

Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Partner Spotlight
3. LMPP Community Garden
4. Partner Updates
5. Food Security
6. 2025 Brainstorming Results
7. 2025 Projects and Goals
8. Meeting Close
 - Contact HSMP
 - Submit your flyers

Introductions

- See our attendee list [here](#)

Action Team Co-Chairs

- **Christine Delise**, Community Development Coordinator at Aetna Better Health of Maryland
- **Tytiana Snyder**, Environmental Health Admin Specialist at SMCHD

Partner Spotlight

Molly Moore, President of the Southern Maryland Audubon

- Master Gardener and MD Master Naturalist
- View the slides [here](#)
- View the video [here](#)



Our Mission: To promote appreciation, conservation and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitats through education, research and outreach.

www.somdaudubon.org
@somdaudubon
@southernmarylandaudubon



OUR WORK

- Bird conservation
- Native plants for birds
- Field trips for all ages
- Nature workshops & talks
- Bird camp scholarships
- Education outreach



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Sign up for our free “Osprey” newsletter at www.somdaudubon.org to receive info on our free monthly wildlife talks & events



JOIN US!

Your membership, donations & volunteer efforts support our work protecting birds & their habitats. Join or donate at: www.somdaudubon.org To volunteer for any of our activities contact: Annette Cook acook.somdaudubon@gmail.com

LMPP Community Garden

- Compost bins are here! Join the compost committee to learn more about efforts to set accessible bins up for the community. Email [Carla](#) to join!
 - The garden is currently collecting cardboard, shredded paper, newspaper, and paper bags.
- Volunteers with grow-lights needed to start seedlings. Email [Carla](#) if interested!
- Set up the garden [event](#) on February 22 and 23 from 10 am - 1 pm

Garden Education

- Garden orientation and intro to community gardening will be on March 2, 2 - 3:30 pm
- Garden open house will be on March 29, 12 - 4 pm at the Cherry Blossom Festival
 - Winter sowing class at 2 pm

Partner Updates

- The **CDC** has been working on getting bus shelters on Great Mills road and other communities. They are currently working on getting the base created for the structures. They will be put in place over the next few months! They're also working on fixing lighting fixtures for efficiency
- **LUGM** St. Mary's 2050 visioning session activities are still available (in many languages). They will close on March 3
- The Cherry Blossom Festival is on March 29, **HSMP** would like to table but we must have volunteers to help! If you are interested, please sign up here

Food Security

There was an inquiry from a master's level student at Salisbury University USMSM campus about food security. Let's brainstorm our answer!

1. What is the most significant contributing factor to St. Mary's County food insecurity
 - a. We're a more rural community
 - b. Food deserts, hoping these improve with more establishments. Healthy food is expensive
 - c. Food swamps, people are shopping for food in dollar stores where food is not the most healthy but it is accessible and more affordable
2. How does HSMP address the issue of food security in our county?
 - a. Compiled and distributed list of food pantries and our food connections map
 - b. Healthy food drives & toolkit
 - c. We support the community garden which donates produce, allows community to come volunteer/take free produce, provide education about gardening
3. What are the demographics of the individuals that we service?
 - a. Military families
 - b. Income disparity, over 50% in Lexington Park do not own homes which limits access to growing food
 - c. Unhoused population, they have limited access to healthy foods
4. Are there areas of opportunity that you see firsthand that can enhance HSMP?
 - a. Program for distributing excess food from grocery stores, or partnering with restaurants- we have some who are
 - b. Community Fridge project (in progress)

2025 Brainstorming Results

Goals or Projects

Complete the community fridge project

Maryland Capital Trail

Work with Goodr to support their project for pop up food pantries

Involvement in the St. Mary's 2050 Plan

Community Garden: composting, donating excess produce

Sustainable period product drives and distributio

Tree planting in Lexington Park

Topic Areas

Food Security

Period Equity

Cars that are missing catalytic converters and releasing emissions

Improved sidewalk/trail on Great Mills Rd (SHA)

Reducing food waste—composting food scraps

Trash pick-up in the community (litter)

Indoor air quality

Review the data points we track and the priority areas for EHAT [here](#)

2025 Brainstorming Projects and Goals

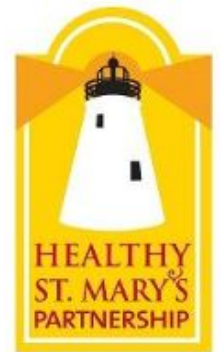
- Improve food security
 - Complete the community fridge (in progress)
 - Vertical or balcony gardening education- we could partner with the LMPP CG for class
- Reducing food waste
 - Community garden composting (in progress)
 - LMPP CG is planning on a composting 101 class that we can promote
 - Food preservation, using food scraps class or videos
- Making the period product drives sustainable
 - Join our period equity funding workgroup! Email [Suha](#) to join
 - Focus on connecting people who run drives to organizations that need products
 - Creation of a period drive toolkit (distribute to local businesses)
 - Signage for how period drives work and possibly combining with the pantries?
- Cleaning up Lexington Park
 - The CDC has a grant to hold the clean up event this year in high-trash areas. Typically in early June- may be moved to the Fall. HSMP can help promote and clean!

2025 Projects

- Improve sidewalks and trails
 - We cannot realistically improve our sidewalks due to cost, but we can help promote trail clean up (in collaboration with the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust). They are working on mapping locations to connect- HSMP will ask about a partner spotlight. Department of public works can also talk about capital project.
 - We could reach out to scout troops about cleaning up trails. Pax Air is looking for volunteer ideas, Molly will send over contact.
- Improve Indoor Air Quality
 - We can provide allergen and asthma education (via SMCHD's Asthma Program)
 - Dr. McPhaul from the PHAB Lab about air purifiers

Meeting Close

- Contact HSMP
- Upcoming meetings



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Upcoming Meetings

- Interested in being our next partner spotlight? Sign up [here](#).
- Our next meeting is March 19, 10 - 11 am.

