

# Philadelphia Green: Reclaiming Urban Land in Philly

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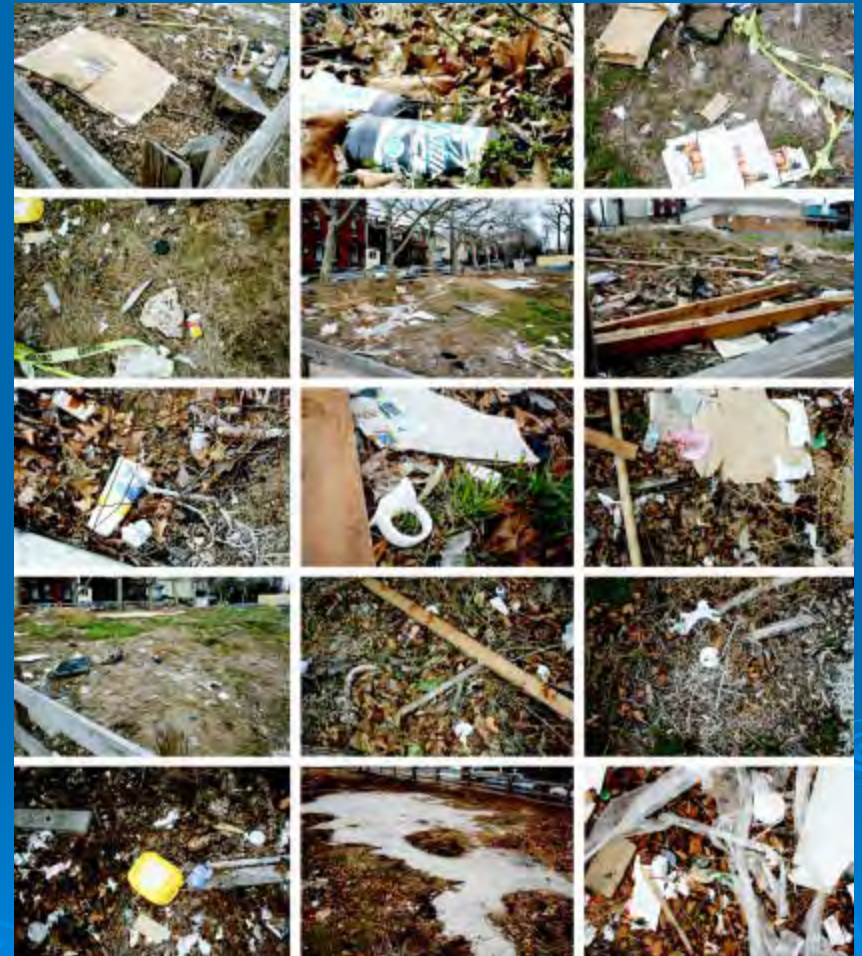
Green Design and the City

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# Background

- Vacant land is considered an extensive problem in many US cities (1)
- Philadelphia has lost 25% of it's population since 1950 (2)
- There are 40000 vacant properties in Philadelphia (2)



# Vacant Land Stabilization

- Involves cleaning, mowing, layering topsoil, planting trees, and putting in fencing
- 7 million square feet of land in the past 6 years
- Maintained by a crew assigned by ZIP code
- Not a finished product



# Community LandCare

- Litter is removed and area is mowed
- 4 million square feet are currently maintained
- 15 community service groups work in 16 neighborhoods



# Benefits

- Attractive to current and future residents
- Outdoor play area
- 25% increase in property value
- Decrease in crime
- Community benefits



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# Costs and Counter Arguments

## ➤ Monetary costs

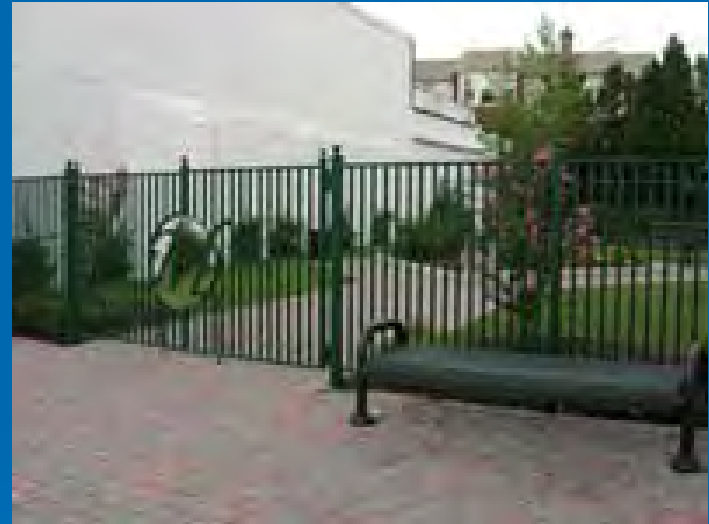
- Even Vacant Land Stabilization, the more costly project is very cost efficient considering how dramatic the results are

## ➤ Land use

- Because the areas are used as place holders and not finished products, the best use for that land can be determined at a later date.

# Conclusions

- Ideas have spread to other cities (Cleveland)
- When cities revitalize 30% of their vacant land, they experience a turn around
- Philadelphia Green, with its horticultural knowledge and funding, is an excellent choice to renew Philadelphia neighborhoods affected by urban blight



# Works Sited

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