the school and it appears that it is an active dump site. It is likely that heavy equipment will be needed to remove some of the larger garbage items.



Area 02 | Shamrock Way, from N. Mathilda St. to N. Pacific Ave.

Garbage Site (continued)

A garbage dump was also noted in the vacant lots at the corner of Shamrock Way and N. Pacific Ave.



Open Storm Drain

There are a few safety hazards in Zone 2 worth noting. There is an exposed sewer overflow that may be a safety concern. This is found approximately 200 yards into the woods to the north of the Shamrock Way path, on the edge of the hillside.



Water Leak

Water is seeping out of the hill and onto Shamrock Way. The origin of the water seep appears to be in the public right-of-way just to the east of the N. Evaline St. city steps, between Shamrock Way and Hillcrest St. between 5140 and 5148 Hillcrest St. (One resident's opinion is that it may be related to construction of Garfield Commons. Others at the meeting suggested it has been intermittent.)



Potential Contributing Assets

Fort Pitt Elementary

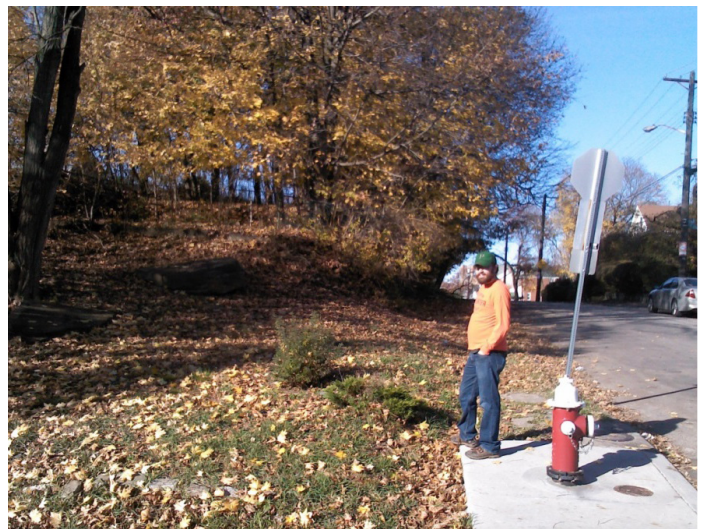
A now-closed Pittsburgh Public School, is along Hillcrest St. that runs parallel to Shamrock Way. Next to it is a large public field used for football and other sporting events. This is where the Garfield Gators, the local youth football teams, play. This is a significant organization in the neighborhood. Hillcrest St. dead-ends along the field.



Healcrest Farm

Healcrest Farm sits between Site 2 and Site 3 along Shamrock Way. It is a good gateway point for the community heading up the hill from Penn Ave., as both Pacific Ave. and Atlantic Ave. come to a stop at the Farm along Hillcrest St. It has a mission is to “advocate for the preservation of artisanal, local & healthy food in Pittsburgh and the conservation of sustainably-managed green space”, primarily through growing medicinal and culinary herbs. Some plantings have been added around the perimeter, but additional

plantings could be included. Staff did not go into Healcrest Farm out of respect for the Farm’s boundaries. It is clearly a great asset for the community. The edges are pretty well cared for, though knotweed is an issue along the hillside. Based on participation by the director of the farm during community meetings and walk-about, it is possible that the Farm would be willing to have residents pass through it to connect the portions of the Green Zone in the area.



Area 03 | Shamrock Way, from Elora Way to N. Atlantic Ave.



Overview

The tree species present on this site are similar to Sites 1 and 2. There are some large trees in a series of vacant lots. A large black cherry in this area was of interest to one of the residents; it appears to have been damaged during removal of housing and further analysis of this tree is needed to determine whether it can be saved. [Note: if the tree is too damaged to survive, the wood could be repurposed for greenspace use in the area.] Other specific trees identified include American elm, Mulberry, Pin oak, Black walnut, Catalpa and Kentucky coffee tree. The series of vacant lots is being mowed/maintained by neighbors. Invasive plants are present, yet in smaller number, including grapevine, Rose-of-sharon and Norway maple. There are vines and dead branches overhanging Spring Way in some locations that are a safety concern.



