



GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.



Town of Bath, West Virginia “A Bath for the Bay” Project

The Town of Bath recognizes that integrating “green” solutions within their capital improvement projects will create complete streets bringing nature into the urban landscape.

Estimated Project Metrics



116 lf of underground silva cell treatment



4 trees planted



Supports 7 Green Jobs

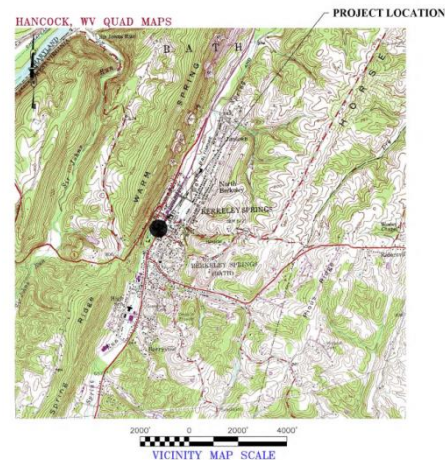


Partners with multiple educational opportunities

In January 2014, the news headlines shouted “300,000 residents of Charleston, WV and nine surrounding counties were without water for days”. While this water crisis did not affect us directly in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, it did reaffirm the importance of protecting our water. From the early Native American artifacts found around the warm springs to later visits by a 17 year old land surveyor named George Washington; our town was planned around the springs. George even returned with Martha to claim a prime town lot. We owe our names to the water – the Town of Bath and the surrounding Berkeley Springs area. Water is why our community exists.

“A Bath for the Bay” green street project will advance our overall vision for the community and build upon our existing efforts. In 2015, this new awareness motivated the Streetscape Committee to develop a Green Infrastructure Study which identified financially feasible sites to incorporate Green Infrastructure

into already scheduled construction projects and routine site maintenance. The study identified the upcoming Streetscape projects as opportunities. The design replaces traditional concrete sidewalks with permeable pavers and planter boxes which allows rain to infiltrate into underground silva cells, that contain a specially designed planting soil. These cells will allow for urban tree roots to thrive in un-compacted soils, enhancing urban tree canopy, and promoting nutrient uptake.



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Conservation Landscaping** – Native plants and shrubs require less maintenance and absorb rainwater, hold soils in place, and provide food and habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.
- **Rain Gardens** – These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system
- **Educational Signage** – Signage will educate visitors about the various stormwater practices and features at the facility.
- **Rainwater Cisterns**- Cisterns will be hooked up to buildings in selected spots to collect and store rainwater for non-potable uses.
- **Green Jobs and Engagement of local businesses** – Local management firms, construction firms, and suppliers were used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

Previous phases I and II focused on Wilkes, North Mercer, Independence and Congress Streets. Current phase III is focused on improvements along Fairfax and Washington Streets, the primary corridor or main street through Bath. This road is also known as US Route 522.

The study provides an overview of green infrastructure practices and gives site specific examples creating a “Comprehensive Planning Document” intended to focus on opportunities for implementation. The intended result of the study is to be used as an educational tool for the public and to serve as a prioritized project list to carry out various green stormwater projects. This Washington Streetscape Project was identified as Site#1 in the study

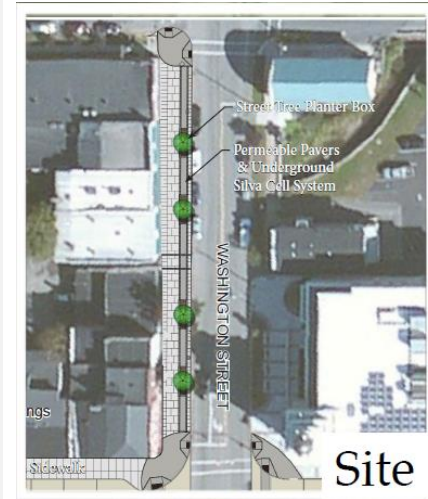
The purpose of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is to provide guidance to Warm Springs Watershed Association and its stakeholders for future non-point source project proposals.

The Watershed Implementation Plan documents strategies to achieve and maintain water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Bath’s overall vision is to promote green infrastructure and demonstrate their cost effectiveness when combined with other capital improvement projects. Instead of viewing green infrastructure as “extra” work, it will be viewed as the baseline for an acceptable project, with better environmental and social outcomes compared to their gray counterparts.

G3 Grant Awarded:	\$20,000
Total Project Cost:	\$317,387
Status:	Awarded

Current site conditions



Project Partners: West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Department of Highways, Chesapeake Bay Trust