

Vacant Buildings and Vacant Lots, the need for Project VITAL

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Kristin Mmari, Michelle Kondo, Katie Lautar,
and the Project VITAL TEAM

Baltimore Data Data

July 21, 2023



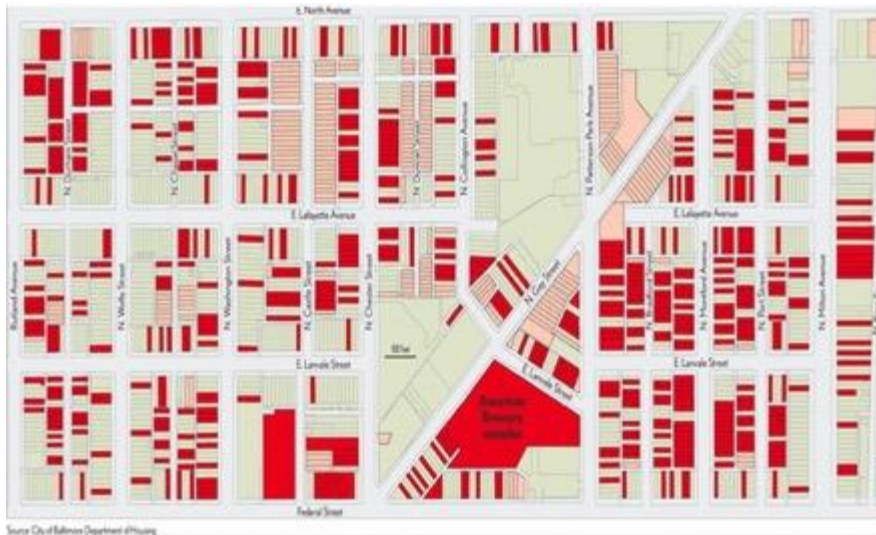
Outline

1. Vacants: buildings and lots
2. Vacant Building Removal's study (brief)
3. Vacant Lot Stewardship
4. Project VITAL

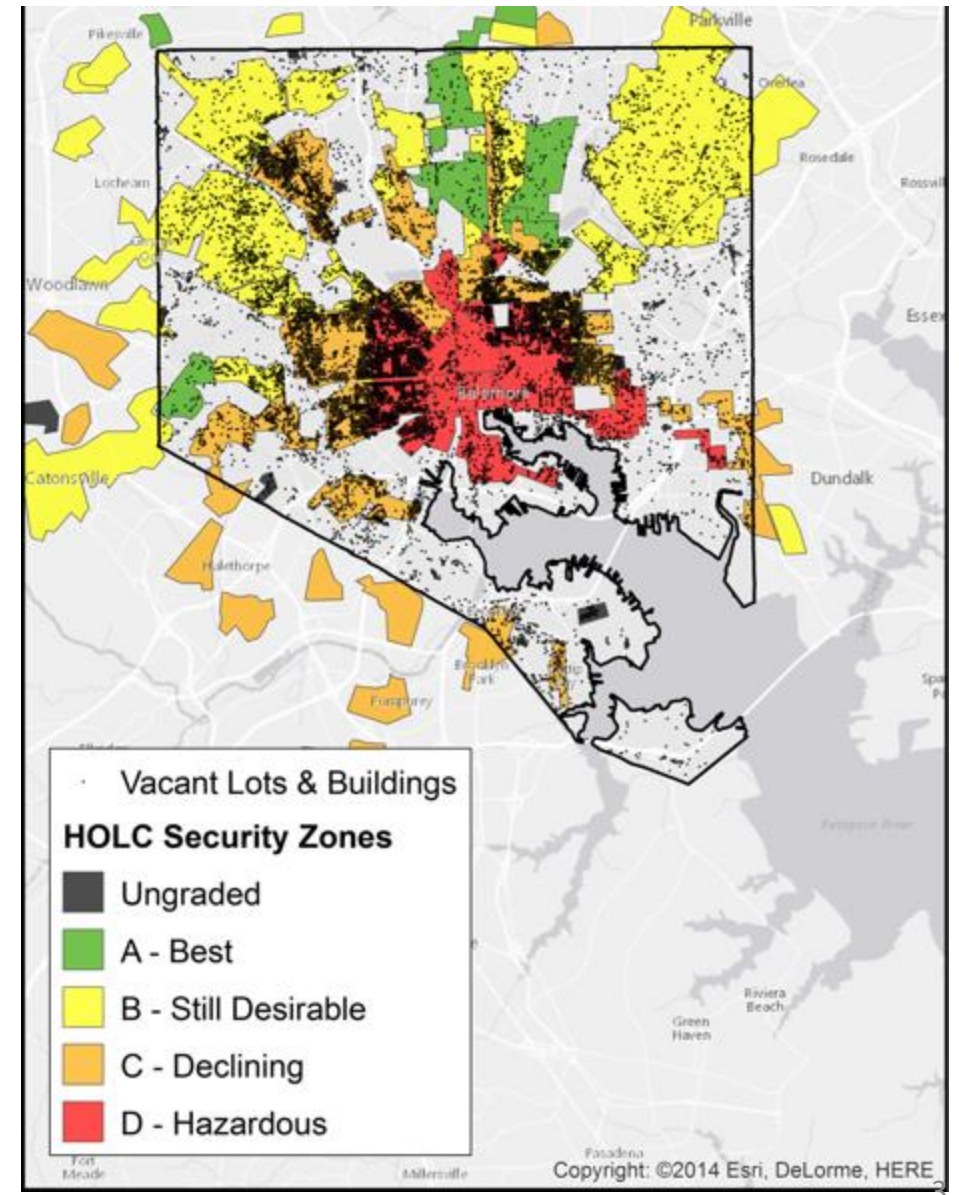
Baltimore: Vacancy



~17,000 Vacant Homes



~14,000 Vacant Lots



