

# Strategies Beyond Green

The Sustainability  
Challenge for Cities

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PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

**Urban Sustainability in Baltimore**

**Friday, October 16, 2015**

COLUMBUS CENTER, 701 E. PRATT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202



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“...the ecological locations of urban regions no longer coincide with their geographic locations. Without taking anything away from cities as economic engines and cultural hotbeds, we must recognise that they also resemble entropic black holes, sweeping up the output of areas of the ecosphere vastly larger than themselves. In this respect, cities are the human equivalent of cattle feedlots. Perhaps the most important insight from this results in that *no city or urban region can be sustainable on its own*. ‘Sustainable city’—at least as we presently define cities—is an oxymoron.”

William Rees (1997, pg. 307)

# *Locally Defining Sustainability*

*“I think of it as the social, economic, and environmental components to a system being in balance and supporting one another...In everything that we do, whether it is youth development on the recreation side of the house or if it is tree planting and community forestry, or whether it is watershed restoration, we always look at the goal of that work [is] to leave a system of strength in the community.”*

*Jacqueline Carrera, Parks & People Foundation*

*Interview – 15 January 2013*

*“Our work is about revitalizing existing urban areas, and there is no greater practice of sustainability than that in my book.”*

*Chris Ryer, Southeast CDC (15 February 2013)*

*“Baltimore often has a lack of community...and I think a big part of sustainability is building community because we’re not going to be able to do anything on our own.”*

*Reagan Hooton, Baltimore Free Farm (4 February 2013)*

*“We bridge a gap that was dividing people, whether generationally or culturally.”*

*Holly Shook, CUPs (21 August 2013)*



# THE



# SUN

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SATURDAY  
November 2, 2013

## Ravens' Osemele season over SPORTS

### Hopkins doctor may have 9,000 victims

Class-action settlement sought in Nikita Levy case

By JUSTIN GEORGE AND SCOTT DANCE  
The Baltimore Sun

A former Johns Hopkins gynecologist, Dr. Nikita Levy, might have surreptitiously photographed or recorded the examinations of at least 9,000 patients, lawyers representing his alleged victims said Friday. More detailed allegations emerged as attorneys in a class-action lawsuit announced that a judge had approved negotiations for a group settlement with Johns Hopkins Hospital and its medical systems. Levy, who died in an apparent suicide in February as investigators closed in, had worked at the Balti-

SUN INVESTIGATES

## Regulators delay work on Harbor Point plan

Agencies call for new air tests, revised environmental safeguards

By TIMOTHY B. WHEELER  
The Baltimore Sun

Plans to build offices and condominiums at Harbor Point hit a new snag Friday as federal and state regulators rejected the developer's plans for protecting the public from toxic contamination in the ground during construction at the former factory site.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Maryland Department of the Environment called for many minor revisions to the Beatty Development Group's plan, which an EPA spokeswoman characterized as largely routine, with "no show-stoppers."

But regulators also ordered more air sampling to correct what they said were flaws in earlier monitoring. The tests

