



On behalf of the Stormwater Partners Network of Montgomery County

Green Streets, Clean Streams

What are Green Streets?

- A County approved initiative led by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection **to help protect local streams and improve water quality**
- **Cost-effective, street improvements** designed to manage water pollution by slowing down water as it rushes over parking lots, sidewalks, roads, and other paved areas (impervious surfaces).
- **Pollution Reduction practices** that filter rainfall and runoff while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits
- **Local Stream Protections** that increase connectivity in our communities and support local jobs.



Why are Green Streets important in Montgomery County?

- **Improve our Water**
 - Each time it rains, water flows over paved surfaces, picking up pollution as it flows, until it reaches our streams and ultimately the water we drink. Green Streets allow water to slowly seep into the ground, filtering out the pollution and recharging our precious groundwater levels.
- **Reduce Polluted Runoff**
 - This polluted runoff contains dirt, oil, trash, bacteria from pet waste, and chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers. This pollution harms our local Montgomery County streams. Green Streets lets water slowly soak into the ground while plants and soil filter pollutants.
 - Our local water suppliers spend **billions of taxpayer dollars** cleaning up pollution. Kids can't swim and fishermen can't eat their catch if streams are polluted. Green Streets are part of the solution.
- **Create Connective Streetscapes**
 - Green Streets are designed with the neighborhood in mind. Plants are selected to be both

functional and attractive. By working with the neighborhoods, planners can design projects that are beautiful, provide habitat and be a great asset to the community. They also make our roads safer for everyone who walks, bikes, or drives.

How do Green Streets work?

- County planners identify and prioritize neighborhoods with opportunities to reduce polluted runoff
- These are often neighborhoods built before stormwater design standards were created
- Planners and engineers identify opportunities within a neighborhood and work with the community to identify where they can improve drainage and add features like planting panels, tree boxes, rain gardens, infiltration wells, and other ways to make the polluted runoff **spread out, slow down, and sink in** the ground instead of rushing into streams.
- After receiving community input through the design and permitting process, new Green Streets facilities are built in the public right-of-way, just like a new utility pipe or sidewalk

What can Green Streets provide in my community?

- **A more connected community**
 - Native plants and trees that improve quality of life, increase property value, and **decrease infrastructure costs**
- **Local jobs**
 - **Local funding** supports all of those working in our county who plan, design, install, and maintain these areas – including, consultants, private installers, landscapers, and other local businesses!
- **Local stream protection**
 - Green Streets reduce pollution, can help fix drainage and flooding issues, increase habitat and biodiversity, and secure **clean, safe drinking water**



Photo credit: Kit Gage