

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM

# THE URBAN OASIS

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**AWARDED AMOUNT**

\$17,720.00

**NUMBER OF TREES**

40



### PROJECT SUMMARY

The Urban Oasis Tree Project will focus on increasing the tree canopy within the West Baltimore community of Panway. Specifically, trees will be planted and maintained on the 2800 even block of Clifton Avenue (Baltimore City Block 3024), on a community gathering space/green space (Block 3024 Lot 38), and within a community public gathering space (2131 N. Dukeland Street, Baltimore MD 21216).

The main objective is to create a viable outdoor living space for residents to be able to congregate that allows increased access to programming in a historically redlined African-American community while providing natural shade cover and beautification. The Urban Oasis began as a concerted effort by residents of the Panway community in West Baltimore to address issues of blight, dumping, drug-dealing and depravity that had affected both the social and emotional culture of the community. Over the past decade, the declining conditions of their community were evidenced by crumbling infrastructure, rat infestation, a steadily declining resident population, declining homeownership, an increase in vacant properties, and low accessibility to necessary resources, including food. In response to these conditions, they've realized that infrastructural improvements and intentional programming must be developed simultaneously in order to effect positive change. The majority population of their community is African-American (95%) with a growing Hispanic population (approx. 3%). Approximately 40% of the residents of our community are seniors aged 65+. The median household income is approximately \$45,000 (\$5,000 less than what was recorded in 2018), with an average household size of 2.5. The Urban Oasis serves the Panway community as well as the surrounding communities of Greater Mondawmin, Hanlon, Walbrook, and Coppin Heights. Since 2019, The Urban Oasis has successfully entered into a lease agreement with the Department of Transportation's Alley Gating and Greening Office to create a safe community gathering space for the residents of their neighborhood, converted vacant lots into viable community gathering spaces, removed blight that has plagued their community for the past 3 decades, hosted cultural events and multiple fundraising initiatives, has promoted and implemented health and wellness initiatives to promote a higher quality of living for their residents, and has established a long-running program that compensates the youth of their community for caring for the community.

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