Community Engagement: By the Neighborhood, for the Neighborhood

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HOME GR/OWN

what we do

(left) Ezekiel Gillespie Park

August 28, 2014

HOME GR/OWN Mission

HOME GR/OWN transforms vacant lots and commercial corridors into healthy, green spaces increasing healthy food access and increasing neighborhood quality of life.

HOME GR/OWN Awards

2018 LISC MANDI Finalist Best Public Space for Fondy Park

2017 Harvard Innovations in American Government Semi-Finalist

2017 MMSD Green Luminary Award

2015 & 2018 Mayor's Design Award

2015 LISC MANDI Award - "Best Public Space"

2015 SXSW Eco Places by Design Winner international design contest - Urban Strategies category

2018 UW Chancellor's Award

National attention & awards have helped propel our mission

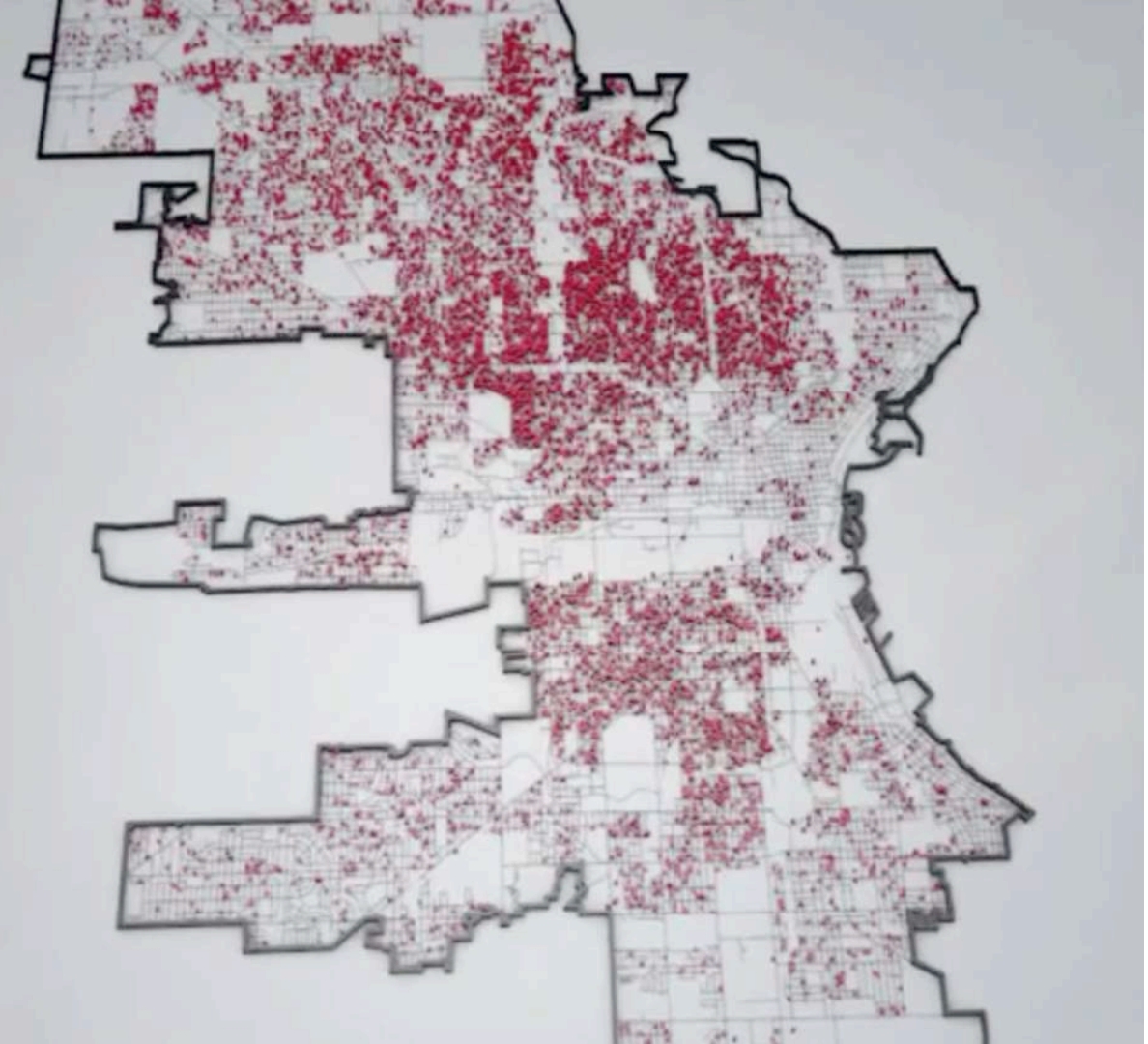
Governing

Fast Company

AP

Next City

National Public Radio

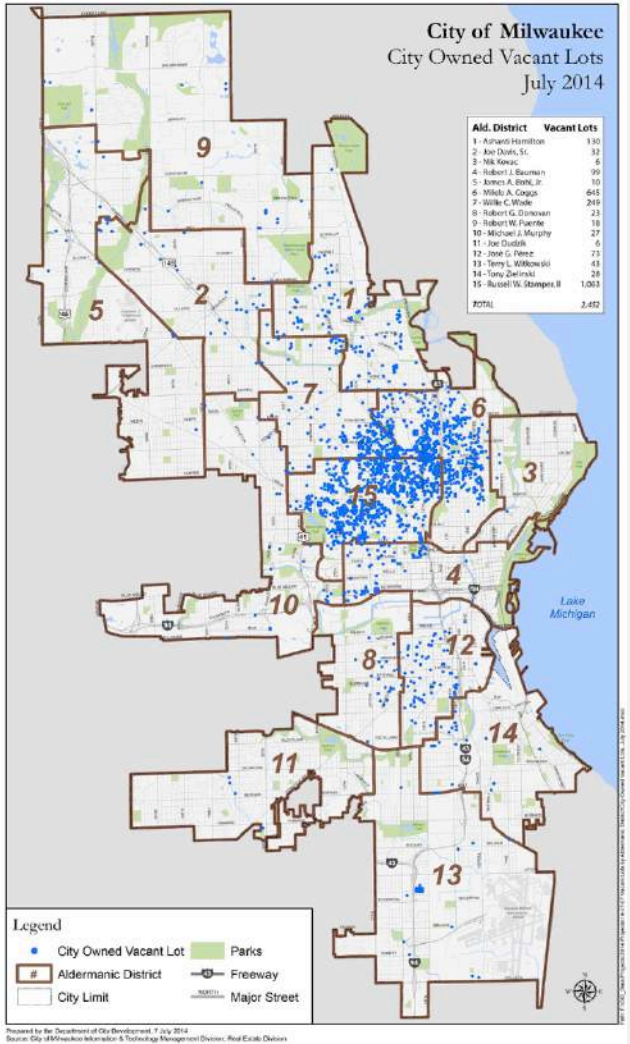


HOME GR/OWN

why we do it

How do you have a neighborhood if you don't have any neighbors?

3,000 vacant lots clustered on MKE North Side



Impact of vacancy on 1 neighborhood - 13 x 13 blocks

3,000+ Vacant Lots in Central City

What do you do with a piece of land that has zero economic value?

Why we do what we do?

Drivers behind HOME GR/OWN

Assume little to no infill residential

Crime & perception of MKE North Side

Climate Change adaptation

Placemaking creates catalytic spaces - attract people across invisible barriers

Vacant commercial corridors

Imagine creative, unconventional for vacant spaces

Urban agriculture as economic development tool - new, circular economy

Green job creation - AA unemployment

Major Success Factor: Public/Private Partners

Philanthropies

Greater MKE Foundation

Zilber Family Foundation

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Institute for Sustainable Communities

