



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.

CANTON CANOPY

Canton Canopy Tree Pit Creation Fall 2018-Spring 2019


Canton Canopy is a neighborhood initiative, established in 2017, that has partnered with the Canton Community Association to help increase the tree canopy in Southeast Baltimore. Canton's tree canopy is especially poor, measuring at only 5% in 2017. Canton Canopy's mission is to create a healthier, more sustainable urban community by facilitating the plantings of trees in existing boxes, fundraising and applying for grants to cut new tree boxes, and educating and organizing volunteers to manage the care and maintenance of our community's trees.


Through the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant program, Canton Canopy expanded the tree canopy in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore City by cutting tree pits and planting trees along Dillon Street. Upon completion, 94 new tree pits were cut and 7 existing tree pits were expanded. With each new and expanded pit measuring 4x8 feet, Canton Canopy removed 3,168 square feet of impermeable surface area from the Canton neighborhood through this project.


In order to execute the project Canton Canopy organized and held three tree planting events; two in the Fall of 2018 and one in Spring of 2019. In order to plan events, the Canton Canopy team held multiple tree treks to identify tree pit locations and mark tree pits, conducted community outreach via social media outlets, engaged community members slated to receive new or expanded tree pits, confirmed tree pit locations with Ms. Utility and contracted for concrete removal and backfill of pits with compost. In winter 2019, members of Canton Canopy also coordinated and hosted a pruning training with TreeBaltimore to expand tree maintenance capabilities in the community. A comprehensive map of all Canton Canopy plantings to date can be found at this [link](#).





Figure 1: Canton Neighborhood Boundaries

 101 trees planted

 1 local green business supported during construction

 150 volunteers engaged for 600 hours of work

 3,168 sq. ft. of impervious surface removed

 12,865 pounds of trash removed



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Tree Plantings** – 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
- **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.
- **Green Jobs and Engagement of Local Businesses** – Local organizations were be used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.
- **Engagement of Local Community** – This project engaged 150 volunteers from the local community to assist in the completion of the project

SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

Canton Canopy volunteers conducted multiple tree treks to monitor the health of the trees. To date, all new trees have survived with the exception of one that was vandalized. This tree was replaced during spring planting efforts. There were also had two additional trees from their previously funded Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns project in 2017 that had died and were replaced. These trees were both of the hackberry variety. The organization plans to monitor any remaining hackberry trees that were planted to determine whether they are suitable for street tree planting in the Canton neighborhood.

Canton Canopy plans to continue organizing and hosting weeding, watering, and mulching volunteer events on an as-needed basis for two years to allow for the trees to become established. Over the winter of 2018 Canton Canopy hosted their first pruning event to care for our more established trees planted from their 2017 project. They also partnered with TreeBaltimore to offer a pruning workshop to the community, teaching best pruning practices.

To garner further community support and buy-in Canton Canopy was in the process of developing an informational flyer to share with homeowners that provides information regarding proper tree care for their new tree.

At a broader level, over the course of the year Canton Canopy expanded as an organization, increasing from five dedicated volunteers to nine volunteers. They regularly meet to coordinate the needs affiliated with the grant as well as non-grant affiliated community outreach.

The project group advises that someone considering a similar project please reach out to them to consult. They were fortunate enough to speak with the organizers of the Mt. Vernon tree planting initiative in 2017 and found their insight invaluable. Canton Canopy would love to be able to help anybody who is interested in starting a similar project.

Year Awarded: 2018

Award Amount: \$19,138



Project Partners: Baltimore City Parks and Recreation, Canton Canopy, Canton Community Association, Chesapeake Bay Trust, TreeBaltimore, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,