

# Urban Parks Partnership in Baltimore

Green City

Healthy City

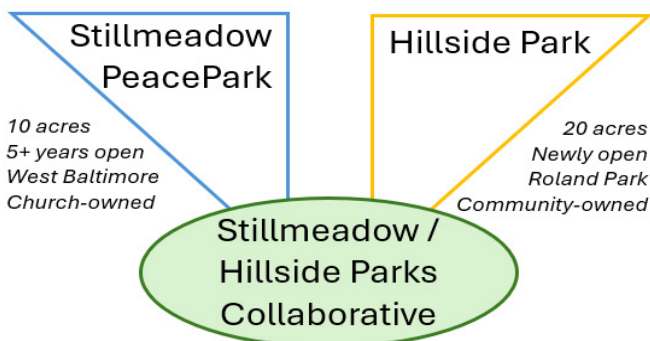


## Climate Issue: Access to Urban Green Space

Baltimore's climate change response relies on green space. Its parks and forests are essential components of climate mitigation and adaptation through:

- Managing stormwater runoff and flooding
- Monitoring and improving air quality
- Reducing the urban heat island effect
- Contributing to state carbon sequestration goals.

However, unequal distribution of green space means that climate change impacts are uneven and unjust. Simultaneously, limited resources for stewardship challenge long-term management. This is where innovative partnerships between parks come in:



*A partnership founded on a shared commitment to sustainability, solidarity, and inclusivity,*

## Stillmeadow / Hillside Parks Collaborative

In Baltimore City, Stillmeadow PeacePark and Hillside Park are forming a partnership. Focusing on education, stewardship, community-building, and connectivity among neighborhoods, the Stillmeadow / Hillside Parks Cooperative will collaborate on a range of activities:

EDUCATION	STEWARDSHIP
Educational exchanges	Resource-sharing
Partnerships	Volunteer exchanges
Research projects	Farming collaboration
Complementary design	
COMMUNITY	CONNECTIVITY
Advisory Team	Co-leadership
Storytelling	Structured activities
Volunteering	Accessibility
Celebrations	Greenways

## Greater Impact through Solidarity

As the Stillmeadow / Hillside Parks Cooperative begins its work, its goals are:

- Equitable access to green space for all Baltimoreans
- Improved social cohesion across neighborhoods and communities
- Sustained impact over the long term
- Growing impacts as the partnership grows and expands

## IN A NUTSHELL

- Urban green spaces have an important role in climate change responses as well as community development
- Collaborating enhances park accessibility, allowing service to a broader and more diverse range of users
- With stronger and more inclusive communities, cities can better address complex challenges and weather shocks
- In Baltimore, the Stillmeadow / Hillside Parks Cooperative is forging a new path for collective action for sustainability, equity, and healing.

## WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

**ENCOURAGE** collaboration among privately- and publicly-held parks, urban forests, and other green spaces

**DESIGN** accessible park signage, landscaping, and programming to ensure that everyone feels welcome

**FOSTER** reciprocity and solidarity rather than competition or exclusivity

**STRATEGIZE** scaling activities and partnerships over time to sustain impacts.

To find out more information on this case study, contact Maggie Proctor at [maggie.proctor@yale.edu](mailto:maggie.proctor@yale.edu). Photo credit: Brandon Wilson-Radcliffe. This research was supported by a Hixon Fellowship.