Fund for Lake Michigan/MMSD

Religious Charities

Private Firms

Veolia

Opti

Outpost Natural Foods

David J Frank Landscaping

Simon Landscaping

Rozga Plumbing

McKay Nursery

Major Success Factor: Public / Private Partners

Non-Profits

Reflo

Fondy Food Center

Walnut Way

reciproCITY

Riverworks

Groundwork MKE

Operation Dream

Dominican Center

SET Ministries

Academia

MKE School of Engineering

UW-Milwaukee - SARUP/CDS

UW-Madison

UW Extension

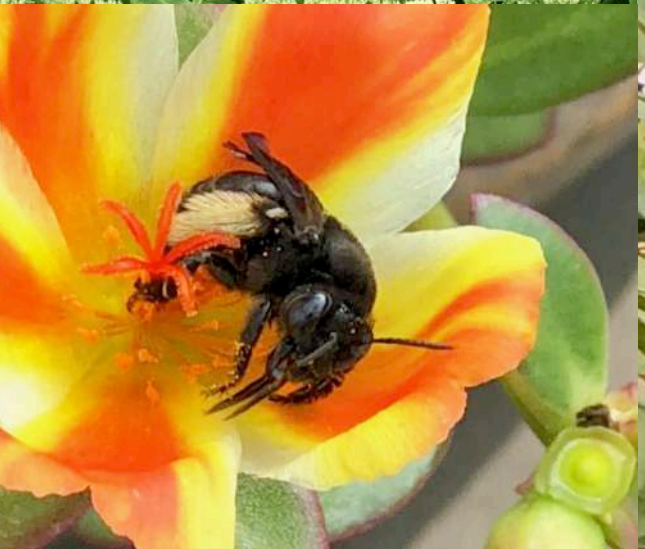
Sustainability Features of the Parks

Green Infrastructure

Healthy food access - free food for the neighborhood

Green jobs & training

“By the neighborhood, for the neighborhood”



Pollinators
Creating a chain of oases in a sea of grass

Native plants creates biophilia

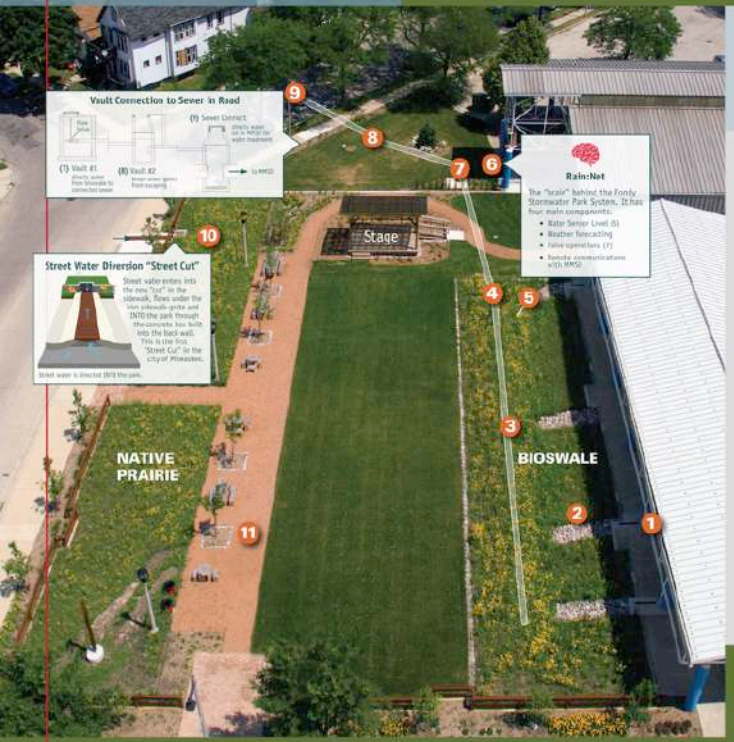
The 7 major HOME GR/OWN pocket parks

Which sites have worked?

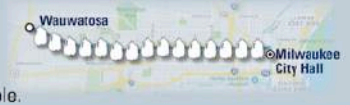
Fondy Park - opened September, 2017

FONDY PARK

Fondy Park's Stormwater Management System



In any given rain event, FONDY PARK can capture and infiltrate over 71,000 gallons of rainwater. That amount of water inside 1-gallon water jugs would stretch from Milwaukee City Hall to downtown Wauwatosa. The innovative street water diversion, a 2,700 square foot bioswale, and 19 stormwater trees make all of this possible.



BIOSWALE

A Bioswale is a trench-like area seeded with native plants that help filter & soak up rainwater, before it reaches Milwaukee's combined sewer system.

1 DOWNSPOUT Stormwater travels off Fondy's roof and into the gutters. The gutters send the water into vertical pipes attached to the gutters called downspouts.

2 SPILLWAY Stormwater exits the downspout and into these rock piles. The rocks help slow the water down before entering the bioswale.

3 UNDER-DRAIN PIPE This perforated pipe allows the water to infiltrate into the soil as it flows through it.

4 OVERFLOW PIPE If the bioswale fills, stormwater will drain into the overflow pipe. This is where the water begins its journey to connect with the city's sewer system.

5 WATER LEVEL INDICATOR PIPE Inside this pipe is a sensor that calculates how much water is currently in the bioswale and how much space is left to hold more. The sensor sends the information to a computer program within the park called Rain:Net.

RAIN:NET

6 Hidden inside this little box (the OptiBox) is a robust computer program called Rain:Net. It is the "brains" behind the Fondy Park Stormwater Management System. It monitors and controls the park's entire system. Rain:Net forecasts the weather, it knows when it will rain next, and predicts how much rain will fall onto the park. Rain:Net relays very important information about the Fondy Stormwater Management System to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).

