

Forest Heights Awarded \$35K for ‘Green Street’ Improvements

The Town of Forest Heights was one of seven municipalities, counties and nonprofit organizations in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania awarded funding from the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns initiative sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Grant recipients were recognized at a July 24 ceremony in front of the reconstruction site of Dunbar Senior High School in the District of Columbia. Ward III Councilman Larry Stoner represented the Town on behalf of Mayor Jacqueline Goodall, who was unable to attend due to a public hearing on the proposed stormwater legislation for Prince George’s County.

D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and Town of Bladensburg Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr. were among those who attended the ceremony.

The initiative supports local and regional efforts to reduce stormwater runoff through the creation of “green” streets. According to the Chesapeake Bay Trust, a “green” street:

- Integrates a system of stormwater management to increase infiltration and/or filtration of runoff, reduce flows, and enhance watershed health.
- Reduces the amount of water that is piped directly to streams and rivers.
- Makes the best use of street tree canopy for stormwater interception as well as temperature mitigation and air quality improvement.
- Encourages pedestrian and/or bicycle access.
- Provides an aesthetic advantage to a community.
- Minimizes impact on surroundings through a natural systems approach incorporating a variety of water quality, energy-efficiency and other environmental best practices.

Forest Heights will receive \$35,000 to make improvements to Arapahoe Drive, thereby transforming it into a premier “green” street.

Other grant recipients included: the District of Columbia; City of Cambridge, MD; Town of Bladensburg, MD; Prince George’s County, MD; Borough of Northumberland, PA; and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, VA.