

NEW APPROACHES TO ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS : URBAN (ECOSYSTEM) SERVICES ON VACANT LAND

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ACES 2016: Urban Ecosystem Services 1

Making Decisions About Vacant Land: Can Ecosystem Services play a role?

- Background
- How do responsible agencies involve relevant stakeholders in making decisions about vacant land?
- Case-studies: Four shrinking cities in Ohio
- Outcomes and future directions

Background (and shameless plug)

"This is a thoughtful and engaging history of the often misguided attempts to create markets for ecosystem services in the US and a guide to more participatory institutions that might work significantly better. Essential reading for anyone interested in ecosystem services."
—Robert Costanza, Chair in Public Policy, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

The *Creation of Markets for Ecosystem Services in the United States* offers a detailed analysis of the most advanced efforts to create markets for ecosystem services in the United States. With the help of in-depth case studies of three well-known attempts to create such markets—in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Ohio River basin and the Willamette River basin—this book explains why very few of these markets have actually succeeded even after close to two decades of much scholarly enthusiasm, significant federal funding and concerted efforts by NGOs, government agencies and private businesses.

Mattijs van Maasakkers is an assistant professor of city and regional planning at Ohio State University. Trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard's Program on Science, Technology and Society, Van Maasakkers's research and teaching focus on the role of science and technology in environmental policy-making and implementation.

The **Anthem Ecosystem Services and Restoration Series** presents lessons for practical decision making by governments, businesses and NGOs seeking to incorporate the language and logic of ecosystem services into their activities. Ecosystems provide valuable services to individuals, organizations and society more generally, but the practical application of this principle is not at all straightforward. Policymakers, businesses and advocacy organizations around the world are developing innovative ways of incorporating ecosystem services into decision making through the creation of markets, trusts and policies of various kinds. This series seeks to develop a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these initiatives and to generate a more informed understanding of which interventions result in the most effective and sustainable outcomes.

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Mattijs van Maasakkers



THE CREATION OF MARKETS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES
Mattijs van Maasakkers



THE CREATION OF MARKETS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES

The Challenge of Trading Places

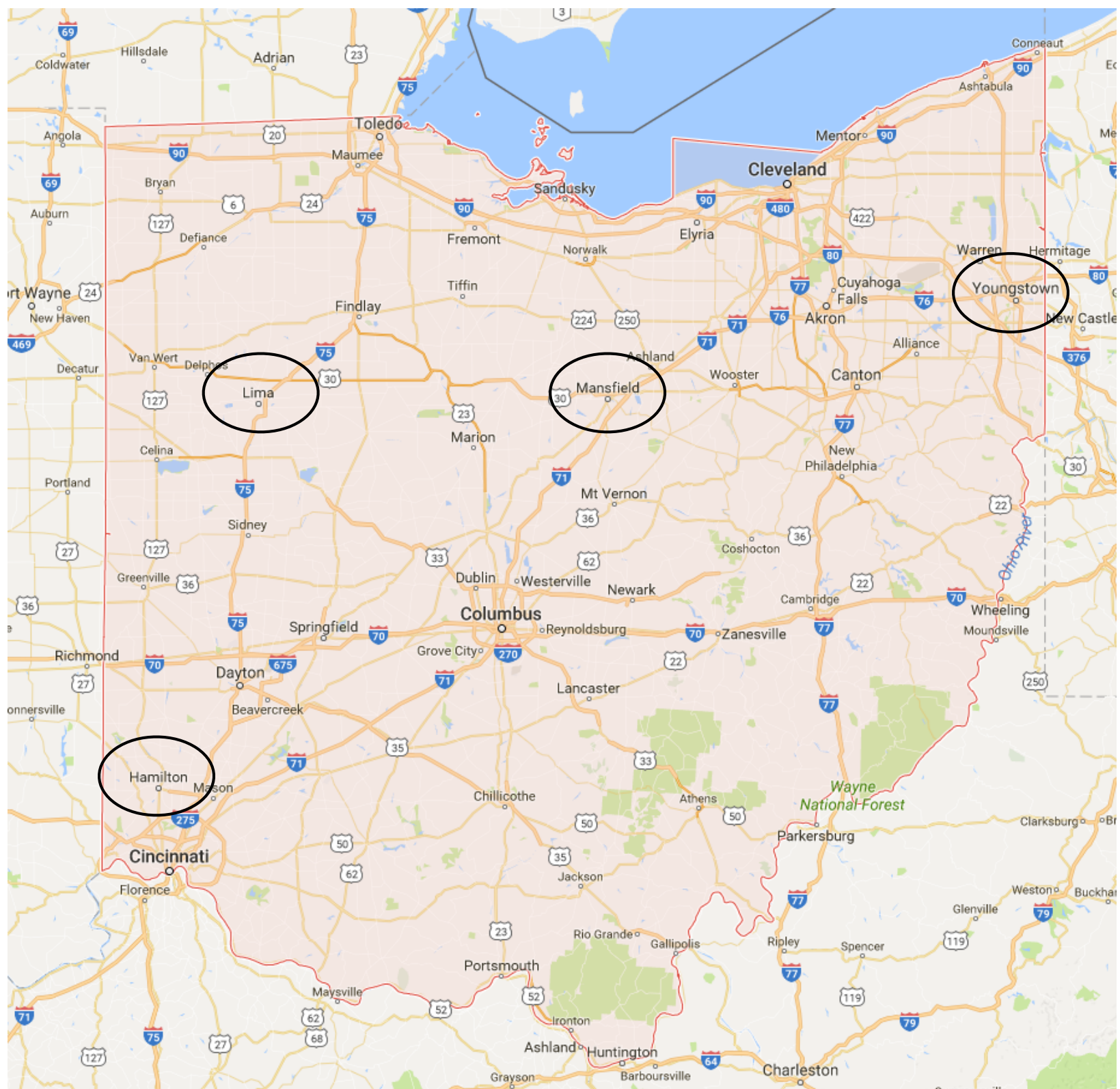


How do responsible agencies involve relevant stakeholders in making decisions about vacant land?

- Investment in green infrastructure can facilitate the “right-sizing” of shrinking cities (Schilling and Logan, 2008)
- Currently vacant parcels are already producing a range of ecosystem services (McPhearson et al., 2013)
- Civic ecology practices can meaningfully enhance and expand ecosystem service production on urban land (Krasny et al., 2014)

Small to Medium Sized Shrinking Cities in Ohio

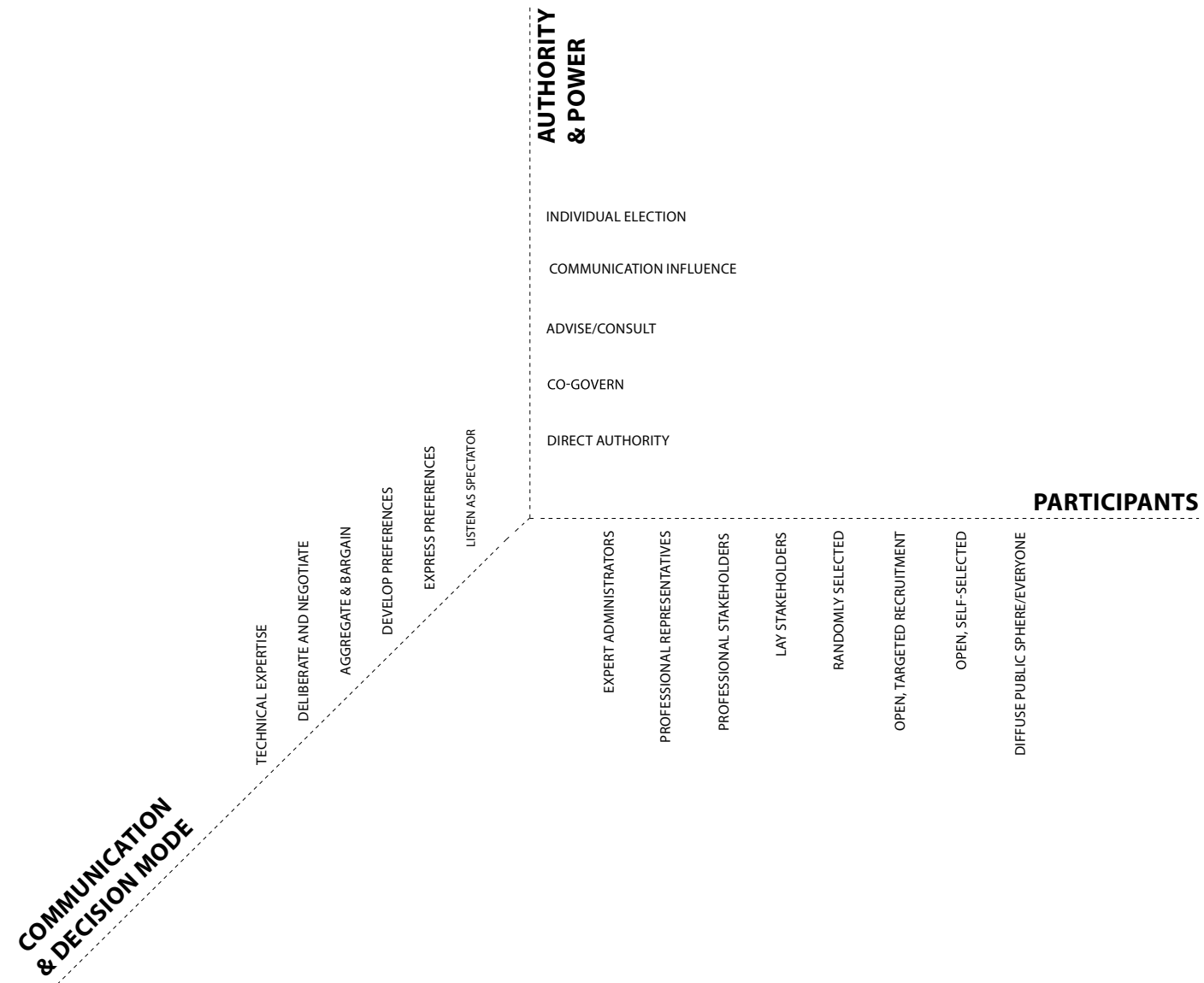
	Active Land Bank	Inactive County Land Bank
Single Parcel Investment/Disposition Strategy	Mansfield	Lima
Spatially Targeted Investment/Disposition Strategy	Youngstown	Hamilton



