
Proposed Revitalization Plan for Library Square

Design & Programming Report

FINAL DRAFT No. 4 (5/5/14)

Prepared by:

The Friends of Library Square Design Committee

In association with

Biohabitats Inc. &

Blue Water Baltimore

Baltimore, MD

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Executive Summary

Library Square (LS) is a 1.75 acre, tree-lined green space, or large pocket park, positioned between the diverse neighborhoods of Patterson Park and McElderry Park. Pulaski Highway and Fayette Street mark the north and south borders. Linwood and the merge at Lakewood and Fayette create the east and west edges. The Patterson Park Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library and the Spanish-American War Monument anchor each end. Harris Creek flows underneath. The green space borders both District 13 and District 1. The entire parcel is city-owned property but managed by several different agencies, with significant coordination required from the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works. Library Square serves as an anchor for the community and has the potential to become one of Baltimore's great public spaces.

“Great public spaces are where celebrations are held, social and economic exchanges take place, friends run into each other, and cultures mix. They are the ‘front porches’ of our public institutions – libraries, field houses, neighborhood schools – where we interact with each other and government.”
(www.pps.org)

Library Square's most significant design feature is the parallel rows of 25 stately and mature Linden trees that extend from Lakewood to the Patterson Park Branch Library entrance. The trees give structure and definition while providing exceptional shade in the summer, wonderful fall color and a handsome branch structure in the winter. They are beautiful and will remain the foundation of any new designs. The park is heavily used but mostly by pedestrians for through-foot traffic and accessing the Library, limited play areas, and informal community gatherings. Two bus stops are on the Fayette side of the park and are heavily used; a major stop is on the Linwood side and the east side of Fayette/Linwood intersection.

For decades, Library Square has struggled with an identity crisis. Although designated a “square,” it is actually in the shape of a long narrow triangle. The beautiful tree canopy gives it a park-like feel, but it's too narrow and wedged between high traffic streets to adequately function as a park. There is no defined entry points or gates, and the Linwood side of the square is a fenced off area not currently accessible. The brick wall at the Lakewood bus stop marks the main entrance to Library Square and it ends at the awkward intersection where Pulaski Highway and Fayette Street merge just beyond the William Paca Elementary School yard. Bounded by Fayette Street and Pulaski Highway, the area is often defined as a dividing line between two socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods and council districts. Many dedicated individuals are working to change the perception of Library Square as “left-over” transitory space and are working toward making it a delightful destination in its own right.

During the past decade, multiple Library Square master plan studies and design concepts have been developed. This Revitalization Plan is the latest generation that incorporates previous plans while expanding on design ideas and place-making strategies. It unifies our current thinking into one plan, with the square divided into 4 distinct sections treated holistically. The Friends of Library Square Design Committee has authored this plan and included specific design recommendations for site elements, fencing, signage, plantings, pathway materials, seating etc. These recommendations will be carried throughout all four sections to create a unique park in east Baltimore. The Friends of Library Square group (FOLS) provided a forum for experts in the field to engage a diverse and passionate group of stakeholders in a community-driven process that ultimately led to this plan, an informed and aligned vision for Library Square.

This Plan also incorporates expanded community input and work sessions, grant funding for innovative stormwater design for the main part of the square, enhanced gardening activities, artwork installations and connections with the Paca Elementary School. This plan focuses on integrating design ideas with economic revitalization strategies hinging on the physical improvements to Library Square, better engagement with the local business communities and improved communication with adjacent Neighborhood Associations. Actual economic analysis and revitalization strategies are not a part of this pro-bono, volunteer led and executed Library Square Revitalization Plan.

We collectively considered the function, aesthetic, image, challenges and opportunities that Library Square presents. Although we divided the organization of this plan into four distinct sections, we examined the space holistically and worked to achieve an integrative design that is more than the sum of its parts. This was difficult because numerous equally important and sometimes competing factors had to be considered, including water mitigation, traffic calming, waste management, beautification, programming and community input. We reflected on past design ideas while

Proposed Revitalization Plan for Library Square

observing existing features and elements to best incorporate the most eco-friendly, cost effective, and maintainable strategies for this complex space.

The Revitalization Plan includes the following primary elements:

- 1) Refurbish and restore the Soldier Memorial and install a new elevated planter with new plantings to mark the entrance of Library Square and calm traffic;
- 2) Create an innovative bio retention gardens below the Linden trees, new plazas, refurbish the bus stop and add permanent seating and new pathways in the main part of the square. Link pedestrian pathways and gardens to the new Paca/Audubon Teaching Garden at 101 N. Lakewood and improve the sense of the space and pedestrian safety by adding decorative fencing along Fayette Street.
- 3) Create a new entry plaza with improved lighting at the main Library entrance, with an active and passive seating area and an pervious paving surface; refurbish and replant side entry planters;
- 4) Open the Linwood Avenue yard for a new reading garden with new trees and café style seating.

Many stakeholders and community partners invested their time, talent and funds to create this Revitalization Plan because they believe in the potential of Library Square. Whether a square, a pocket park or a greenspace, Library Square possesses the essential components to become one of Baltimore's great public spaces. Neighborhood organizations are mobilized and the Friends of Library Square members are continually working hard to keep the momentum going.

Vision for Library Square

No longer merely a pathway to somewhere else, Library Square will be a unique community and ecological destination that is beautiful, safe and vibrant. Cared for well into the 21st century, Library Square will connect people to place, nature to people and one to another.

Project Goals

The ultimate objective is to craft a living place, not a static design. Our goals are therefore divided into two categories, one for the Revitalization Plan and the other for the physical space, Library Square. All goals are rooted in community-based participation as well as careful observation of how the space is currently utilized while considering future opportunities for use and enjoyment.

The goals of this Revitalization Plan are to:

- provide a sustainable, innovative and collaborative framework for the revitalization;
- demonstrate current best practices for environmental design, traffic calming, construction, and space planning;
- honor existing features while identifying ways to improve and protect them for future generations;
- and to act as guide that achieves consistency and coordination across a variety of agencies, funding sources, project managers, community leaders and partners throughout the planning and execution phases.

To accommodate current stakeholders, opportunities and challenges, the Design Committee of Friends of Library Square (DC-FOLS) members have analyzed the physical space holistically to ensure that the final plan is fully integrated.

The goals for Library Square are to:

- increase pedestrian safety and connectivity around and within the square;
- decrease impervious surface and stormwater runoff;
- engage diverse groups of people to be actively involved with activities and programming;
- And to be a comfortable and beautiful community asset that serves to connect neighborhoods and stakeholders to one another and to nature.

We intend to achieve these goals by incorporating the following elements:

- Amenities / Design Elements
- Attractions / Programming
- Image / Identity
- Maintenance / Space Management
- Pedestrian Access / Safety
- Stormwater Engineering / Environmental Design
- Trash / Recycling

History

Older residents fondly recall when the square was a beautiful, comfortable and safe meeting place for the community to enjoy. Once called Belnord Square because the historic Belnord Theatre (now furniture store) was located on the North side. Library Square gets its current name from the Patterson Park Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library located at its east end.

A hardware store, bars and other businesses comprised Library Square's small commercial hub. There were also many attractive benches spread across the greenspace. The rowhomes surrounding the square were built around the turn of the 20th century and housed Baltimore's working class. The availability of respectable blue-collar jobs in local manufacturing plants and shipyards coupled with smaller, more affordable homes made the Library Square area ideal for many to call home. However, as the case in many cities, Baltimore's economic vitality relied heavily on its industry. As jobs were lost so too were residents. City life became a struggle and many fled to pursue the new suburban paradise.

Baltimore's population declined significantly. The Patterson Park and McElderry Park neighborhoods were no exception. Fueled by economic hardship, vacant and boarded homes contributed to the continuing decline of once proud neighborhoods. All of these factors contributed to expanding crime and grime and the transition of Library Square from a community asset to a detriment. Because the square sits between two neighborhoods and was no one's explicit responsibility, it turned into a no man's land. For many years Library Square was an open-air drug market covered in litter.

