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\$1.3 Million in Funding Announced to Support 32 Chesapeake Green Infrastructure Environmental Projects in DE, MD, PA, and WV

Laurel, Delaware – The Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust), manager of the funds from the Maryland “Protect the Chesapeake” license plate program, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are pleased to announce \$1.3 million in grant funding to be awarded to 32 projects as part of the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) partnership. These awards help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff, increase the amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, create “green jobs,” and enhance livability in cities and communities.

“One of our top priorities at EPA is water infrastructure – and the G3 program is showing how we can reduce pollution to local waters and the Chesapeake Bay in affordable, sustainable ways,” said **EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Acting Regional Administrator Diana Esher**. “These 32 projects awarded this year are vital to protecting our air, water, land, and public health. It is exciting to see so many organizations committed to improving the environment.”

The award announcement was made at one of the project sites, the future location of the Laurel Police Department in the Dunbar Building in Laurel, DE. The award of \$99,000 will fund the construction of bio-retention areas to capture and treat rainwater from impervious surfaces on the site, building on a previous grant in the same program for the design portion of the project.

“Projects like the one in Laurel show the value of adding green stormwater elements when other infrastructure improvements are planned,” said **Secretary Shawn M. Garvin of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**. “The projects planned throughout the region will help protect, preserve and enhance the quality of our water resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.”

“The Town of Laurel is appreciative of the Green Streets, Green Jobs, and Green Towns program,” said the **Mayor of Laurel, John Shwed**. “We are excited to contribute to a healthier environment and begin implementation of our two bioretention projects thanks to the G3 program that also allowed for us to develop the design and engineering plans.”

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Initiative was started in 2011, led by water experts at EPA and then expanded when Secretary Garvin served as the EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator, and it continues to grow. To date, 229 projects have received funding and \$13.1 million has been invested into greening communities. Almost 80,000 native plants and trees have been planted and more than 13,000 volunteers have been engaged. These numbers show the impact organizations can make through partnership.

“Maryland supports green infrastructure in many ways throughout the state, and we are honored to help administer this program,” said **Maryland Department of Secretary Natural Resources Secretary, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio**. “As communities work to mitigate flooding and additional rainfall, while also increasing our climate resiliency, these kinds of resources will become more important.”

The 32 projects span the Chesapeake Bay watershed and are located in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

“We are encouraged to see the number of organizations looking to add a green element to their infrastructure projects grow each year,” said **Dr. Jana Davis, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust**. “The 32 grantees that were recognized are taking actions that enrich not only natural resources but also their own local communities.”

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program Awardees

Backyard Basecamp, Inc., Baltimore City, Maryland - \$45,465

This organization aims to educate marginalized groups on the environment, self-reliance, and sustainability. This grant application is for the design, development, planning, and implementation of a bog and wetland on Bliss Meadows, a 10-acre land reclamation project in Northeast Baltimore City.

Bolton Hill Community Association, Baltimore City, Maryland - \$15,000

The Bolton Hill Community Association and Madison Park Improvement Association in Baltimore City will use the funds to identify opportunities to improve stormwater practices to increase the tree canopy, identify opportunities for native plantings, and replace impervious surfaces with more permeable materials to improve environmental quality and climate resiliency.

Bon Secours Unity Properties, Baltimore City, Maryland - \$34,065

This project will support revitalization of a long-abandoned community park in West Baltimore. Through this project, industry-driven, on-the-job training elements will be added to the organization’s Clean & Green Neighborhood Revitalization Program workforce development curriculum.

Capon Bridge Revitalization Group, Inc., West Virginia - \$78,500

Capon School Street serves as the main entrance to two public schools, a town park, the sheriff’s office, two churches, and two art and music schools. Funds will be used to incorporate green

infrastructure/stormwater management, such as bioswales, and art into traffic flow and parking layout, reducing climate impact through incorporation of sustainably focused features.