City	1970 Population	2010 Population	Population Change	2010 “Other” Vacant Housing
Hamilton	67,865	62,477	-7.9%	4.0%
Lima	55,734	38,771	-30.4%	7.2%
Mansfield	55,047	47,821	-13.1%	7.2%
Youngstown	139,759	66,982	-52.1%	12.3%

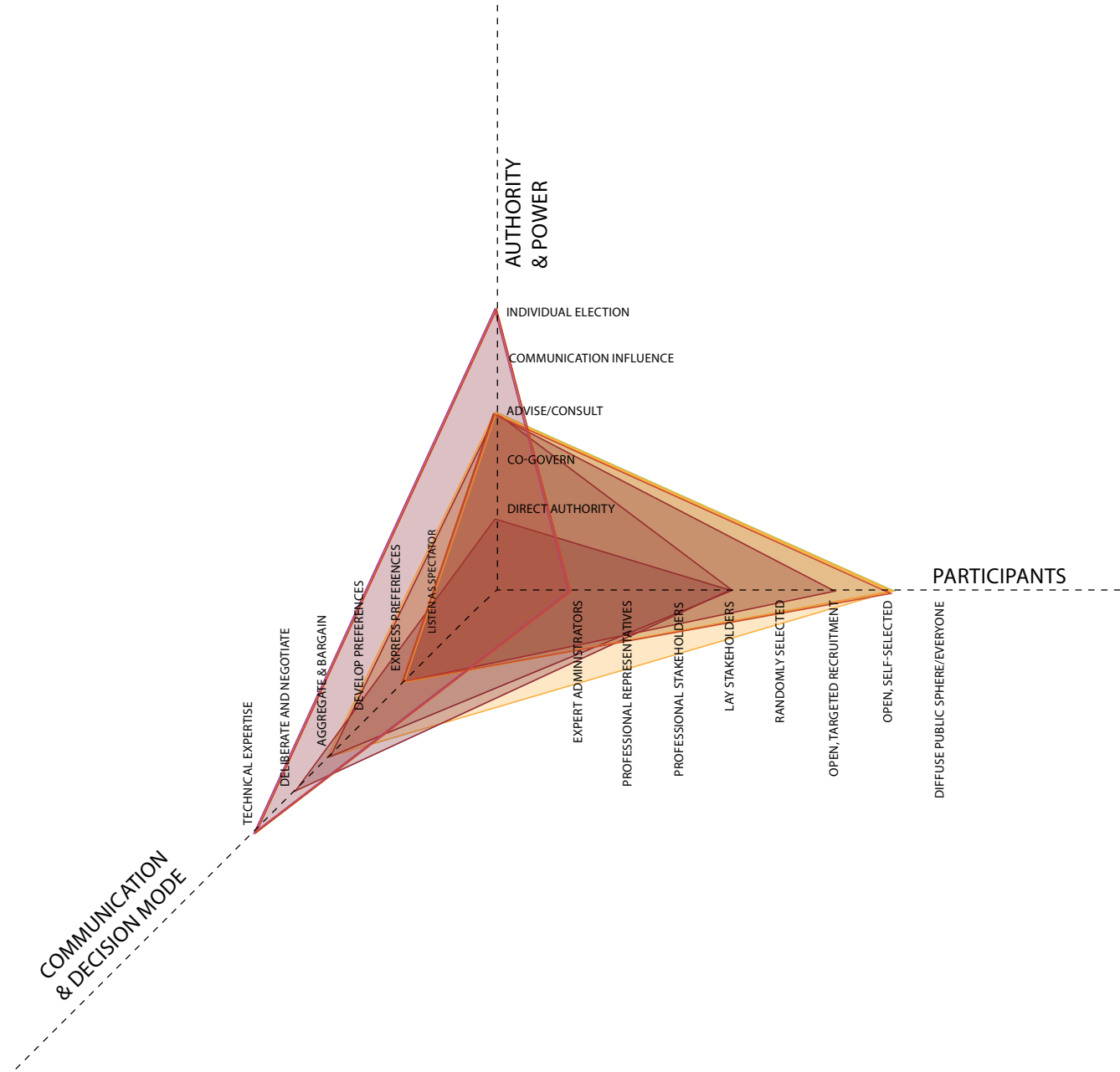
Fun (2006)