Hazardous Vegetation

There are vines and dead branches overhanging parts of Shamrock Way that are a safety concern.



Garfield Jubilee Parklet

Just beyond Site 3 to the north is a park, owned by a private entity. Garfield Jubilee initially established the passive park and local youths have had a part in its initial upkeep, but it appears untended in recent time, aside from mowing. The park contains partial paths, fencing, landscaping fabric around perennials and a brick patio in the center.

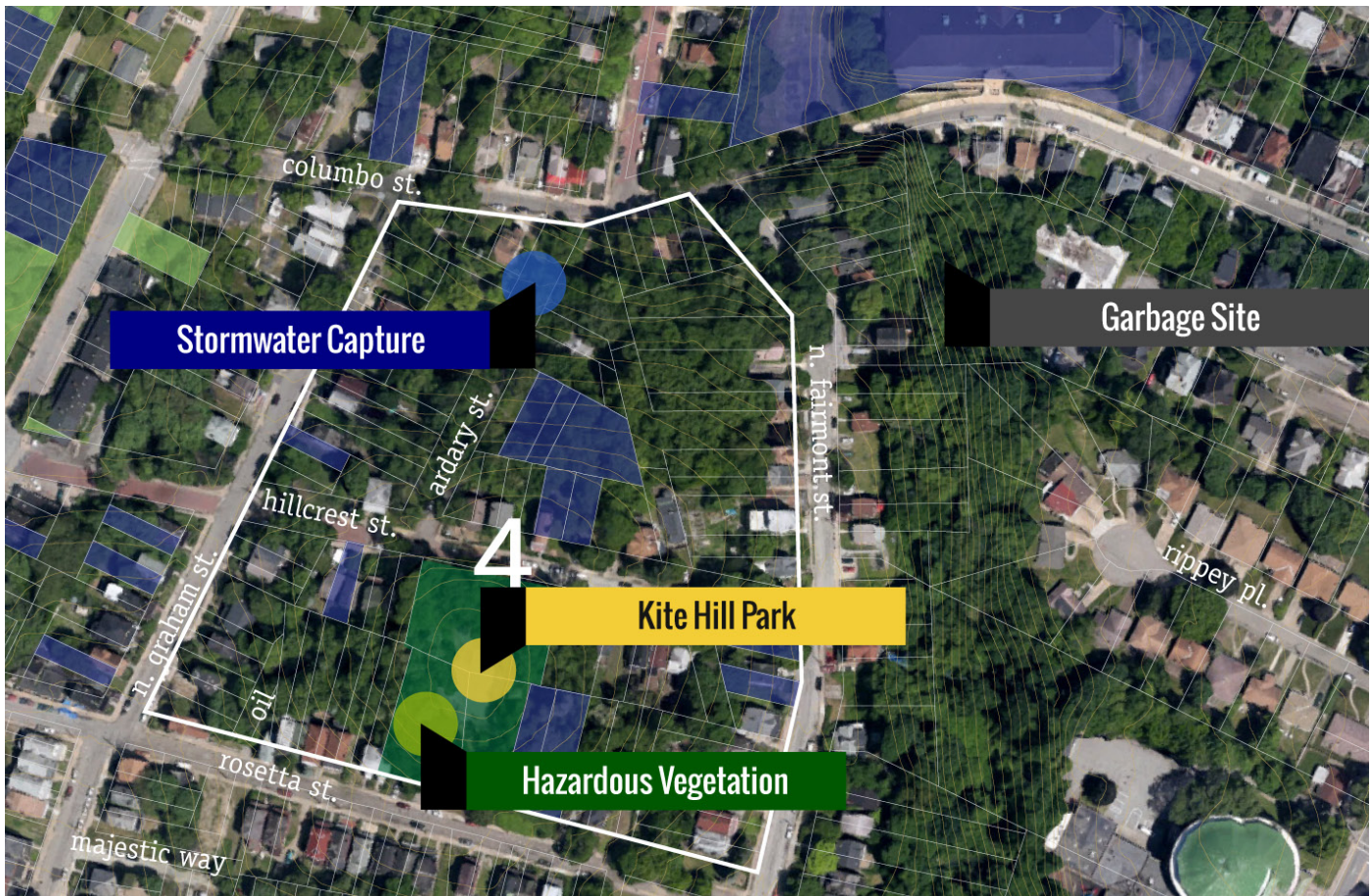


Garfield Community Farm

is a block north of Area 3 and is a significant community asset worth noting. It is a church-associated organization that has made use of more than 25 vacant properties, converting them into a small, viable farm that serves the community.



Area 04 | Between N. Graham St. and N. Fairmount St., Columbo St. and Rosetta St.



Kite Hill Park

Kite Hill Park has a basketball court, a bench and is surrounded by trees. Quite a few invasive plants and trees appear around its edges including, Chinese elm, Norway maple, Callery pear, Ailanthus, multi-flora rose, and honeysuckle. Kite Hill Park has been cared for increasingly by neighbors with some additional attention from the city. There is a dead ash tree on the edge of the woods threatening to fall.



Intersection of Columbo St. & Ardary St.

Ardary St. is a steep alley way that seems to have significant water flow downhill. There may be a good opportunity at the bottom of Ardary St., where it runs into Colombo St., to capture storm water. At the intersection of Ardary St. and Colombo St., there are city steps with greenspace on both sides of the steps. The water from Ardary runs right through this site onto Colombo St. and could be slowed for infiltration. The water flowing from Ardary St. is apparently in Heth's Run Watershed. Trees noted in this area are similar to those of Sites 1 through 3.



Forested Edges along Columbo St. between N. Fairmount & Ardary St.

The edges of this area are viney, containing grapevine overtaking the Black locust, Black cherry, and American elm. Invasive trees present include Norway maple, Chinese or Siberian elm, Ailanthus and Callery pear. Knotweed is growing next to the stairs and other invasive plants found on the Hillcrest St. side of the park, include vine honeysuckle, grapevine, multi-flora rose and poison ivy.



