



GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.



Green roadway



Bioretention



Native plants



Trees



Community meetings



Burkittsville Green Street and Stormwater Master Plan

The Master Plan aims to identify major restoration areas, select appropriate best management practices and provide a vision that the community can agree on and support.

Burkittsville (pop. 151) is a beautiful historic small town at the foot of South Mountain. Most homes date back to the 18th century or early 19th century as does some of the town's road and stormwater infrastructure. A series of lanes nearly circumscribe the village connecting former barns and carriage houses to the main road. Agricultural fields surround the village and abut the lanes. These fields are routinely planted, sprayed, fertilized with sprayed manure, and harvested.

During severe storms and snow melts, stormwater often cascades off these fields carrying sediment, manure, and chemical residues onto the lanes and surrounding residential properties, and into storm drains and nearby creeks. Storm drains tend to get clogged quickly with field debris. Basement flooding of nearly all houses on the southwest side of East Main Street, and many houses on the northeast side is also a perpetual problem. Water goes directly off fields, down roads, into a storm drain connected to a creek.

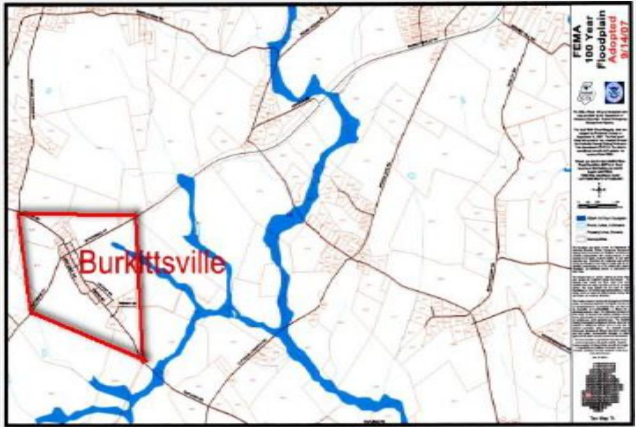
Burkittsville is hiring an engineering firm with stormwater expertise to generate a Green Street and Stormwater Master Plan (GSSMP). The selected firm will utilize Green Street and stormwater best practices approaches to address the needs identified above:

Unfiltered stormwater run-off, water quality, basement flooding, degraded streams, driver and pedestrian safety, traffic calming, light pollution, and lack of tree canopy and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks. The project will incorporate environmentally sensitive design to meet the objectives of stormwater mitigation, and improving the town's water quality, aesthetics, safety, walk-ability, and tourism potential.



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Improve streetscape**– The current lack of contiguous sidewalks is a safety hazard. Contiguous sidewalks would restore and respect the historic nature of the town.
- **Restore historic features**– Planting trees, burying power lines and reducing light pollution will make the town more appealing to residents and tourists.
- **Street bump-outs with curb cuts**– Incorporating these features, as well as bioswales, biofiltration boxes, trees and rain gardens will slow traffic patterns and filter stormwater and sump pump discharges.
- **Convert ditches**– Converting ditches to vegetated bioretention swales with curb cuts will be used to collect and treat run off from parking lots and other impervious surfaces.
- **Increased Urban Tree Canopy** – In urban areas a single tree can intercept from 500 to 4,000 gallons per year. Even young, small trees help, capturing 50 gallons per year. Trees not only treat stormwater, they provide a host of other benefits, including energy cost reduction in both summer (shade) and winter (proper placement can result in the reduction of energy use by 20-50%), aesthetics, property value enhancement, business traffic enhancement, and health benefits.



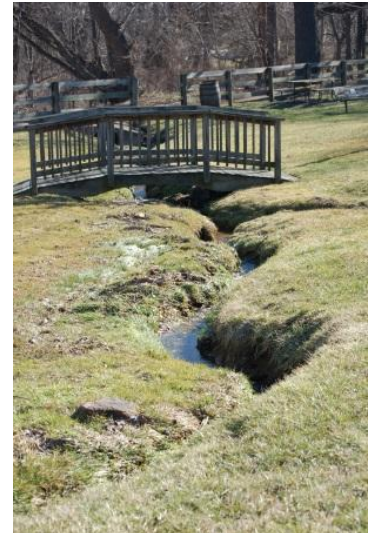
G3 Grant Awarded: \$24,986
Status: Proposals under review



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

As previously mentioned, in 2015, the Town did complete a significant road, culvert, and storm drain repair on East Main St. Residents who are active with the South Mountain Heritage Society have completed a major renovation of the Resurrection Reformed Church which involved major roof, steeple, and plaster repairs, a new well, installation of a bathroom, and fundraising initiatives to pay for these improvements.

Burkittsville is also registered with the Sustainable Maryland Certified program and is actively pursuing certification. It has recruited a volunteer Sustainable Burkittsville Coordinator and eight-member Green Team of for this initiative and a Sustainable Burkittsville Action Plan has been drafted. As of January 2016, the Town had earned half the needed points for certification. Successfully implemented projects include a Residential Energy Efficiency Program, a Pet Waste Program, a Pump ‘Em Out Challenge promoting septic system pump-outs, a rain barrel distribution program, a garden produce exchange, and more.



For additional information: visit www.epa.gov and www.cbtrust.org.

Project Partners: City of Burkittsville, Chesapeake Bay Trust, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.