Democracy Cube



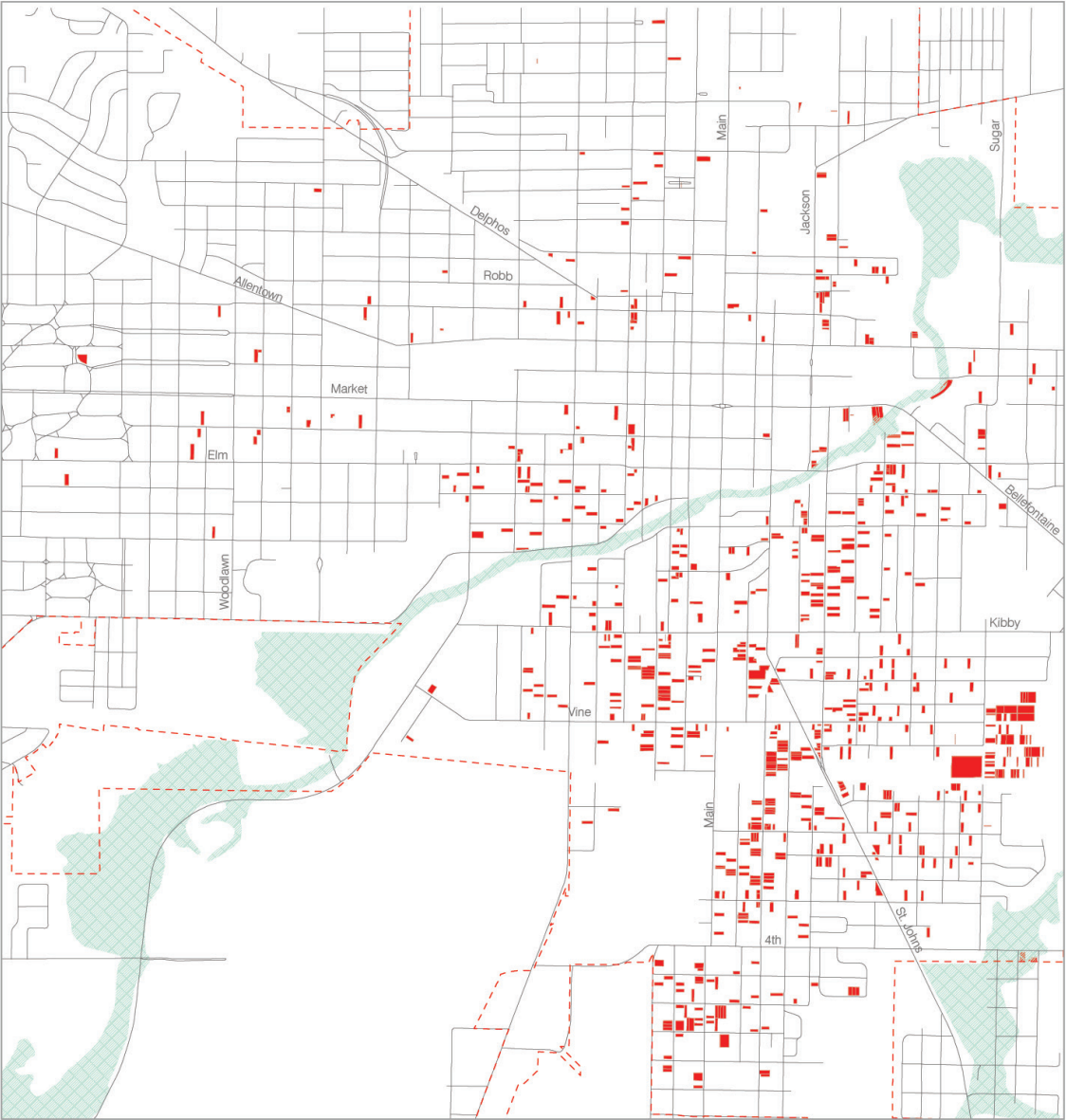
Stakeholder Engagement in Vacant Land Investment/Disposition from 2005-2015