The Patterson Park Community Development Corporation (PPCDC) invested heavily in the area during the early 2000's and renovated about 500 homes between Library Square and Patterson Park. The PPCDC's efforts substantially reduced decades of neglect and blight. The area was on the upswing and any new homeowners bought on streets adjacent to the square because the PPCDC's ultimate plan was to bring new residential and retail development to Library Square. Unfortunately, the PPCDC was forced to abandon its \$6.5 million Library Square renovation project after filing bankruptcy in 2009 leaving the newly invested residential and small-business owners with nothing but boarded properties. Fortunately, many believe that Library Square is one of Baltimore's best kept secrets and have not given up on its renaissance.

Over the past decade, The Library Square area has been the focus of several Master Plans and design workshops, along with multiple community groups working to clean up, replant and refurbish the greenspace. Residents and FOLS members have successfully advocated for trash cans, seating, repaired lighting and large-scale greening projects on adjacent blocks that have helped to reduce crime and grime. Specifically, the last few years have seen substantial improvement under the leadership of Leanna Wetmore, community organizer with Banner Neighborhoods.

In the second half of 2013, a concerted effort by Banner Neighborhoods was undertaken to clean up and improve the square. Festival lighting was strung between the existing light poles, decorated plastic Adirondack chairs were set out to provide informal and flexible seating and an aggressive signage and cleanup campaign was executed. Many new activities have taken place in Library Square, including a "Thriller Halloween gathering, container planting giveaways, and weekend flea markets. The Baltimore Office of Promotion and Arts funded a mural that faces the square, and a vacant building was razed to make room for the Patterson Park Audubon Center is working with Paca Elementary, Civic Works, and residents to install habitat gardens for experiential learning and community gardening activities.

The neighborhoods surrounding Library Square are slowly, but steadily undergoing significant recovery from the recession starting in 2008. The Rehabbing of properties is on-going and appears to be picking up, with a diverse range of families and individuals moving into the area. Organizations working in and around Library Square will continue volunteer-led greening efforts, trash clean up, plantings and making Library Square a safe and inviting public space.

Many of the strategies from the former Master Plans, including design ideas and environmental concerns, have been incorporated into this Revitalization Plan. Copies of past plans are available from the FOLS.



Historic Belnord Theater

Project Organization

For a relatively small footprint, the square is a complex space. Considering the number of design plans that have proceeded this Revitalization Plan, the FOLS Design Committee divided the square into four sections in order to facilitate quick reference and record ideas, design strategies, and progress for the space as both an entire unit and for each section, which are noted below. This is a working document that will be revised and updated as the project progresses.

The DC-FOLS has divided Library Square into four primary sections, moving from east to west:

- Section 1 - Soldier Memorial area and monument restoration (controlled by CHAP)
- Section 2 - Main Square, including Civic Works/Audubon/Paca Garden (controlled by Parks and Rec)
- Section 3 - The Library Entrance (West facing side) (controlled by Enoch Pratt Free Library)
- Section 4 - Linwood Avenue side of the Library (controlled by Enoch Pratt Free Library)

There are many city agencies, civic organizations, residents, businesses, that have invested considerable time, talent and funds to the restoration and renewal of this potential gem of a park and re-emerging community center. In addition substantial partnerships with the public schools and library system and adjacent park areas have developed over the last four years, creating momentum for the redesign of the space. It has for many years essentially been “left-over” space squeezed between Fayette street and an awkward intersection at the western point of the park, where Pulaski Highway and its associated truck traffic merges onto Fayette just beyond the Wm. Paca Elementary School yard. The entire parcel is city owned property but managed by a variety of agencies, with significant coordination required between agencies, council districts and with the Department of Transportation and Dept of Public Works.

In order to accommodate all of the opportunities, challenges and groups involved, the Design Committee (DC-FOLS) of the Friends of Library Square (FOLS) are looking at the area holistically and seeking an integrated solution that encompasses the following categories:

- Programming and Activities;
- Storm Water Design / Environmental concerns and opportunities;
- Traffic/ Transportation;
- Safety / Lighting;
- Trash Litter / Recycling;
- Maintenance and durability of installations & materials;
- Stewardship and current and future management.

Proposed Revitalization Plan for Library Square



Friends of Library Square
Primary Areas Diagram
as of 1/21/2014

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Considerations

Current Use

Three bus stops are on the Fayette side, of which two are heavily used on the east side of Fayette/Linwood intersection and the west side of Lakewood and Fayette. The square is primarily used as a pedestrian cut-through along the way to somewhere else. We hope to create a sustainable space by channeling safely pedestrian traffic safely into seating areas and onto the new pathways linking the different zones of the new Library Square.

More recently, there has been an increase in those coming to the library and attending informal community gatherings. The Adirondack chairs are getting much more use, specifically on nice days by families and older members of our community conversing with each other. Many children play in the area just off the library steps and the Design Committee wants to be sure that they may continue to do so and have therefore designed the space accordingly.

The Trees

Library Square's most significant feature are the parallel rows of 25 stately and mature Linden trees that extend from Lakewood to the Patterson Park Branch Library entrance. A conservation and arboreal preservation effort is currently in place. They are beautiful and form the foundation of any new plan; the space is designed around the trees – not the other way around.

Stormwater Runoff

The Harris Creek, where the U.S. Frigate Constellation was built in 1797, now flows underground beneath Library Square. As the lowest point of three neighborhoods, storm water drains through the middle of the greenspace en route to the Inner Harbor outlet in Canton. Library Square sits close to the low point of the 2.35 acre stormshed catchment area, which is 98% impervious paving and surfaces. Harris Creek has recently been the subject of much scrutiny by the City Department of Public Works as a source of significant stormwater runoff and trash to the Inner Harbor.

Harris Creek was channeled into underground pipes sometime between 1890's and the 1920's. As a result of channeling the stream, a tremendous amount of stormwater flows through the pipes during rain events, causing localized flooding in the surrounding neighborhoods. A major feature of the Revitalization Plan is to mitigate and reduce the total stormwater flows through the innovative, above ground bio-retention rain gardens, porous paving and native planting, all the while protecting the Linden trees lining the park.

Litter and debris

Trash and litter, even household solid waste deposits in the public trash cans (only of which there are two) are big problems in Library Square. The existing trash cans are in poor condition, allow for household or bulk trash to be crammed in and are constantly overflowing. Due to the numerous bus stops, many people throw trash on the ground because there are not enough trash cans or recycling receptacles available. To complicate the issue, Library Square is a low point in the Harris Creek watershed and massive amounts trash and debris flows down to the square with rain and wind events, which ultimately block the stormwater drains. This is a vicious cycle that has been described as “debilitating” and “defeating” by local residents and business owners working hard to keep the square and surrounding blocks free of litter and debris.

The Design Committee is recommending uniform, lockable trash cans as shown below as well as pet waste stations with bags available. See Section 5 of this Report for a discussion on the recommendations for the trash receptacles. The receptacle placement, pick up and maintenance needs to be coordinated with all responsible parties and installed as the Section 2 renovations are being constructed in order to be sure the overall design strategies are sustainable.



Trash Flood on Kenwood Avenue and near Library Square, Summer 2012

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Traffic

The first order of business at Library Square however, is to address the truck traffic, calming, transportation and pedestrian safety challenges impacting the entire Square. Baltimore's Southeast Complete Streets plan identifies streets around Library Square as a "major traffic calming corridor" because the area is used as a through route and is heavily congested with fast moving vehicles and oversized trucks. The current traffic pattern deters community engagement, revitalization efforts and commercial investment. The ever increasing truck traffic is especially detrimental to creating a vibrant community for all to enjoy.