The Cost of Baltimore's Vacant Housing



The Costs of Baltimore's Vacant Housing



<https://21cc.jhu.edu/research/current-baltimore-research/the-costs-of-baltimores-vacant-housing/>

Direct operating costs

- \$100 million in lost revenue
- \$50 million in depressed property values
- \$22 million in nearby property values

Revenue lost

- \$24 million in income tax revenue
- \$12 million water and sewer fees

Quality of life

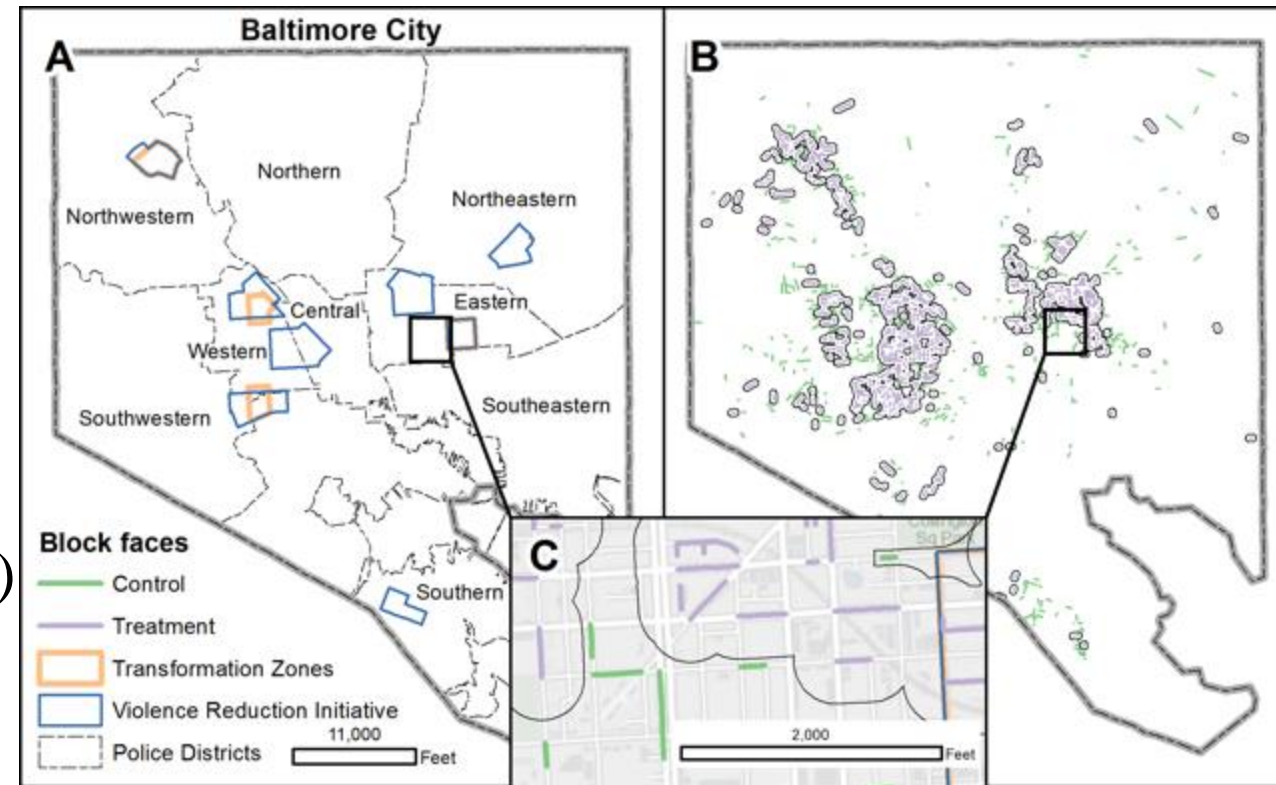
- Immeasurable?

