



## 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.

### PERLMAN PLACE, REAL FOOD FARM – BALTIMORE, MD

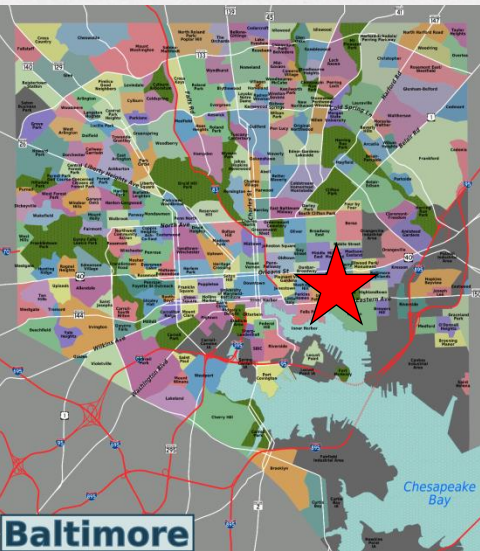
Vacant lots transformed into urban agriculture, a community amenity

The Perlman Place Real Food Farm will transform a derelict block of row homes into an open space with healthy soil and effective storm water management that will benefit the Harris Creek Watershed in east Baltimore. The project is a product of Baltimore City's 'Homegrown Baltimore' effort and addresses 7 of the 15 recommendations listed in the Harris Creek Small Watershed Action Plan (October 2010), drafted with community participation. Real Food Farm's Perlman Place site, at the southern edge Clifton Park, which connects several of the watershed's diverse neighborhoods and communities. As a result of public participation, the Perlman Place Real Food Farm has benefited from strong support and encouragement from the Harris Creek citizens and the Baltimore Water Alliance and serves as an example of a successful partnership between Baltimore City and the local non-profit, Civic Works.

imately 3,000 square feet of impervious surface and install a bioretention area along the low point of the site. The impervious pavement removal will promote on-site absorption of stormwater and the bioretention area will decrease flow to the city stormwater drains. The area exposed by impervious surface removal will be seeded with a succession of cover crops to improve the quality and biological activity of the soil. The impervious removal and bioretention area will also serve as a tool to directly engage students, volunteers, and visitors in experiential education that promote sustainable farming practices and local consumption.



The project will remove approx-



3000 sf of impervious pavement removed



2000 sf of bioretention



1000 native plants



120,000 cubic feet of annual runoff treated



100 volunteers



CivicWorks  
Baltimore's Service Corps

# PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Impervious pavement removal**– Removal of asphalt on a series of vacant lots will allow rainwater to penetrate the surface rather than run off into nearby storm drains
- **Bioretention cells** – These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground, before it enters into the storm drain system.
- **Conservation landscaping** – Native plants, which require less maintenance, capture rainwater and hold soils in place.
- **Soil amendment**– Soil amendments improve water infiltration, permeability, drainage, aeration, and structure.
- **Urban agriculture**– Local management firms, construction firms, and suppliers were engaged in the project, supporting local jobs.

# SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH: ADDITIONAL GREEN ACTIVITIES

The In recent years, Civic Works, Inc. has implemented several community projects within the Harris Creek Watershed including three rain garden projects and approximately 4,000 square feet of bioswales. Real Food Farm has hosted 700 students and volunteers and spread knowledge about the importance of protecting our watershed through these environmental projects.

Additionally, a mural at Real Food Farm engages all visitors specifically about the impact of agricultural practices on the Chesapeake Bay. The restoration project at the Perlman Place site furthers the narrative and strengthens the message of watershed stewardship.

At the Perlman Place Site, all who pass by the site will be either actively or passively engaged about positive watershed protection practices. Real Food Farm markets its food products at community produce stands which are promoted through community associations in low-to moderate-income neighborhoods such as Belair Edison Community Association and Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation.

G3 Grant Awarded: \$50,000  
 Match Contribution: \$18,800  
 Status: underway



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| <b>Soil Production</b><br>compost drop-off<br>windrow<br>worm-bin<br>annex-compost | <b>Food Production</b><br>orchard<br>field crops<br>hoophouse tunnel<br>herb garden<br>bees<br>seed starting house | <b>Amenities</b><br>pavilion<br>farm office/shed<br>bathroom<br>processing station<br>refrigeration unit |
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Real Food Farm – Clifton Park site storm-water management projects – underground cisterns and 4,000 sf bioswale

Project Partners: Civic Works, Real Food Farm, City of Baltimore, Blue Water Baltimore, Chesapeake Bay Trust, MD Department of Natural Resources; , U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.