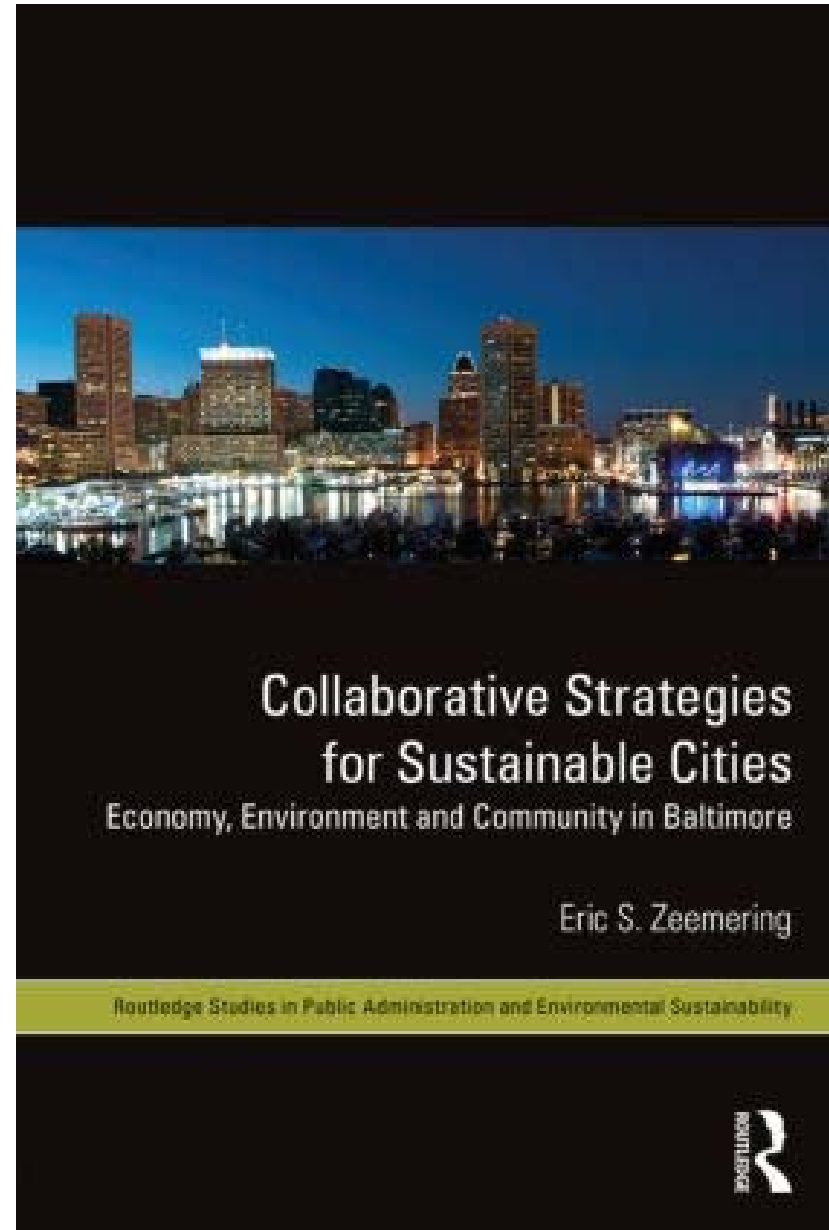
found what may have been "artificially high" readings of cancer-causing hexavalent chromium in the air at the 27-acre site and elsewhere downtown, officials said.

It's not clear how long the project will be delayed. The EPA gave the developer 30 days to submit changes to the plan, but a spokeswoman said construction could not begin until new air readings are taken and  
*See HARBOR POINT, page B3*

Proposed line would start with

Between November 2012 and July 2013, I spoke with eighty five people working on various dimensions of sustainability in Baltimore. I asked...

*What are the most important things Baltimore can do in order to be a more sustainable city?*







