

St. James Episcopal Church

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■ Problem:

St. James Episcopal Church in Carroll County was suffering from significant erosion during storm events. This posed not only aesthetic and water quality challenges; it also created a safety hazard for students at an adjacent daycare.

■ Solution:

Funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust enabled installation of a rain garden on the site, which is designed to slow stormwater flows, provide wildlife habitat, and showcase polluted runoff solutions. More than twenty volunteers devoted 75 hours of time for installation.



The erosion ditch had gotten so bad it created a safety hazard and was waist deep!



The rain garden replaces the culvert.
Photo credits: St. James Episcopal Church

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention

Scale: 1,000 square feet

Water Diverted: 2,300 gallons per hour, per inch of rain

Cost: \$1,600

Funding Sources: Chesapeake Bay Trust

Partners: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, University of Maryland Master Gardeners, Mt. Airy Garden Club, 24 St James Church volunteers.

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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!