UNDERGROUND

7 CONTROL VAULT It's concrete and weighs 22,000 lbs. Roughly the same weight as 4 elephants! Within the vault there is a valve. This valve controls the water flow from the park to the city's combined sewer system. The valve can be opened or closed remotely. If there is a heavy rainfall and the bioswale is full, Rain:Net will relay that information to MMSD. MMSD has the ability to open the valve remotely which will allow the water to flow through the underground pipes and into the city's combined sewer system.

UNDERGROUND

8 TRAPPED MANHOLE This vault contains underground pipes, designed to keep sewer gases from escaping the piping system.

9 SEWER CONNECT The excess (filtered) stormwater from this underground pipe, merges into the city's combined sewer system pipes. This is the beginning of its long journey to MMSD to be cleaned.

ABOVE GROUND

10 STREET WATER DIVERSION This first-of-its kind water management feature actually invites stormwater runoff *from* the streets to *enter* our park. No matter where water falls, it is important to manage. Even if the rain doesn't fall directly onto our park, this "Street Cut" gives us the opportunity to share our hard-working system by infiltrating street water runoff in the gravel of a former building foundation.

11 STORM WATER TREES Fondy Park has 19 new storm water trees. These trees reduce storm water runoff by capturing and storing rainfall in their canopy and releasing water into the atmosphere. They help slow down, and temporarily store runoff and reduce pollutants by taking up nutrients and other pollutants from soils and water through their roots.

Fondy Park

LISC MANDI 2018

Best Public Space Award

Fondy Park Construction

fruit orchard
cistern
permeable pavers
berry bushes
native perennials

Ezekiel Gillespie Park

MKE “Best Public Space 2015”

