

# Make It Easy – Start with Existing Institutions with Land

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://texas-trees.org/cool-schools-projects/](https://texas-trees.org/cool-schools-projects/)
- [Project Learning Tree: https://www.plt.org/](https://www.plt.org/)

## References

*Cool Schools Projects—Texas Trees Foundation.* (n.d.). Retrieved March 17, 2024, from <https://texas-trees.org/cool-schools-projects/>

*Garden Stories—KidsGardening.* (2021, August 25). <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-stories/>, <https://kidsgardening.org/garden-stories/>

*LEARNING IS IN OUR NATURE.* (n.d.). Project Learning Tree. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from <https://www.plt.org/>

*Schoolyard Forest System—Resource Library.* (n.d.). Green Schoolyards America. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from <https://www.greenschoolyards.org/forest-resource-library>

*Stillmeadow PeacePark.* (n.d.). Stillmeadow PeacePark. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from <https://www.stillmeadowpeacepark.com>

*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/](https://naturesacred.org/sacred_place/the-arc-of-prince-georges-county/)

*Western Correctional Institution.* (n.d.). Nature Sacred. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from [https://naturesacred.org/case\\_study/western-correctional-institution/](https://naturesacred.org/case_study/western-correctional-institution/)