



Session: Tapping the Power of Youth in Urban Greening
Time: 29 January, 4:00-5:30PM
Presentation: READY
Presenter: Donald Tsusaki, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPING YOUTH

Howard County's READY Program



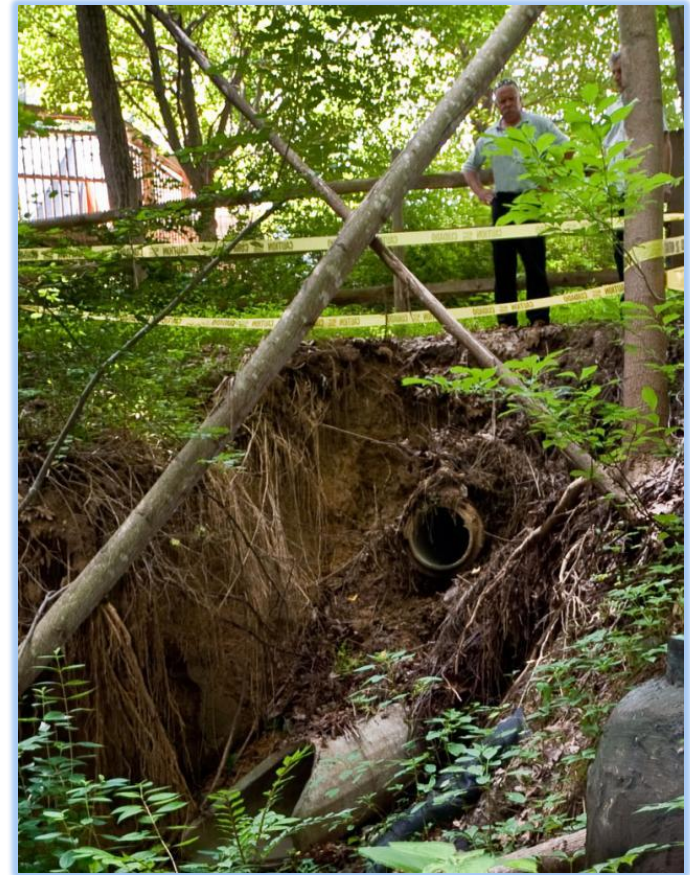


Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (*READY*)

Creating green jobs for young adults, working to improve watershed health through reduction of stormwater runoff



- Jobs for young adults
 - Unemployment rate higher than average
- Impervious surfaces create stormwater
 - Pollutants & sediment carried to rivers/streams
 - Regulations to reduce pollutants & sediment
- Increase public awareness





READY Partners



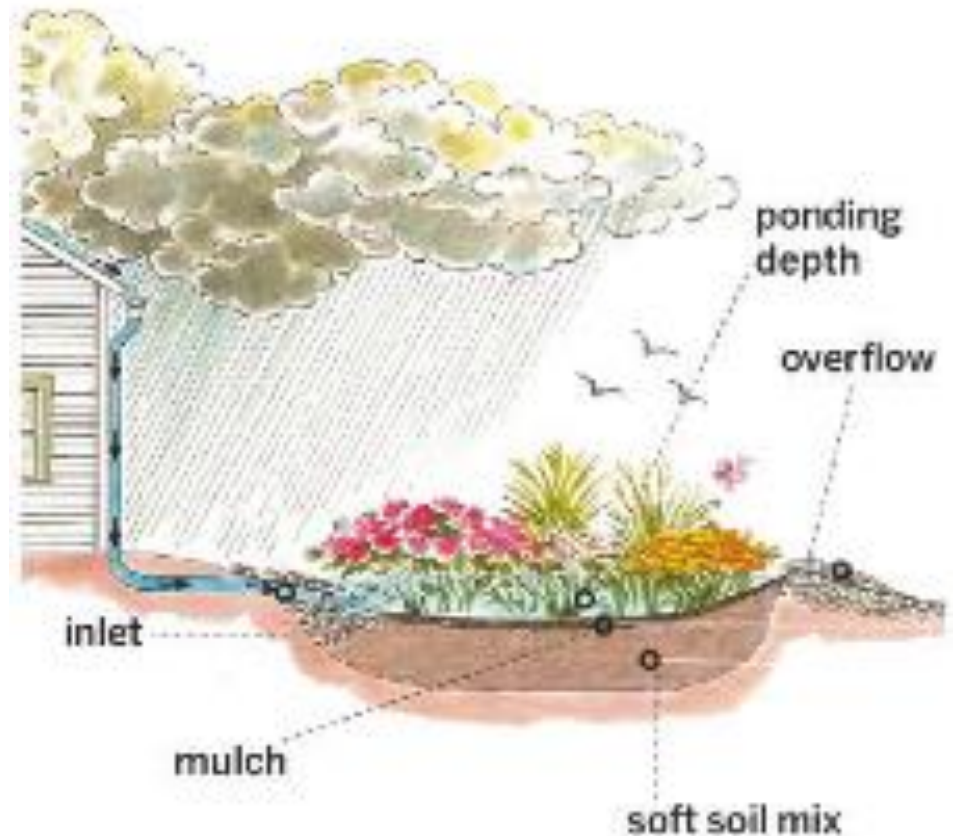


2014 Summer Program

- Hired 44 young adults, 16-26 years old
- Training: 2 weeks for Crew Leaders, 1 week for Crew Members
 - Topics such as leadership, domain knowledge, work skills, safety, policies
- Organization:
 - 6 Crews (Crew Leader plus 5-6 Crew Members each)
 - 2 Drivers
 - 2 Rain Garden Designers
 - 1 Operations Manager
- Customers are non-profit organizations
 - E.g., congregations, schools, homeowner associations
- Workday: 7AM-3PM, 5 days/week, 8 weeks for Crew Members
- Environmental Education Days

What is a Rain Garden?

- A rain garden catches runoff from rooftops, driveways, and parking lots
- Shallow depression and sandy soil mix allow water to soak into the ground
- Reduces water getting to stormwater systems
- Filters pollutants



©Illustration courtesy of Rodica Prato

Rain Garden Treating a Parking Lot



Rain Gardens



Rain Gardens



Working



Working





Learning





Making a Difference



Making a Difference





Making a Difference

- 126 job positions created in the summers of 2012-2014
- 90+ rain gardens, conservation landscapes
- 40+ locations
- 400,000 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces treated
- 825,000 sq. ft. of drainage areas
- Launched Full-Time READY Crew
- Public encounters: talks, exhibits, church services, council meetings, etc.

Students changing directions

- Clarifying education goals
- Defining career paths
- Making behavior changes
- Educating others





Thanks for Your Attention!

For further information, contact:

Donald Tsusaki
Project Manager, READY
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
dtsusaki@allianceforthebay.org