Mayor’s Design Award for Neighborhood Revitalization

Ezekiel Gillespie Park, 2014

More Ezekiel Gillespie Park

Gillespie Park Construction - 2014

Sunshine Park

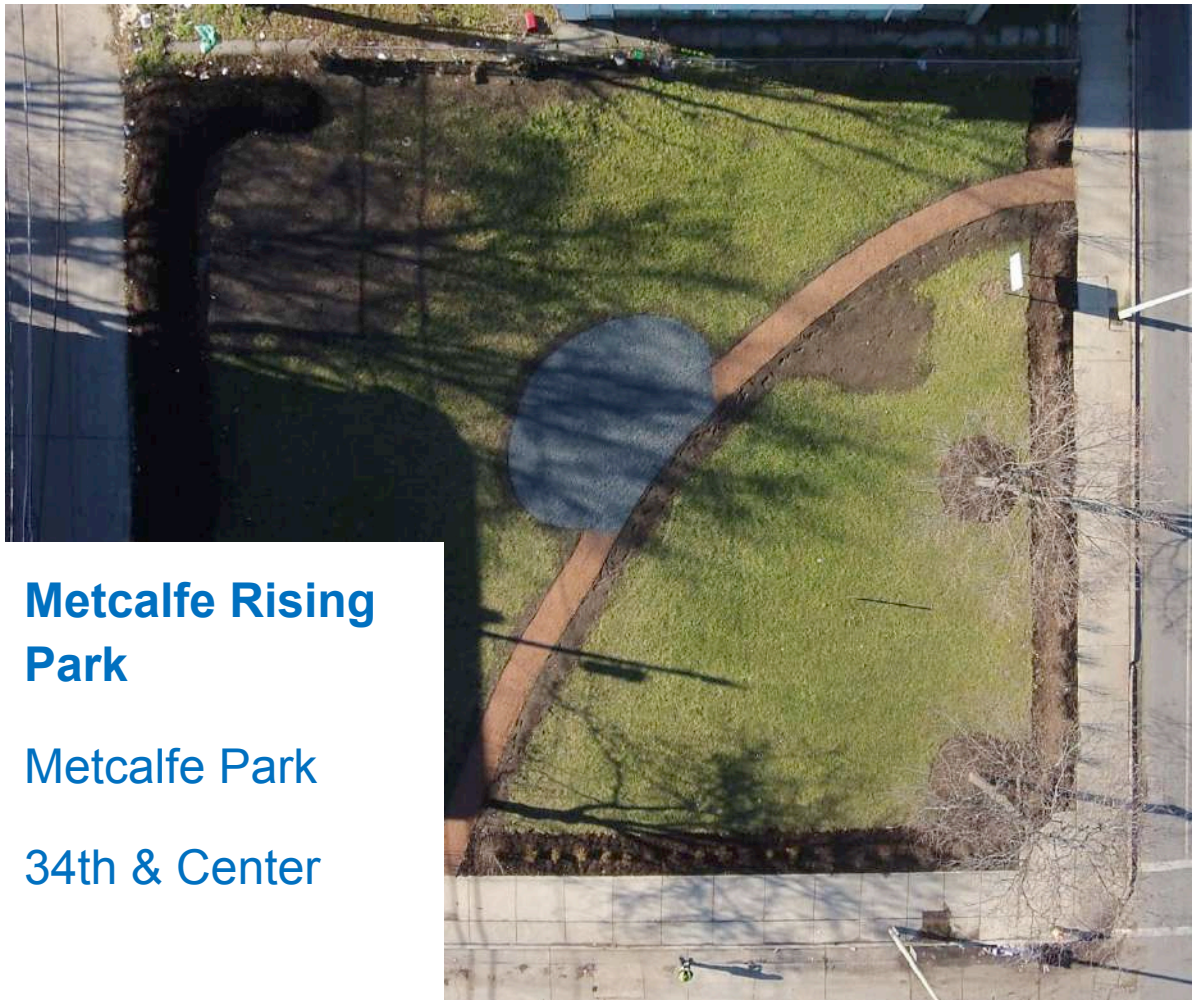
Lindsay Heights

14th & North

2015

Scholars Park

