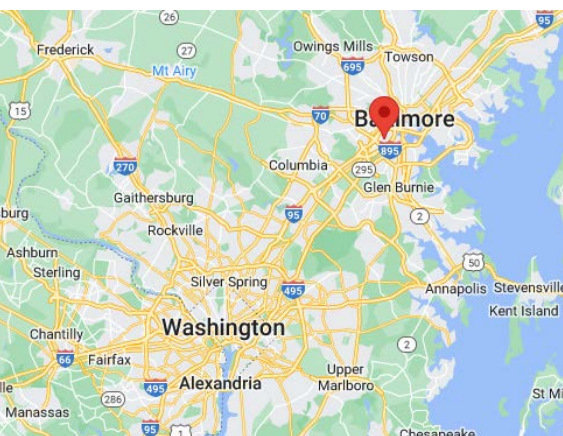




## GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

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.



## CIVIC WORKS, INC

### West Baltimore Vacant Lot Greening

Civic Works completed three vacant lot greening projects in Baltimore City, each of which contained a BMP. At each project site, Civic Works worked with a community association to design a space that residents wanted to spend time in and were committed to maintaining.

The area was graded and a rain garden was planted with native pollinator perennials and bordered with native shrubs.

For the third lot on Wilcox Ave, the team worked with the community of Johnston Square to secure the lot from dumping, add color with flowering plants and a tree, and have a watering system to maintain the gardens.

Civic Works partnered with Visionaries Co-op to transform the first overgrown vacant lot, known as Monastery Lot, between two occupied houses into a small park. The lot was extremely overgrown and the uneven grading was causing stormwater to flow into the street and regularly leak into neighboring home's basements. Civic Works regraded the site with a gentle slope, added a two-foot high retaining wall with a planting bed, installed stone steps and a 50 foot curved path. Plant beds were also added with native plants and a rain barrel.

### Monastery Lot Before and After



At the Shields Place Lot, or the Upton Community Gardens of Hope, the team expanded the available space by removing extensive growth of "volunteer" trees, shrubs and weeds.



319 volunteers engaged



5 local green jobs supported during construction



200 sq. ft. rain garden created



4 trees planted



420 native plants installed





## PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Rain gardens** – These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system
- **Engagement of local community** – This project is engaged 319 volunteers from the local community to assist in the completion of the project.
- **Green jobs and engagement of local businesses** – Local survey, and engineering firms, and suppliers were used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.
- **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.
- **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.

Year Awarded: 2020  
Award Amount: \$45,000  
Match Amount: \$36,573

## Shields Place Before and After



## Wilcox Lot Before and After



## SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

Civic Works has identified a community member or group at each of the three project sites that has agreed to maintain the project sites after project completion. All of the project sites are Baltimore City-owned vacant lots. Through the process, they were adopted by community associations and transformed into attractive and functional community spaces with maintenance plans in place. Community Lot Team staff have demonstrated how to mow, weed, and otherwise care for grass, plants, and trees at each site and checked in with community volunteers to assess ongoing needs. The Monastery Ave project will be maintained by Visionaries Development Co-op. The Shields Place project will be maintained by the Upton Community Garden, whose gardeners visit the site on a regular basis and have experience caring for plants. The Wilcox project will be maintained by a neighbor who visits the site weekly with a lawnmower to cut the grass and care for the plants.

Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust,  
Civic Works LLC, Gardens of Hope, Rebuild  
Johnston Square, Upton Planning  
Committee, U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency, Visionaries  
Development Cooperative