

## What are communities doing with their Community Stormwater Partnership grant?

### About

Howard County, MD acknowledges the strength in community partnerships and recognizes the importance of supporting stormwater management and water quality improvement projects on private property owned by Nonprofits and Homeowner's Associations. Likewise, Howard County recognizes the financial difficulty these organizations face in implement projects and changes within our communities. In 2022, Howard County allocated \$267,217 to a total of nine nonprofit organizations and homeowner associations to support communities' missions to increase stormwater management practices and strengthen the health of the County's environment. Project status summaries are listed below:

### Oakland Mills Interfaith Inc. - Upper Parking Lot

#### *Status: In progress*

Oakland Mills Interfaith's (OMI) upper parking lot is primarily a hardscape area without any stormwater controls, and currently, stormwater runoff flows into a single stormwater sewer inlet without any interception of runoff from the driveway. To address runoff concerns, OMI designed a project to capture driveway and parking lot runoff through the installation of drainage trenches into two bioretention basins capable of holding 1.3 inches of rainfall over the entire area. Additionally, OMI plans on planting natives in the bioretention basins and on the basin slopes to enhance their stormwater management capabilities.

### Oakland Mills Interfaith Inc. – Cistern

#### *Status: In progress*

Two downspouts attached to Oakland Mills Interfaith's Room 100 routes a significant portion of stormwater discharge down a moderately steep hill into an existing storm sewer inlet, resulting in erosion and sediment deposition. Oakland Mills Interfaith's solution is to install a 1000-gallon cistern to capture rainwater. The downspouts are equipped with diverters and leaf screens allowing winter water to discharge directly into an above ground perf piping system so as to minimize erosion. The cistern itself is equipped with an additional leaf screen and mosquito coil. Water collected by the cistern could be used to water the conservation landscape and rain gardens on site. Additionally, OMI will install a conservation landscape which will serve as an overflow space for water not retained by the cistern on the existing hill made up of a variety of native plants such as Wild Ginger (*Asarum Canadense*), Christmas Fern (*Polystichum Aerostichoides*), and Golden Ragwort (*Packera Aurea*). The cistern and conservation landscapes visible and accessible location provide ample opportunities for signage and education.

## Wimbledon Townhomes – BMP Demonstration

*Status: In progress*

Wimbledon Townhomes, a community approximately 5.64 acres and a part of the Patapsco Watershed, has a history of stormwater flooding. Downspouts discharge to backyards and pervious areas causing problems in their back lots. Additionally, slopes greater than 15% have bare eroded areas. In 2022, Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) came out and recommended the community install a grass swale, or other drainage feature, to drain stormwater into a bioretention area to capture sheet and roof flows. The community will also install native plant landscaping and increase forest canopy to further reduce stormwater sheet flow, roof flow, and eroded areas.

## Melchior Property HOA - Community Stormwater Partnership Program Support

*Status: Complete*

The Melchior Homeowner Association located at Fuzzy Hollow Way in Marriottsville, Maryland is approximately 13.2 acres and is apart of the South Branch Patapsco region. The first primary building was built in 2012, but the development process began back in 1997. There are several features that address stormwater on residential properties in the community such as rain gardens. The most recent home built has permeable pavements and downspouts connected directly to dry wells. Despite the residential buildings having stormwater features built on their property, the community still faces excessive water runoff at the entranceway, utility and driveway easements and other common areas. It was recommended to increase forest canopy by implementing tree succession to manage stormwater runoff.

Melchior completed a large tree and shrub planting following WSA's recommendation to better manage stormwater runoff in the community through expanding tree canopy on the community. A total of 26 trees consisting of October Glory Red Maples, Eastern Redbuds, Cherokee Brave Dogwoods, and a Fringetree were planted. An additional 4 Ruby Spice Summersweet Clethra bushes were planted. Melchior will continue to water and re-mulch to ensure success and continued maintenance of the project.



*Before photo of stormwater pooling at the driveway entrance (2022).*



*Before photo of stormwater pooling on street beside retaining wall (2022).*



*After photo of tree plantings at the driveway entrance (2023).*



*After photo of tree plantings beside retaining wall (2023).*

## Clocktower Crossing Community Association- The Sloping Greenscapes of Clocktower

*Status: In progress*

Teresa Guzman and the Clocktower community, has taken big strides in addressing stormwater runoff. Clocktower Community Crossing is a hilly street near the Little Patuxent River with 141 town homes in Columbia, Maryland. Clocktower has begun working on a project to mitigate runoff and erosion, increase native habitat, and improve overall visual appearance of the community. The proposed project to address these impacts will include constructing a rain garden and large conservation landscape, and planting native trees. A survey was created to collect feedback and information to measure community awareness of stormwater management practices to help shape the educational component. A community BBQ cookout event kicked off the project. The purpose of this event was to increase community engagement and raise awareness of the project and stormwater management practices.

Several Pull and Plant events in which residents pull invasive and replace them with native plants, were hosted since the project kick-off. An educational powerpoint was made to show images of project site locations, invasive species, and proposed replacement plants native to Maryland. At this time, the project is expected to be completed by the end of August.