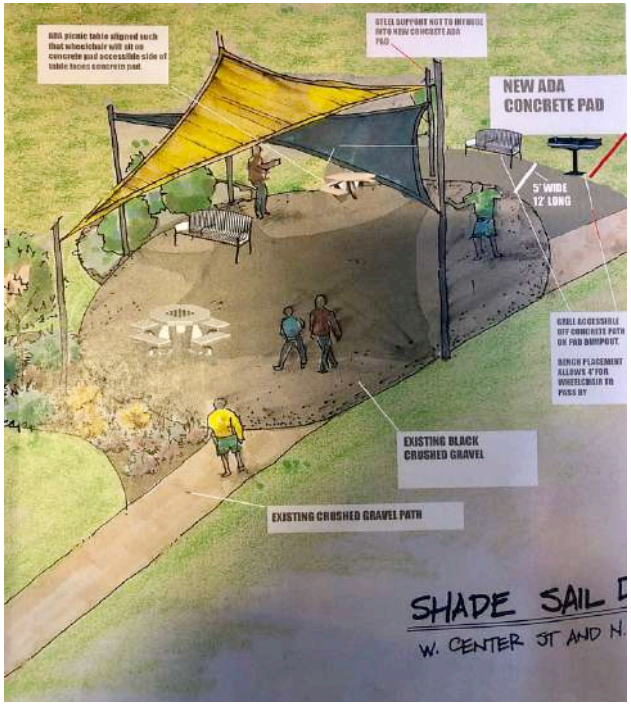
Metcalfe Park



Metcalfe Rising Park

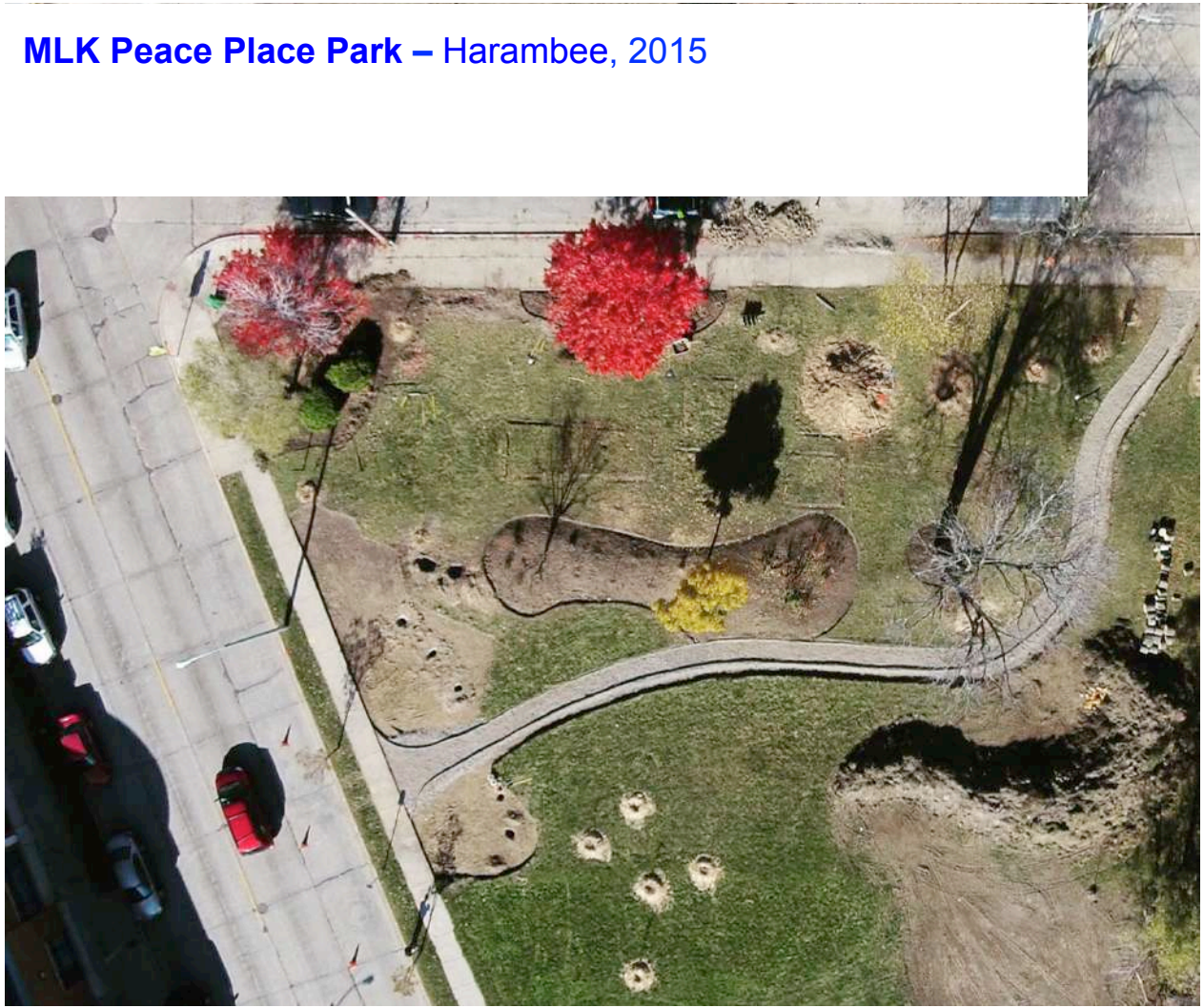
Metcalfe Park

34th & Center



Success factors:
Strong philanthropic support
Strong neighborhood group
Adaptable, large space
Corner lot