... many programs and projects to demolish
and deconstruct vacant buildings

Do they *also* decrease crime?

Vacant Building Removals Associated with Relative Reductions in Violent and Property Crimes in Baltimore, MD 2014–2019

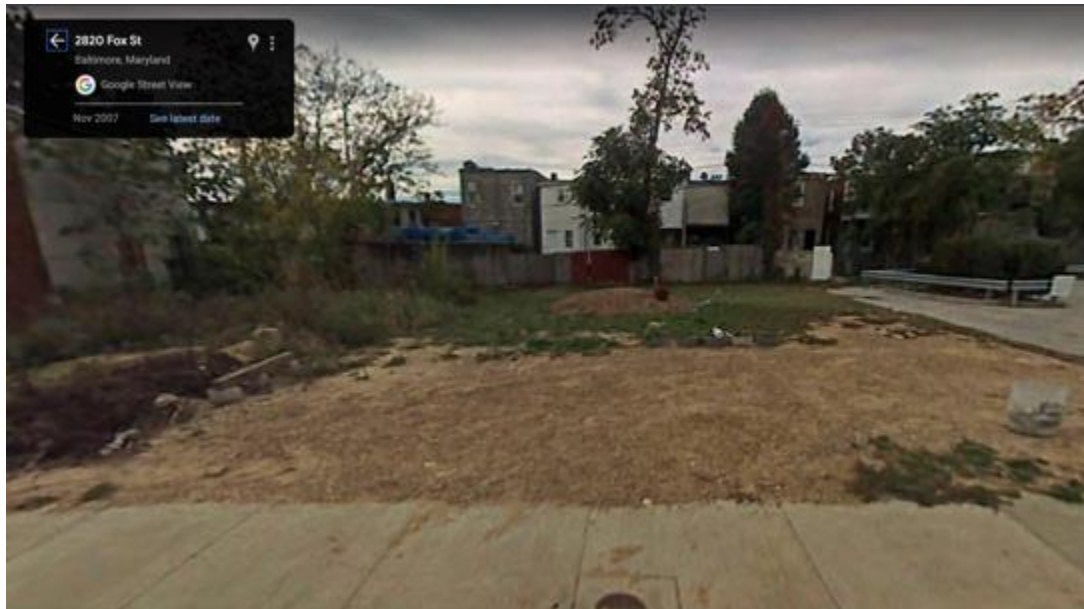
- Total crimes ↓ 1.4% per mi² (CrI: 0.5 – 2.3%)
 - ~ 2.6 total crimes per mi² / year
- assaults ↓ 4.9% (CrI: 3.4 – 6.3%)
- violent crimes ↓ 3.0% (CrI: 1.9 – 4.1%)



