

You Can Get There From Here.

Stream Restoration Challenge

Howard Community College interns, local middle school students and teachers, and READY (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth) conservation landscapers, remove invasive species, plant native trees and shrubs and learn about the history and ecology of this part of our campus.

When Howard Community College accepted the challenge from the Maryland DNR college faculty, staff and students were joined in the effort by local middle school students and other non profit organizations along with engineers, contractors and designers. The work involved heavy construction to rebuild the stream, replacing invasive plants with native species and creating new forest along the stream banks.



SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY, AND EDUCATION

WHY

PROBLEMS

- Increased run off from buildings and pavement transports pollutants and sediment from erosion
- Sediment is third worst pollutant of the Chesapeake Bay
- Columbia's streams are rated 'poor' by EPA and DNR



BENEFITS

- Pollutants absorbed by flood plain and plants
- Erosion reduced
- Restore groundwater supplies and aquifers
- Better habitat for native plants and animals
- Less money needed for dredging sediment
- Greater understanding of natural systems by students and community.



HOW



Howard Community College leads a stream restoration project to restore and stabilize 500 linear feet of perennial stream channel on its campus located in Howard County, Maryland. The college was awarded funding for the project through a grant provided to local government organizations in an effort to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and create service-learning and environmental literacy activities for students. The plan is part of Governor O'Malley's *Stream Restoration Challenge Grant Program*. Portions of the existing stream have become extremely degraded over time due to land use changes in the drainage area.

The plan will restore adequate floodplain access to the stream channel where degradation has caused the stream channel to become entrenched.

PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Howard County: Office of Sustainability, Parks & Recreation
- Howard Soil Conservation District
- Army Corp of Engineers

CONTRACTORS

- Village Gardeners – Native Plants
- The Tech Group – Civil Engineering
- Wright Environmental – Environmental Design
- HTI – Construction



COMMUNITY

- Middle Schools: Bonnie Branch, Clarksville & Patuxent
- Chesapeake Bay Alliance
- Howard County Forestry Board
- Sierra Club
- READY program

