

St. Camillus Church

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Problem:

Members of St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring noticed muddy brown water flowing across the church's driveway and parking lot during heavy rains. Soil from nearby hillsides was being washed into storm drains and into the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, and ultimately into the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Solution:

Restoration at St. Camillus Church included the construction of four conservation landscape areas along the church's driveway down a hill to the parking lot. More than 1,000 native plants were installed to capture, slow, and absorb stormwater. Composed filled mesh stabilizer tubes were embedded into the tiered planting beds to help protect the hillside. Additionally, roof gutters were channeled to a 530-gallon above-ground cistern to capture runoff and provide a source of irrigation for the new plantings.



Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Bioretention

Scale: 14 acres including 9 impervious areas

Funding Sources: Chesapeake Bay Trust; Montgomery County; Silver Spring Green

Partners: Anacostia Riverkeepers; Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and Montgomery County's RainScapes Program

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Video Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bILRoYZfy2c>

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!