



Chesapeake Conservation Corps

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is a program that provides service-learning opportunities and green job training for young adults through environmental and energy conservation projects. This initiative, supported by the Trust, Constellation Energy, the National Park Service and the state of Maryland, pairs young adults with organizations that provide hands-on environmental, leadership, and technical training opportunities for a one-year term of service.



Agriculture Conservation Corps

The ACC program engaged 15 Prince George's County High School Students in a 6 week sustainable agriculture experience through Prince George's County Youth@Work SYEP.

23,600 sq. ft of wetlands restored

75 sq. ft. of invasive species removed

100 volunteers

200 students engaged

20 lbs of trash removed

20 workshops

CCC Member: Eric Armstrong

The Agriculture Conservation Corps program was the second part of the CCC volunteer's capstone project. It involved recruiting 15 Prince George's County high school students through the Youth@Work Summer Youth Enrichment Program who would spend 6 weeks participating in hands on sustainable agriculture and environmental education. The ACC interns worked from 8:30am-1:30pm Monday through Friday from June 27-July 1 and 8:30am-2:30pm Monday through Friday from July 11-August 12.

The week of July 4-July 8 the youth attended a Prince George's Community College Job Readiness Training. Each week of the ACC program was paired with a theme or objective. These themes included an introduction week, permaculture, urban agriculture, modern homesteading, careers in sustainable agriculture, and a capstone project week. The curriculum for ACC combines hands-on experience with discussion/activity based learning. The ACC interns completed a workshop with a permaculture expert, went on

a field trip to ECO City Farms, and met with leaders in environmental advocacy.

Along with these larger events the interns spent time developing a wide range of skills such as species identification, crop cultivation, culinary arts, and public outreach. The interns also learned about being more socially and environmentally conscious members of society, and the importance of diet and exercise to their health.

The main objective was to give these students the most enriching experience possible, which at times was very difficult due to the often complex and difficult natures of farming and high school students. Hopefully this experience benefits them for the rest of their lives, and gives them tools to positively contribute to their schools, families, and communities.



Wetland Workshop

The wetland enhancement project engaged 15 Prince George's County high school students in a two day workshop focused on a wetland area in the center of an offgrid sustainable farm. During the workshop participants learned about the importance of wetlands to environmental health, and implemented a permaculture technique known as hugelkultur, or "hill culture," to enhance the water retention quality of the wetland as well as provide high quality growing space. The workshop was held during one of the first weeks of the Agriculture Conservation Corps (ACC) program at the Accokeek Foundation. The ACC group finished the project with a stronger understanding of water conservation and experience in permaculture landscape design. The physical size of the hugel is about half of what was expected due to time and labor constraints. The size is still enough to make a significant impact on water retention in the area. The vast majority of labor including digging a trench, sawing up branches and logs, and assembling the hugel with wood, soil, and straw was accomplished by the interns. The project also involved an educational discussion based portion that included watching videos about wetlands and the services they provide. The hugel positioning was meant to complement another wetland barrier created by volunteers in a previous project on the farm. The Ecosystem Farm at the Accokeek Foundation is adjacent to the Potomac River. Initiatives on the farm have eliminated chemical fertilizer and pesticide inputs. The use of permaculture techniques made this possible by promoting biodiversity and soil health. The hugelkultur technique extended the wetland habitat and created growing space that will increase in fertility as the hill decomposes. The design supplies plants with a steady supply of nutrients from decaying organic matter. Different parts of the hill bed can be used meet different crop's drainage and sun requirements.



ACC Interns (top) learned about a permaculture technique known as hugelkultur, or "hill culture," before constructing a hugel (bottom).

CBT Grant Awarded:	\$1,025
Accokeek Foundation:	\$555
Total:	\$1,580

Project Partners:

