



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2024

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ratasha Harley, One Annapolis, Inc: info@oneannapolis.org, 410-934-7403

One Annapolis, Inc. Receives Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust for Bywater Community Garden Expansion

Annapolis, MD – Community-based nonprofit organization, One Annapolis, Inc. has been awarded funding under the [Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns \(G3\) Grant Program](#) for the Bywater Community Garden Expansion project. This project aims to expand the existing community garden into a native conservation landscape- encouraging environmental stewardship, enhancing social networks, and introducing career opportunities in green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for all Bywater Mutual Homes residents.

Expanding the Community Garden: A Need for Environmental and Social Improvement

The expansion of the Bywater Community Garden addresses the need to replace conventional landscape maintenance practices with sustainable methods that positively impact both the environment and the community's well-being. The current maintenance routines, such as mowing grass, blowing leaves, and applying pesticides, are not recommended for conservation landscapes and often alienate residents from their surroundings. This project will help to transition away from these practices, while also providing residents with the opportunity to engage in gardening, socialize, and develop a sense of ownership over their community.

Implementing Sustainable Practices and Strategies

The project will utilize nature-based solutions to enhance the Chesapeake Bay watershed's health and resiliency. By expanding the community garden into a native conservation landscape, residents will gain hands-on experience in the installation and maintenance of designed native plant communities. This initiative aligns with efforts to incorporate green infrastructure practices into local infrastructure projects as a standard practice, which is so often missing in communities of color.



410-934-7403



www.oneannapolis.org



info@oneannapolis.org



Promoting Environmental Stewardship and Career Opportunities

The garden expansion will serve as a learning landscape, helping residents develop basic horticultural skills and prepare for careers in the green industry. The skills acquired through maintaining a bio-diverse, sustainable native landscape are essential for future job opportunities in maintaining nature-based stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and climate resilience solutions. This project will expose residents to potential career paths in environmental fields, fostering a stronger sense of environmental ownership and stewardship.

Promoting Equity, Access to Green Space, and an Introduction to Green Jobs

By expanding the longstanding Bywater Community Garden, this project further promotes equity in access to green space, offering residents a place to connect with nature and each other. This aligns with our collective environmental justice goals, taking one step closer towards ensuring that all communities in Annapolis benefit from a healthier, more sustainable environment. Moreover, the native conservation landscape expansion will introduce Bywater residents to programs like the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals certification, Maryland Climate Conservation Corps, and the American Climate Corps, providing scholarship opportunities and incentives for increased participation.

The Bywater Community Garden Expansion represents a significant step towards modeling what a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future can look like in a community that is often overlooked, underrepresented, and underserved. This project will not only enhance the environmental performance of the landscape but also create meaningful connections between residents and their environment, paving the way for future careers in the green industry. Learn more about this project on our website, <https://www.oneannapolis.org/bywatercommunitygarden>.

The Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Program is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. This collaborative effort supports implementation of the [Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order](#) and serves as a key component of [EPA's Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns \(G3\) Partnership](#). The G3 Partnership provides support for local, grassroots greening efforts to reduce stormwater runoff from towns and communities in urbanized watersheds.



410-934-7403



www.oneannapolis.org



info@oneannapolis.org