

Darley Park Gateway Park

mostcenter.org/casestories

Problem:

Post-demolition lots in the Darley Park neighborhood were strewn with trash and had sat for decades unused. Gateway Park is located at the center of the neighborhood and was also plagued with vehicle traffic and compacted soil that contributed to stormwater runoff. It was an eyesore and diminished the neighborhood's charm and safety.

Solution:

To turn the vacant lot from a liability to an asset, community members organized gatherings and installed inviting art and play equipment to spark interest in revitalization. They reached out to Parks & People for technical assistance and, with funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, designed a community park that incorporated stormwater management features. Twenty new trees and four bioretention areas were incorporated into a design that now provides a safe place for residents to gather and socialize.

Community Engagement: The 6th Branch, a veterans nonprofit organization, maintains the site one day a week with the help of community volunteers.



Demolition lot in Darley Park before revitalization
Photo Courtesy of: The 6th Branch



Lot after revitalization
Photo Courtesy of: The 6th Branch

Key Project Facts

Project Location: Baltimore City, MD

Type of Project: Other—Reclaiming and Repurposing

Size: 20 trees & 4 bioretention areas totaling 2,194 ft²

Pollution Reduction: 5.72 lbs nitrogen, 0.6 lbs phosphorus, 221.94 lbs sediment

Total Cost: \$629,175

Funding Sources: Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Under Armour/ESPN

Partners: Parks & People Foundation; The 6th Branch; Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD); the Water-front Partnership; the Neighborhood Design Center; Civic Works

Contact: Laura Connelly
Parks and People
laura.connelly@parksandpeople.org

What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Stormwater projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. Projects like these keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!