The Town of Capitol Heights has made a commitment to a Healthier Community to include our participation in Playful Cities and MD Smart Energy Communities. This project is in alignment with the Town’s commitment to incorporate green infrastructure practices into infrastructure projects as a standard practice.

Improvements include bicycle lanes, improved pedestrian facilities, storm water management enhancements, and streetscape/landscape/lighting improvements. Improvements are anticipated to be consistent with the 2012 Green Street Master Plan and generally consistent with the design concept plans submitted to the Town in August 2014, with storm water improvements varying based on available right-of-way.

100% design plans are anticipated to be completed to allow construction in 2016 pending permitting approvals. The existing concrete channelized stream will be improved under a separate project in the Anacostia River Watershed Restoration Plan and is not anticipated to be disturbed as part of this project.
PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Impervious pavement removal** – Rain hits impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roads, and because it cannot soak through, it instead runs off into storm drains or directly local waterways. The Town of Capital Heights will be eliminating 2.02 acres of impervious pavement that otherwise would drain into the Anacostia River.

- **Native Trees** – In urban areas a single tree can intercept from 500 to 4,000 gallons per year. Trees not only treat stormwater, they provide a host of other benefits, including energy cost reduction in both summer (shade) and winter (proper placement can result in the reduction of energy use by 20-50%), aesthetics, property value enhancement, business traffic enhancement, and health benefits.

- **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.

- **Green Jobs and Engagement of local businesses** – Local management firms, construction firms, and suppliers were used to complete the project, supporting local jobs. In addition, the site will be used to train young people seeking jobs in the green infrastructure.

**SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

Located in close proximity to the Watts Branch tributary within the Anacostia River watershed, the site’s green infrastructure measures will provide educational opportunities to teach youth and local community members about local water systems and the importance of bioretention. In addition to the benefits the new pervious surfaces will bring to the local watershed, the added bike lanes and improved pedestrian crossings benefit the local community by improving the walkability of the area.

For additional information: visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and [www.cbtrust.org](http://www.cbtrust.org).