Center for Watershed Protection, Inc., Chesapeake Bay Watershed Wide - \$16,365

This effort will develop and disseminate a Stormwater Retrofit Pollutant Load Reduction Calculator to help Chesapeake Bay communities more easily and consistently estimate the water quality benefits of proposed stormwater retrofit projects. The tool will allow users such as local governments and nonprofits to calculate pollutant load reductions for individual projects consistent with the Bay Model and compare candidate projects based on cost-effectiveness and other factors.

City of Annapolis, Maryland - \$65,000

This project will provide community engagement, produce a conceptual design, and implement green infrastructure to provide ecological uplift to Hawkins Cove. The effort will encourage community investment in and enjoyment of the Cove and associated trails, will provide connectivity between the local neighborhood and Truxton Park, and will provide water access to certain communities in an area of otherwise limited access.

City of Frederick, Maryland - \$15,000

Funds will support the Green Streets Master Plan, a concept plan that will formalize the inclusion of green infrastructure in standard city practices for new development and during routine improvements. The outcome of this project will be a set of planning initiatives, quantifiable green infrastructure benefits, identification of potential green street projects, and green infrastructure standards.

City of Hyattsville, Maryland - \$15,000

This project is for a green streets concept plan in Hyattsville, Maryland. The City of Hyattsville has invested significantly in green infrastructure over the past 8+ years. In addition to the rain gardens, bioretention ponds, and green streets, the City has expanded the collection of electronic recycling, food scraps, and household paints; created both public and private tree planting programs; and grown the fleet of electric vehicles. This growth has resulted in the City needing a depot to manage these services, and to use green technologies to serve as a demonstration to other municipalities.

City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania - \$151,251

The City of Lancaster will design and implement a 2500-linear foot green street project on Landis Drive. Green infrastructure will be implemented as part of the larger paving project. The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements include six infiltration trenches that will treat stormwater from over 2 acres of impervious surface, resulting in the infiltration of over 1.8 million gallons of stormwater that would otherwise be directly entering the Conestoga River.

City of Salisbury, Maryland - \$100,000

The City of Salisbury is converting an area on the edge of the downtown, East and West Carroll Street, to a Parkway-style urban thoroughfare that will include green infrastructure. This project will set the standards by which the City incorporates active transportation infrastructure and water quality features in its future streetscapes. The City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan included

an emphasis on environmental concerns and this project aligns with that emphasis in its effort to construct a two-way protected bike lane, improved sidewalks, safe intersection crossings, and green infrastructure in the project area. The project builds on a series of successful green street projects completed in 2020. <https://vimeo.com/560083776>

Civic Works, Inc., Maryland - \$16,500

Civic Works will clean and green vacant lots in East Baltimore's South Clifton Park community in partnership with Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson School and the South Clifton Park Community Association. The lots will be cleared of trash and debris and native trees will be planted. This project will add greening to a historically disinvested community.

Commissioners of Ridgely, Maryland - \$14,940

The Town of Ridgely will develop a Green Street and Green Spaces Concept Plan to improve the connectivity of the Town's Central Avenue corridor to Martin Sutton Park, while using the benefits of "green street" tools and strategies along the connecting thoroughfares. This project will identify opportunities to increase street canopy, implement water quality features, and provide a safer walking and biking option to the park.

International City County Management Association, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Wide - \$19,750

Small and mid-sized communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and elsewhere face an urgent need for support in developing their capacity to build climate resilience. Green infrastructure has been identified as an approach that can build climate resilience while increasing opportunities for recreation, economic development, community revitalization, and a more sustainable local, regional, and national environment. This research will identify practices for small and mid-sized local governments on green infrastructure financing focusing on sources of funding from government and other sources; financing strategies; and innovations such as crowdfunding and philanthropic support.

Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc., Maryland - \$30,000

Award funding will be used to create a green infrastructure master plan for the Maryland State Fair campus, a concept design of one priority project, and educational signage to educate and engage the public in the Fair's stormwater and environmental projects.

