

Beth Shalom Rain Garden Expansion

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■ Problem:

The congregation of Beth Shalom had a rain garden installed in 2012, but it was proving inadequate to manage runoff from the facility's large roof. This was causing erosion on the congregation's grounds.

■ Solution:

The Howard County READY (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth) Program – which provides summer employment for high school and college students – helped retrofit Beth Shalom's rain garden. Two-foot wide auger holes were drilled in the ground and filled with stone to facilitate greater infiltration. The garden was also expanded to handle greater stormwater volumes, and drainage issues have been completely resolved. Ongoing maintenance will be provided by READY's Garden Maintenance Program, which will visit the site 4-6 times per year.



The raingarden under construction



The new raingarden alleviated flooding. Photo Credit: The READY Program

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention

Cost: \$4,980

Scale: 300 square foot bioretention area

Partners: Howard EcoWorks; Howard County READY (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth) Program; People Acting Together in Howard (PATH)

Funding Sources: Howard County Stormwater Fees

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Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcCJp3xnvrC>

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 stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!