COMMUNITY MEETING 01

Gathering Feedback

Introducing Project Goals | 11.17.14

On November 17, 2014 WPC presented its initial findings to Garfield residents and stakeholders, soliciting feedback regarding the information gathered to date, greening desires in the neighborhood, as well as additional information regarding the Green Zone corridor.

The general discussion that followed the presentation offered various observations. There is a city-owned park, Nelson Mandela Peace Park, down the hill from the green zone area, with play equipment, that some children and families use. There were various theories about why people are reluctant to use this park area. There was sentiment that there needs to be better interaction and integration between new and old Garfield residents. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Gator group (the Garfield Pop Warner football team) could get behind a Kaboom

playground on one of the existing open spaces.

There was lively discussion about connecting with youth workers, and neighborhood volunteers, and whether it would be possible to pay people to help with caretaking. There is sentiment that caretaking needs to be figured out and built right into the project so that it is not dependent on an outside entity. However, training and funding will be needed. There was sentiment that it is important to make sure people know it is ok to use green spaces.

There was also discussion about the value of interconnected green space; eventually the group came to a vision of “nodes” of green along a greenway that might have enhanced sites—like beads on a necklace.



There was some sentiment for trying to save the nice trees from vines and invasives. Residents shared the view that the vacant land actually provides a unique asset, creating spaciousness in the area that is unusual in an urban setting and desirable for the future. There were a lot of comments about city steps and using them for pathways, pedestrian transportation, exercise and even decorative uses to mark the paths.

