

Second Baptist Church Community Garden

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Problem:

The Second Baptist Church wanted to reduce their stormwater utility fee. In addition, the church wanted to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to its congregants and the community to improve their health outcomes.

Solution:

A 10,000 gallon cistern was installed to capture stormwater and eighteen impervious parking spaces were removed to accommodate a one-acre community garden. A native rain garden allowed the congregation to better manage stormwater and reduce their stormwater utility fee by 20 percent. A vegetable garden is used to engage and educate local youth and community members on gardening and healthy eating.

Community Engagement: After the project was installed, the congregation held a three-week workshop on “feeding the mind, body and spirit.” Community members who attended the Saturday workshop received a free 4’ by 8’ raised bed that was built and delivered to their homes. Gardening programs for the Latino community are also held at the site. Youth from nearby schools and the juvenile justice system volunteer at the garden to receive community service and civic engagement hours.



The Church gave up eighteen parking spaces to make room for the rain garden.



The vegetable garden, after construction.

Photo credit: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Key Project Facts

Project Location: Richmond, VA

Year Installed: 2016

Type of Project: Bioretention

Scale: 10,000– gallon cistern and one-acre community vegetable and rain garden

Cost: \$110,000

Funding Sources: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Partners: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Contact: Ann Jurczyk, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; ajurczyk@cbf.org

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!