Green Roof (Fredericksburg, VA) Downtown Greens Green Shed Completed in 2004

The garden shed on the upper site of the Downtown Greens Community Garden was originally conceptualized as a green roof demonstration project. Designed by architect, Jeff Sties, AIA (Charlottesville) the green shed with its 16' x 24' green roof was constructed primarily by volunteers in the community. The final components of the green roof, adding the layer of dirt and planting the sedums, were completed in April 2004.

Construction – The garden shed is a post and beam building with a living/vegetated roof. Local contractor Jason Gallant spearheaded the project's construction including installation of the technologically advanced roofing material. Building Logics (Virginia Beach) provided the special green roof membrane material.

The material is light and easy to install, remarkably thin, up to an inch thick, and incorporates two layers of tarpaper for waterproofing, sandwiching a layer of copper foil that prevents intrusion by plant roofs. The top layer is composed of nylon netting and silica gel, which holds water to provide a ready source of moisture for the plans.



Architect Jeff Sties' initial renderings of his garden shed design. The overhanging top roof area is covered in soil and colorful sedums, a succulent plant grown specifically for green roofs.



Other Stromwater Management Practices - The lower parking lot at Downtown Greens serves as a demonstration on the use of eco-pavers. The environmentally friendly eco-pavers were installed in 1998, and continue to allow water to infiltrate back into the groundwater through the soil and clover that lies between the cement patterns. No chemicals or fertilizers are used in the garden areas, a practice that protects water draining off the site from excess pollutants.

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ACCESSIBILITY: Weekly garden hours. Sites visits are preferred during garden hours: Thursdays 3-6 pm and Saturdays 9a m - 12 noon; however, the site is accessible to the public and open for viewing throughout the week.

DIRECTIONS: I-95 to VA-3 via exit number 130A toward Fredericksburg (2.7 miles). Take the VA-2/US-17-BR ramp toward Dixon St/Tappahannock/Bowling Green (0.1 miles). Take the VA-2/US-17-BR N ramp toward Downtown (<0.1 miles). Turn left onto Dixon St/VA-2/US-17 BR (0.3 miles). Upper garden site with green shed is to your right. At light turn slight left onto Charles St. Lower garden site is behind building at 206 Charles St.



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