



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor



PARKS &
PEOPLE
FOUNDATION

**SOUTH BALTIMORE
GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP**



The Middle Branch of the Patapsco: Baltimore's Next Great Waterfront

The Middle Branch Waterfront is a multi-year project committed to building a system of world class parks, trails and public amenities along 11 miles of the Patapsco River shoreline from the Locust Point Marine Terminal to Masonville Cove in South Baltimore.

Opportunity for Baltimore and Maryland

In Baltimore and cities around the world, public access to formerly industrial waterfronts has generated economic benefits and created destinations and amenities for residents and visitors. Baltimore was a leader in this sector in the 1980's and 90's, with the transformation of its Inner Harbor (the North Branch of the Patapsco) from its industrial heritage to a mixed-use zone for commerce, living and civic gatherings.

Today, the Middle Branch of the Patapsco presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spur economic development and deliver access to public parks, trails and water-based recreation. Plans for the Middle Branch Waterfront will transform this 11-mile stretch of shoreline into Baltimore's next great destination.

Moreover, this development will give current residents access to their waterfront in a way that embraces environmental quality, resilience to future storm events and equity.

Fifty thousand people live within a 20-minute walk of the Middle Branch shoreline, which is currently a patchwork of vacant land, active industrial uses, long-fallow development sites, and underutilized parks that are disconnected from one another or the nearest neighborhoods. Much of the Gwynns Falls/Middle Branch and shoreline endures an unfortunate legacy of contamination, environmental degradation and neglect.



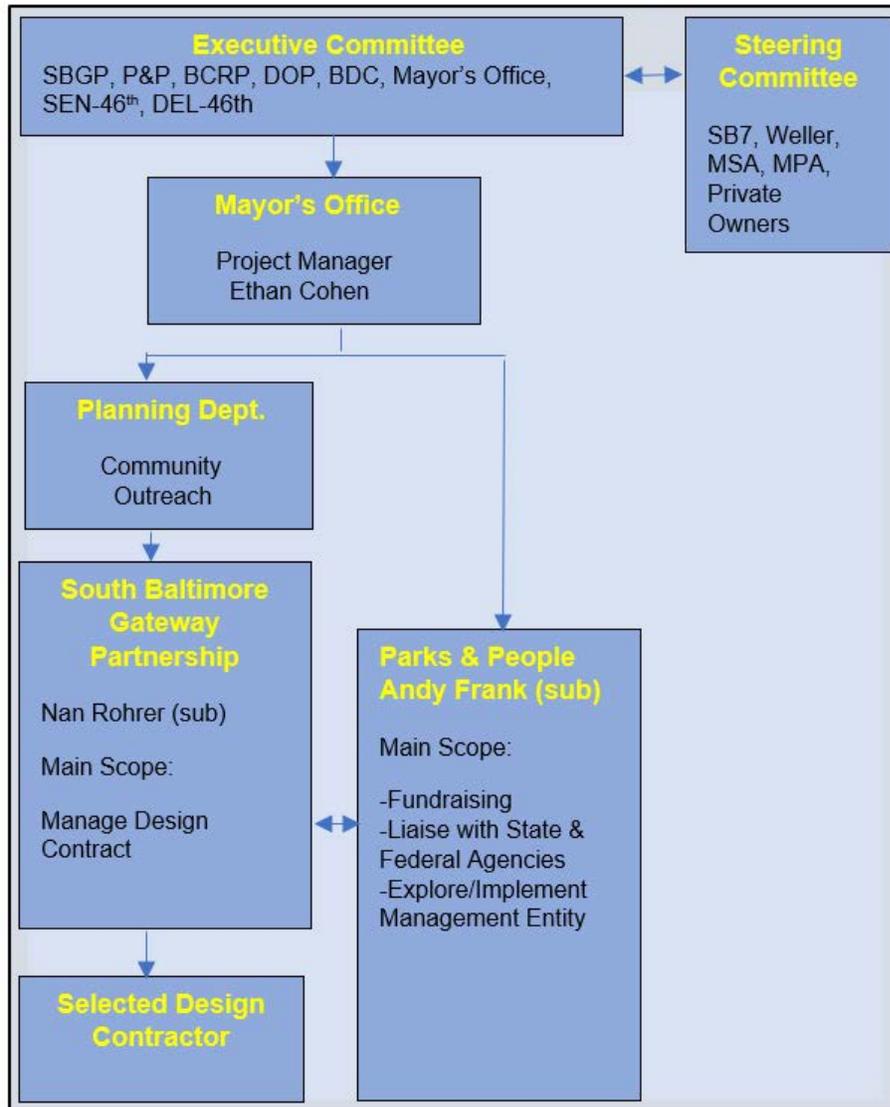
Figure 1. Middle Branch Waterfront Location Map

The new Middle Branch Waterfront will create a network of open spaces and connectivity that bring local residents and others from throughout the region to a new type of waterfront park system that is compatible with the native ecology of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The project will likewise connect the waterfront to upland parks and recreation centers in neighborhoods – a “recreation shed” – affording safe, equitable access for healthy activities and community cohesion.

Project Management

The Middle Branch Waterfront planning process is an initiative of Baltimore City, with full support of **Mayor Bernard C. “Jack” Young**, building upon the commitments of prior administrations. **Phase 2** – creation of a Schematic Design Master Plan and Design Development of Priority Projects – will be overseen by the City’s Department of Planning in consultation with Department of Recreation and Parks. **South Baltimore Gateway Partnership** and **Parks & People Foundation** are playing key roles in resource development, consultant-team management and outreach to stakeholders. The current project team organization is below.

Figure 2. Project Management Structure



Long Term Management

To ensure the viability of the Middle Branch Waterfront planning process, Baltimore City and its partners is intentional about the creation of a permanent management entity for operations and maintenance of the environments and facilities that are created. To ensure this entity has the financial resources required to maintain and program the redevelopment, we envision the created management structure being a business improvement district, conservancy, or related structure.