



TENCH TILGHMAN ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

School improvements bring a community together

PROJECT GOALS

Engage new communities through green infrastructure projects.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Surrounding communities are given the opportunity to learn about the importance of green infrastructure and how it can positively impact their lives and city.
- The creation of multi-use spaces throughout the neighborhood builds connection and cohesion.
- Planting vegetation beautifies the area.
- Research shows that well-maintained green spaces increase property values and reduce crime.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Reduced stormwater runoff led to improvements in water quality.
- Decrease in sediment pollution and nutrient contamination.
- Permeable surfaces absorb and filter stormwater, reducing flooding and contaminants entering local waterways.
- Wildlife habitat created by adding new vegetation.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- De-paving.
- Conservation landscaping.



New conservation landscaping behind the school will absorb stormwater runoff and provide habitat for wildlife. (Photo: Southeast CDC)



Prior to the conservation landscape, the area behind the school was mostly impervious surface. (Photo: Southeast CDC)

PROJECT SUMMARY

Blue Water Baltimore implemented green stormwater infrastructure projects and expanded outreach and planning services to previously untargeted neighborhoods in Baltimore City. These projects are reducing nutrient and sediment pollution, developing regional-scale partnership, and increasing community engagement. The removal of impervious surfaces and creation of conservation landscaping is now complete at Tench Tilghman. The school's staff, students, parent volunteers, and local university employees assisted with planting trees, shrubs, and other vegetation in the conservation landscaping projects. An outdoor classroom is slated to be installed in Fall 2023.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Consider how your project can be phased to take advantage of different funding sources. This project had a design phase and a construction phase, each with different funders.
- Be sure to consider the permitting and stakeholder approval process for your site in your timeline. This project required both construction permits as well as an internal review by the property owner, Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Be aware of the installation windows and seasonality; aim for construction during the spring or fall planting season to avoid the summer heat, when plantings are less likely to succeed. Due to a lengthy permitting/approval process, this project was delayed several months after we missed the spring planting window.
- Have a watering plan in place to provide supplemental water while the plants are getting established in the first few months after planting. We had to repair an existing hose spigot to ensure water access and volunteers from a local university watered this site multiple times a week for several months.

THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Southeast Community Development Corporation (Southeast CDC).
- Blue Water Baltimore.
- Baltimore Environmental Equity Partnership.
- Numerous local neighborhood associations.
- Patterson Park Audubon Center.
- Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.
- Neighborhood Design Center.
- Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- France-Merrick Foundation.
- Baltimore City Department of Planning's Critical Area Management Program.
- CityScape Engineering.
- EnviroCollab.
- Great Blue Co.

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