There is a sense that trash clean-up is essential, but a big job. Allegheny Cleanways might be a good partner. They surveyed the site and are ready to help if the community determines that they will aid in the process as an intentional event. Garfield Jubilee may be another good partner. Some people thought that first should come a marked pathway, then a clean-up; others through the clean-up might have to be first to

make a statement of intention. Over the course of this project, neighbors have banded together more than once to make a start on the trash clean up. Some of the more difficult dump areas may still need support from a group like Cleanways to remove heavier items.

People were enthusiastic about a “trail” or path with natural spaces along it, including opportunities for play, resting along steps, picnics, and visiting or gathering. The idea of sponsorship for “nodes” was suggested.

A second public meeting was convened by BGC in late January, but was not well attended. BGC agreed to work on outreach to generate greater participation by the community.



COMMUNITY MEETING 02

Gathering Feedback

Visioning+Planning | 03.04.15

For the second public meeting we developed four themes, based on the site assessments, to share with the community. These themes summarize the opportunities that the assessment brought to light. After being presented with the four concepts for the greenzone, the community was asked to provide their input

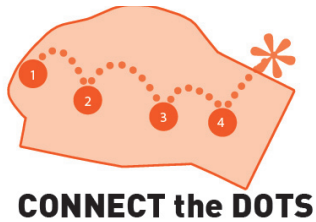


See the views refers to the special location of Garfield on steep slopes that offer spectacular views of other parts of the city. Identifying some of the most interesting views could enhance the “beads” along the Green Zone and offer some “destinations” for visitors and residents alike.



In addition to the trees there are some specific sites along the Green Zone corridor that might serve as pleasing nature places for residents and visitors to enjoy. While all of these would need future enhancement, it would be worth a community review to select the most interesting “beads” on the green necklace of Garfield.

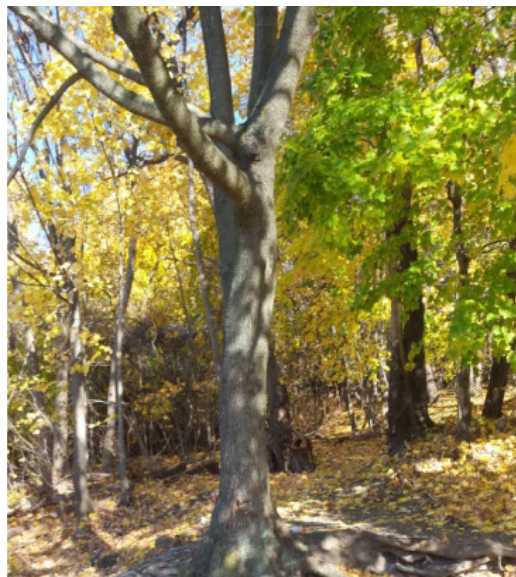




Connect the dots refers to the opportunity that exists to use city steps and the potential paths through green space to create a better used and more extensive pedestrian and cycling network for local use. Existing steps and pathways form the bare bones of a potential system that could significantly enhance the options for residents interested in healthy walking and cycling in a green setting. The Shamrock Way path from Area 1 to Area 4 could guide an east-west connection of “dots” throughout the neighborhood.



There are some handsome and mature trees in the Green Zone that are threatened by vines that are smothering the tree branches and crowns. These trees offer important “environmental services” to the community in the form of capturing storm water, cleaning the air, shading and aesthetic value. In addition, they provide an anchor for the local environment—a certain look and stately history of the community landscape.



COMMUNITY MEETING

PROMPT 01- My Favorite Outdoor Activity Is...



Available Assets

This question allows for an inventory of activities that are currently going on in the community. It also lays out where people like to spend their time in the neighborhood. This question produced responses that resonate with the themes listed in the presentation:

See The Views

"sitting on the porch at the end of the work day and looking at the views and catching up with my neighbors"

-Winebiddie+Rosetta

Connect The Dots

"running, gardening, walking/playing with my dog"

-Fields behind the school

Nature Places

"sitting on my swing watching the birds, smelling the breeze"

-Kite Park

participant responses

- 2 running/hiking
- 3 gardening, especially planting flowers, walking
- 4 running, gardening, walking/playing with my dog
- 5 skating, swimming
- 6 hiking/walking, gardening, creating places to enjoy and host gatherings; aesthetic value!
- 7 gardening, biking, walking
- 8 sitting on my swing watching the birds, smelling the breeze
- 9 sitting on the porch at the end of the work day and looking at the views and catching up with my neighbors
- 10 hang out around trees
- 36 walking
- 37 gardening at Kincaid Street Community Garden and walking up to Fort Pitt
- 38 gardening, walking (through Allegheny Cemetery), picnic, seeing nature
- 39 hiking, enjoying the wildlife
- 40 grilling with family and friends, walking, swimming
- 43 grilling in a park and playing cards or checkers
- 44 hiking/walking
- 45 hiking and gardening
- 46 walking, cross-country skiing, seeing grant views, picnicking and gardening
- 47 hiking, gardening
- 48 walking/hiking, swimming, gardening, listening to music

COMMUNITY MEETING

PROMPT 02- Little Known Fact About Garfield Green Spaces...



Unique Assets

These responses delve into activities that are unique to Garfield and also areas that were considered forgotten. It adds another layer to the previous question that challenges residents to think about the quirks that sets Garfield apart.

"my friends tap maple trees and make syrup; we have a big bonfire and party for the boil down"

-Atlantic+Kincaid

"i could walk my two dogs; it was all coal mines"

-Kite Park

"the view from the top of winebiddle is really pretty"

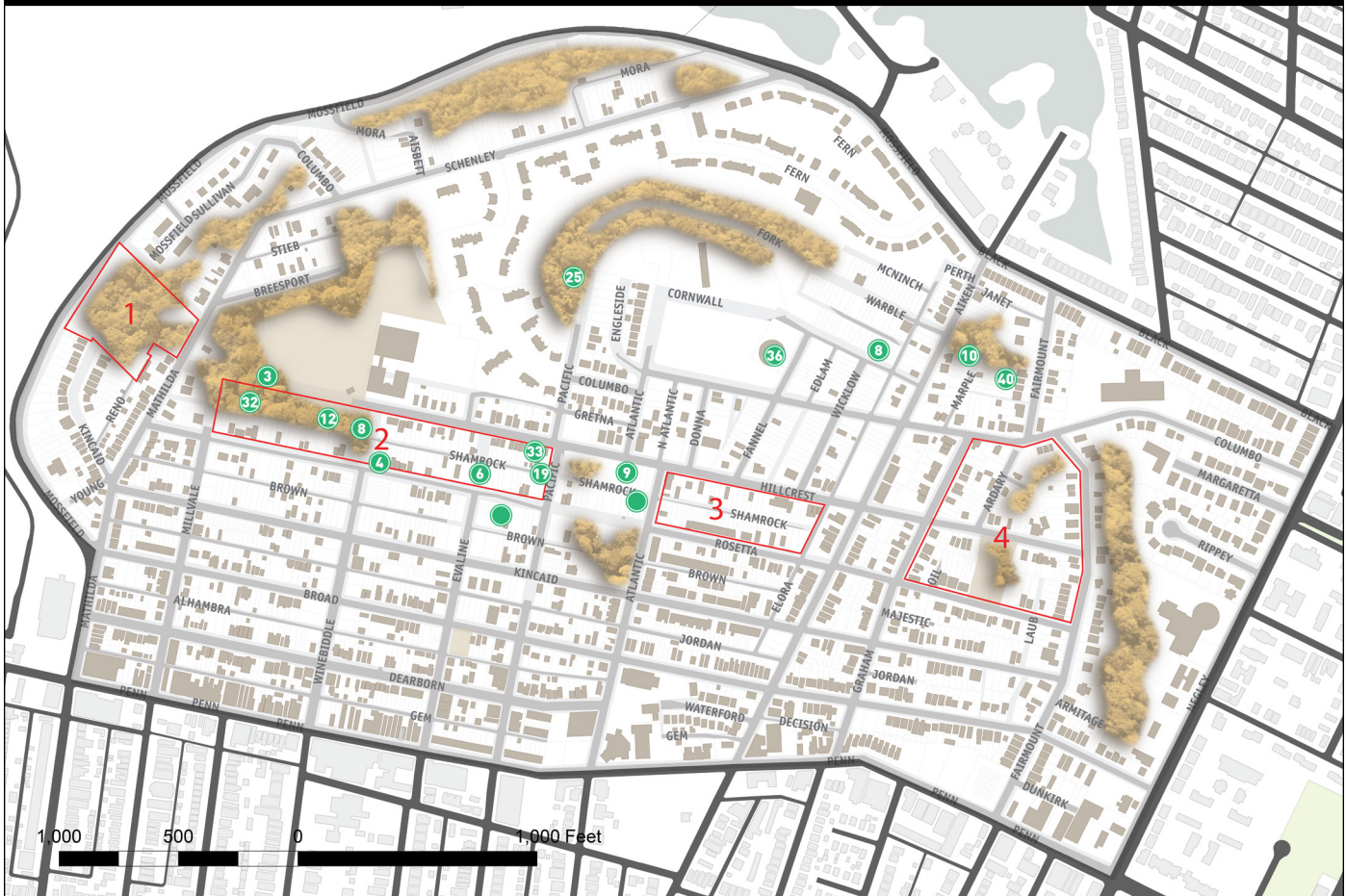
-Rosetta+Winebiddle

participant responses

- 2 they are in between peoples houses, passage ways to the other side; overgrown weeds
- 3 i don't know which "green spaces" are private property; i didn't realize the extent of vacant properties; had so much trash :-(; how can I bag it and have it collected by the city?
- 4 i would like to know what level of freedom residents have to develop green space that is city or county owned
- 5 the area begs to be reclaimed and renewed, the city views are spectacular
- 6 so many vacancies
- 7 there are a lot of dead or fallen down trees
- 8 they are already enjoyed and loved by many people everyday
- 9 i could walk my two dogs; it was all coal mines
- 10 my firends tap maple trees and make syrup; we have a big bonfire and party for the boil down
- 11 100+ year old black locust tree...
- 12 i already garden, walk, hike, hang out in garfield green spaces! and so do many others
- 13 i don't know whether to feel safe
- 40 lots of views that are stupendous; lots of spaces that make you feel like you are out in the woods far from the city; peaceful+green+wild
- 41 gcf prayer/meditation labyrinth open to all
- 43 tloa's garden on dearborn+ n. pacific; kincaid st. community garden; butterfly garden at mandela park
- 44 the view from the top of winebiddle is really pretty
- 45 they would attract more residents; support the existing farms; are used!
- 46 contains quiet spaces! beautiful decaying old foundations! vine covered wonderworlds!
- 47 25 families garden on vacant lots at kincaid street community garden, but the lots are privately owned by missing, tax-delinquent owners
- 48 you can almost walk from end to end on public property

COMMUNITY MEETING

PROMPT 03- I Would Like To Be Able To _____ In Garfield.



Projected Assets

For this prompt, each participant was given a choice of common outdoor activities that they might enjoy in Garfield, and a space to fill in their own ideas. To the right is a catalogue of what each numbered participant chose, as well as any additional responses they came up with.

Because the 'what' is provided in the question,

our feedback for this is more location based and asks people to project where they see the most potential for a green space. Most responders gravitated toward Zone 2 along Shamrock Way, and the Garfield Community Garden on N. Aiken Ave.

participant responses

- ② wade, swim, sing, cookout
- ⑦ enjoy the wildness!! enjoy the peace, quiet
and wonderful tranquility! i already like to
___ in garfield.
- ⑬ be at peace in nature
- ④① own a goat
- ④① plant flowers

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪	⑫	⑬	⑰	⑲	⑳	㉑	㉒	㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗	㉘	㉙	㉚	㉛	㉜	㉝	㉞	㉟	㊱	㊲
bike																																	
jog																																	
exercise																																	
walk my dog																																	
play a sport																																	
grow food																																	
picnic																																	
let my kids play																																	
hang out																																	
watch a concert																																	
stargaze																																	
hike																																	

COMMUNITY MEETING

PROMPT 04- My Favorite Outdoor Activity Is...



Challenges

Answers to this question reflect real and perceived gaps in realizing a Greenzone in Garfield. The responses made note of safety+accessibility issues, and provided suggestions on potential areas for programming activity.

"steps were more structurally sound; path felt more inviting; an open area to hang out"

-Shamrock+Winebiddle

"there was an entrance to a green zone at the top of evaline; there were stroller-friendly trails; there were natural parks instead of vacant lots; there was a community garden closer to my house :-)"

-Shamrock+Evaline

participant responses

- ① steps were more structurally sound; more paths-felt more inviting; an open area to hang out
- ② there was a place which encouraged running or had fitness stations like frick park
- ③ the steps were fixed and the public areas were better identified
- ④ i could walk my dog; get away from buildings and onto trails; wade in a stream; attend community gatherings
- ⑥ the steps were clear of plants (poison ivy+overgrowth) and in good repair for running
- ⑦ there were green areas or game areas to play catch, horseshoes, bocceball, etc.
- ⑧ there were clean trails, garbage cans to keep streets clean and the playground felt safer
- ⑨ stroller friendly walkways; visible, safe and well lit; nature/porches to watch
- ⑩ concerts; outside plays
- ⑪ sidewalk infrastructure was improved and invasive plants were replaced with native plants
- ⑫ there was an entrance to a green zone at the top of n. evaline; there were stroller-friendly trails; there were natural parks instead of just vacant lots; there was a community garden closer to my house (112 n evaline :-])
- ⑬ there were walkable, connected trails, less poison ivy in the wooded areas and less trash; there were "events" to attend
- ⑳ i didn't have to work so much
- ㉑ the garfield walking groups was resurrected
- ㉓ the sidewalks and streets were safer to walk when it comes to potholes, big cracks and ditches
- ㉔ the garbage is picked up; more play spaces for kids+sports fields; walking trails
- ㉕ garfield beautification will invite residents+non-residents to want to spend time in the neighborhood
- ㉖ the woods stayed woodsy
- ㉗ ditto fitness stations;ditto woodsy areas; ditto so much work

OUTREACH+EVENTS

Soliciting Action

The themes presented in the last section were also the basis for several recommendations to the community from the work team. The suggestions were as follows:

**Saturday
April 25, 2015**

Walk About Tour

Schedule a walk-about of the area to help neighbors become more familiar with sites and challenges and opportunities

TBD

Trash Clean Up

Organize a trash clean up of major items with the help of Allegheny Cleanways and neighbors. (In the course of this project neighbors have already organized several clean-up activities)

TBD

Free The Trees

A vine cutting event to protect mature trees

Ongoing

Potential Future Planning

WPC/Evolve meet with the BGC guidance group to assess potential for completing Phase II and Phase III of this project

Walk About Tour

On April 25 more than 20 people joined BGC staff, WPC staff and EVOLVE staff to walk a section of Shamrock Way, including the portion that goes through Healcrest Farm. Three different distinct areas were identified: The Farm, The pathway along Shamrock Way between Pacific Ave. and Winebiddle St., and The Woods Walk area from Winebiddle St. down to Mathilda Ave. Some distinct potential opportunities were visible during the walk:

An Accessible Pathway suitable for strollers, walkers, elders and children

Garfield Springs which may be a natural seep that could be channeled under a walkway and surrounded with plants that appreciate wet environments

A View Space at the Winebiddle St. Steps—ideal for a sitting space available for stair users or others wishing to take in the view

A Nature Trail through the heavily wooded area between Winebiddle St. and Mathilda St.

