

Make It Easy – Start with Existing Institutions with Land - DRAFT -

2024

Overview

Many existing institutions such as churches, schools, businesses, and correctional facilities have converted land they already have into spaces where people can more easily engage with trees, green spaces, and nature. In many of the examples, the institutions create the spaces along with the input and collaboration of their existing members, increasing the sense of community ownership for the initiatives.

Case Studies

Stillmeadow PeacePark: Baltimore, MD

- An African American Church in Baltimore transformed 10 acres of forest next to their church into a healthy space for people to come together.

Western Correctional Institution: Cumberland, MD

- Inmates collaborated with designers to create their own meditation garden with healing space and plants inside the correctional facility.

The Arc of Prince George's County: Largo, MD

- Sensory garden within a large business park. It is designed for individuals with developmental disabilities, staff, and members of the public.

Resources

Websites

- [Kids Gardening Network: https://kidsgardening.org/garden-stories/](https://kidsgardening.org/garden-stories/)
- [Green Schoolyards America: https://www.greenschoolyards.org/forest-resource-library](https://www.greenschoolyards.org/forest-resource-library)
- [Texas Trees Cool Schools Project: https://texastrees.org/cool-schools-projects/](https://texastrees.org/cool-schools-projects/)
- [Project Learning Tree: https://www.plt.org/](https://www.plt.org/)

References

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The Arc of Prince George’s County. (n.d.). Nature Sacred. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from https://naturesacred.org/sacred_place/the-arc-of-prince-georges-county/

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