

Environmental Stewardship

One Valley's environmental stewardship has roots in Tom Cain's vision of living in a sustainable environment and connecting communities with their natural resources. One such project involved investigating the possibility of daylighting a portion of Cedar Run, a tributary to Lick Run, which runs behind the Carver Garden and under the Coca-Cola plant. While a design study by the City showed this not to be economically feasible or environmentally desirable, other actions are being considered to create an awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural environment in an urban setting. These actions include investigating neighborhood links to the greenway or other walking paths; practicing composting and organic gardening and planting a community orchard at the Carver Garden; and participating in the City's Adopt-A-Street program. These actions provide opportunities to educate the community on how to be better stewards of their environment and hopefully lead to other actions citizens can use, such as implementing stormwater management techniques and low impact development (LID) to decrease stormwater fees on their properties. Increased environmental stewardship will improve the livability of the community.



Volunteers at Clean Valley Day cleanup.

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One Valley, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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One Valley, Inc.

strives to create healthy, connected, and inclusive communities that are empowered to transform the present into a more equitable future.

Our mission statement:

"To create an inclusive community that celebrates both diversity and commonality with opportunities for all to learn and prosper."



One Valley, Inc. receives a 2021 "Neighborhood Improvement Award" from the Roanoke Neighborhood Association.

One Valley, Inc. Vision Statement

1. To lift and unite our entire Valley community through the following educational and environmental actions:

- a. Creation of sustainable community-centered institutions such as the George Washington Carver Environmental Education Center,
- b. Support for urban community gardens and other activities that promote healthy living and food accessibility,
- c. Demonstration and implementation of local environmental actions, such as storm water management stewardship,
- d. Continuation of community conversations that address underlying racism in our valley,
- e. Provision of job-training opportunities to raise Northwest Roanoke economically, and
- f. Promotion of technologies that link communities, such as alternative energy and green infrastructure.

2. The forging of partnerships with businesses, local governments, educational institutions, faith-based entities, and other non-profits in the creation of a valley-wide corridor of lifelong learning.



Community partners at a RAISE garden blessing.

Urban Gardening

An ongoing One Valley project is a collaborative effort to effectively address health and economic disparities facing neighborhood families and to develop a sustainable local food system through urban gardening within the food desert of Northwest Roanoke. This project started with the Carver Community Garden and it's "From the Ground Up" educational program and will be expanded into a network of urban gardens on vacant lots owned by the Northwest Neighborhood Environmental Organization (NNEO).



The Carver Community Garden at 6th & Loudon.

These new sites will act as working food production and vocational training facilities in cooperation with the Carver Center and will provide workforce development, and community work experience.

These urban farms will feature hoop houses, outdoor demonstration gardens, farm stands, drip irrigation systems, trails and environmental spaces, and outdoor education areas. Community members involved in this initiative will be taught to run independent commercial agriculture operations on the farm lots, which will transform the network into community-led commercial urban agricultural enterprises, and serve as a model for other neighborhoods throughout the Roanoke Valley.

The Carver Center

Our centerpiece project is the George Washington Carver Environmental Education Center to be

located on five lots fronting 5th Street NW across from the Coca Cola plant. The Carver Center will be the first independent educational entity in NW Roanoke designed to attract and teach students and adults from every part of the Roanoke Valley.



Explaining our link with G.W. Carver.

The Carver Center will contain a science lab and classrooms to deliver environmental and healthy living education for students K-12 as well as for adults. It will include a working and teaching kitchen to provide education, training and career opportunities as well as locally grown food for a restaurant and market on the grounds of the Center. It will also include a community room and a library, and house two "anchor" tenants, offering additional employment in the community. And it will host programs, speakers and seminars designed to inspire African-American and other students to follow career paths into "green collar" and environmental work, fields that are growing rapidly in our country but are very under-represented by people of color. It is our intent that the Carver Center will develop and offer educational programs that encourage human health, job creation, and social interchange within the community. We also plan for the Carver Center to serve as a community resource and to promote dialogue that addresses lingering issues of social injustice.