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, Delaware - \$100,000

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will work with the City of Seaford to implement a green infrastructure project installation for Cornwell Street to achieve improved stormwater management and water quality protection. Cornwell Street drains directly into the Nanticoke River and improvements to stormwater management will have a direct impact on water quality in the Nanticoke River Watershed and Chesapeake Bay. Seaford is focused on reducing flooding in this area and creating a riverview destination to draw more people and businesses to this community.

Nature Sacred, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Wide - \$20,000

Funding will be used to quantify the scientific, health, and economics value of incorporating nature and green infrastructure into hospital and health-facility grounds. Existing research

related to nature and health will be evaluated, and economic models will be built to quantify savings that can be realized by hospitals when employing green spaces and incorporating them into employee and patient care.

Neighborhood Design Center, Maryland - \$15,000

Program implementers tend to describe tree benefits referencing environmental and social benefits that do not necessarily align with community values. We propose an approach that acknowledges and respects differing cultural values when discussing street tree benefits. Through surveys and interviews administered through the street tree program, the project leads will generate a cultural glossary of terms and to describe street tree benefits to build greater participation and greener communities.

Oxford Borough, Pennsylvania - \$14,847

The Borough of Oxford is seeking to cover the cost of a Green Street Conceptual Plan to green the areas immediately adjacent to 3rd Street in the downtown business area, to assist the Borough in its efforts to meet MS4 requirements by reducing stormwater runoff, to make Oxford a more pleasant place to live and work, and to assist downtown revitalization by enhancing visitor experience and implement traffic calming strategies. The plan will jumpstart green infrastructure initiatives in Oxford and the five surrounding municipalities through demonstration, education, and engagement.

Prince George's County, Maryland - \$80,000

Funding will support the preparation of a final green street retrofit design for a two-city block, 1150-linear foot section of Arundel Road in the City of Mount Rainier and the planting of 250 trees on publicly owned lands throughout the City. This project will finalize a tree planting plan that identifies tree planting locations within public properties and the public rights-of-way located in the City.

ReBUILD Metro, Inc. (f/k/a TRF Development Partners, Inc.), Maryland - \$15,000

ReBUILD Metro will partner with Parks & People Foundation, Rebuild Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization, The 6th Branch, and St. Frances Academy to complete a Master Plan for Greenmount Park and Athletic Field, a planned four-acre centerpiece to the \$80 million Johnston Square Gateway project in Baltimore City. This plan will involve removal of impervious surfaces from the site's existing vacant lots and a range of new greenspaces and community amenities. The project will create a green, sustainable connection from Johnston Square to the Jones Falls Trail and Mid-Town enhancing public health in a historically redlined community.

Ridge to Reefs, Maryland - \$50,000

Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm, located in the Park Heights neighborhood of Baltimore City, is an oasis of safety, education, and mentorship. The site includes two city blocks and is located within a US Department of Agriculture Healthy Food Priority Area, highlighting the area's lack of access to fresh healthy foods. This project will cultivate urban food forests on vacant lots, create a native/food forest tree nursery, increase pollinator habitat, install rainwater harvesting systems for greenhouses, and install planter boxes on vacant lots to increase

vegetative cover and food production while reducing runoff and supporting youth training and entrepreneurial skills.

Seton Hill Association, Inc., Maryland - \$15,283

Seton Hill is a historic and diverse neighborhood in central Baltimore whose tree canopy is limited beyond St. Mary's Park. The Seton Hill Association (SHA) is seeking funding to expand the urban tree canopy to link with tree planting efforts in neighboring Mount Vernon. Empty street tree pits in Seton Hill contain tree stumps or are too small for planting, according to Baltimore City standards. SHA will plant 64 new trees and remove 2,144 square feet of impervious pavement.

