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.

HANOVER BOROUGH

The Borough of Hanover undertook an evaluation and redesign of its downtown Main Street district, with the goal of providing a safe, functional, aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sustainable, multimodal streetscape plan. The Borough also evaluated both pedestrian and vehicle traffic concerns inherent to the downtown area. Due to the highly commercial nature of the properties in the Main Street district, job creation and economic revitalization were two of this plan’s main objectives. Once the streetscape improvements are implemented, they will not only boost existing foot traffic and tourism, but also attract new businesses to downtown Hanover.

The design plan called for a parking lot retrofit of public lot number 5, which serves the Main Street District. Like many areas in downtown Hanover, the parking lot is entirely covered by impervious surfaces. The parking lot would be redesigned around urban best management practices, likely including porous paving and a bio-retention area. A portion of the infrastructure could also be designed to capture runoff from Railroad Street, alleviating flow in the overloaded system at the intersection with Chestnut. Additional considerations include a new electric vehicle charging station and clear pedestrian crossing facilities linking the lot to Bank Lane across Railroad Street. This will provide a gateway to the Main Street District and serve as highly visible project to display to the public the Borough’s commitment to sustainable practices in the downtown.

The second design element involves the conversion of Bank Lane into a pedestrian greenway. This is the first of a network of four green alleys surrounding the square that the Streetscape Plan proposes to transform into pedestrian spaces, with a focus on green space and green infrastructure. The alley will include green infrastructure elements such as porous or grassy pavers and planter boxes and will also be designed with pedestrian access to local businesses in mind.
PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Design Plan** — The design plan details recommendations to the area including the creation of green streets/alleys, removal of impervious paving, adding porous paving and adding bioretention areas.

- **Green Streets** — Green Streets minimize the impact on the surrounding area through a natural system approach that incorporates a variety of water quality, energy-efficiency, and other environmental best practices.

- **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.

- **Porous Paving** — This alternative to traditional black top allows surface water to flow into the ground where the volume can be held, infiltrate into the lower soil or conveyed through a stormwater system. Porous paving is a good application for areas that require a hardscape surface and have no viable options for stormwater management. There are various applications and styles making porous asphalt a good aesthetic option as well as functional.

- **Bioretention Area** — These features filter, store, and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system.

SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

Since the final formal presentation to Council Chambers of the Borough and the public in March 2019, the Council took steps to procure preliminary engineering phase quotations for early implementation of the expansive projects detailed in the design plan. The Borough’s Stormwater Authority also expressed interest in funding opportunities in relation to green streets/alleys and were working to identify funding partnerships to implement.

The Borough’s joint Comprehensive Plan with Penn Township lists green infrastructure and Low Impact Development planning as action items for the next ten years, and the Borough’s Planning Commission already implemented a more rigorous review of storm water practices as part of its land development and subdivision plan review process.

As of project completion, the Borough was in the process of revising its Zoning Ordinance, with the assistance of a contracted planning firm and funding. A major focus of the revision was future development and redevelopment and how to encourage the use of green infrastructure where it can be incorporated into the Borough’s ordinance.

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

Year Awarded: 2018
Award Amount: $15,000
Award Amount: $72,440

**Typical Excess of Sidewalk in the Downtown Area**

- View of Bank Lane from Public Lot #5

- Borough Parking Lot #5 - Chestnut & Railroad St
  Contributing Drainage Area: 1.79 Acres

- Green Alley Network - Bank Lane Pedestrian Green Alley
  Contributing Drainage Area: 2.54 Acres

Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Hanover Borough, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Hanover, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, York County Planning Commission