



Nearly \$2 Million Announced to Support Green Infrastructure Projects to Improve Communities in MD, PA, VA, WV, and D.C.

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Ranson, WV – The Chesapeake Bay Trust, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection announce that **\$1,850,576** in funding has been awarded to 36 projects across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia as part of the Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program. The awards help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff; increase the number of green spaces in urban areas; improve the health of local rivers, streams, the Chesapeake Bay, and the human populations within the communities; create “green jobs;” reduce energy use; and enhance livability in cities and communities.

“I’m thrilled to be a part of today’s announcement of funding for 36 projects across West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and DC, including for the Jefferson Medical Center in Ranson,” **said Senator Manchin, member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.** “These investments will assist communities in reducing stormwater runoff, establishing green spaces, promoting clean water, bolstering energy infrastructure and more. I’m grateful for the partnership of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the EPA and the WVDEP and I will continue working to ensure our communities across the Mountain State have the resources they need to thrive.”

“We are excited by the scope of projects being undertaken by this year’s grantees,” **said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz.** “Communities will be enriched by the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s support of locally-led projects, which increases green infrastructure development in our region and ultimately has a positive impact on the waters of the bay.”

This green infrastructure program is designed to facilitate and encourage communities implementing traditional “gray” infrastructure projects, such as repaving roads or reconfiguring intersections, to add green elements at little additional cost. These green elements then offer cost-effective savings on stormwater treatment, flooding reduction and other community benefits.

“This is an exciting opportunity to bring the tools and resources the Trust provides to West Virginia communities. Organizations receiving these G3 grants and the agencies working to meet Bay Program goals will greatly benefit from the attention and commitment of the Trust and this partnership,” commented **Jennifer Pauer, Environmental Resources Specialist Supervisor, WV DEP’s Watershed Improvement Branch.**

Studies have shown that the greening of communities provides a variety of benefits from financial to health. Further, living in a green community provides a wealth of advantages for all residents, including decreased stress, improved health and wellbeing, reduced energy costs, and cleaner air and water.

"We are honored to be a recipient of The Chesapeake Bay Trust's G3 funding and also proud to host the event highlighting the endeavors of others along with WVU Medicine's commitment to improving the communities we serve," remarked **Neil McLaughlin, Vice President, Strategic Projects & Partnerships of the WVU Medicine Berkeley and Jefferson Medical Centers.**

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Initiative was started in 2011. Initially led by water experts at EPA, it has grown exponentially and expanded into the program it is today. Currently, almost 300 projects have received funding and over \$16.1 million has been invested into the greening communities. In addition, this program has benefited from the passage of the 2021 Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law. Approximately \$1.8 million in infrastructure funding was provided to this program in 2022 and 2023.

"These green infrastructure programs truly put the power to implement real change into the hands of the communities," said **Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.** "Plus, they are a win-win in that they directly benefit the lives and health of the people in the neighborhoods, and also contributes to the bigger environmental picture, vastly improving the health of the natural systems downstream."

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program Awardees

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: *Richmond, Virginia* - \$15,000 - For a conceptual plan that incorporates green infrastructure with a focus on accessibility for students at Amelia Street School, a public school located in Richmond, Virginia serving students ages 5 to 21 years with significant intellectual disabilities, behavioral issues, or complex health needs.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: *Richmond, Virginia* - \$60,000 - For engineered designs for green infrastructure practices at Blackwell Playground. This project will improve water quality featuring urban stormwater BMPs that capture and treat stormwater runoff, create wildlife habitat, and reduce heat island impacts while improving Blackwell's climate resiliency.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: *Wheaton, Maryland* - \$185,110 - For the removal and replacement of a 6,962 square foot asphalt parking lot with permeable pavement at St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church.

Amethyst Foundation, Inc.: *Duncannon, Pennsylvania* - \$25,000 - For a master plan that incorporates green infrastructure for Amethyst Retreat Center. The plan will include greening, recreation, and ADA-compliant developments and renovations with a focus on sustainability, water quality, and human health and wellness.

Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park: *Annapolis, Maryland* - \$15,000 - For a conceptual plan that includes green infrastructure to conduct a situational analysis of the historic structure as it relates to historic and modern flood events, to understand the threat and impacts of rising sea levels on the historic structure and identify mitigation strategies that employ green infrastructure solutions to address these threats.

Bethesda Green: *Bethesda, Maryland* - \$30,000 - For engineered designs for five rain gardens along Woodmont Avenue in the Bethesda Urban District. The gardens will also provide educational opportunities for residents and provide beautification of spaces currently filled with non-native plants or concrete.

Capital Area Greenbelt Association: *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania* - \$45,000 - For engineered designs for green infrastructure practices along the Paxtang Parkway Trail in the Capital Area Greenbelt loop trail through and around Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The trail will restore safe pedestrian and bicycle travel, reduce stormwater in Parkway Creek, and provide a more resilient parkway.

City of Charles Town, WV: *Charles Town, West Virginia* - \$172,445 - For the installation of bioretention areas, permeable pavement, and native plantings along Liberty Street. The project will reduce flooding risk, enhance

greenery and aesthetics, promote watershed and ecosystem health by reducing pollutants, and support Downtown economic development.

Corporation of Shepherdstown: *Shepherdstown, West Virginia* - \$22,500 - For a conceptual plan that includes green infrastructure at St. Agnes Catholic Church. The completed plan will identify what elements can be utilized through the town to achieve load reduction and reduce standing water and erosion.

Gallaudet University: *Washington, D.C.* - \$50,000 - For the installation of an urban farm and development of an urban farm training program for students to serve the DC community with freshly grown produce, provide workshops, and to learn urban agriculture models in urban settings.

George Washington Regional Commission: *Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, and King George Counties and the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia* – no direct funding- For technical assistance to conduct a charrette to identify priority areas for green infrastructure expanding on prior studies.

Greater Remington Improvement Association: *Baltimore, Maryland* - \$50,340 - For the installation of 100 native trees, 100 native plants, and the reduction of 3400 square feet of impervious pavement in the Remington neighborhood.

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy: *Towson, Maryland* - \$14,996 - For a conceptual plan for the integration of green infrastructure and nature-informed therapy at the Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative headquarters.

Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority: *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania* - \$36,893 - For the installation of urban community gardens in concert with stormwater management practices resulting in community greening throughout Harrisburg.

Islamic Society of Baltimore: *Catonsville, Maryland* - \$150,000 - For the removal and replacement of impervious surface with permeable pavement and installation of conservation landscaping, micro-bioretenion areas, and native trees aimed at reducing stormwater runoff, restoring, and enhancing resiliency to adapt to climate change.

Jones Gardens: *Staunton, Virginia* - \$15,273 - For the transformation of a vacant lot into a vegetable and pollinator garden to increase the amount of produce that can be grown for neighborhood distribution in an area that is low income/low access to food sources.

Jonestown Borough: *Jonestown, Pennsylvania* - no direct funding - For technical assistance to conduct a charrette to develop a conceptual plan that incorporates green infrastructure along Market Street and to transform a grass lot into a community park.

Mamie D. Lee Garden Association: *Washington, D.C.* - \$49,949 - For the installation of native pollinator gardens and enhancement of green space on 1.5 acres of historical gardens in Fort Totten. The main objectives of the project are to increase green space accessibility, garden productivity, and climate change. The gardens serve over 100 households annually.

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital: *Leonardtown, Maryland* - \$14,744 - For a conceptual plan that includes green infrastructure and creates a green space on campus to support health and wellness for patients, visitors, and personnel; protect health professionals from burnout; improve local habitat; and align with a separate capital project on campus.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church: *Randallstown, Maryland* - \$30,175 - For engineered designs for two micro-bioretenion areas, a grass swale, and pavement removal at the Church to reduce stormwater runoff while also increasing attractive, inviting natural habitat.

