

## **Conway Street Park's North Plaza Renovation Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How was this project chosen to be funded by the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (SBGP)?**

The SBGP Enhanced Services program improves public spaces within the South Baltimore Gateway District by implementing capital, maintenance, and programming enhancements. This work is separate from SBGP's Community Grants program and does not involve a public call for grant applications. Enhanced Services projects are selected by staff members, based upon established organizational priorities, and the Enhanced Services budget is fixed at the beginning of the fiscal year. The North Plaza design project is addressing safety and accessibility needs specifically expressed by the community for this public space.

### **What are the intended goals of this first phase of the project?**

While small, Conway Street Park is a beloved and well-used park nestled in the Ridgely's Delight neighborhood. The southern section functions as a traditional park, featuring a walking trail, grassy lawns, and benches. The northern brick plaza, however, has fallen into disrepair. Tree roots have impacted the brick surface, limiting what could be a more usable public space. SBGP led a competitive request for qualifications process to select EnviroCollab, a landscape architecture firm, to work with the community to identify ways the space could be restored and feel more connected to the rest of the park. The goal will be to increase the amount of usable public space available to the neighborhood. This phase of work will also include looking at Conway Street Park holistically, to ensure any improvements complement how the neighborhood already uses the park. This project will result in a comprehensive plan for future improvements to the park, with a specific community-led design for the North Plaza. The end result will be a potential design for the North Plaza and a construction budget to implement the recommended improvements, including an ADA accessible public space, enhancements to green space through additional planting of native plants and trees, and materials that allow for limited maintenance to ensure a beautiful space for years to come.

## **Will this project impact the parking lot located to the north of the plaza?**

No. The design team will look at ways to improve neighbors' ability to access the park through the lot, and ways any construction to the plaza may improve drainage in the parking lot to prevent further degradation of the lot surface, but the parking lot is currently not included in the scope of this project.

## **What are the opportunities for the community to provide input into this project?**

The community will have multiple opportunities to meet with SBGP and the design team to share their thoughts on how the North Plaza can be improved. There will be a [community meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Pickles Pub](#) (hosted by SBGP, [EnviroCollab](#), and the Ridgely's Delight Community Association) with an option to attend virtually, an in person event located inside the park so that neighbors can meet the design team on site tentatively scheduled for sometime in May, and an online survey where neighbors can submit their feedback electronically. [Please sign up for SBGP email announcements and follow us on social media to receive the latest news as it becomes available.](#)

## **Will the plan involve the removal of any trees?**

At this time, the scope of work only includes a design for the North Plaza. Any improvements or physical changes to the site, including any potential impact on existing trees, will happen only if SBGP and the City of Baltimore decide to move forward with construction. There will be an opportunity for the community to give feedback on the final design prior to any construction. The City of Baltimore's forestry division, which includes experts in tree health, is a key partner in this project and will be advising our design team on any changes to the tree canopy of the North Plaza.

## **What City agencies are involved in the project?**

The North Plaza of Conway Street Park is currently owned by the City of Baltimore and a majority of the site is controlled by Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development. The Department of Transportation is responsible for the sidewalk space located along Conway Street. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Forestry Division is responsible for

maintaining the trees. This will be an interagency project and require a lot of coordination on the part of SBGP and the design team. All potential plans will be ones made in coordination with the agencies that are responsible for managing the space.

Please contact Liz Cornish, SBGP's Enhanced Services Director, at [lcornish@sbgpartnership.org](mailto:lcornish@sbgpartnership.org) with any additional questions.