The community and stakeholder groups identified the following transportation goals:

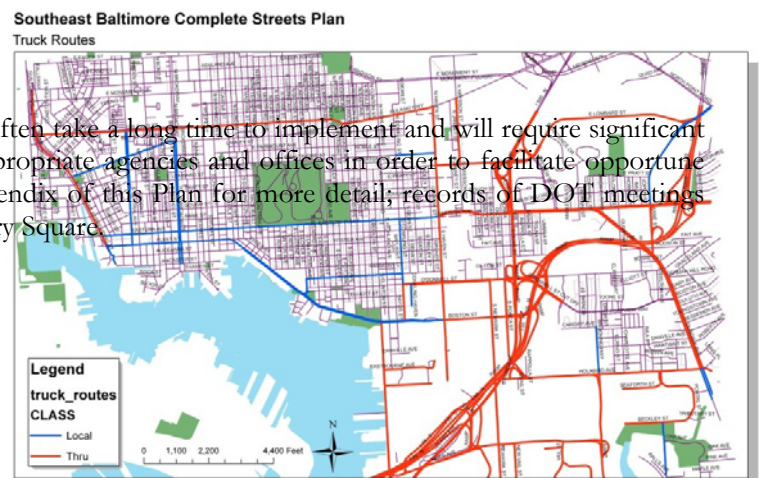
1. Eliminate illegal truck traffic on Pulaski.
2. Reduce thru traffic on Pulaski.
3. Slow traffic along Fayette Street.
4. Eliminate unsafe merge in front of William Paca Elementary.
5. Consolidate bus stops along the south side of the square.
6. Increase pedestrian safety and connectivity around and within the square.

We intend to achieve these goals by executing the following strategies:

- Reverse the traffic flow on Pulaski between Linwood and Lakewood.
- Utilize signage and physical barriers to redirect traffic.
- Reduce the optical width of streets with trees, fencing, green bumpouts, and bollards.
- Install crosswalks, sidewalks and widen existing walkways.
- Create a temporary street closure at Lakewood between Pulaski and Fayette.
- Remove the bus stop on Fayette located on the square between Streeper Street and Kenwood Avenue.



The FOLS members realize that transportation changes often take a long time to implement and will require significant interagency coordination. We are reaching out to the appropriate agencies and offices in order to facilitate opportune results. The transportation notes are included in the appendix of this Plan for more detail; records of DOT meetings and work sessions are available from the Friends of Library Square.



Section Descriptions

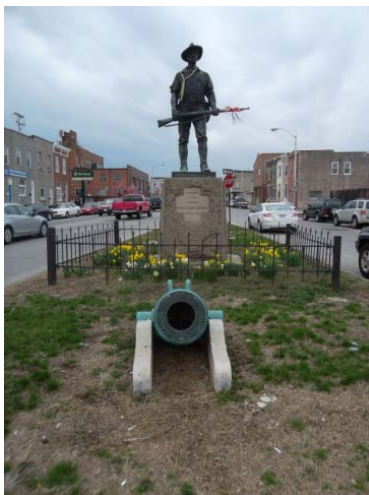
The overall plan has been divided into four sections, each of which is described and illustrated below.

1) Section 1- The Soldier Memorial

This parcel is located at the western tip of Library Square of approximately 1,665 square feet in a triangular shape. The design recommendations for this area include the following:

1. Restoration of the bronze statue, cannon, surrounding low wrought iron decorative fence, and the addition of a new plaque. This will be coordinated through Baltimore's CHAPS agency that reviews historic properties and monuments.
2. Extending the plot to the intersection with Fayette (800 SF) and creating a raised planting on the point end using Belgian block. This will elevate the planting similar to the medians found further west on Fayette near Broadway, help calm traffic and give visual cues to the start of Library Square.
3. New plantings to include: ground cover plantings, seasonal color perennials, and hardy native grasses. A River Birch and a Red Tip Dogwood will frame the statue. Plantings will be selected to enhance the environmentally sensitive stormwater management designed in Section 2 of LS.

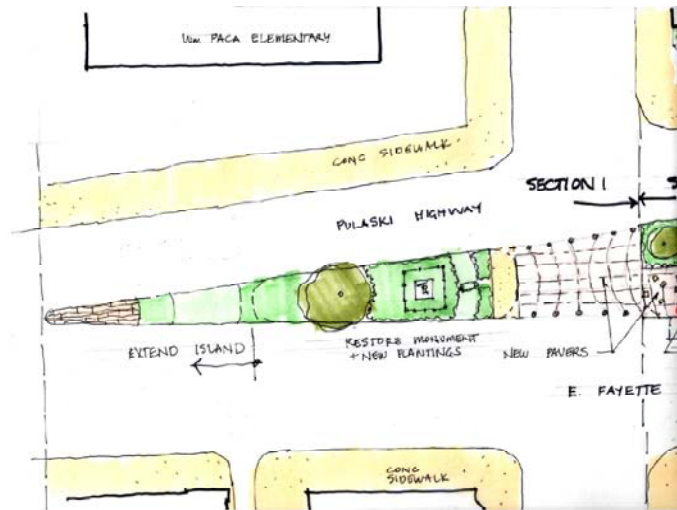
Plans are being discussed to close Lakewood between Pulaski and Fayette, providing a safer, more direct connection to Library Square with the potential for additional street parking and improved traffic calming measures around the park. Closing Lakewood also gives Paca Elementary School the opportunity for a new entry plaza while creating a safe pedestrian connection for school children. This section of Lakewood is to the west of the new bus stop to be refurbished as part of Section 2.



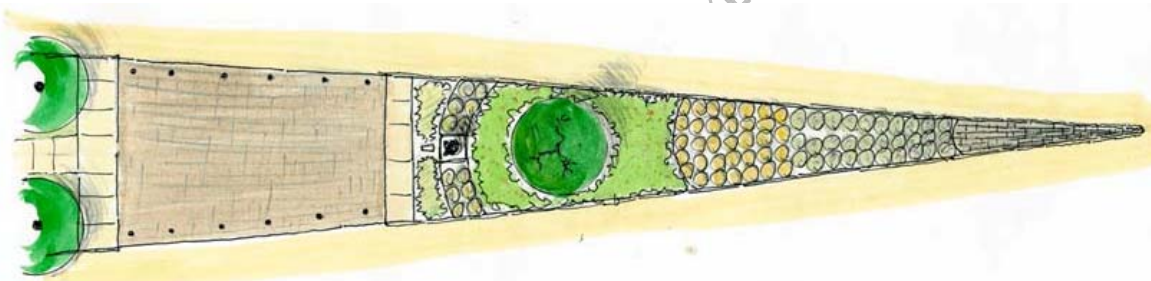
Soldier Monument Looking West



New Planting Area



Section 1 Sketch Plan with Plaza at Lakewood



Soldier Memorial Concept Plan by Steve Preston – extending the parcel to the Fayette Street intersection.

2) Section 2- Main Square (center portion between Lakewood and 110' from the steps of the library entrance)

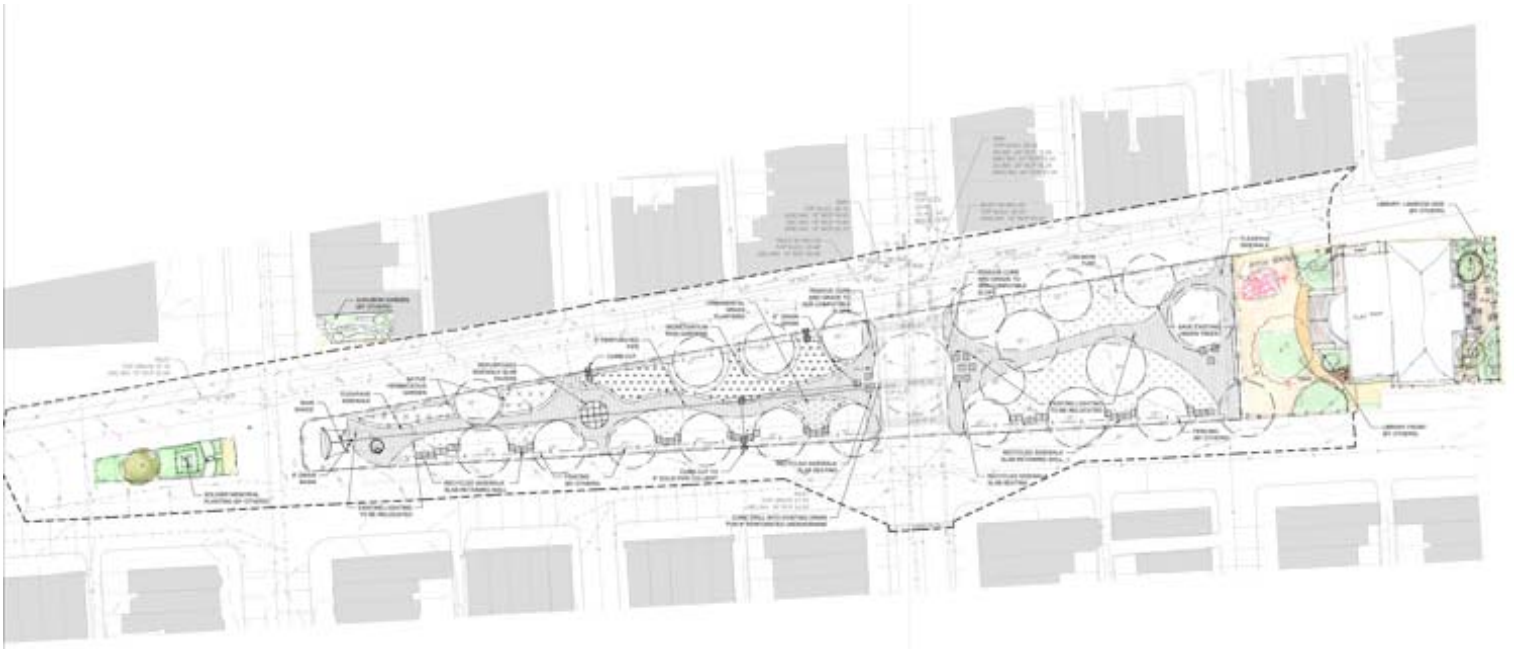
This parcel is the largest part of the Revitalization Plan and is envisioned as a lively and active space that will allow people to flow through the space on curvilinear paths that connect the Library entrance plaza to the Lakewood avenue/Fayette bus stop end. This 1.18 acre section is being designed as a demonstration of the most current, environmentally sensitive, above ground management of stormwater. A major rain garden will be located on the north side, interwoven between the trees. Curb cuts will channel stormwater to this bio-retention feature. Additional strategies, flow control and plantings should mitigate approximately 10% of the stormwater flowing into the grated trench drains for this 2.35 acre stormshed catchment area. Library Square sits close to the low point of the general storm shed which is 98% impervious paving and surfaces. Any bio-retention type devices must be carefully placed and designed to not impact the Linden trees.

One of the primary objectives of the stormwater re-design will be to capture and treat excess runoff from the surrounding roadways prior to discharging to the existing Harris Creek storm drain network. The plan includes a series of bioretention rain-gardens to capture the water quality volume, or the runoff produced by the first one inch of rainfall. As a retrofit project, the design will include provisions to safely convey larger storm events to the existing storm drains, such as properly sized curb cuts, overflow drain basins, and erosion-resistant materials to ensure stability. The site plan also proposes replacement of the existing concrete sidewalk with Flexipave, a pervious asphalt pavement product that uses recycled rubber tires in the aggregate. This material has been successfully installed around the National Mall in Washington DC and extensively at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington VA. Conservation landscaping is proposed to enhance the planting palette, which is relatively low maintenance and enhances biodiversity.

The upstream drainage area includes park, institutional, and transportation land uses. The design plans include all applicable stormwater control practices as determined by the MDE and Baltimore City DPW. The site was modeled for existing and proposed conditions using accepted hydrologic methods (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) TR-55). The proposed bioretention design is useful in small spaces, which is critical since there are not many large spaces in highly urban areas for installing larger stormwater management practices.

Also featured in the Main Square will be gathering spots and seating areas that are more permanent and durable than the plastic Adirondack chairs currently in use. The already closed Kenwood Avenue is envisioned to be a central plaza for street festivals, community events, and other presentations of the neighborhood associations. We propose an inexpensive solution of cutting a portion of the concrete curb to create a 30' diameter circle. The surface stays at the level of the top of the drainage grates spanning the street, with a painted ground mural creating a lively center point for Library Square. A new metal fence has been funded that will be installed along the southern border of Section 2 and 3 that will define the Library Square park, improve pedestrian safety and create a safe edge on the Fayette side of the street.

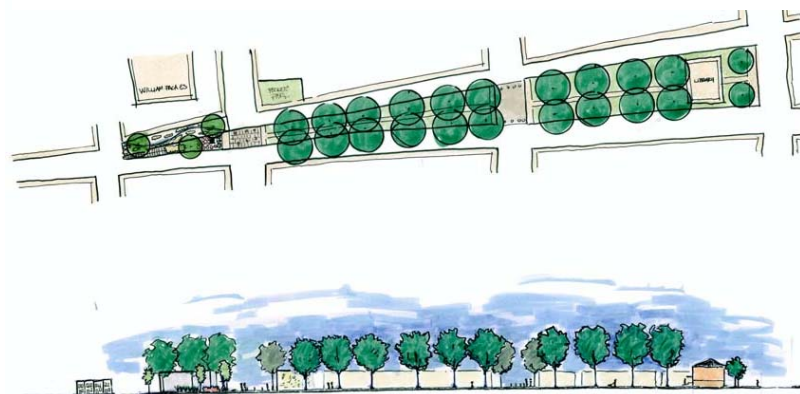
The Design Committee also recommends rebuilding the bus stop by removing the existing brick walls and railings, replanting the area, creating seating and installing an innovative storm water collection "tent" shelter. The bus stop plaza area also will direct foot traffic across Pulaski to the new Paca - Audubon Teaching Garden for Bird Habitat in the empty lot at 201 N. Lakewood below the mural.



Overall Section 2 Plan by Biohabitats



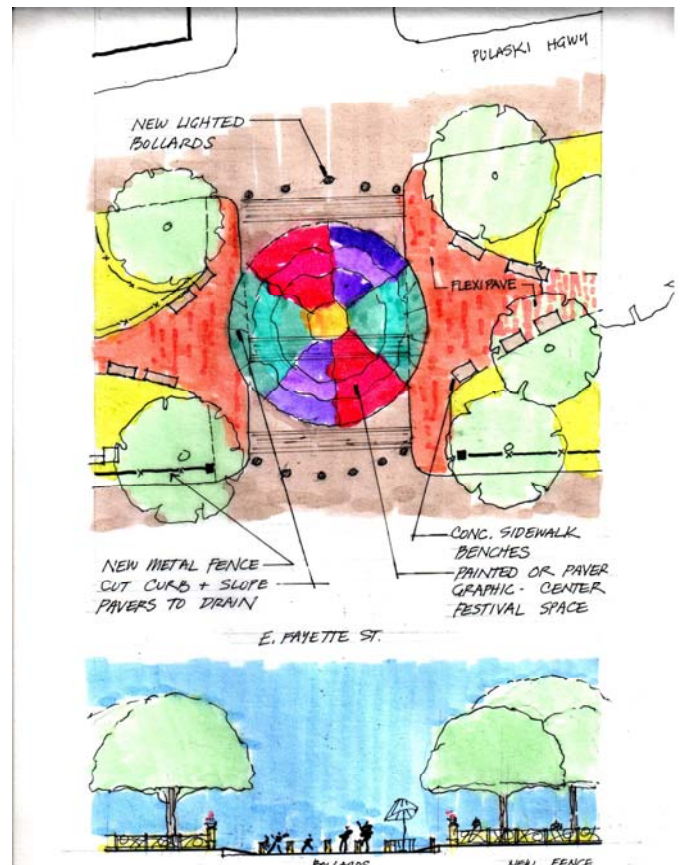
Design Committee Section 2+3 Sketch Plan MARCH 2014



Original Library Square concept showing new plaza at Paca Elementary School

[illegible]

Stop



18

Teaching Garden for Bird Habitat

This exciting garden will be installed by a combination of community volunteers, Audubon staff, Civic Works staff and William Paca Elementary School teachers. The purpose of the Teaching Garden is four-fold:

- Hands-on learning (programming, Maryland native plants and wildlife, life cycles, germination)
- Bird habitat gardens with Maryland native plants in our shared urban spaces
- Platform for Audubon/William Paca Elementary/FOLS partnership
- Meditation path/Lot beautification

Patterson Park Audubon Center is a southeast Baltimore leader in environmental education and bird conservation. Their role in the Library Square project is to work with the community to convert this degraded lot, the location of a demolished row home, into flowering gardens that serve people and birds. Maryland native plants have been strategically selected for benefits to birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Combined with Audubon's habitat gardens in nearby Patterson Park, a documented migratory stopover, the Library Square Teaching Garden and habitat patches outside neighbors' homes create combined wildlife benefits. As such, the community is restoring urban spaces as sources of food and shelter for migratory birds. Audubon is partnering with Banner Neighborhoods and Civic Works to lead neighbors in creating this flowering habitat garden, framed by the colorful mural on the wall behind it. The Teaching Garden planting is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2014 to coincide with the Library Square Resource Fair.



Site of future Teaching Garden for Bird Habitat at Library Square



Flowering gardens will be similar to Audubon's bird habitat in nearby Patterson Park,



The Teaching Garden will earn Audubon habitat recognition, an educational, bilingual sign.

3) Section3- Library Entrance Plaza

The entrance to the library is another opportunity to create a lively and safer public space. The space extends from the face of the library building to the sidewalk located in line with Streeper Street. It is approximately 13,800 square feet and features the handicap accessible ramp, steps and two planters next to the steps. The planters are in poor condition and contain a small dogwood tree. The grass areas below the Linden trees cannot be maintained and so we are recommending paving with porous paving materials.

The Design Committee envisions a plaza area of pervious paving material, an active seating area with benches, movable chairs, and climbing structures to the north side of the Library steps. This area could be used for informal play by younger children, hang out space for youth and seating for the general public for events held in Library Square.

We propose to raise the beds on either side of the steps with mortared broken concrete walls (also useful for seating) and substantially improve the soil for new seasonal perennial plantings. The south bed could be made smaller and a pad installed for either rain barrels, or trash receptacles. Trash receptacles of uniform design with the rest of LS will be installed in a manner to encourage people to deposit trash and litter. New Light poles and fixtures are to be installed in the existing pole location as noted in this report.



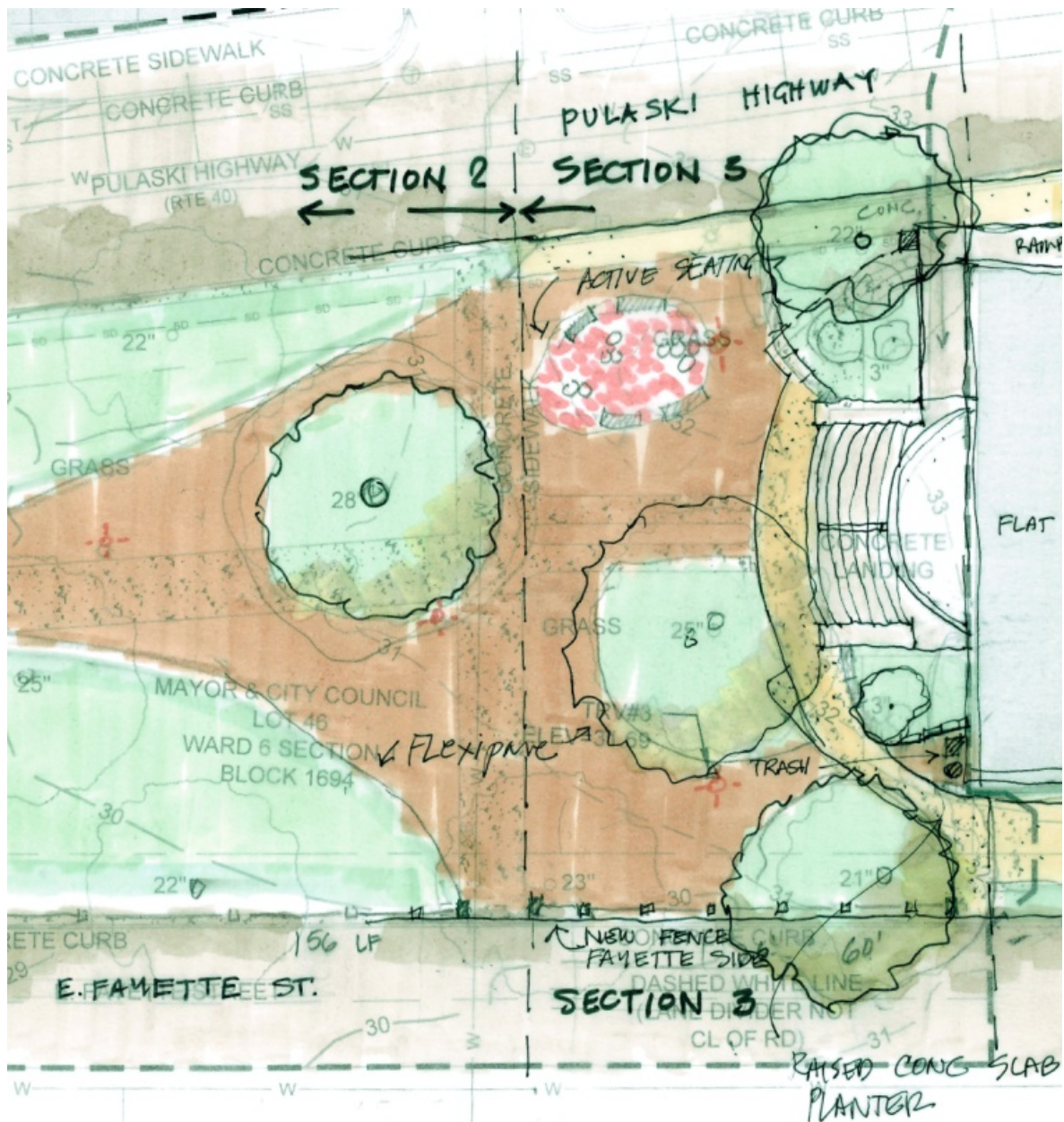
Section 3 – North Side



Section 3 – South Side



Section 3+ 2 Looking West



Section 3 – New Library Entrance Plaza Sketch



4) Section 4- EPFL Linwood Ave Side

This side was the main entrance to the library until the addition and rear entrance were built in the 1980s. A 5' high metal picket fence with locked gates surrounds the yard. On both sides of the monumental steps leading to the sealed doorway, are light wells for the basement community room. It is not a big space (25' x 90') but is not currently used and ends up being a major eyesore in the neighborhood due to the constant and large volume of trash and litter collecting inside the fence. Four ornamental cherry trees line the sidewalk edge and are not in good health but do look pretty in the springtime.

The Design Committee proposes that the space be opened up and made accessible to the public and turned into a reading garden or a seating plaza. A new plaza area of porous paving can be created, with the remaining area planted with conservation plantings and assist in stormwater mitigation. We recommend removing the 4 cherry trees and replacing with two symmetrical larger trees: Lindens, Elms or River Birches (recalling river birches proposed in new plantings in the rest of the square). The fence could remain but with two gates added in addition to the center (currently chained) or be replaced with a lower metal fence. Plant materials would add seasonal color and be in the same family as the plantings and rain garden plants in Section 2. This area, a potential 800 to 1,000 sf, is more protected due to the fence and could be planted as a conservation landscape and to promote biodiversity.

