

RIVERDALE PARK

Accessory Structure Grant Program and “Go Green” Initiative

The Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland (TRP) initiated a program called the [Accessory Structure Grant Program](#) in 2018. The program’s objective is to enhance the overall appearance of residential properties, produce high-quality housing and neighborhoods, and mitigate certain types of environmental issues. The program is advertised on TRP’s website with applications in both English and Spanish available for download.

The program supports residents of owner-occupied properties who want to demolish, improve, repair, replace, or create a safer accessory structure on their property. Projects could be replacing a rusted chain-link fence, renovating a dilapidated shed, or removing an old garage or wall that may contain asbestos or other hazardous materials. TRP reviews the application, and if approved, the property owner could receive up to \$1,000 in matching funds (grant) to complete the project.

The program has been successful providing funding to four families in the Town of Riverdale Park, with over \$16,300 distributed in total. The projects included a fence replacement, shed repair and a porch renovation. TRP staff encourage grant recipients to use “green” reclaimed materials and non hazardous products in these projects. Riverdale Park is working to provide a safer, sustainable, and more aesthetically pleasing community for its residents, and the Accessory Structure Grant Program is helping to accomplish that.



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In 2018 the Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland (TRP) initiated a program called the “[Go Green Initiative](#)” by passing resolution [2018-R-7](#). This initiative promotes environmental sustainability through the exemption of building permit fees for the installation of solar panels. In a series of resolutions to support sustainability during a challenging time for both personal and economic health throughout the world, the TRP Town Council re-committed to this program by passing resolution [2020-R-15](#) passed in March 2020.

The program promotes environmental sustainability within the jurisdiction by waiving Town building permit fees, including application fees, otherwise charged by TRP for the installation of solar panels on any residential, commercial, or industrial property in the Town’s corporate limits.

To date, four families have taken advantage of the “Go Green Initiative” to install solar panels. These four families have saved nearly \$2,000 total in building permit fees, while also saving money on their utility bills, reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, increasing their property values, and reducing the collective dependence on fossil fuels. Any for-profit business compliant with State, County, and Town requirements is also eligible to apply for the incentive.

