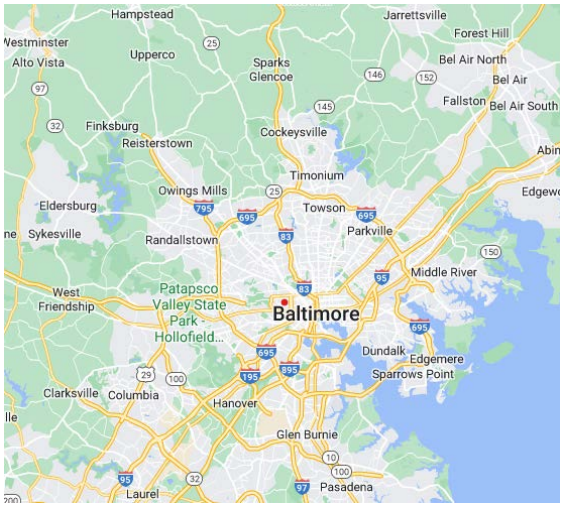
GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

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.



2 design plans created

14 local green jobs supported during construction

5 workshops with over 125 attendees

BON SECOURS UNITY PROPERTIES

Engineered Design: Stormwater Management Features, Splash and Community Park in West Baltimore

The new park at 2 and 8 N. Fulton Avenue in West Baltimore is an area of high need in West Baltimore that lacks safe recreational opportunities for children and outdoor community gathering places for families. The park will replace a vacant lot, which was formerly a small playground that was removed by the City in 2012, and is contiguous to an affordable family housing development, a social services provider and an Early Head Start program. It will feature fountains and a splash area for children, leisure space with trees and grass, children's play equipment, and public art. These elements will contribute to a healthy community and neighborhood of choice.

The project is an opportunity to synergize stormwater management infrastructure with a grassroots project that is community-backed. Because of this project's existing water theme, strong maintenance plan, and chance to integrate stormwater management into a very popular, heavily frequented and community-backed amenity, this is a fantastic chance to change public opinion of stormwater management features.

The best practice features will responsibly address environmental concerns, be aesthetically pleasing, and enhance the park's water-oriented theme.

At the workshops and events, topics included education on natural water systems, landscaping strategies, site work implications, pervious vs. impervious surfaces, and horticultural preservation strategies. These open conversations led the designers and community members to choose design and construction strategies that respect the natural environment and ultimately be documented in the project's developed Construction Document. Results include preserving large, existing trees by making design and construction accommodations to preserve root systems; committing to a re-circulating splash pad water system; collectively choosing pervious playground safe surfacing; and setting the goal to select native plants, and provide an opportunity for installation education and ongoing education.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

- Design plan – The design plans and construction documents were compiled after community feedback and include elements such as pervious pavement and installation of native plants.
- Pervious 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.
- 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.
- Green jobs and engagement of local businesses – Local survey, and engineering firms, and suppliers will be used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.

Final Concept Art

SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

This project's construction documents are unique to this project and site. However, the success of the process and expanded expertise may increase Bon Secours' ability and readiness to tackle integrating stormwater management BMPs into additional community-driven projects as opportunities develop. For example, currently there is a growing contingency interested in dramatically improving the streetscape experience along major corridors and assets in the community where the organization works.

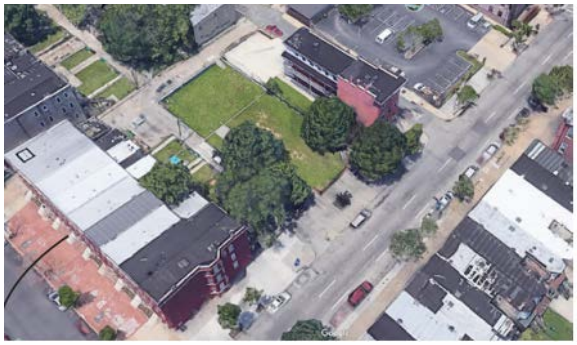
The developed construction documents include features that, once implemented, will advance Small Watershed Action Plans (SWAP) as found in the nearby Middle Gwynn Falls SWAP. In addition, once implemented the project will protect what was once abandoned vacant lots by reinvesting and activating the space and thereby reducing illegal dumping and blight. Bon Secours also believes that the project will catalyze further investment along the block.

In addition, the goal of the Baltimore City Department of Planning's Green Network Plan is to create safer and healthier communities by connecting residents to green assets that can improve health, economic development and mental wellbeing, especially in neighborhoods with the least green space. One of the goals of Bon Secours Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan is to increase the number of public green spaces in its service area, thereby creating a healthy environment.

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

Year Awarded: 2019
Award Amount: $29,885
Match Amount: $52,086

Project area before



Community planning events

Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, CityScape Engineering LLC, Franklin Square Community Association, Hinge Collective, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency