

Polluted Runoff: Solutions

Anne Arundel County, MD



Rich Morton Lincoln-Mercury Stormwater Retrofit

mostcenter.org/casestories

Problem:

This Annapolis dealership was covered with impermeable asphalt and concrete. Without any greenery, there were drainage issues, including flooding, puddling, and nearby erosion. In addition, polluted runoff was draining into local Spa Creek.

■Solution:

Volunteers with Spa Creek Conservancy and students from Bates Middle School worked with the dealership to replace the asphalt along the sidewalks with three beautiful rain gardens that filter out oil byproducts. They built signs to educate visitors and trench drains to direct water into the biocells. Roof water was diverted to the planters, further preventing polluted runoff from reaching Spa Creek.



Before: Asphalt allowed runoff to flood the street and drain into Spa Creek.



Volunteers planted rain gardens on the West Street site.

Photo Credit: Spa Creek Conservancy

Key Project Facts

Project Location: Annapolis, MD

Type of Project: Bioretention/Rain gardens, Planters, Conservation landscaping

Scale: 840ft² of asphalt replaced with rain gardens; Runoff from 2 acres is filtered

Cost: \$141,648 plus \$44,300 match

Funding Sources: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Partners: Rich Morton Lincoln - Mercury (Bought by Koons Toyota); Eco Gardens, LLC; Low Impact Design Studio; Eden Consulting, Inc.

Efficiency: 80% runoff reduction per 1 inch rain event

event

Contact: Amy Clements, Spa Creek Conservancy 410-279-5554 Clementsae@aol.com

To Learn More: www.spacreek.org

What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Stormwater projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!