



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.

County of Blair

This project proposes to implement green infrastructure enhancements to a planned parking improvement project being undertaken by the Blair County Commissioners. The proposed parking improvements include paving an existing gravel parking lot and the expansion and paving of a smaller newer lot that is being expanded by the recent acquisition and demolition of houses on adjacent properties. Another component of the planned improvements includes installation of security lighting in the parking lots.

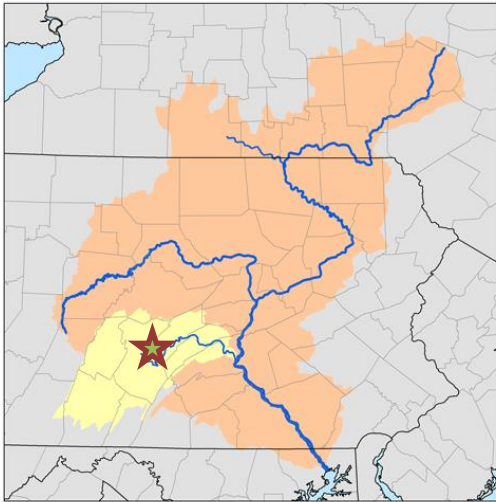
The project slopes from southeast to northwest – from the 5th St.-6th Ave. intersection towards the 4th St.-7th Ave. intersection. Currently precipitation that falls on the large 6th Ave. parking lot sheet flows directly onto the paved alley. Stormwater then flows onto the lower adjoining properties or is conveyed by the pavement on to adjacent streets where it enters the CSO. Runoff from the 7th Ave. parking lot flows directly to 7th Ave. with eventual collection by the CSO.

very poor condition. The lot was recently expanded through the demolition of adjacent homes. This new portion has been surfaced with aggregate and is being used but has not yet been paved.

The obvious and most anticipated outcome will be the resulting improvement in stormwater flowing off this project after implementation of the gray infrastructure improvements. The current site conditions provide no opportunity for water quality, rate, or thermal impact mitigation. The large gravel-surfaced parking lots allow stormwater to flow unimpeded into Altoona CSO.

With the implementation of the proposed green infrastructure components, stormwater will be intercepted by vegetated best management practices that will result in improved water quality and will address any excess runoff anticipated after paving the parking lots.

As the fill settled through the years, additional aggregated and gravel would be spread over the surface. A narrow portion of the 7th Ave.



Estimated Project Metrics



2.14 acres impervious surface treated



146 Native plants



2.14 acres total drainage area



Supports 7 Green Jobs



7 trees



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Impervious pavement removal** – While the parking lots will need to be excavated to remove inappropriate subbase, the implementation of pervious pavement was not considered for this location. As the center for emergency services for the entire county, in the event of an emergency or during training operations, large emergency response vehicles often park at the center. The county-owned emergency mobile response unit is housed at this location. These large vehicles require traditional paving to accommodate their heavier weight.
- **Amended soil** -- The project proposes additional green enhancement by replacing the in-situ soil at the areas to be vegetated with 20 inches of a compost and sand mixture of amended soil. In doing so a better root zone will be created to help establish the vegetation and the amended soil also serves to improve the quality of the urban stormwater runoff.
- **Native Trees**– In urban areas a single tree can intercept from 500 to 4,000 gallons per year. The existing street trees along both 6th and 7th Avenues will remain. The City of Altoona is committed to enhancing street trees throughout the city. The city has an active Shade Tree Commission and has participated in Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Streetscape projects.

Project location



G3 Grant Awarded:	\$66,825
Cash Match:	\$365,871
Status:	Awarded

Current conditions



Proposed changes



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

The project will also provide needed educational opportunities. As project partner, the Blair County Conservation District has a proven track record of holding volunteer opportunities for local schools. The Conservation District has committed to coordinating a volunteer planting day for this project and will include a classroom component to teach the volunteer participants about the importance of green infrastructure. The volunteer effort will be directed towards nearby intercity local schools; however, it should be noted that according to the 2010 census, Blair County does not have a very diverse population, with 95.6 % identified as white. The project site is located in an identified Environmental Justice area as designated by the 2010 census, with a poverty level of 19.94%. The other educational benefit of this project will be to demonstrate to other municipalities how green infrastructure components can be merged into needed gray infrastructure repairs or enhancements.



Project Partners: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,, Chesapeake Bay Trust, County of Blair, City of Altoona

For additional information: visit www.epa.gov and www.cbtrust.org.