

## **Greenbelt Towns**

### **Greenbelt Museum**

Greenbelt, Maryland, is a planned community that was designed and built by the Federal Government during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the project put many unemployed people to work building the original town while creating homes for families of modest income during a severe housing shortage. Greenbelt's team of prominent planners and architects attempted to create a small utopia, using the principles of garden city planning. Greenbelt is one of three federal "greentowns," the others are Greendale, WI, and Greenhills, OH. In 1997 Greenbelt became a National Historic landmark.

The Greenbelt Museum includes an original International Style house near the town's center that is restored and furnished with objects from the period of 1936-1946. The home also includes objects associated with the everyday life of a middle-class family during these years such as Fiesta ware and depression glass dishware, kitchen utensils, children's toys, clothes, and linens. The Museum is open Sundays, 1-5 pm and by special request.

The Greenbelt Museum provides interpretive exhibitions in the Art Deco style Community Center at 15 Crescent Road. The Center's outer wall features dramatic friezes depicting the preamble to the Constitution created by New Deal sculptress Lenore Thomas Strauss. Exhibitions explore topics such as domestic arts and Greenbelt's architecture. The Community Center is open daily from 9 am-6 pm.

### [Greenbelt Museum](#)

### **Photos of Greenbelt Towns**

A collection of contemporary photos of all three Greenbelt towns taken by Jason Reblando. The collection is titled "New Deal Utopias."

<https://placesjournal.org/article/new-deal-utopias/>