



## HOUSEHOLD SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE:

### PERCEPTION OF VACANT LAND IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Dear Baltimore Resident,

This survey is conducted by researchers at the University of Missouri and the Baltimore Ecosystem Study to better understand the perceptions and viewpoints concerning vacant land within Baltimore, Maryland. The answers of the interviews will help us understand the views of the Baltimore community in regard to the management and design of vacant land. **Your participation is greatly appreciated.**

#### **Participation**

Your participation in this study is voluntary; you may decline to participate without penalty. Your participation in this research project will benefit the urban ecology research community as a whole. With your help, this research can benefit others who seek to improve city planning and urban wildlife issues.

#### **Risks and Confidentiality**

Risks are minimal. The identity of those who participate in any aspect of this study will be kept strictly confidential. The researchers will not know who has consented to participate. All data will be securely stored. All data generated will be used for the purpose of analysis for this project and may be used again in the future to help answer alternative questions based on this project.

#### **Contact**

If you have questions at any time about the study or its procedures, you may contact Charles Nilon at the University of Missouri, 302 Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building, Columbia, MO 65211, or by email at [NilonC@missouri.edu](mailto:NilonC@missouri.edu). For additional information regarding participation in this research, please contact the University of Missouri IRB officer at 573-882-9585.

**Instructions:** Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. Completing the survey indicates your consent. You may stop the survey at any time.

#### **Vocabulary:**

- **Green space:** An outdoor area that is characterized by the presence of plants, trees, or other vegetation. Common green spaces are parks, gardens, lawns, etc.
- **Vacant lot:** A portion or entire city block that currently does not have a building or any other structure. Typically, these lots look like the following:





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#### SECTION ONE

In this section, we would like to get a profile of people who live in Baltimore. This information will be kept confidential and will only be used to get an understanding of your background.

1. Please provide the name of your neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you rent or own your current home?
  - Rent
  - Own
3. Do you live in a:
  - Single family home
  - A row house or townhouse
  - An apartment
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. With which racial or ethnic group do you identify yourself (select all that apply):
  - African-American
  - Asian
  - Caucasian
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your gender?
  - Female
  - Male
6. What is your current marital status?
  - Married
  - Unmarried
7. Into which of the following ranges does your annual household income fall?
  - \$0 - \$24,999
  - \$25,000 - \$49,999
  - \$50,000 - \$74,999
  - \$75,000 - \$99,000
  - \$100,000 +
8. Do you have children under 18 years old living at home?
  - Yes
  - No
9. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
  - High school or below
  - College (bachelor's degree) or above



**SECTION TWO**

Now we have some questions about your neighborhood, what activities you are involved in, and your views of vacant land within Baltimore. We will show you some examples of vacant lots throughout Baltimore to get your views on what styles of vacant lots you prefer and some issues you may find with others.

10. Overall, how much of an impact do you think that you or people like you can have in making your neighborhood a better place to live?

- A big impact
- A moderate impact
- A small impact
- No impact at all

11. In the past 12 months, have you:

- Attended a meeting of a neighborhood association or block group?
  - Yes
  - No
- Worked on a neighborhood project (i.e. community garden, mural)?
  - Yes
  - No
- Contacted government or city hall officials to deal with a problem in your neighborhood?
  - Yes
  - No

12. What kind of outdoor activities do you participate in within your neighborhood?

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13. Please indicate if you have done any of the following activities that involve local wildlife:

- Watch birds
- Feed birds
- Feed squirrels
- Planted flowers or a garden
- Volunteered in a community garden project
- Participated in any environmental organization or community group
- You want to get more involved or learn about wildlife or garden activities
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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Next, we would like to show you eight photographs of local Baltimore vacant lots. We would like to know how you feel about each lot by listing your preference for each. Please indicate if you find each desirable or not, and briefly explain why.



### Lot A

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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### Lot B

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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### Lot C

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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**Lot D**

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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**Lot E**

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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**Lot F**

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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**Lot G**

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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**Lot H**

I find this vacant lot...

- Very desirable
- Somewhat desirable
- Somewhat undesirable
- Very undesirable

Why did you select this preference?

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14. Which example lot(s) look like ones that are found within your neighborhood? (circle)

A B C D E F G H None

15. Some people have mentioned that they wished that green spaces within their neighborhoods would be cared and managed more often. Please indicate which lots (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H) you would expect to have the following issues. You can circle the same lot multiple times or choose more than one for each:

- Rodents, cockroaches, or other unwanted pests      A B C D E F G H
- Illegal activity and crime      A B C D E F G H
- Drugs      A B C D E F G H
- Litter or trash      A B C D E F G H



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16. Of these eight lots, please indicate which lot(s) you would prefer to have in your neighborhood.

A B C D E F G H None

Why did you select that particular lot(s)?

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17. Of these eight lots, please indicate which lot(s) you would **NOT** like to have in your neighborhood.

A B C D E F G H None

Why?

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18. Let's say that you have a vacant lot in your neighborhood. Please rank the following in terms of what you would like to see it used as (1- Best; 6 – Worst):

- \_\_\_ Community garden
- \_\_\_ Park with playground equipment
- \_\_\_ Park with benches, trails, and flowers
- \_\_\_ Pave it over for more parking spaces
- \_\_\_ Construction for more residential or commercial buildings
- \_\_\_ Leave it alone to let it grow

19. Vacant **buildings** are an issue in Baltimore and they should be demolished.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



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20. Vacant **lots** are an issue in Baltimore and the city should landscape or maintain them.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

21. Please write any additional comments below:

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return the completed survey in the prepaid envelope.

-----END OF SURVEY-----