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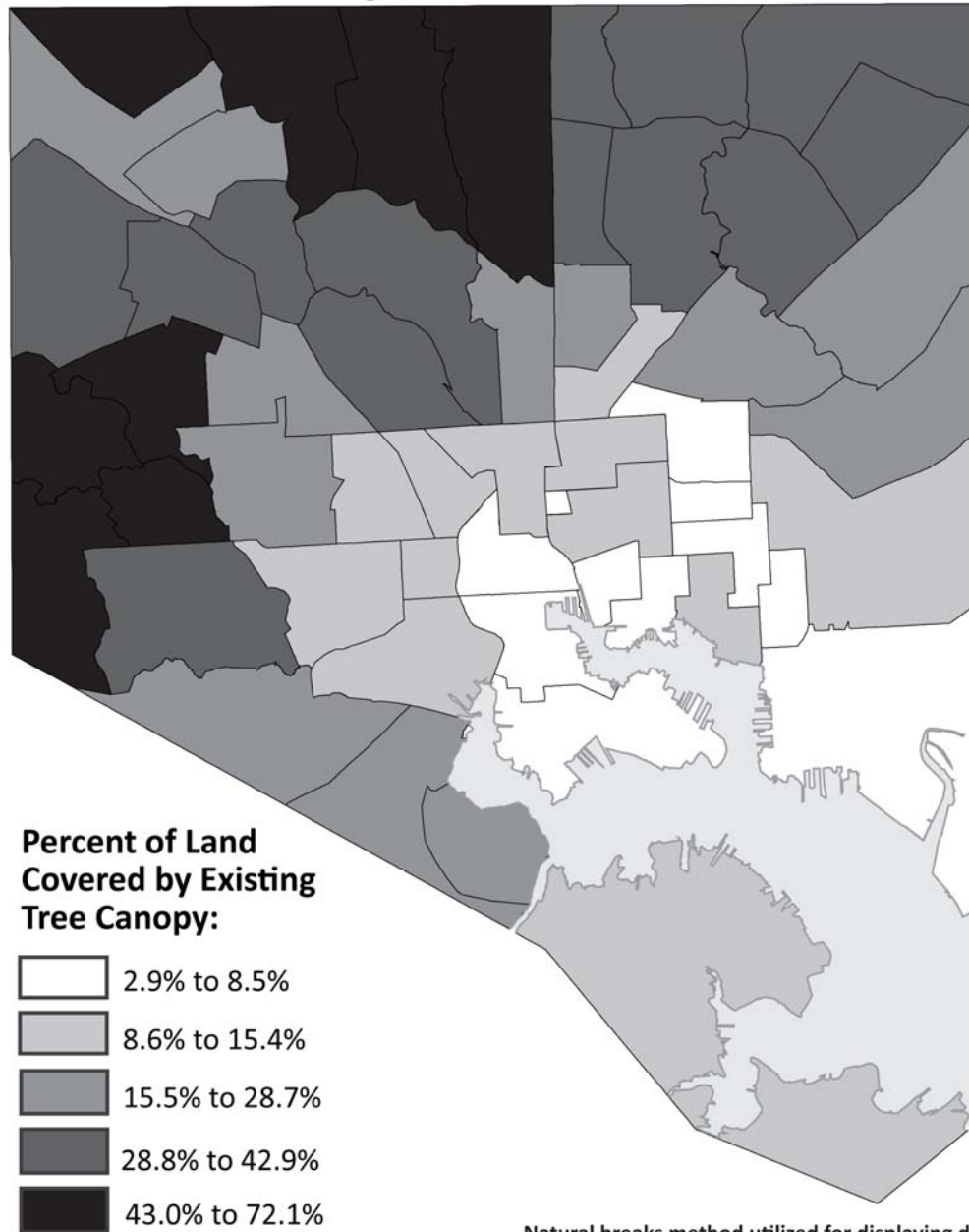
DON'T POLLUTE THE BEACH



THROW IT AWAY



## Tree Canopy by Community Statistical Area, 2007



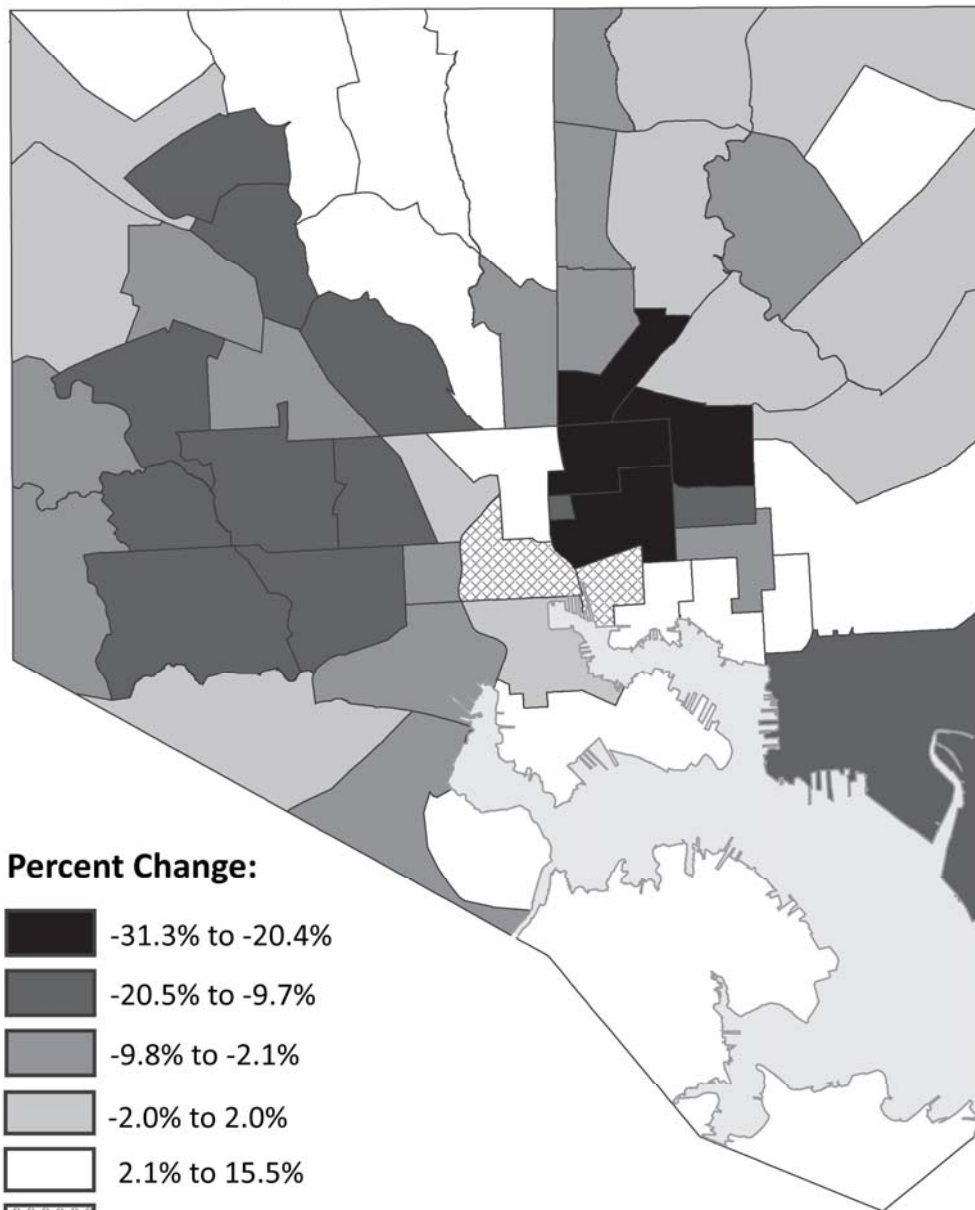
Natural breaks method utilized for displaying data.  
Source: USGS-UMBC; Landsat







## Population Change by Community Statistical Area, 2000-2010



Natural breaks method utilized for displaying data.  
Source: U.S. Census





# Q-Sort Analysis

Environmental Sustainability	Sustainability as Urban Rebuilding	Sustainability as Civic Health and Justice
Protect the Chesapeake Bay and local watersheds (4)	Revitalize city neighborhoods (4)	Promote partnerships among government, business and the public to enhance sustainability efforts in the city (4)
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (4)	Reduce crime (3)	Expand job training for the unemployed and underemployed (3)
Plant trees and expand the urban forest (3)	Expand transit-oriented development (3)	Advocate for the rights and interests of disadvantaged communities (3)
Improve storm water management (3)	Recruit new business to the city (3)	Revitalize city neighborhoods (3)
Protect local habitats and ecological resources (3)	Rehabilitate vacant and abandoned properties (3)	Encourage public participation in the city's civic life and politics (2)

# Shared Priorities for a Sustainable City

*Promote partnerships among government, business and the public to enhance sustainability efforts in the city*

*Revitalize city neighborhoods*

*Rehabilitate vacant and abandoned properties*

*Expand access to parks and recreation facilities*

*Encourage the use of public transportation*

*Improve the quality of K-12 education in the city*

# Collaboration

*“It’s creating that overall plan and then getting people to sign up and be on board with helping to move forward each of those pieces...It’s partnerships.”*

Christina Nutile, Baltimore Greenworks

*“Yeah, it is all about partnerships. It always has been.”*

Charles Murphy, Tree Baltimore

*“No city thinks of doing this by itself anymore.”*

Joseph McNeely,  
Central Baltimore Partnership



# The Sustainability of Sustainability?

*“It’s almost as though [sustainability has] burnt out from the public psyche. They don’t want to talk about it...And so the whole notion of sustainability, I think there’s a minority of residents day to day that even think about it. And as a result of them not thinking about it, there isn’t’ really a pressure on our municipal councilors...I think internally we’re doing things, but it’s designed or it’s driven on an economic internal imperative for staff that [know] if we don’t do something, we’re going to completely wipe out the ability of the departments to deliver things.”*

Civil Servant, City of Ottawa, ON

Interviewed March 2014

# Strategies Beyond Green

Engage Policy  
Complexity

Identify Intermediaries

“Embed” Sustainability in  
Strategy

Clarify Political Vision

Engage the  
Value-Action Gap

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*Questions and Feedback*

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