ShoreRivers, Maryland - \$89,802

This proposal seeks funding to construct the final two bio-practices that were designed as part of a plan to enhance capture and treatment of stormwater before it drains into Radcliffe Creek, an impaired tributary of the Middle Chester River watershed. This collaborative project between ShoreRivers, Washington College, and the Town of Chestertown is located in a highly active dormitory and recreation area of campus and will provide enormous educational opportunities for the college and greater community.

ShoreRivers, Maryland - \$12,432

Shore Rivers is proposing to create a conceptual plan to transform the Saint Mary Sinners of Refuge and Star of the Sea parish grounds into a "River-Friendly" Congregation. This plan would set the foundation and create a roadmap for the congregation to better manage their stormwater, enhance their climate resilience as an at-risk community, and provide a more robust green space for congregation and community use. This plan will help the community reach and support several local, regional, and state environmental goals, as well as support a highly diverse faith group that is a cornerstone of the community.

The 6th Branch, Maryland - \$47,500

The 6th Branch (T6B) and partners will build "One Green Acre," a tree nursery and community hub on North Montford Avenue, which will be the capstone to the Montford Avenue Green Corridor Project. This project builds on previous grants to develop and implement a "Greenprint" conceptual plan for Baltimore City's Broadway East neighborhood. The tree nursery that will anchor the corridor.

The Community Ecology Institute, Maryland - \$30,000

Funds will support engineered design plans associated with the green stormwater infrastructure concept plan developed for Atholton High School, which takes an integrated approach to improved access and safe connection between the school and the neighboring Community Ecology Institute farm to provide students access to outdoor environmental education opportunities. Once implemented, the project will provide highly visible demonstrations of best management practices and achieve health benefits for the Middle Patuxent Watershed. This project is part of a larger Walkable Watershed project that will address community stormwater management issues while simultaneously addressing neighborhood needs and quality of life goals.

Town of Bath, West Virginia - \$30,000

Funds for this project will construct a stormwater management system in a former brownfield using natural materials in various states of decomposition to create a stable ecosystem on an impervious urban lot. The project will restore a drastically disturbed urban lot by controlling stormwater runoff using natural soil building techniques and the construction of a retention basin that will improve its function over time as the system achieves ecological balance.

Town of Bel Air, Maryland - \$14,850

The Town of Bel Air is seeking to develop a Green Street Concept Plan for Burns Alley between Pennsylvania Avenue and Courtland Place. This project, visible from Main Street, will address a new vision for this 500 square foot corridor, seeking to redevelop approximately one acre of impervious area. The Town envisions a walkable destination that will include improved traffic flow, access to existing restaurants and shops, new commercial spaces, highlighted historical features, tree canopy, permeable services, and water quality practices.

Town of Galena, Maryland - \$16,750

The Town of Galena is seeking funds for the development of a concept plan that identifies potential solutions to address stormwater runoff that causes localized flooding in the area of Division Street and a parking area behind Sassy River Market, a local business. Along with green infrastructure practices such as bioretention, the project will use green infrastructure to improve the flow of traffic and improve the appearance of the area.

Town of Glen Echo, Maryland - \$14,700

The Town of Glen Echo has to date taken a piecemeal approach to stormwater remediation, re-directing limited resources to address issues as they arise. The recent increase in frequency and severity of storms has demonstrated that reactive remediation efforts are insufficient. This conceptual plan help prioritize investments in green infrastructure and will be a critical first step towards a greener and more sustainable Glen Echo.

Town of Laurel, Delaware - \$99,000

Funds will support the construction of two bioretention areas at the Dunbar Building, the new headquarters of the Laurel Police Department. This award builds on previous grants for the development of a conceptual plan and for engineering work.

University of Maryland College Park, Maryland - \$20,000

Funds will support a conceptual plan and 30% design for a stormwater infrastructure project in Forestville, Prince George's County, on property that is home to a headwater complex of a rare wetland type, the groundwater driven Magnolia Bog.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by the state statute dedicated to improving the natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's grantees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Maryland Treasure the Chesapeake 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 that enable grant-making watershed-wide. 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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