



## 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.



### Map of Baltimore



36 native plants installed



64 sq. ft. impervious surface removed



1 tree planted



## MOUNT CLAIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Vacant Lot Greening and Beautification

The Mount Clare Community Council is a proud member of the Southwest Partnership Initiative composed of seven neighborhoods in Southwest Baltimore City. The project restored and enhanced the existing community 800 sq.ft green space at 205 S. Gilmor St. into a usable, sustainable park. The results achieved include: increased native bio-diversity, the removal of 64 sq. ft impervious concrete, the reduction of stormwater runoff, increased infiltration, wildlife habitat creation, a permeable pathway, demonstration of green infrastructure and solar technology, decreased illegal dumping, and a positive community reaction.

This project was also a catalyst for building a strong sense of pride in the disenfranchised community and in encouraging residents to take ownership of the neighborhood. The project leads noted that the reduction of trash dumping can be tracked by the reduction in 311 calls for the park. People walking by and interacting with the park often had positive comments; with each day, more and more neighbors stopped by to

say “hello” and “thank you”. From observation, before the park was touched, drugs were being done in a nearby alley and the park was used for cover. After the park was created, the drugs were moved to another alley and those same individuals use the park to sit in between travels. A sense of pride has been restored.

### Before





## PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **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.
- **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.
- **Green Jobs and Engagement of local businesses** – Local survey, and engineering firms, and suppliers were used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.

## Project installation



Year Awarded: 2019

Award Amount: \$7,511

## After



## SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

The community association cleans this lot during quarterly neighborhood clean ups with members and church partners and will continue the maintenance and cleaning quarterly. The community association also hosts routine weekend projects to support the maintenance of the community at large. The community took the necessary steps to beautify this property based on the common law principle of self-help nuisance abatement. The neighborhood is a part of several initiatives that are a major focus in Baltimore City including the Baltimore City Sustainability Plan (Green Network), Violence Reduction Initiative and the Southwest Partnership action area. The community seeks to ensure that they are doing their part in improving the quality of life by taking responsibility and joining these efforts. Fundraising and coordination for extensive maintenance needs will be pursued by the Mount Clare Community and Arts+Parks on behalf of the park.



Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Church of the Nativity, Mount Clare Community Council, Office of Councilman Bullock, South West Partnership, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency