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Nearly \$700,000 Announced to Support Local Green Infrastructure Projects to Improve Communities and Provide Jobs

Bath, West Virginia – Today the Chesapeake Bay Trust in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the City of Baltimore Office of Sustainability announce \$693,791 in funding for the Chesapeake Bay Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns Grant Program. These grants help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff, increase the number and amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, create “green jobs,” and enhance livability in cities and communities.

This announcement highlights awards made to 21 innovative green infrastructure projects that span across Delaware; Maryland; Pennsylvania; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and West Virginia.

“Municipalities throughout our region are grappling with the cost of the investments needed to make their communities more sustainable,” said EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. “This program helps provide the resources to maximize the return on these projects by incorporating green infrastructure practices that improve water quality, drive economic vitality and enhance livability.”

The Town of Bath, West Virginia (widely known as Berkeley Springs), the host location for the grant announcement, is one of the 21 grant recipients. The \$42,000 grant builds on the success of a previously awarded Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns grant supporting Bath’s ongoing Streetscape Renewal Plan. A 2016 grant funded the installation of green infrastructure along Washington Street/U.S. 522, the town’s “Main Street.” A series of tree planter boxes along one block of Washington Street, combined with pervious pavers and a technique called “Silva Cells,” help capture and treat stormwater runoff, improving water quality and beautifying the street. The 2018 award will enable the Town to extend “greening the streets” by installing tree planter boxes and pervious pavers to additional streets in the Town’s historic district.

“We are thrilled that our historic town can be a showcase for the value of green infrastructure and the power of incorporating ‘green’ into gray infrastructure capital improvement projects,” said Town of Bath Mayor Scott Merki. “The Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns grant ensures that we are able to fully implement the green infrastructure components of our streetscape plan, which are so important to our residents. These projects enhance and beautify the heart of our historic district, while managing stormwater and supporting a healthy environment.”

In addition to the project in Bath, the 20 other grantees announced today will lead efforts that include removing impervious surfaces, expanding urban tree canopy, and many other green infrastructure practices throughout the region's Chesapeake Bay watershed.

"The health of the Chesapeake Bay begins in our neighborhoods and communities, and our streams and rivers all throughout the watershed," said Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton. "We commend these municipalities and organizations for taking the initiative to address critical environmental needs—removing impervious surfaces, planting native trees and rain gardens—as part of their larger infrastructure projects."

"Towns and communities throughout our region are eager to enhance their streetscapes and improve our waterways through green infrastructure projects," said Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "We are proud to combine forces with our funding partners to ensure that local jurisdictions have the resources they need to take action for our communities and for our rivers and streams."

The full list of the Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns Grant Program awardees include:

Town of Bath, \$42,000

A Bath for the Bay Part Two: Rinse and Repeat

Bath, WV

To fully implement the green infrastructure components of the Town's Streetscape Renewal Plan, building on the success of a 2016 green infrastructure project supported by a Green Streets-Green Jobs-Green Towns grant.

Capital Trees, \$75,000

Implementation/Construction: Low Line Park Project

Richmond, VA

To rehabilitate and reclaim 5.5 acres of open space in Richmond's urban core, creating an ecologically responsible park which incorporates stormwater management best practices

Adkins Arboretum, \$75,000

Implementation: Adkins Arboretum Parking Lot Alive!

Ridgely, MD

To install stormwater best management practices in the Adkins Arboretum main parking lot, including replacing 1,790 square feet of impervious surface with bioretention garden and pervious paving.

National Wildlife Federation, \$66,451

A Green Street in Druid Heights—McCulloh Street

Baltimore, MD

To restore and green a vacant lot in the Druid Heights neighborhood in Central-West Baltimore.

Hood College: Center for Coastal and Watershed Studies. \$65,136

The Frederick Food Security Network Greening Project

Frederick, MD

To support the newly formed Frederick Food Security Network, which addresses the needs of both stormwater management and food insecurity through a collective of urban farming operations, including vegetated rain gardens.

Blue Water Baltimore, \$58,830

***Supporting Community Development through Green Streets in the Belair-Edison Neighborhood
Baltimore, MD***

To increase tree canopy by planting 450 street trees and greening over 2.5 miles of streetscape in Northeast Baltimore.

ShoreRivers, \$52,928

Greening Urban Vacant Lots: Cambridge Neighborhood Revitalization

Cambridge, MD

To support a pilot program to green vacant lots in Cambridge, MD, creating multi-use community green spaces that have environmental and human benefits.

City of Portsmouth, \$30,000

Engineered Design: Court Street Green Street

Portsmouth, VA

To advance conceptual designs for a green street in City of Portsmouth's Historic Olde Town District to complete design plans that can be implemented.

Restore Mass Ave, \$30,000

***Engineered Design: Tree Plaza Stormwater Connections for Dupont Circle in the District of
Columbia***

Washington, D.C.

To design enhanced tree boxes that will treat stormwater runoff at the iconic Dupont Circle.

James River Association, \$30,000

4833 Old Main Street

Richmond, VA

To continue green street efforts on Minefee Street in the Bellemeade neighborhood of Richmond.

City of Lancaster, \$30,000

Engineered Design: Green Infrastructure at Culliton Park

Lancaster, PA

For green infrastructure designs for the renovation of Culliton Park.

Environmental Law Institute, \$20,000

***White Paper on Strategies for Leveraging Capital Infrastructure Projects to Programmatically
Incorporate Green Streets Elements into the Public Right-of-Way***

Chesapeake Bay Wide

For a white paper determining the best practices for local governments to enhance policies to incorporate green infrastructure into all Public-Right-of-Way construction projects, when feasible.

Canton Canopy, \$19,138

Tree Pit Creation Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Baltimore, MD

To reduce impermeable surface in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore City by creating and expanding tree pits and maintaining new trees that are planted.

City of Annapolis, \$15,000

Conceptual Plan: Green Infrastructure Plan for Historic Downtown Annapolis

Annapolis, MD

To fund a conceptual plan to incorporate next generation, high performing green infrastructure into the historic downtown area of Annapolis.

Hanover Borough, \$15,000

Conceptual Plan: Borough of Hanover Streetscape Design and Beautification Plan

Hanover, PA

To fund green infrastructure and stormwater controls of the planned streetscape redesign of Hanover's "Main Street."

Borough of Marietta, \$15,000

Marietta Borough: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategies Concept Plan Development

Marietta, PA

To develop a green street concept plan that will serve as a template for the borough and other River Towns in need of similar stormwater management solutions.

Pocomoke City, \$13,500

Conceptual Plan: Pocomoke City Green Street Plan

Pocomoke City, MD

To develop a conceptual plan for future greening projects in the downtown area.

Town of North East, \$13,400

Conceptual Plan: G3/Stormwater Management Plan for Downtown North East, MD

North East, MD

To develop a conceptual plan for stormwater management practices in an Intensely Developed Area within the town's designated Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

Town of Laurel, \$10,000

Conceptual Plan and Native Plantings: Dunbar Building

Laurel, DE

To develop a green streets conceptual plan for the area surrounding the Dunbar Building, which will soon house the Laurel Police Department.

RiverStewards, \$9,350

Bringing the Blueprint for One Water to Pennsylvania—A White Paper Case Study of the Spring Creek Watershed

Lititz, PA

For a white paper to show how a regional governance structure for the water management would work in the Spring Creek watershed.

Town of Easton, \$8,058

Town of Easton Street Tree Planting Project

Easton, MD

To increase the number of street trees to be planted in 2018 and 2019 by 54%.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust engages hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of Maryland's Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal and state agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for fourteen years: 92 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

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