

VII. CONCLUSION

The Green Network Vision is not an isolated plan. It is part of a broad and ambitious web of efforts currently at work in our city. The City of Baltimore, public and private partners, and community members are already working to develop our economy, protect our ecology, and improve our quality of life.

These existing efforts are analogous to the nodes of the Green Network. And in the same way, the Green Network Vision is analogous to the corridors: It is a strategy to connect and strengthen what's already working in Baltimore, and to align these efforts in focusing on the neighborhoods where the greatest change is possible.

Seen from a bird's eye view, the potential of the Green Network is astonishing. This plan seeks to unify and strengthen a kaleidoscope of Baltimore green spaces for the benefit of its residents, while supporting efforts to reverse our citywide challenges of public safety, health, and equity.

The resulting network will be greater than the sum of its parts. Achieving this ambitious vision will require a commitment to collaboration and investment for the long term. Countering the effects of decades of disparity and disinvestment will not happen overnight.

Yet behind this large-scale, long-term perspective, there is even greater potential that will be felt at the local level. For members of our community who have seen their neighborhoods suffer from blight and illegal activity, even the first pilot projects of implementing the Green Network will create tangible change. From sports fields and playgrounds to wildflower gardens and forest patches to shady, tree-lined sidewalks and a connected network of trails, the green spaces that replace former blighted properties will open new channels of access, beauty, and social connection, creating benefits we can't predict. This is a long-term journey, but one in which every step makes a difference.

This page intentionally blank