These partners will engage five targeted neighborhoods representing a diverse mix of under-served communities to comprehensively address the stormwater, greening and targeted public health goals in each area.

Blue Water Baltimore has a holistic set of programs and staff expertise that will be targeted within these five neighborhoods, as well as $2 million in leveraged capital improvement funds from the City. This new approach moves us away from the traditional program model of installing isolated practices, and moves us toward a comprehensive and community-based approach that breaks the cycle of planning fatigue through immediate and longer term solutions.

Our Approach

- **DEEP BLUE IS A COMMUNITY-BASED** approach to planning with a targeted focus on restoring environmental health through green infrastructure. **WE RECOGNIZE** that Baltimore City communities have a wide range of priorities, and the environment is not always the first among them. At the same time, environmental restoration produces tangible benefits that improve public health and economic outcomes.

- Using the **WALKABLE WATERSHED MODEL**, we will bring together community members, non-profits, and city agencies to identify greening projects on public and private land that advance community priorities.

- **COMMUNITIES WILL IDENTIFY NEEDS**, the city and non-profits will analyze their feasibility and divide the projects so those identified on private lands are addressed by non-profit organizations while the City will work to implement projects on public land.

Under this approach, communication will be streamlined, enhanced, and will allow for more meaningful community input. This partnership approach will maximize the strengths of each partner, leverage scarce resources, and accelerate on the ground efforts.
Our primary partners are the communities that we seek to serve. We want to first listen to communities to better understand their aspirations for their neighborhoods, and to offer our assistance in meeting these. Communities were selected based on a variety of criteria which includes: the existence of a previous relationship with Blue Water Baltimore, their inclusion in the City’s Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), an active community association, and an opportunity for community revitalization.

Goals
- **A DEEP BLUE MASTER PLAN**, held by each party, with prioritized map and list of potential projects, assigned to responsible parties.
- **IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS** such as installation of 125 rain barrels, stenciling projects, trees planted, and impervious paving removed.
- **ROBUST RELATIONSHIPS** between communities, non-profits, and government agencies, leading to more effective planning, spending, and implementation of projects.

Neighborhoods
- Mondawmin, Oliver, Greater Highlandtown, Belair-Edison, and Cherry Hill

Benefits
The benefits of green Infrastructure such as rain gardens, curb bumpouts, planting trees, and other educational projects, are not solely environmental. Adding plants to vacant properties can reduce crime and dumping on those lots.

Trees can help control flooding, reduce the urban heat island effect, and improve property values. Cleaning the streets of trash improves overall health, and promotes civic engagement and community relationships. Although green infrastructure is by no means a “silver bullet,” we hope to address important community needs through this collaborative listening, planning, and implementation process.