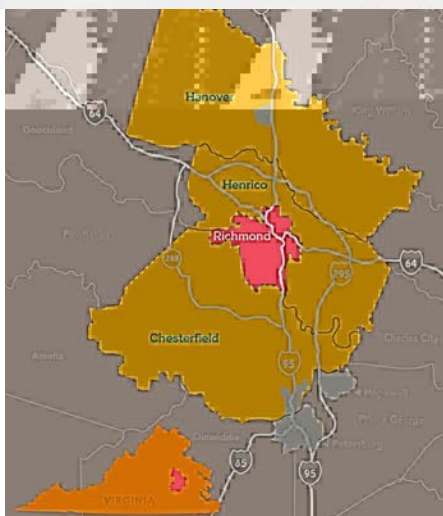







GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

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.




 0.4 miles of green street created

 72 local green jobs supported during construction

 52 trees planted

 975 sq. ft. rain garden created

 744 native plants installed



GROUNDWORK
RVA



JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION

Bellemeade Green Street in Richmond, Virginia

The James River Association (JRA) implemented a green street along a 0.4 mile stretch of Minefee Street in the Bellemeade community of southside Richmond, Virginia. This built upon the ongoing "Walkable Watershed" project, whose goal is to integrate the flow of people and stormwater, and this project helped make that goal a reality. Bellemeade is an underserved community, and the street is one of the main routes students use to get to Oak Grove Bellemeade Elementary School, particularly from a public housing complex in the neighborhood where over 200 children live. The street also connects the community to the park, Albro Creek and Bellemeade Community Center.

This project built on a concept plan that was completed in 2017 from another Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant. Partners continued to move the design forward with funding from Altria and reached 30% Engineered Design in 2018. The Final Design, completed in 2019, was funded through another Green Streets grant. Since the conceptual stage, the design was simplified for feasibility

while keeping the core goals of creating a safe route for youth to ride their bikes to school, increasing tree canopy, raising awareness, and improving water quality. Together, these environmental and infrastructural improvements work together to make a healthier and more connected neighborhood.

This project culminated these previous projects through implementation and construction. The green infrastructure elements included 1) street trees to shade the existing sidewalk and protected bike lane, and 2) replaced impervious asphalt with 5 bioretention planters and 18 additional planters that were planted with native trees, shrubs, and perennials. These planters not only provide water quality benefit, but also provide traffic calming measures. The first phase of implementation is the green infrastructure elements, which was supported through this grant opportunity. The grey infrastructure, which consists of the protected bike lane, will be implemented in the second phase when additional funding is secured.

PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **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.
- **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.
- **Rain gardens** – These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system
- **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.

Year Awarded: 2019

Award Amount: \$161,111

Match Amount: \$187,202



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

First and foremost, the Bellemeade Green Street project is a model for similar projects in the City of Richmond. Additionally, James River Association staff members created a workflow document that can be used as a guide for future projects of a similar nature. The document has already been shared with and edited by peer organizations.

Through the implementation of the Bellemeade Green Street project, the James River Association partnered with the City of Richmond and added capacity to the city's efforts to reduce and better manage stormwater runoff. The James River Association and its partners are working on the implementation of similar projects in the City of Richmond and other areas of the James River basin.

Learn more about this project on the Trust blog [here](#)

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

Project Partners: 3north, Chesapeake Bay Trust, City of Richmond, GroundworkRVA, Harbor Dredge and Dock, James River Association, Timmons Group, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency