

St. Luke's Tree Planting & Invasive Plant Removal

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Problem:

The property of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Annapolis' Eastport neighborhood includes a wooded area that had been overtaken by invasive plants, putting the tree canopy in danger of failing. This posed serious safety risks and threatened to undermine the site's biodiversity and ecological integrity.

Solution:

170 volunteers from St. Luke's parish and the U.S. Naval Academy's Midshipmen Action Group worked together for six days to clear invasive species that had overtaken the forest. Then a professional crew was brought in to chip the invasive plants and replant new native trees. The forest is now in bloom and growing well. This project is the first phase of a comprehensive green infrastructure effort at St. Luke's, which will ultimately treat 28 acres of stormwater flowing to Back Creek, a tributary of the Severn River. Project components include the construction of a regenerative stream channel, marshes and wetlands, and a living shoreline.



Navy Midshipmen Action Group and volunteers
Photo Credit: Betsy Love



A forest buffer is needed to ensure stormwater runoff doesn't reach the water.

Key Project Facts

Project Type: Riparian Buffer Restoration

Cost: \$12,277.00 plus \$800/yr for maintenance

Scale: 2.5 acres

Pollutants Removed: 27.5 lbs/yr nitrogen, 34 lbs/yr phosphorous, 62 tons/yr sediment

Funding Sources: St. Margaret's Episcopal Church mission grant, READY program, U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group

Partners: U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group

Contact: Betsy Love 917-939-9409
E-mail: truenorthintl@me.com

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!