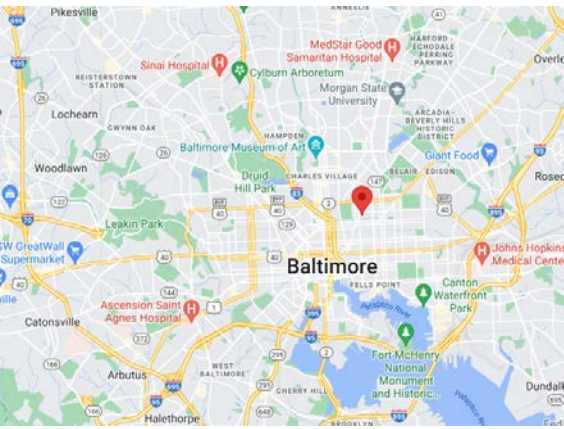




## GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

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.



## BALTIMOREANS UNITED IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)

Greening Communities – Oliver Community Urban Canopy Campaign

While Baltimore City has prioritized its tree planting effort under TreeBaltimore and Oliver is ranked as a high priority neighborhood to target for tree planting, Oliver lost 0.43% tree canopy from 2007 to 2015. As of 2015, Oliver's current tree canopy was 13.91%.

due to misconceptions. Blue Water Baltimore canvassed the neighborhood, offering one-on-one teachable moments and hosted two community wide meetings. Part of this canvassing included passing out flyers for the project as well as a benefits of trees postcard and door hanger.

Through this project, the Oliver neighborhood launched a successful tree planting campaign at the behest of local residents. BUILD was able to leverage relationships built through their three-year participation in the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Capacity Building Initiative to support this project. By working with Blue Water Baltimore and ReBuild Metro, effective community engagement efforts were achieved.

As Oliver Action Team member, Celena, said about engagement: "When working in the community, you just can't come top-down and say "this is how it should be in this community," you need to involve the residents and businesses in the community in the decision-making process; it needs to be them who has the power and buy-in. Otherwise, they will stay on the sidelines, like I was. Now I still get frustrated almost every day, but I don't feel powerless anymore." Through the rich partnerships, BUILD was able to promote and execute an expansive urban tree canopy campaign across several East Baltimore neighborhoods, beginning with the Oliver community in the first phase. This initial effort saw to the planting of roughly 120 trees.



3,416 sq. ft impervious surface removed



11 local green jobs supported during construction



123 trees planted



75 volunteers engaged





## PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **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.
- **Engagement of local community** – This project engaged 75 volunteers from the local community to assist in the completion of the project.
- **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.
- **Green jobs and engagement of local businesses** – Local survey, and engineering firms, and suppliers will be used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.



## SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

Blue Water Baltimore (BWB) started to water trees in June 2021 and thru the summer weekly and replanted any dead trees in the fall of 2021. Maintenance funds were leveraged by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and MD DNR grants to Blue Water Baltimore.

BUILD and its partners continue to work in Baltimore and learn from each project especially in ways to empower neighborhoods who have lacked historical power due to racism. They apply lessons learned from organizing and engaging residents in the Baltimore Environmental Equity Partnership. BWB already reported their successes and lessons learned at the TreeBaltimore partners quarterly meeting. BWB has also reported the tree planting data for both DPW and Recreation and Parks to use for reporting purposes for stormwater credit. This project was leveraged by a NFWF grant to plant additional trees.

BUILD will keep applying for new projects, partners, and funders to help their neighborhoods.

Year Awarded: 2019  
Award Amount: \$35,453  
Match Amount: \$45,250



Project Partners: Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development, Blue Water Baltimore, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Knox Presbyterian Church, ReBuild Metro, TreeBaltimore, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency