



## 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.

### Jurisdictions Studied

#### Green Streets Jurisdictions

Ann Arbor, MI  
Central Falls, RI  
Cleveland, OH  
Cleveland Heights, OH  
Dallas, TX  
Edina, MN  
Fairbanks, AK  
Kansas City, MO  
Maplewood, MN  
Nashville, TN  
North St. Paul, MN  
Portland, OR  
Prince George's County, MD  
Tucson, AZ

1 white paper written

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE

White Paper on Strategies for Leveraging Capital Infrastructure Projects to Programmatically Incorporate Green Streets Elements into the Public Right-of-Way

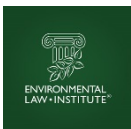
The Environmental Law Institute's (ELI) white paper undertook a comprehensive analysis of Green Streets laws and policies that mandate incorporation of GI into substantially all public right-of-way (PROW) capital projects. This encompassed all major construction activity proposed to occur in segments of the public right-of-way, including but not limited to: installation of new roadways and sidewalks, repaving, installation/replacement of water and sewer pipelines, installation/replacement of utilities (including gas lines, communications equipment, and electrical lines), and undergrounding of overhead utilities.

ELI surveyed and reviewed existing ordinances and statutes, within the context of local/state legal framework, and at a high level of detail. Its attorneys determined best practices in establishing formal Green Streets mandates. ELI reviewed how such laws and policies are both drafted and implemented in practice, and will identify any legal or political challenges. The paper recommended a customizable model

ordinance, in addition to other tools that governments at all levels can utilize to speed the adoption of Green Streets.

This research identified patterns, including geographic concentrations indicating which regions are leaders in this area, and commonalities found among similar jurisdictions. Case studies were written for 14 jurisdictions across the United States, with one in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

ELI reviewed and compared the selected policies, the relevant historical and political context, and identified project funding mechanisms. ELI ranked the strength of requirement (i.e. whether the policy constitutes a binding legal requirement, limits of such a requirement, and extent of exceptions), examined the legal authority for establishing the policy, identified pros and cons, successes and failures under each policy, and provided an overview of specific PROW projects (and associated costs) implemented under the policy.



## COMPONENTS STUDIED

For each case study locality, ELI examined these components:

- (1) Basic municipal characteristics, including stormwater management framework;
- (2) the policy itself and the year/timeframe in which the policy was implemented;
- (3) the impetus driving policy adaptation, including whether the policy comprises a subset of a larger complete streets policy/movement, economic development strategy, or beautification effort;
- (4) the strength of the requirement (including whether it constitutes binding legal policy, the limits of the requirement, and extent of any exceptions);
- (5) the legal authority for establishing the policy; including CSS/MS4 permit requirements, as applicable;
- (6) how the Green Streets component is financed;
- (7) the successes and failures under the policy; and
- (8) specific projects implemented/planned under the applicable policy (including summary, precise GI practices installed, co-implemented capital project, and cost breakdown and efficiencies).

Year Awarded: 2018

Award Amount: \$20,000

Match Amount: \$16,364

### Green Infrastructure Practices

Bioretention areas and vegetated swales  
Direction of sheetflow to conservation areas  
Dry wells  
Enhanced filters  
Green roofs  
Infiltration trenches  
Landscaped medians  
Permeable paving materials  
Preserving natural features, resources & drainageways  
Reinforced turf  
Disconnection of impervious surfaces  
Parkways  
Planter boxes  
Rain gardens  
Rainwater harvesting  
Street trees  
Submerged gravel wetlands  
Underground detention

### Benefits of Green Streets Policies

- Effective targeting for stormwater runoff control
- Drives the overall adoption of green infrastructure in a systematic manner
- Reduces the inconvenience of installing green infrastructure separately, by taking advantage of planned construction projects
- Renders moot the problem of underground utilities (by upgrading those at the same time)
- Cost savings (incorporation of green infrastructure features during reconstruction at a lower marginal cost than building those features alone)

# GIVING GREEN STREETS THE GREEN LIGHT: Improving Water Quality Through Capital Improvement Policies

June 2019

## WHITE PAPER

The White Paper, *Giving Green Streets the Green Light*, identifies 14 jurisdictions in the United States that have robust Green Streets policies in place, offers 13 recommendations for crafting a robust and effective Green Streets policy, and includes a model Green Streets ordinance that jurisdictions can use as their starting point. The paper can be read on the Environmental Law Institute's website [here](#). The executive summary can be read [here](#).

Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust,  
Environmental Law Institute, U.S.  
Environmental Protection Agency