MLK Peace Place Park – Harambee, 2015

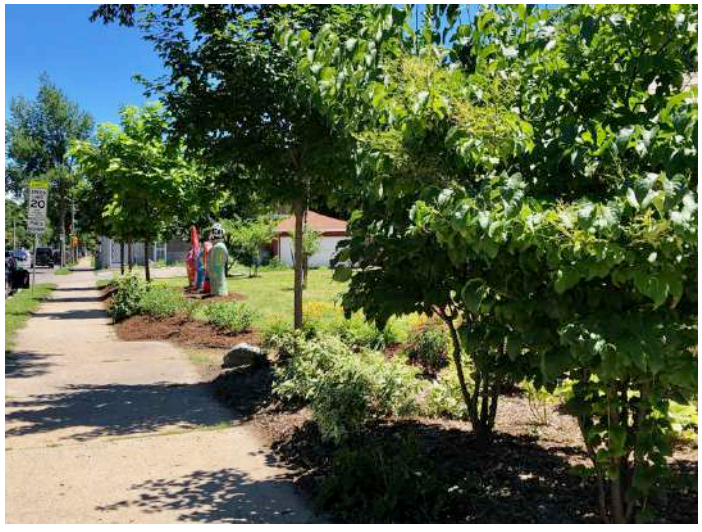


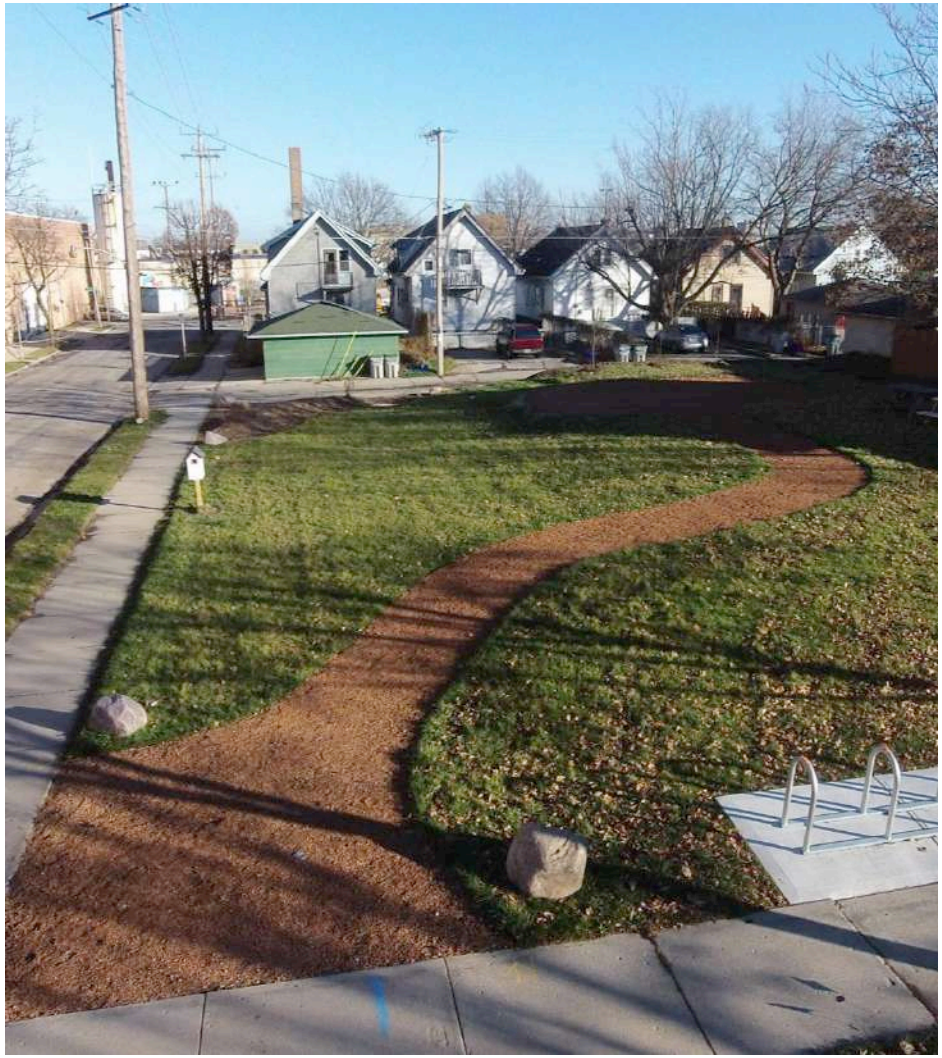
The pocket parks that are less successful...so far

