

Raining Classrooms at the Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School

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Problem:

Water runoff from storm events collected in pools on the road and driveway in front of the Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School, causing flooding in the summer and dangerous icy conditions in the winter. A \$10,000 under-road culvert was proposed as a solution, but was beyond the school budget.

Solution:

Through a \$5,000 grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and CB Trust, 24 teachers were transported to the school site for training events on the importance of addressing storm water before it reaches nearby waterways. A rain garden installed in front of the school now diverts runoff from 90% of all rain events. Additionally, the rain garden serves as a teaching tool for many of the school's outdoor education programs, which are attended by children from Washington County Public Schools.



Before Rain events caused flooding on front lawn, driveway and building entrance, creating dangerous conditions



After The completed project. Raingarden planted with native plantings and capturing rain water!

Photo Credit: Cacapon Institute

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention

Scale: Rain garden treating 1,000 gallons per rain event from 2,000 square foot lot

Cost: \$5,000

Funding Sources: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Trust provided \$3,500 for teacher training and \$1,500 for materials, design and installation of the rain garden

Partners: Cacapon Institute and the Maryland Association for Outdoor and Environmental Educators (MAEOE) for organization and facilitation

Contact: Eddie Waldron,
Claud E. Kitchens Outdoor School
301-766-8138

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. They 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!