

RIVERDALE PARK

Food Security - Bountiful Buckets

In March, 2020 the Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) introduced a series of initiatives designed to help its residents with the spike in food insecurity caused by COVID-19, including funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars program conducted at the Farmer's Market, establishing the Farmer's Market Dollars Program, and the Direct Benefits Grocery Program, that provided vouchers to over 54 families in need. The TRP was one of the first local governments in the county to take immediate action on the issue of food security for its most vulnerable residents as a result of this pandemic crisis. Soon after, the innovative Town staff promoted yet another creative and inspiring solution, [Bountiful Buckets](#), to enable residents to provide essential, nutritious food for their families.

While gardening in general helps increase access to healthy food, not all residents have the capacity to grow supplemental food. Apartment dwellers are certainly among those most limited. The Bountiful Buckets program, a creative extension of the Town's new Food Forest, addresses this, allowing residents of multi-family buildings to grow and harvest produce on their balconies and patios, turning unused space into a food asset.

TRP's Department of Public Works (DPW) headed the project, and set a goal to distribute 150 buckets. They purchased buckets, soil, and plants and erected tents behind the Public Works building, rigging sprinklers to ensure the health of the plants. The gardeners provide water and tender, loving care (TLC) and then reap (and potentially share) their harvest.



Tents erected with a sprinkler system - behind the Public Works Building


The Town provided residents at local meal distribution centers with information about the program, asking interested persons to register. Additional outreach was done through the Riverdale Elementary School (PTA and Social Worker), and Pastor Slye at the Christian Life Center. To avoid a transportation barrier (the buckets and soil being heavy), DPW also visited apartment complexes to show residents what was available and offered delivery where needed. TRP further broadcast the Bountiful Buckets Program on their cable channel, through social

RIVERDALE PARK

media, and in the Town Crier. Outreach materials are available in both English and Spanish. What a wonderful success story this has been because, as of June 2020 more than 140 grow buckets have been distributed to families!

RIVERDALE PARK
Bountiful Buckets

A Program of the Town of Riverdale Park's Food Forest Initiative



The Town of Riverdale Park is introducing the Bountiful Buckets Program!

This program will enable residents of our multifamily buildings to grow and harvest vegetables on their patio or balcony.


We provide the buckets, the plants, and the soil. You provide the TLC!
Residents interested in the program should call 301-927-6381.

Make your bucket garden the talk of the town!
Share your bounty with your neighbors!

Town of Riverdale Park - 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 (301) 927-6381

RIVERDALE PARK
Baldes Abundantes

Un programa de la Iniciativa de Alimentos Forestales de la Ciudad de Riverdale Park



La ciudad de Riverdale Park presenta ¡El programa de Baldes Abundantes!

Este programa permitirá a los residentes de nuestro edificios multifamiliares cultivar y cosechar vegetales en su patio o balcón.

Proporcionamos los baldes, las plantas y la tierra. ¡Usted proporciona el TLC!
Los residentes interesados en el programa deben llamar al 301-927-6381.

¡Haz que tu jardín de baldes sea la charla del pueblo!
¡Comparte tu recompensa con tus vecinos!

Town of Riverdale Park - 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 (301) 927-6381