

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GREENING IN WEST BALTIMORE

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$342,444.00

NUMBER OF TREES

600



PROJECT SUMMARY

Climate change now brings more frequent and heavier storms that contribute to increased flooding and stormwater pollution throughout Baltimore. Through their restoration efforts, Blue Water Baltimore provides direct stormwater solutions, particularly in communities with chronic disinvestment, that mitigate the effect of these storms, green communities, improve quality of life for residents and foster healthier waterways. Funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust's Urban Trees Program supports tree plantings and maintenance in the Irvington, Violetville, Coppin Heights/Ash Co East and Howard Park neighborhoods. Located in West Baltimore, these neighborhoods experience chronic flooding and sewage backups. Existing relationships in three areas—Irvington, Violetville, and Coppin Heights, enabled community buy-in during preliminary planning discussions. According to the Urban Tree Grant Eligibility Map, they are also identified as areas of low-income and high unemployment.

In Spring 2022, they implemented two new street tree projects in Irvington and Violetville that complement planned and existing greening projects in these neighborhoods. Support from the Urban Trees Program provides up to 600 trees and supports their maintenance care for two years from the date of project completion. Based on prior plantings and site-specific conditions, they will select high quality native street trees through Baltimore City's Tree Program with the majority native to the region. Support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will plant 300 trees during the Fall 2022 season in the Coppin Heights and Howard Park neighborhoods.

During the grant period, Blue Water Baltimore will work with residents in Ash Co East/Coppin Heights and Howard Park to 1) prioritize target blocks based on community plans and the Baltimore City Tree Inventory, 2) develop an outreach and engagement plan, and 3) implement tree planting projects in the neighborhood. Planting will take place in the fall of '22 and the spring / fall of '23.

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