

Greenleaf HOA Raingarden

Problem:

Stormwater flows at the Greenleaf housing development were overwhelming existing stormwater infrastructure. Flooding, erosion, pooled water, slippery sidewalks in winter, and an undermined foot-bridge all created unsafe conditions for pedestrians.

Solution:

The Howard County READY (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth) Program – which provides summer employment for high school and college students – supplied labor to retrofit problem areas in the community. READY teams excavated target spots, installed a rock channel, planted conservation landscaping, and installed four rain gardens. Utilizing READY workers kept overall project costs to a minimum.



The READY team is ready to go!



Native plants mark the entrance to the HOA community.
Photo Credits: Greenleaf HOA

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention

Cost: \$6,500

Funding Sources: Howard County Stormwater Fees

Community Involvement: The READY program provides underprivileged youth with opportunities for employment and training within their communities.

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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.

Storm water projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

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