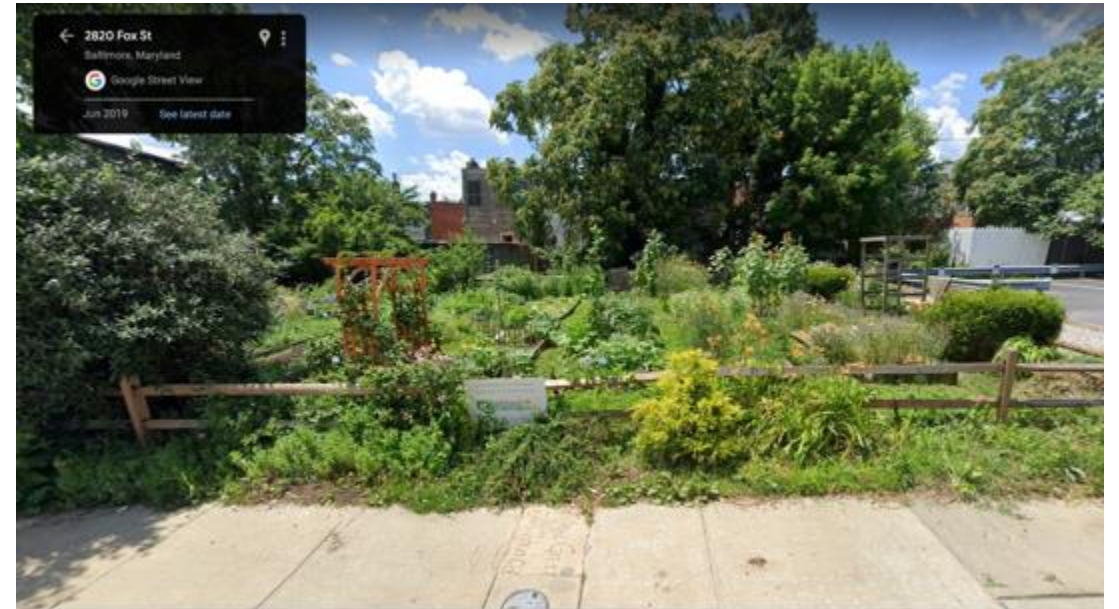
Locke, D.H., Fix, R.L., Gobaud, A.N., Morrison, C.N., Jay, J., Kondo, M. (2023) Vacant building removals associated with relative reductions in violent and property crimes in Baltimore, MD 2014-2019. *Journal of Urban Health*.10.1007/s11524-023-00758-3