A Commons Space along Rosetta St. which has a series of vacated parcels side by side and is relatively flat allowing potentially for games, picnicking, or other community assemblies and events



OUTREACH+EVENTS

Free The Trees Guidance for the Vine removal day in the proposed Garfield Green Zone

Timeframe

Vine-cutting can be done any time of year. Poison ivy is most potent when it has leafed out in the spring, but cutting is most effective spring-summer while it is growing. The most opportune time to cut and remove vines for a project such as this is in early spring before foliage leafs out; February-April is optimal. However, this work can take place any time of year. The event could take 4-6 hours, depending on how many volunteers show up.

Protocol

Most of the vines in sections 1 & 2 are large and will require thick cuts at the base of them. If small vines are found, they can be dug out of the ground with hand tools. Large vines should be cut at the base with a handsaw or loppers. The cut should be made 6" off the ground and should be approximately 3" wide. Once cut, the stump end of the vine should be treated with an herbicide, glyphosate, or a mixture of vinegar, salt, and soap.

A subsequent visit should occur in late summer-early fall to observe the regrowth of cut vines and any second cuts necessary should be made.

*Poison ivy vines will have separate tools labelled with duct or electrical tape that are only to be used for poison ivy vines. These tools will have to be thoroughly washed after use. Tools are to be washed with tech-nu or another soap that will remove the poisonous oils.

Two groups of volunteers will split up and each tackle site 1 and site 2. Each group will start together at the beginning of their section and all sweep in the same direction across the section. If only a handful of volunteers are available, they can stick together as one group.

Materials

- Long pants and long sleeve shirts must be worn.
- Protective gloves (or grocery bags tied around hands) for everyone.
- Protective eye-wear may need to be available.
- Herbicide and herbicide applicators (paintbrush or sponge applicator or spray bottles) must be purchased.
- Shovels, trowels, garbage bags, compost bags, pick ax, digging bar, hand saws, loppers, pruners, plastic grocery bags and rubber bands

Additional Resources

Allegheny Cleanways

They have a project called DumpBusters that cleans up illegal dump sites with the help from community groups. Most of their cleanups take place on public vacant land. They have already confirmed a willingness to collaborate for a cleanup event with volunteers if a date is determined. They have a crew of dedicated volunteers that will aid the community to clean up the space. They make sure to ensure the space is entirely cleaned before they leave the space. Allegheny Cleanways suggests that community members come out with trash cans to place the trash directly into dump trucks rather than using plastic bags.

311 calls

The best, most efficient way for residents to alert the City of Pittsburgh to non-emergency issues that need to be addressed is to call 311 or go to the 311 website. Residents can register their issue, provide exact location of the issue and submit photos. Multiple issues have been reported to 311 as a result of the analysis, and several of the issues have been addressed, include the removal of a dangerous branch hanging over the Evaline St. steps between Shamrock Way and Rosetta St., and an ailanthus tree that had been cut and was leaning over Shamrock Way was removed at the same time as the branch above the tree was removed.

In addition, the open sewer, the dead ash tree, and the continuously flowing water have all been reported via 311. Phone calls can be received from 7am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Trail Pittsburgh, formerly known as Pittsburgh Trail Advocacy Group

This all-volunteer group advocates for the establishment and enhancement of recreational trails throughout the region. They may be willing to help establish a trail through the western edge of the Green Zone should there be the desire to establish such an amenity. They hold monthly board meetings open to the public and suggested coming to one of these to learn more if the community is interested in pursuing this.

City of Pittsburgh Greenway designation

There is a process through the Department of Real Estate that a community can establish a block of properties to become a designated greenway; that is, property that cannot be developed upon again and is permanent green space. The will of the community and neighbors must present a resolution with the desired list of properties to the Director of Planning and once reviewed/approved, it is passed to the Planning Commission and eventually City Council for ratification.