



GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.



4,000 gallons of stormwater diverted per 1 inch rainstorm



300 native plants installed



240 sq. ft. of rain garden created



3 rain barrels installed



300 people with increased awareness and knowledge



15 workshops with 400 attendees



HOOD COLLEGE

The Frederick Food Security Network Greening Project

The goal of Hood College via the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant, under the greening urban vacant lots category, was to convert previously unused space into beautiful and productive community gardens that support the environment. The Frederick Food Security Network (FFSN) helped tremendously over the project's two years. They helped install 8 traditional beds, 3 Vegetable Rain Garden (VRG) beds, 2 water barrels, and a pollinator garden (300 square feet) at the Islamic Society. This process involved 57 volunteers who collectively gave 449 hours in building and growing food. Additionally, 12,125 gallons of water were diverted during the summer of 2019 which was used to sub-irrigate the VRGs.

4 VRG beds, 1 1,650 sq. ft. pollinator garden, 1 rain barrels, and a greenhouse were installed collectively at the Boys and Girls Club of Frederick and at the Hood/Frederick Health Resource Garden. These gardens have been used by kids involved in BGC summer camps and after-school programs to teach them about growing food, trying vegetables, and helping the environment.

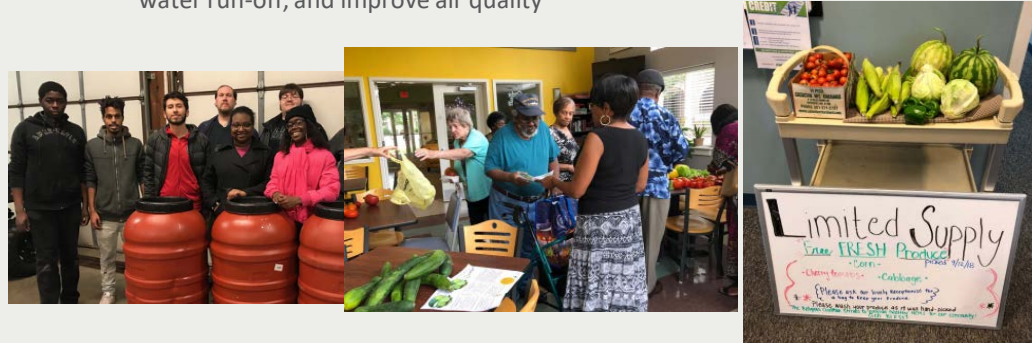
The college's 2019 end-of-year survey showed an overwhelmingly positive experience for the children involved, who gave it an average of 4.2/5 stars. 71% of them said they definitely want to help in the gardens again next year.

The greenhouse installed at the Frederick Health Resource Garden allowed the team to grow beyond the traditional summer growing season and to distribute produce for more months of the year. The VRGs have also expanded their capacity of what we can grow, and the College intends to use the community area with picnic tables as a gathering place where community members can learn more about our VRGs and the FFSN.

Hood College was able to grow and distribute just shy of 3,000 lbs. of produce in 2019 (compared to approximately 1,600 lbs. grown in 2018 before this project was completed). That produce reached approximately 855 low-income households in Frederick (compared to approximately 400 the previous year).

PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Rain gardens**— These features filter and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system
- **Compost bins**— Compost bins reuse garden waste to turn it into nutrient-dense soil for the following year.
- **Engagement of Local Community**— This project engaged 355 volunteers, for a total of 3,743 hours, from the local community to assist in the completion of the project.
- **Native Plants**— Native plants offer numerous benefits. Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water. They provide vital habitats for birds, insects and other species of wildlife, prevent water run-off, and improve air quality



Year Awarded: 2018
Award Amount: \$65,136
Matching Amount: \$52,319

Project Installation



Finished elements



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

The produce recipient surveys showed a very positive response from and impact in the targeted community. 83% report having eaten “all” or “most of” the produce they received, so food waste is very low (compared to 40% of food getting wasted nationwide). Self-reported benefits of receiving produce include eating more vegetables, trying new fruits and vegetables, reduced financial strain, trying new recipes, and more.

The environmental benefits of this project are broad reaching and include the diversion of stormwater which in total amounted to 24,000 gallons of rainwater diverted during the one-month period Hood College tracked rainfall in the summer of 2019, during which time the sites received over 16 inches of rain. As Maryland has an average annual rainfall of 40” per year, these VRGs could potentially divert up to 60,000 gallons annually.

In an effort to divert waste from the landfill generated in the Hood College gardens, the project team installed composting worm bins to help address this need. The team was able to compost 90% - 100% of garden waste from the time the worm bins were installed in the fall of 2019.

Through presentations and networking at several conferences, a partnership with the University of Maryland (Center of Excellence at the Nexus of Sustainable Water Reuse, Food, and Health) CONSERVE group, tabling several events, and hosting community events, Hood College reached a large number of people in Maryland and beyond to let them know about the project and how others can replicate it.

Project Partners: Boys and Girls Club of Frederick, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Hood College, Islamic Society of Frederick, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency