

Miramar Landing Homeowners Association

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Problem:

Open space areas within the Miramar Landing neighborhood were bare, compacted dirt lots that conveyed untreated runoff to local streams and were eyesores for the community. The impervious surfaces within this development also transported polluted runoff into the Middle River, which has historically been plagued with harmful algae blooms and fish kills.

Solution:

Purnell Glenn, former president of the Homeowners Association (HOA), saw an opportunity to protect local waterways and beautify the neighborhood. This local champion and the HOA partnered with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's *Clear Creeks Project* to transform the bare lots into runoff treatment areas. The community is now Bay-Wise Certified due to its efforts in using Bayscapes landscaping, which uses native plants to manage stormwater and create wildlife habitats.

Education: Signs in Biggs Square Park identify plants and wildlife, educating children and residents on subjects including ladybugs and the caterpillar and butterfly lifecycle.

Community Engagement: Community members volunteered in the planting of Bayscapes and will contribute to the ongoing maintenance. Some inspired homeowners have also installed rain barrels and rain gardens in their yards thereby absorbing even more stormwater.



Volunteers planting a Bayscape



Biggs Square Children's Bayscape Garden

Photo Credit: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention, Bayscaping, & Tree Planting

Project Location: Baltimore County, MD

Scale: 101 acres

Total Cost: \$140,000

Funding Sources: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Baltimore County, MD Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.

Contact: info@gunpowdervc.org

To Learn More:

<https://gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-2017-Clear-Creeks-at-Miramar-Landing-factsheet.pdf>

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. Projects like these 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!