

The Master Peace Community Farm



Researching, demonstrating, and promote a just, equitable, and sustainable food system that provides abundant, healthy, and safe food to all residents through entrepreneurial urban farming, youth education, and community gardens.



The Master Peace Community Farm is the Engaged University's demonstration of urban agriculture in the County and the State. We plan to bring our current farm to scale to provide a replicable model of farm to school agriculture and to educate County residents and policy makers about sustainable local food production & green businesses. We propose to:

1. Expand the Master Peace Community Farm to an adjacent one-acre parcel of land, and hire local residents to farm this expanded farm project;
2. Sell produce to Prince George's County Public Schools for a new salad bar to feed low-income students at neighboring William Wirt Middle School;
3. Increase sales at local farmers markets, community-based grocery stores, and restaurants;
4. Serve as a model for intensive urban agriculture, research and policies that enable for the replication of this project to other neighborhoods, schools, and communities.

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62nd and Sheridan Street, Riverdale, Maryland 301-405-0656

The Master Peace Community Farm is a project of
The Engaged University, University of Maryland Extension.

Expanding the Farm



We have positioned ourselves for this unique and strategic expansion. We are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding for the long term use of a one-acre parcel of land owned by the County Board of Education and located between the Center for Educational Partnership and William Wirt Middle School. Additionally, we have agreements for the purchase our produce with the PGCPSS Food and Nutrition Serves, who will serve it at a salad bar at William Wirt Middle School, providing us with ample demand and fiscal security. This model, once operational, can readily be replicated at schools across the region.

The Engaged University's Master Peace Community Farm is located in Riverdale Heights, an inside-the-Beltway food insecure low-income community in Prince George's County, Maryland. We seek to increase the farm's capacity to grow and market local food to low-income community residents through a farm expansion that specifically targets two distinct low-income markets: students receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) in the public school system, and local farmers markets and community food stores in low-income neighborhoods where customers are supported by EBT, WIC, and other food assistance programs. Promoting local food and implementing efficient food production projects in low-income neighborhoods reduces the energy used to transport food by long-distance air or highway travel, cuts the amount of greenhouse gasses involved in food production and distribution, increases food security and the availability of healthy and fresh produce, and creates lasting local jobs in food production.

Prince George's County has great potential for reinventing local food production: feeding its residents, preserving its open space, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, and creating long-lasting green jobs. Our state roads, highways, and skies are traversed daily by countless trucks and airplanes filled with food from California or even other countries that could easily have been grown on County farms, leaving local farmers struggling and local children inadequately nourished. Available County space, low-density suburban development, and significant numbers of low-income and unemployed residents make possible a range of peri-urban and suburban agriculture solutions that make healthy food not only more plentiful, but also more sustainable.

As the Engaged University expands its entrepreneurial infrastructure, we will also reach out to public officials and interested farmers to replicate and extend community-based farming in the County and throughout our region. By demonstrating how urban agriculture can significantly boost employment in local food production, distribution, and marketing, we will encourage, inspire, and train a new cadre of low-income farmers. By bringing our current demonstration of entrepreneurial food production to scale, we can show that neighborhoods and communities throughout our region can produce both food and jobs through a replicable urban farm- to -school program.

