



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.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

A Green Street in Druid Heights - McCulloh Street

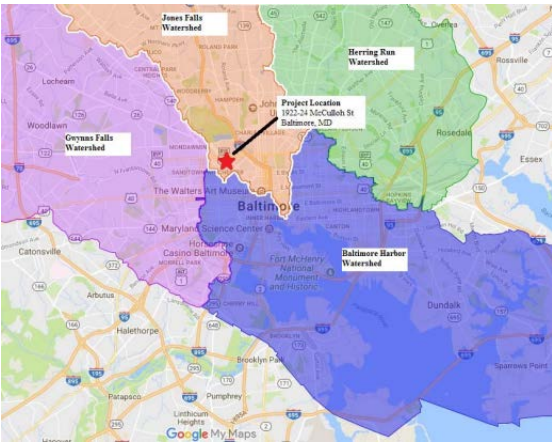
The design for this Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns project was funded through a previous Chesapeake Bay Trust grant. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and its partners from the Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCCDC), the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), and International Landscaping & Design (ILD) successfully transformed a 4,230 sq. ft. vacant lot into an immersive, native nature play space for community residents. The underserved families on McCulloh Street did not previously have easy access to green spaces or recreational areas, and the high density of occupied housing units on this street provided a captive audience for engagement around environmental stewardship, with the nature space as a venue and inspiration for environmental action. The resulting park was equipped with a rain garden that captures runoff from the upper portion of the lot, a pollinator garden with upwards of 30 native plant species, a labyrinth, stump jump, and two rain barrels, among other features. Neighborhood residents participated in


planting a portion of the pollinator gardens during a Day of Action in May 2019 and members of Druid Heights' "Green Thumb Club" planted their own pollinator pots for use at their homes during another event in June.


The total square footage of the rain garden and impervious removal exceeded the design in NWF's initial proposal. They also exceeded their initial projection for the total number of native plants installed, square feet of invasive species removed, and pounds of trash removed from the site.





1922-1924 McCulloh Street, view from McCulloh Street in August 2017.





 735 native plants installed

 200 sq. ft. of invasive species removed

 320 sq. ft. of impervious surface removed

 600 sq. ft. rain garden created

 2 rain barrels installed

 6,000 lbs of trash removed



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Native Plants** – Native plants offer numerous benefits. Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water. They provide vital habitats for birds, insects and other species of wildlife, prevent water run-off, and improve air quality.
- **Impervious Surface 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.
- **Rain Garden** – These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system
- **Rain Barrel** – The two rain barrels installed collectively capture 8.35 cubic ft/year of stormwater.



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

For the long-term maintenance of the space, DHDC made a commitment to ensure viability of the play space. NWF worked diligently to ensure residents were connected to the project from inception. An engaged community, who has seen the project grow from infancy, will be more inspired to assist with play space care.

The nature play space serves as a safe, outdoor space for residents and families in Druid Heights for years to come. This space provides crucial green space for a community who has been underserved for many years. With over 30 species of native plants, residents will observe new wildlife, see a reduction in flooding instances, and hopefully find new and meaningful connections with the natural world. Spaces such as these help to improve neighborhood viability and residential pride in an area.

The NWF team will continue to explore nature play as a strategy for urban greening and community engagement. This project aligns very closely with the efforts of Baltimore City Office of Sustainability's "2019 Sustainability Plan." With focuses on community, climate resilience, and nature in the city as a few of the topic areas, the play space was supported by the city's planning department. The plan highlights the importance of balancing "social equity, economic growth, and environmental action," all of which were accomplished with the play space installation. As NWF pursues future funding in the Baltimore area, they plan to use this project's success as a blueprint for future implementation.

Year Awarded: 2018

Award Amount: \$66,451

Match Amount: \$15,141



1922-1924 McCulloh Street, view from alley behind the lot in August 2017.

Finished Play Space



Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Druid Height Community Development Corporation, National Wildlife Federation, University of Maryland Medical Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,