- **2007: FEDERAL CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: South Main Street Enhancement Plan**
- **2010: LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT GRANT PLAN: 5-Year Consolidated Plan to propose allocations of federal grants (CDBG and HOME)**
- **2009-2015: NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM: Federal TARP funds primarily allocated to demolition of abandoned property**
- **2010-2015: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS: Lima Allen County Council on Community Affairs Assessment and Survey**

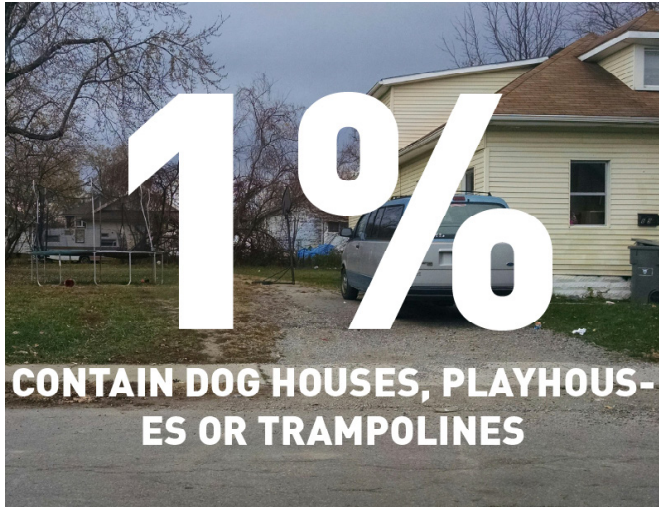


OHLEX: Lima

Tax Delinquent Properties







1%

CONTAIN DOG HOUSES, PLAYHOUSES OR TRAMPOLINES



1%

HAVE BBQ OR FIRE PITS ON THEM



2%

HAVE BEEN FENCED IN



6%

SHOW EVIDENCE OF DUMPING



7%

ARE USED AS PARKING



17%

CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE STRUCTURE



27%

CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT REMNANT STRUCTURES



66%

HAVE AT LEAST ONE SIGNIFICANT TREE

Engagement Outcomes in Lima

- Limited range of engagement, both in terms of range of processes and stakeholders
- Vacancy primarily understood as a problem to be solved through demolition and basic maintenance
- Organizations with a potential interest in re-use strategies producing ecosystem services are not engaged in planning and/or decision-making

Outcomes in Youngstown

- National leader on vacant land reuse
- Experimenting with community gardens and wildflower gardens for over a decade
- Most engagement occurred through the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation



GREENING VACANT LOTS: CURRENT PRACTICES

August 2015

Outcomes

- Small to medium sized shrinking cities in Ohio seem to rely on a narrow set of engagement practices regarding vacant and abandoned land
- Where active experimentation regarding ecosystem service-producing forms of vacant land reuse is taking place, a nonprofit is spearheading engagement
- In the absence of a strong nonprofit like YNDC, is it possible to activate stakeholders to experiment with vacant land reuse?

