

FY23 URBAN TREES PROGRAM

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY BENEFITS DISTRICT

MIDTOWN BALTIMORE TREE PLANTING

AWARDED AMOUNT

\$44,964.00

NUMBER OF TREES

100



PROJECT SUMMARY

The first goal of the project is to support positive environmental impact areas through the addition of new street trees in the Mount Vernon-Belvedere and Charles North communities. For the majority of the planting sites, city tree wells need to be expanded or new tree wells need to be cut. The removal of impervious surfaces will reduce the heat island effect, which is a paramount issue in the two communities outlined in this proposal. The project will reduce the level of pollutants in stormwater runoff filtering into the Jones Falls watershed which our project area drains into. This project supports Baltimore City's goal of increasing the city tree canopy and efforts of Tree Baltimore.

The project will focus on expanding emerging workforce development programming. This organization will team up with the ROCA, an intensive youth diversion program that targets at risk youth and violence reduction through skills training and boarding educational opportunities. ROCA is headquartered in Mount Vernon and has successfully partnered with the Central Baltimore Partnership and Midtown Community Benefits District on a host of landscaping endeavors. They've helped transform the Ynot Lot, a public space located at Charles and North Avenue in the Station North Arts District, with new gardens and trees, as well as, worked with graffiti artists on a public mural. The project will continue to expand employment and skills opportunities in these underserved communities. Based on past tree and maintenance events, about one-third of the volunteers have been incarcerated and use these events to enrich their knowledge of landscaping and urban forestry to build stronger relationships with residents.

Midtown's proven method of new tree installations through their community volunteer engagement events helps to promote positive environmental awareness. The project supports the need to provide continual care and maintenance of new City trees, which also creates good will and volunteer participation. This project will provide basic training and promote the participation in courses for certified tree keepers; this will aid in the expansion of the City's pool of volunteers to care for trees. Moreover, the project will provide basic training and promote the attendance of courses for certified tree keepers and expand the City's pool of volunteers to care for trees. Midtown's volunteer efforts have been very successful having planted over 850 trees since 2013 in the Mount Vernon-Belvedere neighborhood alone.

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