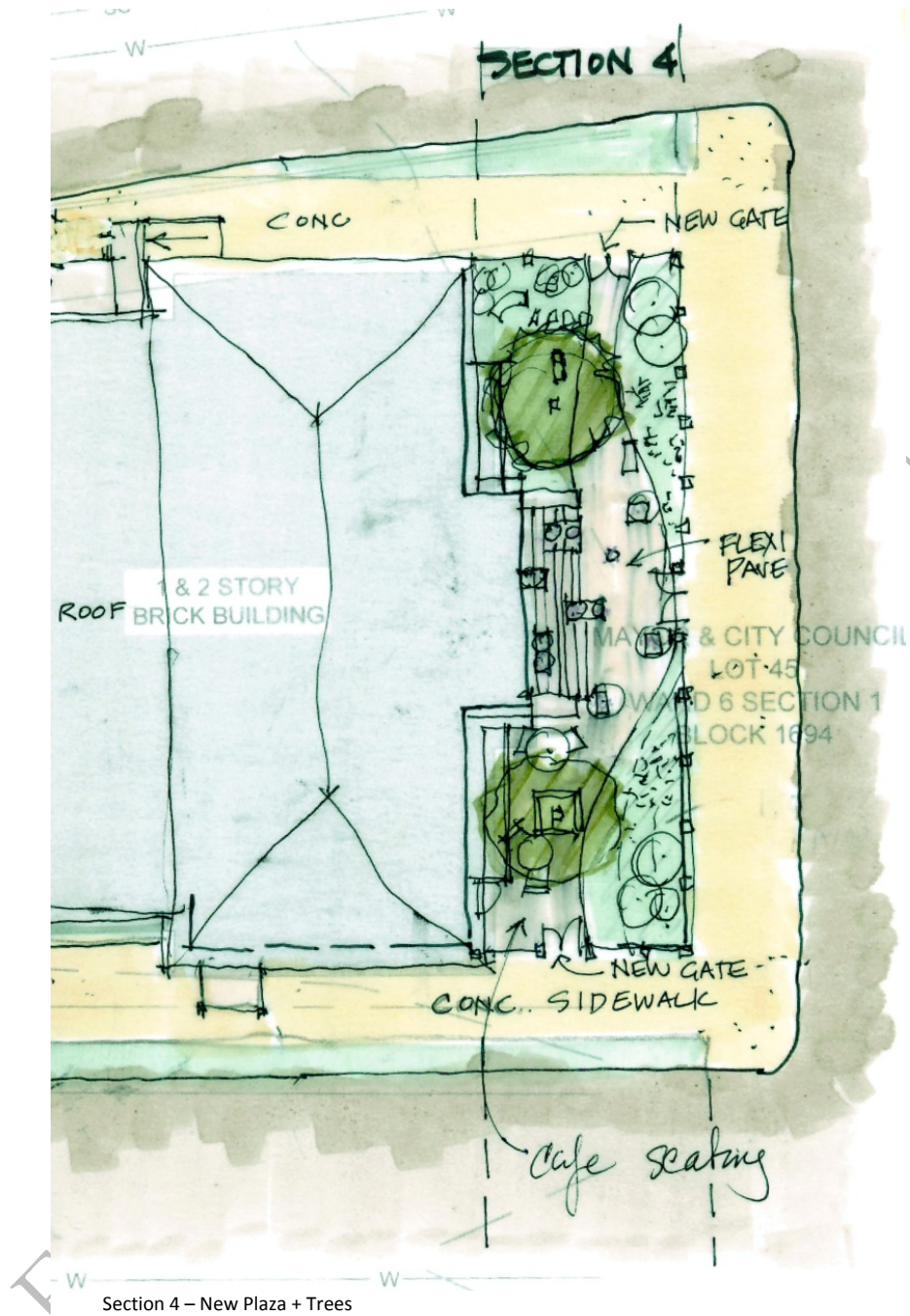
Coordination with the Enoch Pratt Free Library system is needed to move this idea forward. Maintenance of the area and protection against vandalism will be key elements of the design as it is worked out in the future. The area could be open only during library hours, or the space function similar to the outdoor reading garden at the SE Branch library located in Highlandtown. However since this is a busy intersection with multiple bus routes and stops, improving this space will hopefully promote respect, better public use, and may even encourage more people to frequent the library.



Section 4- Looking North



Front of Existing Library



5) General Design Features

The Linden Trees



Pruning the Linden Trees Spring 2013



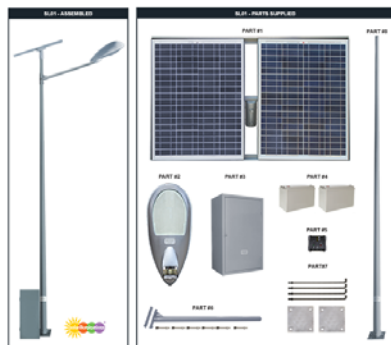
Pruning the Linden Trees Spring 2013



Lindens looking toward the Library Entrance

The defining design element of Library Square is the double row of twenty five, stately Linden trees framing the park and evenly spaced along Fayette and Pulaski. The revitalization Plan centers on maintaining and restoring the health of the trees, and protecting the critical root zone with plantings or porous paving (Item 6 below). The trees were structurally pruned in the spring of 2013 under a Baltimore Tree Trust program coordinated by Banner Neighborhoods.

Lighting



20' Solar Light Fixture



Smaller Fixture shown with Pole-Mounted Solar



Potential New Fixtures

The Design Committee recommends maintaining the existing pole lighting locations, power and conduit when possible. The existing light poles and fixtures are not in good condition and are not energy efficient. New poles and LED fixtures are recommended in historically appropriate design, of the same height and with a design suitable for keeping the festival string lights as installed in the fall of 2013, from pole to pole in the eastern end of the square. These lights were installed by Banner Neighborhoods to brighten the square at night and add a lively design element signaling the rebirth of LS.

Fencing

Banner Neighborhoods has received grant funding to install a decorative fence along Fayette Street. The purpose of the fence is to better define the Library Square space and to improve pedestrian access and safety. Shown in Section 2 and 3 of the Plan, it is approximately 475 linear feet of new metal fencing with appropriate “gateway” entry points.

The fence is envisioned as a metal construction for durability but in an artistic or more decorative style. The fence will be approximately 36” to 48” high with metal support posts 6’ on center. Gateway openings could be more vertical or made of masonry materials. Coordination with Baltimore City DPW, DRP and FOLS need to be undertaken. Parts of the fence area receive plantings or other landscape elements with coordination around the critical root zone of the trees. FOLS does not want to see the fence become a trash collector or be too obstructing. Potential fence designs are noted below.



Artful Metal Fencing



48" High Metal Fencing in Washington, D.C., With Masonry Supports



City Park Tree Fencing

Paving

Paving is an important part of the design and is used to define space and circulation pathways through the park. Most of the new paths will be used as part of the stormwater mitigation strategy by installing a porous paving material called “Flexipave” or a similar approved product. This material can be colored to form patterns and can be placed close to the trees to protect the roots while allowing the roots to receive rainwater. Most of the concrete walkway will be removed with a plan to reuse the broken concrete pieces on-site as planters, edging, seating or low walls. To maximize the amount of stormwater that can be filtered into the ground, all paving materials should be porous or use pavers that allow water to infiltrate into the ground instead of going into the storm drains.



Porous Paving



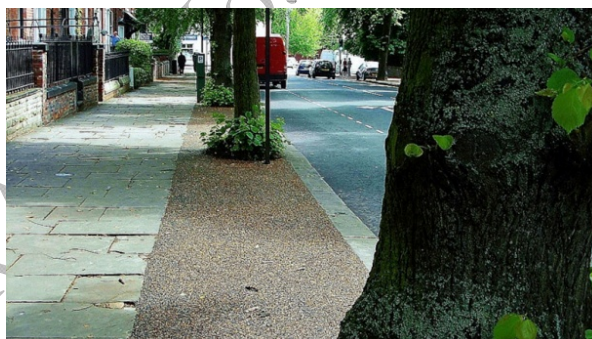
Colors of Flexipave



Flexipave + Planting Bed Example



Flexipave at Arlington National Cemetery



Flexipave at street trees, Washington DC

Plant and Landscape Materials

The new design permits a varied plant palette. Plant material will be chosen according to location, use, potential for habitat, seasonal interest, and preferably low-maintenance requirements.

