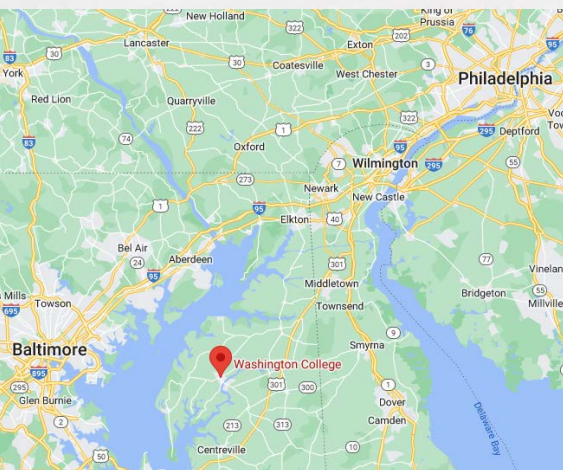




GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

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.



567 sq. ft. rain garden installed



10 local green jobs supported during construction



4 trees planted



1 workshop with 20 attendees



925 native plants installed



918 sq. ft. impervious surface removed



SHORERIVERS

Greening the Washington College Campus: Inaugural Stormwater Retrofits

Inspired by similar stormwater management retrofits that ShoreRivers completed at Chesapeake College in 2017, Washington College was eager to improve its campus sustainability profile.

Washington College operates a historic campus containing minimal stormwater treatment facilities from which it experiences frequent nuisance flooding. The College is located in Chestertown, MD on the Chester River, an impaired tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. As such, the College identified water quality improvements and stormwater management as major areas of need during a comprehensive sustainability planning exercise.

ShoreRivers and the College selected this site after conducting an analysis of drainage areas and potential stormwater projects. It was selected as the highest priority site of 8 total drainage areas considered based on the percent or impervious area, large drainage area, visibility and accessibility, and pollution removal efficiency.

The full project included three new parking lot biopractices, all located in a heavy-traffic dorm and recreation area of campus. The retrofits increase nutrient uptakes and create pollinator habitat, and are now used as educational tools for the college. This project was also consistent with the County's Middle Chester River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy, as well as the Kent County Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).



PROJECT ELEMENTS

- **Rain gardens** – These features filter, store, and reduce stormwater runoff, allowing it to infiltrate into the ground before it enters into the storm drain system.
- **Green jobs and engagement of local businesses** – Local survey, and engineering firms, and suppliers were used to complete the project, supporting local jobs.
- **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.
- **Impervious pavement removal** – Rain hits impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roads, and because it cannot soak through, it instead runs off into storm drains or directly local waterways.



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

The College is responsible for all maintenance going forward, with support from the college's Building & Grounds department, the Office of Sustainability and Regenerative Living, the Student Environmental Alliance, and the Chestertown Environmental Committee. Aside from Buildings & Grounds staff, these other supportive committees maintain a roster of active and enthusiastic volunteers.

This project and another Green Streets project done by Shorerivers in Cambridge at the American Legion Post 91, are examples of using the "Dig Once" concept to leverage private investments to increase water quality protections. ShoreRivers intends to aggressively pursue this strategy to increase stormwater practice upgrades and installations throughout its Eastern Shore region and will work to find new community projects that are open to incorporating green components at the same time as the gray infrastructure elements, as these upgrades cost less than if later retrofitted with green infrastructure. American Legion Post 91 and Washington College each invested in the gray infrastructure components of the upgrades—resurfacing and curb placement—providing the required matching funds for the green infrastructure components paid for by Green Streets grants. A winning strategy for all.

Year Awarded: 2020

Award Amount: \$100,000

Match Amount: \$15,830

Project site before



Construction



Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, ShoreRivers, Underwood and Associates, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington College