

## Waverly Farmers Market

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### ■ Problem:

Abandoned lots in Baltimore City were flooding and creating unsightly conditions, public health issues, and decreased property values.

### ■ Solution:

A call about a flooded abandoned lot by community organizers in the Waverly neighborhood set in motion a series of events that are transforming areas of urban Baltimore into oases of nature, food, community, and placemaking - all while giving stormwater a place to go.

The Community Lot program, initiated by Civic Works and funded by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other community partners, reclaims and transforms abandoned lots throughout the city. When trainers and community volunteers break up impermeable surfaces and install gardens, the city's dead zones come to life again.

Flooding from heavy rains has decreased, and nearby communities can now enjoy nature, access fresh fruit and vegetables, and bond with their neighbors. The Waverly Farmers Market is held weekly in this reclaimed lot providing fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and more.



The Community Lot team recruits volunteers to create gardens in abandoned lots in Baltimore.



Removing paved surfaces opens up the earth and its bounty to underserved communities.

Photo Credit: Civic Works

## Key Project Facts

**Project Location:** Baltimore City, MD

**Type of Project:** Other—Reclaiming and Repurposing

**Funding Sources:** National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

**Partners:** Civic Works, AmeriCorps, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Waverly Main Street community

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## 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!**