

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM

UPTON PLANTING COMMITTEE

ADDRESSING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WITH URBAN TREES IN WEST BALTIMORE

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$192,420.00

NUMBER OF TREES

316



PROJECT SUMMARY

This is a joint project of six Upton neighborhoods, all working together as part of the Upton Planning Committee (UPC): Marble Hill Community Association, Providence Neighborhood Association, Etting Neighborhood Association, Northwest UPA, Upton West Community Association and McCulloh Homes with a joint effort to plant 316 trees. Recent data shows that these West Baltimore neighborhood have a median tree canopy coverage of 17%. The city's current canopy coverage is 27.4% with a goal of 40%.

The six neighborhoods work together as the Upton Planning Committee. Together, they have coordinated initiatives such as homeowner incentives to draw more people to their neighborhoods, community cleanups, festivals such as the annual Billie Holiday Festival, and communitywide art project. These neighborhoods have also worked together on a tree planting projects and other greening efforts with the Upton Planning Committee's Clean and Green Team doing the maintenance of the trees and green space. UPC's goal is to ensure that trained local residents are in charge of the work and maintenance within their own neighborhood.

The community associations' leaders with consultation with the residents choose the tree planting sites, aided by the city of Baltimore's online Tree Inventory. If this grant is funded, the UPC's board will go back to their residents at each of the six community meetings from May to August 2022 to finalize the locations of the trees within the residents. The UPC's leadership will then go door to door to give a final sign off from the resident who will live in back of the street tree site. Plantings are anticipated to take place between the fall of '22 and the spring of '23.

All of the trees that are within the plan are either street tree locations or will be planted on lots that UPC has site control through an Adopt-a-Lot agreement. The UPC has reached out to the Baltimore City Forestry Division/Tree Baltimore and the Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation about this project. Because UPC's long-time relationship with both of these city agencies, these agencies are eager to work with UPC to increase the tree canopy coverage in this important spot of West Baltimore.

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