



Polluted Runoff: Solutions

Howard County

READY Program—Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) is a program conceived by People Acting Together in Howard (PATH) and administered by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to achieve multiple goals in Howard County, MD. Using municipal county grants designated for storm water management projects, READY provides high school students with paid summer jobs, while simultaneously helping the county meet its water quality goals.

To date, READY has designed and installed over 14 rain gardens and other storm water management projects and has employed youth during the summer months. Many youth have continued to work after high school graduation, and are now earning \$16/hour as Crew Leaders. READY also employs eight full-time, year-round staff.

READY partners with Landscape designers and nurseries and provides a formal training program for its employees, including job site behavior guidelines, motivational training, team building exercises, conflict resolution and first aid training.

The Parks & People Program has partnered with READY to review the effectiveness of its installations and to monitor pollution reduction, and to replicate successful Green jobs programs throughout the state.



Photo Credit: Green For All, READY



Photo Credit: READY websites

Rain garden projects through READY:

Cost per Average Rain Garden: \$13.26/SQ FT including labor and materials

Average Time Required to Install: 4.75 work days for crew of 6 plus a team leader

The Funding Sources: Grants from the Department of Natural Resources, other public grants, and many of the projects ready works on are funded through stormwater runoff fees.

The Partners: People Acting Together for Howard County (PATH), The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Howard County, Parks & People, University of MD Sea Grant Extension.

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More info and video: http://www.greenforall.org/page_restoring_the_environment_and_developing_youth

