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.

This grant recreated the 2200 block of Etting Street in the Druid Heights neighborhood in Baltimore to a green street via a design plan. The vision of the community and the City of Baltimore was to remove the impervious surface of Etting and three alleys that connect to the 2200 block of Etting and incorporate this newly unpaved space as a part of Cab Calloway Legends Square.

The Square will be an amenity to 87 newly-built townhomes and 15 rehabbed rowhouses around the perimeter of the Square. All of these homes will look directly or be immediately adjacent to the Square. Through a series of charrettes, the residents created a conceptual design for this park and the residents requested to remove the impervious surface along the 2200 block of Etting Street as an initial phase of constructing the park. The engineering design included a grass swale as a stormwater infrastructure practice to reduce stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. This grant’s funds created a stormwater design for permitting and construction for removal.
PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Design plan**—This design plan, created by CityScape, included details to remove impervious pavement and replace it with pervious paving, and included perspectives from the local community, who wanted more trees planted in the project.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Community Engagement**—This project engaged 200 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.

SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

This project can be used as a model for other Baltimore City agencies’ efforts to remove impervious surface on city right of ways (streets, alleys and sidewalks). The Mayor and City Council are willing to help them through the steps of closing a street, closing an alley and working with the Department of Transportation.

The park is scheduled to become a Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks’ asset, and the department is committed to maintaining the park on a regular basis.

This project also met the goals of the Lower Jones Falls Watershed Action Plan by reducing stormwater runoff as well as removing nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended solids in the stormwater runoff. The project is an important component of the Baltimore Green Network Plan and the City of Baltimore’s “New Era for Neighborhood Investment: A Framework of Community Investment” plan.

For additional information: visit [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) and [cbtrust.org](http://cbtrust.org)

Year Awarded: 2020
Award Amount: $27,768
Match Amount: $177,167

Project Partners: Baltimore City Department of Public Works’ Engineering, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Baltimore Department of Planning’s Baltimore Green Network, Chesapeake Bay Trust, CityScape Engineering LLC, Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency