

Blackwall Hitch Parking Lot

■ Problem:

Parking lots typically contain significant amounts of impervious cover, and they can be a major source of pollutants to nearby streams. The parking lot of Blackwall Hitch, a seafood restaurant in downtown Annapolis, drains directly into Spa Creek, a major tributary of the Severn River. Prior to this project, pollutant-laden rainwater flowed from the parking area and surrounding streets into the Creek.

■ Solution:

Working with the private landowner, the nonprofit Spa Creek Conservancy installed permeable parking pads that allow rainwater to penetrate into the ground instead of washing the parking lot and sending polluted runoff into Spa Creek. Additionally, bioretention cells consisting of rain gardens with “thirsty” landscaping plants were installed throughout the parking lot and at perimeters where runoff can be captured and absorbed. Spa Creek Conservancy and Blackwall Hitch carefully selected native plants which create habitat, beautify the property, and absorb stormwater.



Photo credit: Spa Creek Conservancy



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. These projects keep the environment clean and our communities healthy!

Key Project Facts

Location: Annapolis, MD

Maintenance Plan: Periodic weeding

The Funding Sources: MD Department of Environment—Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC8vfwr5I6M>

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For more pollution solutions:
[mostcenter.org/casestories](https://www.mostcenter.org/casestories)

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