



Hickory Ridge Village Watershed Advisory Committee (HRVWAC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The following are some of the activities that the HRVWAC participated in during 2018-19

PAINTED 10 Storm Drains (summer 2018)

Storm drains are infrastructure designed to drain excess rain and ground water from impervious surfaces such as paved streets, car parks, parking lots, footpaths, sidewalks, and roofs. We paint the storm drains with phrases that remind residents not to dump their liquids into the drains, thus contaminating our rivers and streams. Based on prior experience with Howard County recommended paints eroding very quickly, tests were conducted on these drains to find the best base coat and top coat to use. Painting of storm drains is an ongoing project dependent on weather and HRVWAC member availability.

CONDUCTED SURVEY on Rain Garden Satisfaction (January- February 2019)

Over 100 rain gardens were installed in HRV over the past 5 years through the CA Cost Share program. We reached out to those residents who installed them and asked for feedback on how the garden was performing, how the plants were surviving, and for newer rain gardens, what the experience of installation was like. The survey had a 45% response rate and resulted in over 25 requests for WAC members to come review the rain gardens and assist residents.

SPONSORED SEMINAR on Rain Garden Maintenance (March 28 2019)

40 residents attended the seminar to understand economical ways in which they could assure their rain gardens were kept healthy and capable of absorbing storm water while assuring it does not overflow into other areas or endanger the home foundation. The presentation was provided by Jenny Wientkowski, a Howard County Ecoworks landscape designer.

STORM WATER ASSESSMENTS (March and April 2018)

An article published in the HRV LOG offered residents the opportunity to have an HRVWAC member visit their home and provide guidance on how to deal with stormwater issues they were experiencing. Over 15 assessments were conducted and reports issued to the homeowners. The majority of these homeowners began to make modifications soon after they received the reports.

SPONSORED SEMINAR on Landscape Pruning (May 8 2019)

HRVWAC organized this seminar to help residents understand why, when and how to prune landscape bushes to provide health, beauty and security for your residence. 21 residents attended. The presentation was provided by Joe DiGiovanni, a Howard County Master Gardener.

PARTICIPATED in Columbia Cleans (April 2019)

Organized by the HRV Office, the HRVWAC members attend to ensure that residents are provided information of why we need to assure trash does not enter our streams and cause harm to our wildlife.

WALKABOUT CLEANUPS (year long)

The HRVWAC members walk the neighborhoods of HRV quite often. When time allows we use bags and gloves provided by CA to collect trash along the streets and deposit it in appropriate bins (trash/recycle). Thus far we have collected over 20 bags of trash.

DEVELOPED GUIDELINES on Rain Garden Maintenance (April 2018)

HRVWAC developed a set of guidelines that can be provided to residents on how to maintain rain gardens themselves, without a landscaper. These have since been provided to members of the CAWAC from all other HoCo villages to share with their residents as necessary.

LOG Articles (year long)

In an effort to keep our residents aware of issues that impact our water and how they can help keep it clean, the HRVWAC publishes articles in the HRV LOG on a regular basis of one each month.