



Wednesday, August 07, 2024

Town of Brentwood awarded funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Climate Resilience Fund for community empowerment in climate resilience

BRENTWOOD – The Town of Brentwood was awarded project and technical support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) award program to facilitate community involvement in protecting the Anacostia Watershed and native habitats while enabling equitable access to green space and health and safety. Brentwood was also awarded Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) funding from the Climate Resilience Fund to strengthen community resilience while advancing priority projects from the Brentwood Climate Action Plan. Both projects are centered on community empowerment and collective decision-making, a central focus of the Town’s commitment to racial equity.

“This year’s extreme weather has shown us that climate resilience is critical to our community thriving,” said Lauren Rauk, councilmember for the Town of Brentwood. “We’re excited to be recipients of this support to help prepare our residents, business owners and faith communities for healthy futures and improved lives in our town.”

The G3 project will help bring together Brentwood residents, businesses, faith communities, stakeholders, and employees to create the vision and design for Bartlett Park, the town’s historic central park area. A central gathering place, the park supports municipal activity, community events, family outings, soccer matches and basketball games, and educational workshops. It features many beneficial elements for residents, businesses, and visitors yet it floods every precipitation event and isn’t enjoyed to its full potential. The G3 project will deliver bilingual opportunities for community-driven brainstorming and design with final plan recommendations that center equitable and inclusive access to the park and stormwater management practices through green infrastructure. Key partners include the Anacostia Watershed Society, Defensores de la Cuenca, Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake Bay, and Sustainable Maryland.

The CSCI project facilitates the implementation of adaptation solutions identified in the forthcoming Brentwood Climate Action Plan, which is in production through [support from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s](#) Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities program. Brentwood is increasingly susceptible to flooding and this project focus on bilingual community engagement and empowerment will help build climate resilience through education, green infrastructure, and landscapes designed to accommodate the impacts of a changing climate. Key





partners include the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and Nature Forward.

“In order for Brentwood to thrive in the face of climate change, we have to lead from a place of inclusion that puts community voices and needs first,” said Quianna Taylor, vice mayor for the Town of Brentwood. “Our constituents have to be at the table influencing the municipal policies and activities so we can deliver the tools that will work to secure a thriving Brentwood.”

Other key partners in these projects include Brentwood Green Team, Brentwood Native Plant Network, Brentwood Tree Committee, and Maryland Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegates Diana Fennell and Julian Ivey.

Learn more about the organizations supporting this work in the Town of Brentwood.

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns

The [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny River.

[Anacostia Watershed Society](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Anacostia River by bringing partners and communities together to achieve a clean and safe Anacostia River for the benefit of all living in its watershed and for future generations.

[Defensores de la Cuenca](#) is a non-profit dedicated to helping the Latino community connect with the natural world through knowledge, shared experiences, and opportunities to preserve and defend the Chesapeake Bay watershed for a healthier mind, body and soul.

[Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) works to engage congregations in being good caretakers of our shared watershed.

[Sustainable Maryland](#) is a certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green, save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

CSCI is managed by a consortium of partners, including CRF, [EcoAdapt](#), [Fernleaf](#), [Geos Institute](#), [ICF](#), and the [Environment, Equity and Justice Center at NRDC](#), working closely with the [Climate Program Office of NOAA](#). The initiative is made possible by funding under the Inflation Reduction Act as part of the federal government’s approach to the climate crisis.

The [Environmental Finance Center \(EFC\) at the University of Maryland](#) is one of ten university-based centers across the country that provides communities with the tools and information necessary to manage change for a healthy environment and an enhanced quality of life.





BRENTWOOD Maryland

[Nature Forward](#) inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

About the Town of Brentwood

The Town of Brentwood, MD is a culturally diverse community with nearly 4,000 residents along US Route 1 within Prince George's County, Maryland.

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