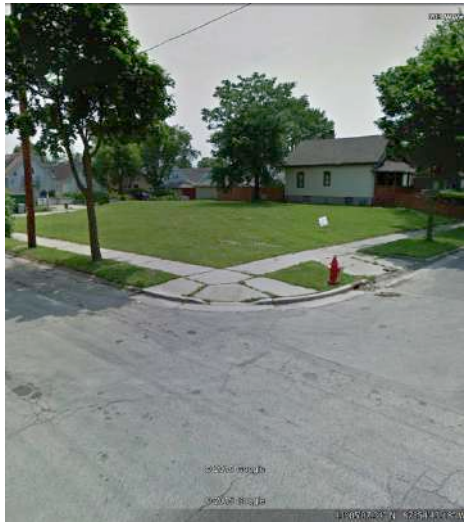
Dr. Carter Park

Success: New funds for major furniture; 2nmajor ‘17 art installs

Fail: Hardscape cited as not ADA-compliant- 2019 fix; no good seating



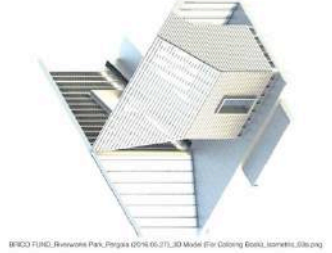


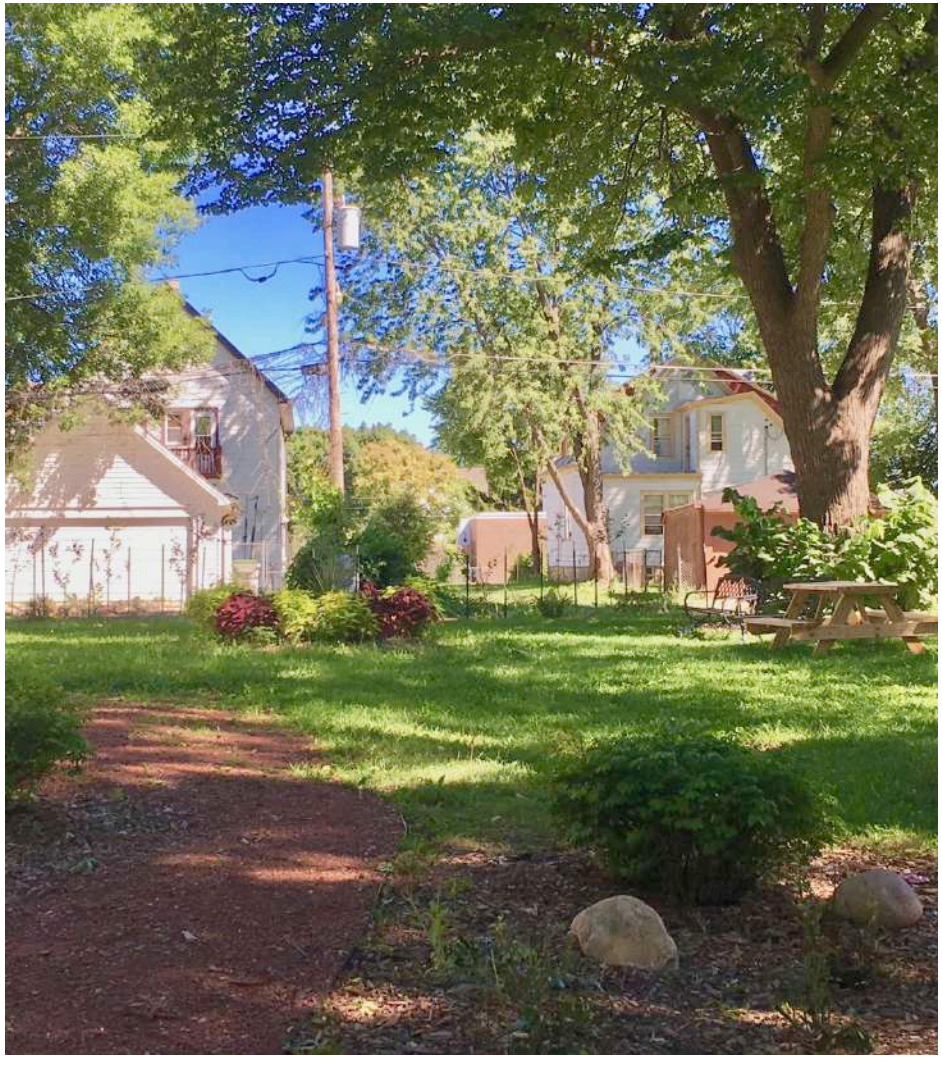


Adams Park

Issues:

Failed major public art project was the draw; Site hemmed in on 2 sides: No compelling reason to go there yet.



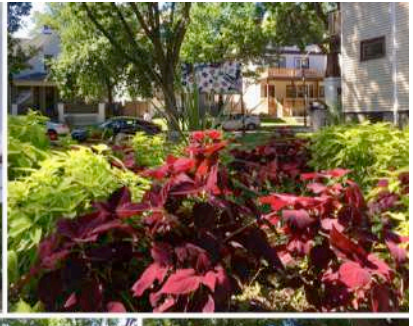


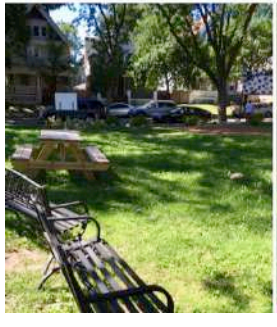
Unity Orchard

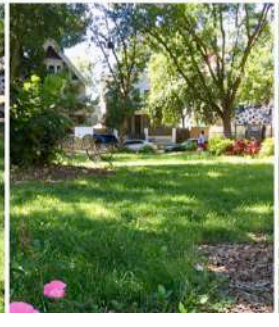
Issues:

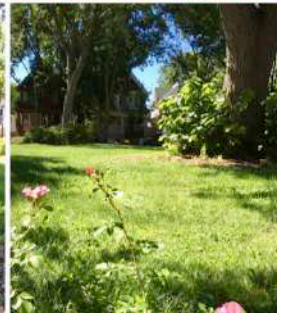
Site on street that is a gang borderline.
Multiple deaths every year on block.

Unsafe for residents to visit or maintain.









HOME GR/OWN - City of Milwaukee

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