Vacant Buildings → Vacant Lots

Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations

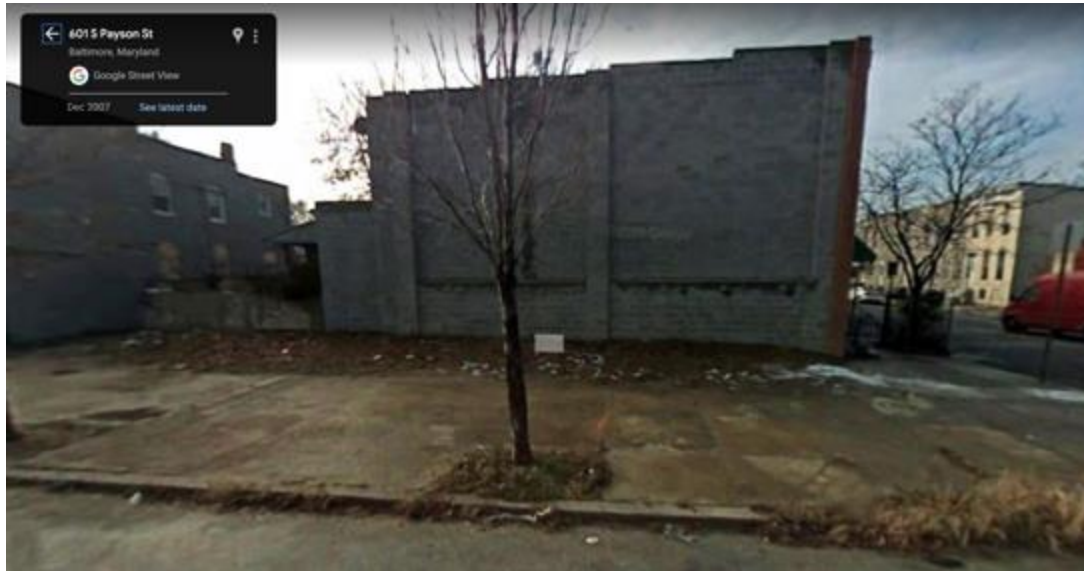


2007



2019

Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations



2007



2019

Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations

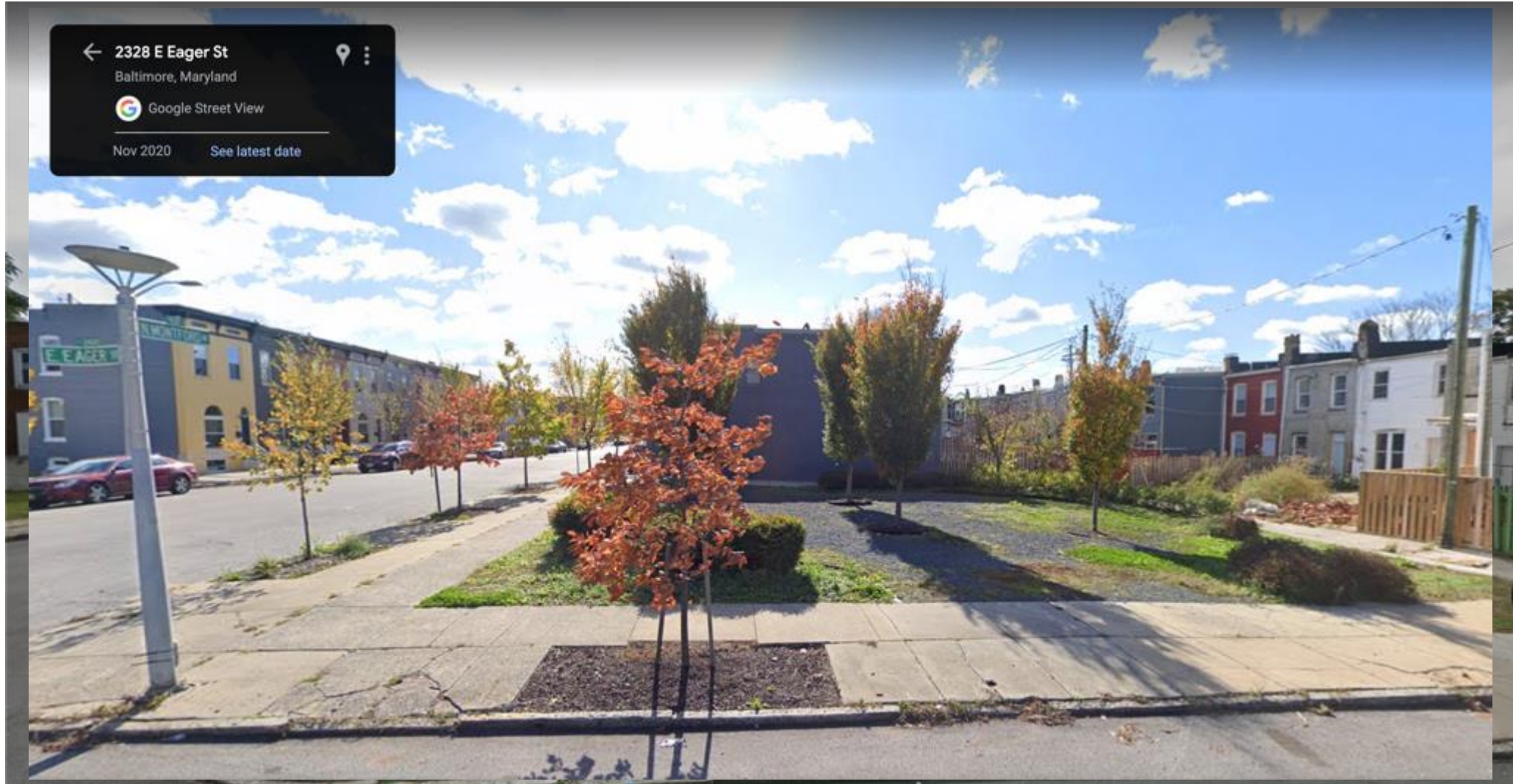


2009



2019

Vacant lots: diverse & have varied transformations



2007, 2014, 2020

Vacant lots are diverse and varied

May provide positive (or negative effects)

- Crime, mental health, violence, trauma
- Food security
- Cost effectiveness

Prior studies have largely neglected youth

Project VITAL





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Project VITAL

Vacant lot Improvement to Transform Adolescent Lives

Can restoring vacant lots improve adolescent health disparities?

People living near vacant lots and abandoned buildings exhibit poor health...But, growing evidence suggests that when vacant lots are greened and restored, the health of nearby residents improves.



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

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Health Initiative

Learn more!

Go To Map!

<https://bniajfi.org/projectvital/>

Questions? Thank you!

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