

## Winchester on the Severn Community Raingarden

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### ■ Problem:

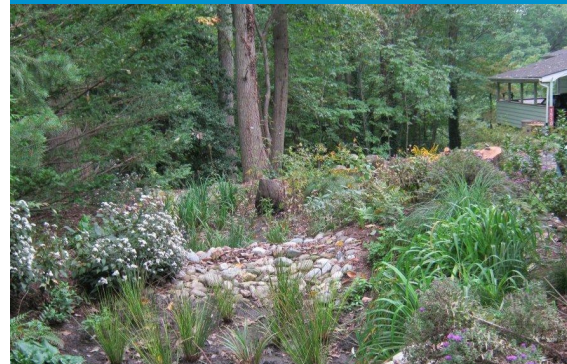
Winchester on the Severn is a residential neighborhood north of Annapolis. In one section of the community, an old stormwater conveyance system was failing, with water flows scouring the nearby hillside and polluted runoff impairing Chase Creek, a tributary of the Severn River.

### ■ Solution:

Members of the community came together to seek a solution. The result was the installation of a rain garden consisting of native plantings. The garden has mitigated stormwater flows, reduced erosion, attracted butterflies, and improved the aesthetics of the area. Aware of the garden's water quality benefits, community members are committed to conducting ongoing maintenance.



**BEFORE:** the rain garden, street flooding was common and muddy. Photo Credit: Eloise Ullman



**AFTER:** The newly installed rain garden is beautiful and keeps water off the streets away from the Bay!

## Key Project Facts

**Type of Project:** Bioretention

**Cost:** \$8,000

**Scale:** 500 square feet

**Funding Sources:** Chesapeake Bay Trust; Severn RiverKeeper; Unity Gardens; Winchester on the Severn residential community

**Partners:** Severn Grove Construction (installation) Winchester on the Severn community members (cleanup days to maintain plantings), Mel Wilkins from Spa Creek Conservancy (site design).

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## 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.

Storm water 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!**