Baltimore City’s Camp Small
Urban Wood Utilization
and the
Zero Waste Initiative
Camp Small – established 1861

- Area was cut and cleared as a Civil war camp to secure the ammunition supply route along the railroad line
- Has served as the City’s ‘Stump Dump’ since the early 1900’s
- Collection facility for brush, chips, and logs from public trees
- Located along the Jones Falls River and the Jones Falls Expressway
- Site is 4.5 acres
The Zero Waste Initiative

- Baltimore’s Office of Sustainability and Recreation and Parks’ Division of Forestry put together a 5 year management plan for Camp Small

- In 2015 the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) awarded the Zero Waste Initiative an Innovation Fund of $98,000

- The 3 step plan
  1. Screening the Legacy Mulch
  2. Log Sorting and Sales
  3. Composting
Phase One

• Screening the legacy mulch
  • 14k cubic yard heap of decomposed chips and wood debris
  • Produced 6k cubic yards of compost
  • Half is being used within the city, and half was sold to private buyers

• Clearing Space
  • Yard was at full capacity
  • Previous removal costs were 100k

• Networking
  • Contact local companies with interest in materials
  • Learn their interests and best practices for processing
Sales and Pricing

• All payments had to be made via certified check or money order

• Worked with BBMR and Purchasing to set up a square account allowing for ease and convenience and making small purchases possible.

• Established set pricing on all material at Camp Small including bulk ‘you load & haul’ pricing.

• Logs are divided into Firsts, Seconds, and Thirds
  • 1\textsuperscript{st} prices are based off of current market value
  • 2\textsuperscript{nd} flat unit price per board foot
  • 3\textsuperscript{rd} reserved for bulk sales
Woodhawks Firewood Club

• New Initiative put an end to decades old unregulated firewood collection

• Worked with BBMR, Purchasing, and Risk Management to establish a firewood collection program

• Annual membership allows:
  • Saw logs into rounds from designated area
  • Haul one pickup sized load per month. A Possible three cords a year
  • Works on an honor system

• Stocked with smaller diameter logs. Ash, Oak, Locust, Maple, Cherry, Pear
Challenges

- **Compost**
  - One operator and one small loader limited our processing capabilities
  - Screened to 3/8ths and with excellent chemical properties this material was still hard to sell.
  - Suppliers of compost were not interested due to cost and glass in the material
  - Spreading the word to homeowners was challenging

- **Wood Chips**
  - Log rounds in the chips
  - Identifying species and condition of chips
  - Plastic bottles and lunch trash

- **Brush**
  - No excavator to consolidate piles
  - Eliminating trash and soil
  - Processing

- **Logs**
  - Attempted auctioning log lots
  - Lengths cut to a minimum of 9 foot
Seminar on Wood Utilization

- January 2018 a mandatory seminar was held for City crews, contractors and partners
- Mike Galvin (USFS) and Dan Rider (MD DNR) assisted in the planning and Dan Rider lead the event
- Designed to teach best forestry practices for urban wood utilization
Purchases and End Uses

Since the Initial clearing...

• Over 3,000 cu yds of wood chips sold and another 1,000 used within the agency and its partners
  • Mulch, mushroom farming, composting, nature and garden paths, community flower gardens, etc.

• Over 300 tons of log thirds sold.
  • Mulch and firewood

• 11,000 bd ft of log seconds have been sold and another 7,000 have been used within the City’s Recreation and Parks
  • Bowls, tap handles, whiskey barrels, Ox yokes, nature playgrounds, furniture, seating for a community fire pit, and various applications throughout this year’s ArtScape festival.

• 17,000 bd ft of Log Firsts are being used within Recreation and Parks.
Bowl turned from an invasive Ailanthus
Camp Small logs in Nature Playspaces
Electric Substation

BGE (Baltimore Gas and Electric) is putting a substation on the north end of Camp Small. Construction began in November 2016, and has required a temporary loss of 2.5 acres of our space until the spring of 2018.

Advantages
- Clearing and grading
- Stream and wetland restoration
- New road and equipment shed
- Harvested 120 logs of Ash, Walnut and Poplar
Logs to Lumber

- Ash, Walnut and Poplar logs were harvested from the construction at Camp Small
- A contract was awarded to a local sawmill to process all 120 logs into 16k board foot of 1x6 T&G boards for interior wall cladding for a new rec center
- This has lead to other projects and a growing awareness of the unique possibilities in utilizing city logs for city projects.
Future Plans & Ideas

- Granite Gas Pipeline Proposals- Harvesting 40k bd ft from Urban Forest

- Expanding our sorting operation next spring
  - Several piles for wood chips and decomposed chips
  - Several log rows sorted for distinct markets (mulch, pulp, firewood)
  - Expanding our firewood program

- Additional Equipment
  - Trackhoe, grinder, bandsaw mill, kiln

- Onsite Workshops

- Biofuel, Compost or Mulch?