



EDMONSTON GREEN STREETS PROJECT

Residents reap the benefits from installing stormwater management practices.

PROJECT GOALS

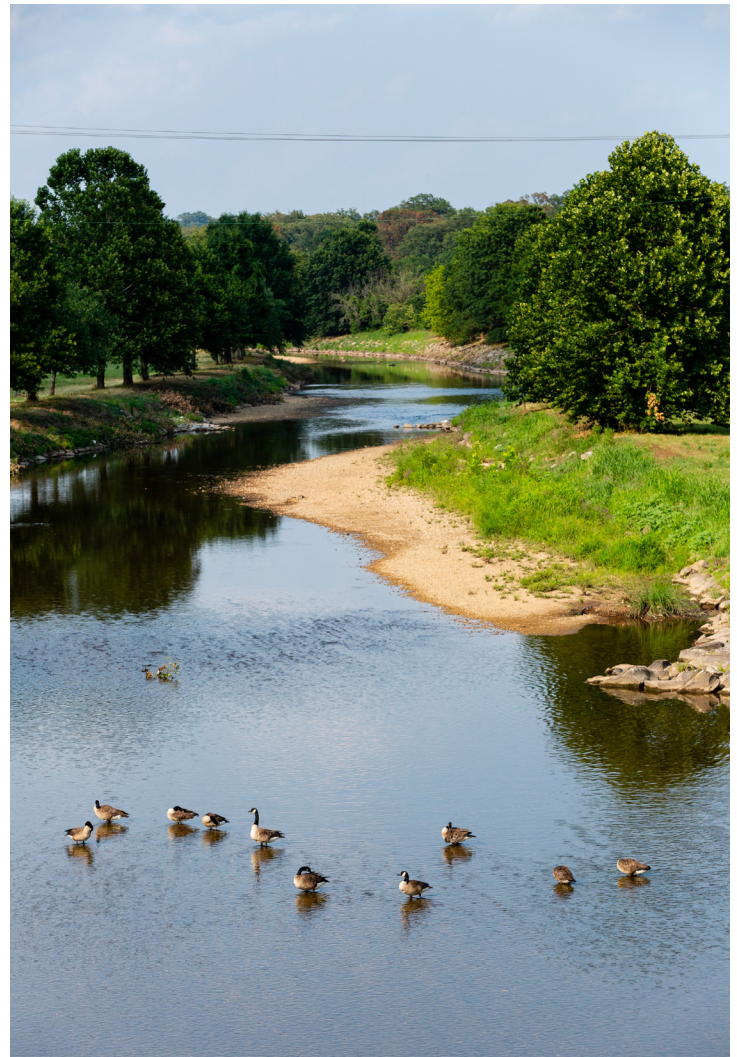
What began as an effort to manage stormwater due to the habitual flooding of Edmonston’s main corridor, Decatur Street, has evolved into implementing green infrastructure practices throughout the town. The goal now is to create a beautiful, environmentally friendly community where residents and businesses reap the benefits of “greening” Edmonston, Maryland.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Planting native trees provides shade for streets, sidewalks and homes, reducing energy costs.
- Streetscape improvements create cost-effective and safe areas for the community to bike and walk.
- Small businesses involved in the efforts have grown and expanded, creating additional jobs.
- Residents learn about the importance of trees and the positive impacts they can have on their livelihoods and community.
- Trees and shrubs protect residential areas and public spaces from flooding, lowering repair and maintenance costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Native trees and shrubs planted around residences and communities reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, beautify the area and provide wildlife habitat.
- Bioretention gardens and permeable surfaces help reduce flooding by diverting stormwater to areas where it can be controlled.
- Trees and shrubs provide natural water filtration, reduce soil erosion and help soils absorb and retain nutrients, which lowers the number of contaminants ultimately entering the local waterways.
- Trees (including fruit trees) provide food and habitat for the community and wildlife.



Photos by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

“The town of Edmonston is dedicated to protecting our environment through green initiatives. Resident expect the town to implement programs that protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”

- Rod Barnes

Town of Edmonston, Maryland

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Planting native trees.
- Bioretention gardens.
- Pervious pavement.
- Bike lanes and sidewalks added to slow traffic.
- Cost-effective streetscape improvements with the installation of LED decorative lamp posts, recycled trash receptacles and recycled benches.

PROJECT SUMMARY

A small, diverse, low-to-middle income community located in Edmonston, Maryland, believes if their community can succeed, then any community can. For several years, flooding occurred along Decatur Street, a main corridor in the town that crosses the Anacostia River. Beginning in 2009, the first “green street” project in Maryland, transformed a half mile strip of impervious pavement into a functional corridor that filters stormwater. Since then, the town has implemented a variety of green infrastructure projects including: installing pervious pavement; building bike lanes and wider sidewalk; adding efficient LED streetlight; installing rain gardens; planting native trees and fruit trees; installing recycled furnishings, and including trash receptacles and benches.

All these projects have helped to reduce flooding, beautify the area, provide food sources and instill a sense of identity in the community. The town will continue to focus their efforts on the greening of Edmonston with the hope of adopting a complete street policy—streets that serve multiple functions, including stormwater management. Complete streets are designed to meet the needs of different modes of transportation and different types of users.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- The success of tree plantings hinges on effective outreach planning, direct community engagement, forestry management support and tree maintenance activities.
- Increasing the number of trees planted spurs community participation and a willingness to protect and maintain them.

THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Prince George’s County Maryland State Highway Administration
- Neighborhood Design Center

CONTACTS

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Edmonston City Administrator Rod Barnes poses for a portrait in front of a rain garden on the grounds of the city’s community garden in Edmonston.



A rain garden sits at the intersection of Ingraham Street and Lafayette Place in Edmonston.



Rows of vegetables in raised beds comprise the city’s community garden.