

Regional Collaboration on Stormwater, Flooding and a Pollinator Corridor

BACKGROUND

US Route One in Prince George's County, Maryland weaves through a diverse collection of cities and towns. It widens and narrows through densely populated residential areas and highly traversed suburban and commercial areas, passing through industrial and agricultural lands and connecting major highways. While Route One's significance as a long-distance travel route through the state has waned, it remains a major thoroughfare in the individual towns it traverses and provides an opportunity for connectivity and cooperation.

Sustainable Maryland, a flagship program of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, has long held a presence in these communities, supporting efforts to enhance quality of life across a variety of sustainability sectors. This Route One Corridor partnership among a dozen communities working together to improve local and regional resilience has emerged from those efforts, with a particular focus on improving stormwater management, mitigating flooding and expanding pollinator habitat.

The City of Hyattsville's Food Forest addresses multiple challenges including the need for stormwater management, pollinator habitat and food security.



HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

University of Maryland

PARTNERS

City of College Park
City of Greenbelt
City of Hyattsville
City of Mount Rainier
Town of Berwyn Heights
Town of Bladensburg
Town of Brentwood
Town of Colmar Manor
Town of Cottage City
Town of North Brentwood
Town of Riverdale Park
Town of University Park

LOCATION

Route One Corridor, Prince George's County, Maryland

SCALE/SIZE

Collective population: 104,665

KEYWORDS

Collaboration, flooding, stormwater, pollinator, resilience, equity

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APPROACH

The Maryland EFC project team led the Route One Corridor communities through a process of identifying and prioritizing shared areas of need; facilitating the development of solutions and Action Plans; and engaging partners and service providers that can support Action Plan implementation. This began with the 2nd Annual Route One Corridor Green Team Summit to introduce this opportunity and to solicit input on what specific issues the communities would like to collaborate around. Stormwater management, flood mitigation and the development of a pollinator corridor emerged as the top priorities for the group.

This Green Team Summit was followed by a series of three convenings each for a stormwater/flooding group and a pollinator group. These discussions were used to identify and map “hotspot” areas where repetitive problems occur or where existing practices and open space could be expanded upon. The groups also brainstormed potential solutions and their equitable distribution, opportunities, partners and funding that could set a collaborative path forward.

These conversations were developed into Action Plans for each group which were vetted at the close of the project during the 3rd Annual Route One Corridor Green Team Summit. These Action Plans are designed to serve as a roadmap for the communities as they continue move these initiatives forward.



A green roof at Riverdale Park Station offers both stormwater management and pollinator habitat benefits.

KEY FINDINGS

Working with the Route One Corridor communities revealed findings that can provide helpful context in supporting communities in their efforts to collaborate around becoming more resilient:

Collaborative approaches are critical. Environmental challenges rarely follow jurisdictional boundaries, and actions taken in isolation can create unintended consequences for upstream and downstream neighbors. Collaborative approaches offer more holistic, regional solutions.

An outside convener can be key to initial coordination. While it can be challenging to coordinate

across jurisdictions, many are eager to do so given the opportunity, and a neutral convener can help jump start collective action.

Peer-to-Peer exchange is highly valued. The most readily accepted approaches and solutions were those learned about from their neighbors.

Collaboration expands efficiency and capacity. Working together provides access to the skill sets, like GIS, and resources, like outreach materials, of neighbors.

An Action Plan maintains momentum. A roadmap for next steps enables communities to keep moving forward even in the absence of a facilitator.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [MOST Center for Dig Once](#) coordination of plans and priorities.
- [Campus Community Connection](#) for coordinating convenings among researchers and local communities.
- Route One Corridor Stormwater & Flooding Action Plan
- Route One Corridor Pollinator Action Plan

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