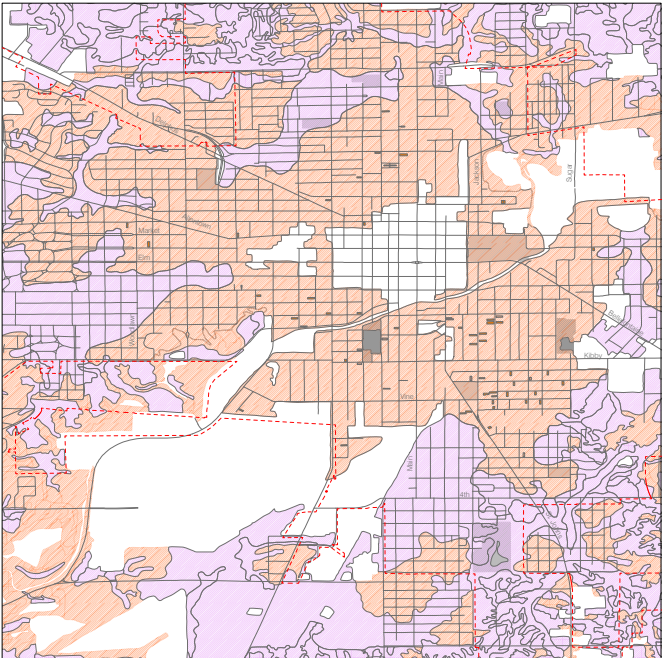
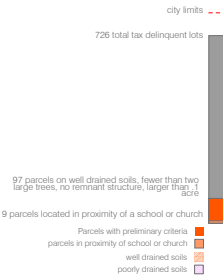


OH/LEX: Lima

Stakeholder: Allen County Master Gardeners

The Allen County Master Gardeners are part of a larger OSU extension program that operates in 77 of 88 Ohio counties. The volunteer-run organization provides the region with gardening related educational programs and research. As such, the Master Gardeners have assisted in property searches for clients interested in community garden initiatives.

This map provides a preliminary selection of parcels that would potentially be suitable for this use, based upon the combination of several characteristics. The 97 highlighted parcels have well-drained soils, fewer than two large trees, no existing structure, and are larger than .1 acre. To provide security, parcels located next to visually vacant properties were eliminated from the search. 9 parcels with the aforementioned criteria are located in proximity of an existing school or church.



OH/LEX: Lima

Cluster Mapping

Cluster 1: 169 total lots / 35 tax delinquent / 20 visually vacant lots

Cluster Stakeholders:

- Arts Council
- Downtown Lima
- Gardeners
- LAOCA
- New Lima Homes
- Yocum Realty

Cluster 2: 261 total lots / 58 tax delinquent / 21 visually vacant lots

Cluster Stakeholders:

- AEDG
- Arts Council
- Artspace
- Downtown Lima
- Gardeners
- LAOCA
- LACRPC
- New Lima Homes
- Yocum Realty

Cluster 3: 287 total lots / 24 tax delinquent / 42 visually vacant lots

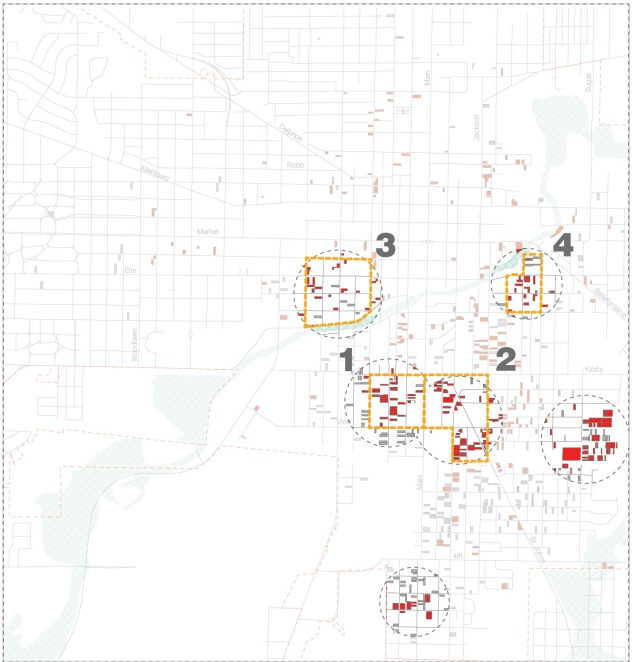
Cluster Stakeholders:

- Activate Allen County
- Downtown Lima
- Gardeners
- Habitat for Humanity
- LAOCA
- New Lima Homes
- St. Rita's Medical Center
- SWCD
- Yocum Realty

Cluster 4: 133 total lots / 26 tax delinquent / 17 visually vacant lots

Cluster Stakeholders:

- Activate Allen County
- Artspace
- Gardeners
- LAOCA
- Lima Memorial Hospital
- New Lima Homes
- St. Rita's Medical Center
- SWCD
- Yocum Realty



Thank You!