



Mini Community Engagement

This program seeks to engage new applicants and organizations from a diverse array of communities in small-scale projects that enhance communities, engage residents, and, ultimately, improve natural resources. We feel that a broad range of communities can benefit from healthy natural resources even if their primary focus is on other issues. Human health, the economy, jobs, community livability, education and our children are all connected with a health environment.



10,550 sq. ft non-native plants removed

12,382 Native plants installed

26 Species

81 Volunteers

5 Educational Signs

Oriole Garden at Camden Yards

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and National Aquarium are leading an effort to certify Baltimore City as the largest Community Wildlife Habitat™ in the Chesapeake Bay region. In collaboration with the Baltimore Orioles, Maryland Stadium Authority and others, we installed a habitat garden at Camden Yards for birds and pollinators.

The Oriole Garden project aligned well with the Maryland Stadium Authority's efforts to help the local watershed. In 2009, the Stadium Authority began steps to make Camden Yards more environmentally friendly through sustainable landscaping techniques. Installing more trees and native plants around the complex reduced their need for irrigating, fertilizing, and mowing which leads to improved water quality. It also prevents erosion, and mitigates runoff into the already imperiled watershed. In 2013, through the Stadium Authority's efforts, the adjacent M & T Bank Stadium was the first existing outdoor professional sports facility to receive the US Green Building Council's Gold. The Stadium Authority is currently working towards a LEED certification for Camden Yards, and this project furthered their Commitment to this goal.

Grow Together Baltimore aims to improve Baltimore City by creating these backyard sanctuaries, beautifying neighborhoods and schools, reducing pollution and furthering a sense of community. The National Wildlife Federation and its partners are transforming community spaces by replacing asphalt with a pervious paving system, growing pollinator gardens and rain gardens, and planting trees to augment the community's tree canopy campaign. Currently, the National Wildlife Federation is working on a large scale project with McElderry Park residents to create an inviting, "deep green neighborhood." The Federation will soon break ground on an alley gating demonstration project



Benefits of Native Plants

- Baltimore Orioles –both the birds and the baseball players- live and play in the Baltimore area. This native plant garden provides orioles, other local birds, butterflies and pollinators the food and shelter they need to survive. Native plants are adapted to the local climate, and require less maintenance than ornamental or non-native varieties. Native plants also reflect the uniqueness of a location. The Garden features many orange plants –perfect for Baltimore during baseball season.
- In addition to providing habitat, native plants I backyard gardens and greenspaces help improve water quality by reducing polluted runoff going into the Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Through efforts like these, Baltimore is on track to be recognized as the largest Community Wildlife Habitat in the Chesapeake Bay Region, including the certification of 600 homes, 10 parks, and six schools, creating a network of oases for urban and suburban wildlife that will span the city.



Before and after Oriole Garden planting.

CBT Grant Awarded:	\$5,000
NFWF:	\$14,000
Private donor:	\$14,381
National Aquarium:	\$910
Total:	\$35,291

Project Partners:

