



Outreach and Restoration

This program was established to provide accessible funds to organizations and agencies to implement community-led stewardship efforts that increase public understanding of environmental challenges; implement demonstration-scale, community-based, on-the-ground restoration projects; and expand the base of public support necessary to advance the restoration of Maryland's bays, tributaries, and other natural resources.

Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish Meditation Garden

This project constructed a publicly accessible meditation garden in an unused courtyard on the property of Christ Church, La Plata. The project included a rain garden, rain barrels and native plants.

The project converted an unused courtyard on the grounds of Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish, into a Meditation Garden that will be open to the public. The garden design incorporates reduction of turf and stormwater runoff, and the installation of native plantings. The church is located at 113 Charles Street, the main street of La Plata, MD. La Plata is the County seat, and the Church property adjoins the County Courthouse property as well as the main County office building. It is also in the heart of the La Plata business district.

The space will be used as an example to other churches and faith communities in the region. Members in the parish who are committed to environmental stewardship as part of our faith commitment are actively reaching out to and engage other churches and faith communities to present the benefits of such projects. Local Scouting troops, school groups, and civic groups have been invited to enjoy and learn from the project as well.

In addition to providing an attractive meditation space for the community, the project will also serve to educate the community in the importance of environmental and watershed stewardship. At the entrance to the space, there is informative signage describing the purpose and operations of rain barrels and rain gardens. The space is unique in the community; therefore, it will be an important educational tool.



Track 3: Outreach & Restoration

15 volunteers participated

280 sq. ft. of rain garden installed

150 native plants planted

2 rain barrels installed

200 workshop attendees



Project Elements

Outreach/Awareness: We will evaluate the project's success at increasing awareness by tracking the following activities:

- Presenting the project to the three other churches in the La Plata ecumenical group (United Methodists, Roman Catholics, Lutherans), and invite their respective congregations to visit the site.
- Presenting the project to the Southern Maryland Regional Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. This includes 15 other Episcopal churches, most of whom are in watershed areas. We would also invite them to the site.
- Publicizing the project in the publications of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, which reaches 88 Episcopal congregations through DC, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Charles Counties. All of these parishes would be available for site visits.
- Making brochures available at events such as the Charles County Holiday Trails event when the church is open for tour. This event typically attracts around 100 visitors annually.
- Providing educational signage at the site that would educate the public on the nature of the water retention/mitigation and the importance of these practices.
- Inviting scouting troops and local schools to visit the site.
- Publishing an article in the Maryland Independent discussing the project and its importance.

Restoration: The project reduces 70% of the turf in the area being disturbed and redirects the rain water from a portion of the existing roof space into rain barrels and rain gardens.

The need for innovative urban stormwater management and citizen awareness campaigns in Charles County was identified in the 2007 Watershed Restoration Action Strategy, which specifically identified the need to educate La Plata and Charles County residents on how their individual actions can improve water quality. This theme has carried through the WIP II Milestones, which emphasize working with private landowners and community groups to identify demonstration projects to promote BMPs. The recently completed Port Tobacco River Watershed Assessment includes an upland assessment that emphasizes the potential benefits of using rain gardens and rain barrels to achieve stormwater load reduction.

CBT Funds Awarded:	\$37,123
Donors:	\$4,000
Volunteers:	\$1,220
Total:	\$42,343

Project Partners:

Christ Church

A welcoming Episcopal church in the heart of La Plata, MD



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Volunteers planted a rain garden and installed rain barrels in an unused courtyard to treat runoff from the church roof.

For additional information: visit : www.cbtrust.org