

Kadampa Meditation Center Garden

mostcenter.org/casestories

■ Problem:

Baltimore's Kadampa Meditation Center is located in the urban Chinquapin Park neighborhood. In addition to the Buddhist temple, the Center also houses a café, bookshop, and now, a World Peace Meditation garden. Previously, the Center's campus had been experiencing drainage issues, with runoff from the facility's large roof and parking lot unable to adequately drain, due to poor site grading and existing soil conditions.

■ Solution:

Working with a broad coalition of partners including Blue Water Baltimore and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, the Center developed a master plan to correct and capture water flows on the site. Project elements included site regrading, the installation of several rain gardens, and landscaping with native plants and fruit trees. The garden now produces fruits and vegetable for use in the Center's onsite café, and it serves as a peaceful setting for congregants to take classes, meditate, and commune with nature. The project earned the Center a 2017 Best of Baltimore award for best urban garden.



Before, turf-covered slopes and impermeable surfaces create high flows of water runoff, leaving parched earth.



After: New rain gardens installed throughout the site capture water runoff and create a space for nature and mindfulness to grow.

Key Project Facts

Scale: 23,930 square feet

Pollutants reduced: 50% nitrogen; 90% sediment; 60% phosphorous

Funding sources: Chesapeake Bay Trust; fees from classes and events and private donor gifts

Partners: Baltimore Orchard Project; Blue Water Baltimore; Civic Works; Community Greening Resource Network; Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future; Tree Baltimore

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More information: <https://meditationinmaryland.org/about-us/cafe-shop-gardens/>

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!