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.

1 concept plan created

1 local green firm supported during planning

2 public meetings with 75 attendees

BOROUGH OF MARIETTA

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategies Concept Plan Development

The Marietta Borough, a historic river town at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Evans Run in Lancaster County, has dealt with stormwater issues for many years. Through a grant funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Borough worked to develop a Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for Evan's Run. As part of that plan, one of the top three priority BMPs identified was the development of green street stormwater infrastructure strategies for streets within the urban areas of the Borough. Front Street represents a vibrant location within the Borough, is the best area to provide water quality improvement to stormwater run-off closest to the outfalls into the Susquehanna, and is the missing link of the popular Northwest River Trail.

Through the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant, the Borough developed a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategies Concept Plan to address all the overlapping needs in coordination with community stakeholders and business owners, with a focus on Front Street and Furnace Street.

The created concept plan can be duplicated in other locations throughout the borough as well as other River Towns facing similar stormwater management issues.

Existing Conditions

PROJECT ELEMENTS

- Concept Plan – The concept plan details specific recommendations including bioretention areas, green streets, porous paving, the reduction of impervious paving, and tree plantings.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Tree Planting – Native trees and shrubs require less maintenance and absorb rainwater, hold soils in place, and provide food and habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

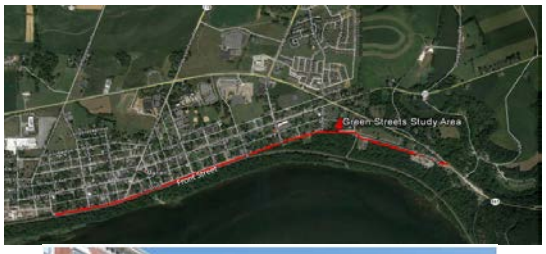
SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

After careful consideration of the community input, the final recommendation was to complete green street improvements through a phased approach, focusing on “pilot projects” to introduce green infrastructure in positive increments, starting with the Furnace Hills and Donegal Plan section. Though public and stakeholder meetings, the overall determination was to keep Front Street circulation as it is for the first 2 phases. Bump outs can be added to treat stormwater without compromising long term goals for Front Street. Pilot projects in identified locations can be completed in phase 1 and 2, with bike lane improvements added in later phases.

Once the projects detailed in the concept plan are implemented, this Borough will become a model for other river towns to begin to deal with runoff pollution through changes in road construction, use of local plants, use of water absorption improvements, and demonstrate the aesthetic and economic advantages of this approach. This is only the first phase in the Borough to deal with the riverfront area to implement green infrastructure.

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

Year Awarded: 2018
Award Amount: $15,000
Match Amount: $14,800



Project Partners: Borough of Marietta, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Land Studies, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,