The various areas of the new design are marked by their Plantings. A shade tolerant lawn will still be featured in the middle portion of Section 2, Main Square allowing space for dog walking, sitting, playing, and relaxing. The rain garden brings strong visual interest with a primary palette of native perennials and grasses. The Soldier Memorial is planted with street hardy shrubs and perennials that once established will provide low maintenance year-round color. Finally, the Dobry Memorial Garden which may be located in Section 4, Linwood Avenue Reading Garden, will have plants that bring an overlooked and un-used space back to life with a comforting, healing palette of colors, smells, and textures for this small garden of discovery.

Representative plants are shown below for color, texture and habitat restoration.



The following pages contain recommended species for wildlife gardens and conservation planting that are native and may be suitable for inclusion in Library Square depending on location, access to water and sunlight. These plant recommendations are compliments of Audubon Patterson Park Center and have been selected to work in Baltimore City and in surrounding counties. The full document can be found at this website:

http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/top_10_native_plants_0.pdf

Plant materials should be sourced locally and the Design Committee recommends starting with Blue Water Baltimore's Herring Run Nursery for sourcing much of the plant materials.

Top 10 Trees for Your Wildlife Garden



Oak · *Quercus* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Host plant for 532 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera); acorns are a resource for many animals including jays, woodpeckers, and warblers.
Native examples: white, black, willow, swamp white, pin, red, scarlet



Cherry · *Prunus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Host plant for 456 Lepidopterans; cherries are favorite food source for 41 bird species including orioles, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, thrushes.
Native examples: black, pin, chokecherry, also peach, plum, almond



Birch · *Betula* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Seeds and buds highly prized by birds like American goldfinches, nuthatches, and orioles; hosts 411 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.
Native examples: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper



Willow · *Salix* · 🦋

Why: These lovely, water-loving trees support 455 species of Lepidoptera including mourning cloak, black-spotted purple, and viceroys caterpillars.
Native examples: white, black



Aspen · *Populus* · 🦋

Why: Eastern tiger swallowtails, twin-spot sphinx moths, and 365 other Lepidopterans use this tree with fluttering gold leaves in fall (*P. tremuloides*).
Native examples: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood



Apple · *Malus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Hosts 308 Lepidopterans; fruits and other plant parts are eaten by 28 bird species including hummingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: sweet (American), Southern (coastal plain)



Maple · *Acer* · 🦋🐦

Why: Plant host for 297 Lepidopteran species including Io and Luna moths; seeds are eaten by cardinals, evening grosbeaks; goldfinches use for nesting.
Native examples: red, sugar, silver



Elm · *Ulmus* · 🦋🌳

Why: Supports 215 Lepidopteran species; seeds, buds, and flowers are eaten by birds and mammals; sought out by cavity nesters such as woodpeckers.
Native examples: American *ask for cultivar resistant to Dutch Elm Disease



Pine · *Pinus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Winter cover, nesting sites, and food for 43 bird species including nuthatches, warblers, towhees, juncos, and woodpeckers; 201 Lep. species.
Native examples: Eastern white, pitch, red



Holly · *Ilex* · 🐦

Why: Provides food and cover in winter for 36 bird species including thrushes, brown thrasher, white-eyed vireo, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: American, winterberry, inkberry

🦋 best bet for bugs 🐦 best bet for birds 🌳 Baltimore City-approved street tree

Top 10 Shrubs for Your Wildlife Garden



Blueberry, cranberry · *Vaccinium* · 🦋🐦

Why: Host plant for 294 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera) including Spring Azure and Striped Hairstreak; relished by songbirds; fall color.
Native examples: highbush blueberry, lowbush blueberry, cranberry



Serviceberry · *Amelanchier* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: High bird value in the fruit as well as host for 124 Lep. feeds 36 bird species including Swainson's thrush, brown thrasher and Northern flicker.
Native examples: shadbush (juneberry), smooth, downy



Dogwood · *Cornus* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Flowering tree and multi-stemmed shrubs provide cover, food, and nesting sites for 36 bird species like purple finches and cedar waxwings.
Native examples: red-osier, alternate-leaved, gray, silky, flowering



Bayberry, myrtle · *Myrica* · 🦋🐦

Why: High fat content in berries provide energy for migrating birds when they need it the most; plant host for 108 species of moths and butterflies.
Native examples: wax myrtle, northern bayberry



Viburnum · *Viburnum* · 🦋🐦

Why: Fruit-bearing shrub; insect host plant; great cover plant; used by at least 24 bird species including cedar waxwings, thrushes, and flycatchers.
Native examples: mapleleaf, southern arrowwood, blackhaw



Sweet fern · *Comptonia* · 🦋

Why: This threatened shrub, not a fern, has a sweet odor that attracts 64 Lepidopteran species including 10 moths; roots produce its own Nitrogen.
Native examples: sweet fern



Witchhazel · *Hamamelis* · 🦋

Why: Late-flowering shrub feeds 63 species of Lepidopterans; also consider its smaller relative, witchalder (*Fothergilla*) with gorgeous fall color.
Native examples: witchhazel, dwarf witchalder, mountain witchalder



Rhododendron · *Rhododendron* · 🦋

Why: Supports 51 Lepidopteran species; bird nesting sites; among our most beautiful native shrubs with orange, fuchsia, and white blooms in spring.
Native examples: smooth azalea, great laurel, early azalea, pink azalea



Elderberry · *Sambucus* · 🐦

Why: Fruit eaten by many birds, at least 48 species including thrushes, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and grosbeaks; excellent cover plant for birds.
Native examples: American black, red



Honeysuckle · *Lonicera* · 🐦

Why: This vine is an excellent food source for hummingbirds and 37 butterfly species; will flower repeatedly for three seasons; beware invasives.
Native examples: trumpet/coral

🦋 best bet for bugs 🐦 best bet for birds 🌳 Baltimore City-approved street tree

Top 10 Herbaceous Plants for Your Wildlife Garden



1 Goldenrod · *Solidago* · 🦋🐦

Why: There are 125 species of goldenrod native to the US, supporting 115 species of butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) as well as spiders and birds.
Native examples: Canada, Atlantic, white, wreath, showy, aniscented



2 Aster · *Aster* · 🦋🐦

Why: Huge family of flowers which support 109 Lepidopteran species; provide abundant pollen for bees and butterflies with range of bloom periods.
Native examples: blue wood, big leaf, heath, New England, zigzag



3 Sunflower · *Helianthus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Provide lots of nectar and pollen, and the seeds are eaten by many birds including finches, sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, cardinals.
Native examples: common, thinleaf, woodland, hairy, cheerful, prairie



4 Joe-pye weed · *Eupatorium* · 🦋

Why: Best native alternative to invasive Butterfly Bush; produces tons of pollen and nectar for butterflies while feeding 41 caterpillar species as well.
Native examples: hollow, sweet, three-nerved



5 Morning glory · *Ipomoea*

Why: Leaves and other plant parts provide food for 39 species of moths and butterflies; great alternative to invasive morning glory species
Native examples: whitestar, man of the earth



6 Sedges · *Carex* · ®

Why: Many native sedges are endangered; support 36 species of Lepidopterans; often neglected but essential element for wildlife in our gardens.
Native examples: thicket, broadwing, whitetinge, eastern narrowleaf



7 Lupine · *Lupinus* · ®

Why: This endangered plant is a food source for 33 species of Lepidopterans including many endangered butterflies, such as the Karner Blue.
Native examples: sundial



8 Violets · *Viola*

Why: Violets are host plants for a group of endangered butterflies, the Fritillaries; choose several species for early spring color and wildlife habitat.
Native examples: common blue, arrowleaf, roundleaf yellow, early blue



9 Rye, wheat, bottlebrush grass · *Elymus*

Why: Supports 31 different kinds of moths and butterflies; establishes easily providing quick cover; versatile with little to no maintenance
Native examples: eastern bottlebrush, early wildrye, hairy wildrye



10 Black/brown-eyed Susan, coneflower · *Rudbeckia* · 🐦

Why: Maryland's state flower is a bird favorite, providing seeds for goldfinches, blue jays, and cardinals, as well as nectar for bees and butterflies.
Native examples: blackeyed Susan, browneyed Susan, cutleaf coneflower



best bet for bugs



best bet for birds

® rare, threatened, or endangered species

Seating

There are few permanent places to sit in Library Square and read a book, wait for the bus or otherwise meet people in a pleasant setting. As evidence by the popularity of the brightly colored plastic Adirondack chairs cabled to the light poles installed as a temporary measure, and the Library entrance steps, quality seating is needed in Library Square if we are to create a unique place and not just a pedestrian walk through.