Oxford Borough: *Oxford, Pennsylvania* - \$22,000 - For engineered designs for three bioretention areas along East Mount Vernon Street resulting in significant nutrient load reductions in the Borough's four (4) watersheds: Muddy Run - East Branch Octorara Creek; Little Elk Creek; Tweed Creek-Octorara Creek; and Big Elk Creek.

Payne Elementary School PTSA: *Washington, D.C.* - \$50,000 - For the installation of cisterns, pollinator gardens, vegetable gardens, native trees, and pavement removal. This project includes additional co-benefits such as increased educational opportunities, student access to healthy foods, and improved livability for the school community and nearby residents (an historically underserved community and a Title 1 Elementary School).

Prince George's County Government: *Glendale, Maryland* - \$150,000 - For pavement removal and installation of bioretention areas and bioswales in the Glendale Heights Subdivision within a zone of high poverty/extremely low-income family housing.

ShoreRivers: *Cambridge, Maryland* - \$26,210 - For engineered designs for bioretention areas, tree plantings, and conservation landscaping at St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners Catholic Church.

ShoreRivers: *Preston, Oxford, and Chestertown, Maryland* - \$47,706 - For the conversion of turf grass into native, pollinator-friendly meadows at three communities. Meadows will range in size from 5,500 square feet to 2 acres promoting more natural aesthetics, encouraging better use of excess water and nutrients, and serving as a habitat of native birds and pollinator species.

St. Luke's Youth Center: *Baltimore, Maryland* - \$22,510 - For engineered designs for two rain gardens at the Youth Center. These improvements will enhance the activities of the SLYC families and the historically underserved neighborhood.

Sustainability Matters: *Winchester, Virginia* - \$50,000 - For the conversion of turf grass into a native pollinator meadow located in Winchester's flagship park to offset pollution from passing vehicles and encourage community climate change awareness.

The Charles Town General Hospital dba Jefferson Medical Center: *Charles Town, West Virginia* - \$30,000 - For engineered designs for green infrastructure practices at the Jefferson Medical Center to reduce flooding at the campus and downstream neighborhoods in Ranson, WV.

Town of Ashland: *Town of Ashland, West Virginia* - \$104,120 - For the installation of a vegetated grass channel along Frontage Road featuring compost amendments, native grass plantings, and tree check dams.

Town of Bath: *Bath, West Virginia* - \$55,440 - For the installation of stormwater management practices to revitalize an abandoned rail yard into a usable community green space and will serve as an example of how to turn a barren gravel lot into a resilient landscape using green engineering.

Town of Bridgewater: *Bridgewater, Virginia* - \$127,079 - For the removal and replacement of impervious surface with permeable pavement to provide water quality treatment as well as flood mitigation and stress relief on existing storm conveyance systems.

Town of Colmar Manor: *Colmar Manor, Maryland* - \$80,450 - For the installation of permeable pavement and a bioswale along Newark Road.

Town of Romney: *Romney, West Virginia* - \$43,886 - For the installation of 65 native trees in areas with low amount of canopy.

Town of Romney: *Romney, West Virginia* - \$28,250 - For engineered designs for green infrastructure practices along South Marsham Street, a hub for economic, cultural, and community functions and facilities.

Virginia Community Voice: *Richmond, Virginia* - \$30,000 - For the installation of vegetable gardens and a rainwater harvesting system at the Oak Grove playground and Hickory Hill Community Center. This project creates green jobs for residents and improves equity in access to green space.

Warm Springs Run Watershed Association: *Berkeley Springs, West Virginia* – no direct funding - For technical assistance to develop a comprehensive reforestation plan for the Warm Springs Run watershed in West Virginia.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area, from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. We uniquely empower local community-based groups on the ground with the resources they need to take on a meaningful and measurable role in restoring forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities. Every year, the Trust empowers about 400 groups by providing grants and technical assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Chesapeake Bay license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades. On average, 90% of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

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