The Design Committee recommends seating along the curvilinear paths that is very durable, skateboard resistant, and could double as a planting border such as the precast concrete “TWIG” system shown below. Another opportunity is to create seating of recycled concrete as shown in the curved wall below. What we are calling “Active Seating” is located on the north side of the entrance steps (Section 3) that envisions seating in forms that children could play or climb on, with rubberized surface paving material below it. The center park of the

New seating is planned for the refurbished bus stop at the Lakewood end of the park, but not in a bench style to prevent sleeping on the bench. .



Broken Concrete Walls + Seating



“TWIGS” Pre Cast Concrete Benches with Integral Planter



Sculptural Concrete Seating- Cameron Van Dyke Pods



Broken Concrete Walls + Planters



Recycled Decorative Concrete Block Seating`



Stone Garden Wall Laying a Broken Concrete



Planter Seating Concept-Twisted Wall Seating With Concrete



Café Seating Metal Chairs + Table Move

Trash Receptacles / Site Furnishings/ Bike Racks

Trash and litter, even household solid waste deposits in the public trash cans (2) are big problems in Library Square. Many people deposit trash in the two waste cans or on the ground near the multiple bus stops around Library Square. Waste Management, Inc. and the SE CDC have coordinated to get a solar trash can (as shown below) on the Kenwood Ave closed street section. Waste Management seems to be responsible for removing the compacted waste cube when full. The other trash cans are emptied twice weekly by the City Sanitation department under contract to DP&R and the EPFL Library system, WMTA for the bus stop cans. In any event the existing trash cans are in poor condition, always overflowing and allow for household or bulk trash to be crammed in or put on the side. There is also a lot of pet waste generated in Library Square with a campaign by Banner Neighborhoods underway, through signage and making plastic bags available, to improve pet owner waste pickup.

The design committee is recommending uniform, lockable trash cans as shown below and potential pet waste stations with bags available. The receptacles need to be very heavy duty and durable, designed to take substantial abuse for 5 years or more. Banner Neighborhoods would like to explore “talking” trash cans, or more solar powered ones in order to engage the public in the using them for trash and litter. The receptacle placement, pick up and maintenance need to be coordinated with all responsible parties and installed as the Section 2 renovations are being constructed. The new trash cans should be coordinated in design with the new fencing and benches being planned for the park.

Waste Management, Inc. and the SE CDC have coordinated to get a solar trash can (as shown below) on the Kenwood Ave closed street section. Waste Management has been responsible for removing the compacted waste cube when full. The other trash cans are emptied twice weekly by the City Sanitation department under contract to DP&R and the EPFL Library system, WMTA for the bus stop cans. Other site furnishing could include bike racks in Section 3 entry plaza or by the bus stop. Secure, fun and bright colors may enhance safety and encourage bike ridership to the Square and Library. A more permanent pet waste station and bags is also needed for the many dog walkers who will still find plenty of space for their pets in the Section 2 Main Square near the Library entrance. Below the Linden trees in this area shade tolerant lawns and no fencing are recommended.



Standard Public Waste Can



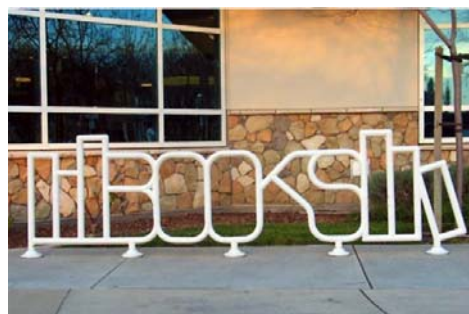
Standard Public Waste Can



Solar Powered Trash Compactor



Bike racks even a dog can love.



Creative bike racks



Other Cities have them why not Library Square?

Signage

One of the best ways to promote revitalization is through signage announcing progress and creating a sense of shared ownership. Designs and consistent graphics throughout Library Square are needed and are considered a future design task. However, intermediate signage related to Section 2 would be helpful at this point in time. Also, the FOLS would also like to erect a sign near the library for posting notices and general community information sharing, similar to the one erected by the Patterson Park Neighborhood Association at the Baltimore/Linwood entrance to Patterson Park. Interim Signage affords a good opportunity to working with local artists to create something informative and attractive.



Signage announcing Amazing Port Street Commons, Port and McElderry Streets



Community Bulletin Board
Patterson Park

Phasing and Funding Sources

This is a long term project with many complexities as noted in the report. The groups involved in library square led by Jolyn Rademacher Tracy of Banner Neighborhoods, has been spearheading multiple grants and forming relationships with many local area foundations and groups interested in supporting the hard work of revitalizing Library Square. This Plan is the culmination of ten years previous work and represents the current integrated vision of the Square including current and anticipated program activities and a general wish list of all that we believe that Library Square could become. We are currently working under a 3 year projection and have funds available for parts of the plan to be implemented starting as early as this summer.

There are various funds available now and grant applications are being implemented on an ongoing basis. Many parts of the Revitalization Plan can leverage grant funding through volunteer labor, donated materials and part time paid help. Woven throughout the plan are issues related to traffic calming, safe streets and reversing the flow of traffic on Pulaski Highway. Transportation planning is unfortunately pretty much a separate issue with broader consequences and different funding sources. The Baltimore City DOT is in transition and does not have a clear presentation of process or funds available per year of work so this piece is somewhat under developed in this report. As funds, programs and work orders become available through DOT; the NOLS group will inform and promote such opportunities.

According to Leanna Wetmore, the Phases and Funding Sources, that are currently awarded or utilized, are as follows:

Phase # 1 – Establish design and engineering plans for Section 2 Stormwater Mitigation

2013-2014

\$8000 from The Baltimore Community Foundation to be used for: place-making, community events, marketing.

\$35,000.00 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to Blue Water Baltimore. Will produce a Water Management Design Plan, hired by Biohabitats.

Phase # 2 Start installing key pieces of the Library Square Revitalization Plan

2014-2015

\$30,000 from the Baltimore Revitalization Neighborhoods Initiative- to install a low-decorative fence on the Fayette Street side of the park.

\$10,000 From the Baltimore Revitalization Neighborhoods Initiative- to provide matching façade improvement grants to small businesses at Library Square.

2014

\$600 from the Baltimore Community Foundation to Patterson Park Audubon Center to support the installation of a garden at 201 N Lakewood.

\$7,289 from BGE to Patterson Park Audubon Center to implement Wildlife Gardening Workshops in Library Square.

\$2,500 Install Teaching Garden at 201 N Lakewood- BCF and the Mitzfa fund. Funds pending.

\$25,000 Drain area revitalization/traffic calming with DOT and Councilman Kraft

Phase #3

05.05.2014

Proposed Revitalization Plan for Library Square

2014-2015

Implementation of Design – including full cost of construction. Will approach CBT and BRNI for implementation funds 2014.

8,000 for Placemaking activities – BCF. Experimental and arts based projects, install permanent signage, bike locks, additional funding TBD.

Phase #4

2015-2016

Linwood side area – Funding TBD –create garden/sitting area, lower fence.

Soldier Memorial area – connect to green space? Raise and light statue, funding TBD

Reverse traffic on Pulaski Highway- TBD

Partners, City Agencies & Organizations

The following organizations have been helpful in working together

Councilmen Kraft and Branch
Dept of Parks and Recreation
City DOT & DPW
Wm Paca Elementary School
EPFL Library
Banner Neighborhoods
Patterson Park Neighborhood Association
McElderry Park Neighborhood Association
Patterson Park Audubon Society
Blue Water Baltimore
SECDC Chris Ryer
FOLS Members
Business members