



Chesapeake Conservation Corps

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is a program that provides service-learning opportunities and green job training for young adults through environmental and energy conservation projects. This initiative, supported by the Trust, Constellation Energy, the National Park Service and the state of Maryland, pairs young adults with organizations that provide hands-on environmental, leadership, and technical training opportunities for a one-year term of service.



The Dream Center's Native Plant Habitat Garden

Located in South Baltimore City's Brooklyn community, this restoration project created a native plant habitat garden for The Dream Center, a volunteer driven community space that supports the surrounding underprivileged community and is owned by the Pathway Church of God.

The Dream Center, located in South Baltimore's Brooklyn community, serves as a space to address the needs of the surrounding community through food drives, clothing drives, and rehabilitation programs. The Brooklyn community falls within the Masonville Cove watershed of which the National Aquarium has a vested interest in through the Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

surrounding communities to participate in environmental education programming and habitat restoration projects within their neighborhoods.

The Dream Center's native plant habitat garden serves as one of those opportunities. This project was unique because it enabled the Aquarium to engage diverse audiences within the Brooklyn community, including people of color and the faith based community, to spread awareness on watershed restoration and protection. The Pathway Church of God has claimed the garden as a prayer and meditative space for its congregants and surrounding community. This serves as an opportunity for congregants to connect environmental stewardship to their faith, and provide a community of color a green space to enjoy in an urban area.

This unique partnership includes the Maryland Port Administration (MPA), Maryland Environmental Service (MES), Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As part of the Baltimore Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan, MPA agreed to provide a package of community enhancements intended for neighborhood families to connect to the natural world.

In addition to an urban wildlife refuge, the Masonville partners look to provide opportunities for the

350 native plants planted

95 volunteers

21 rain barrels installed

2 wildlife habitat structures constructed

200 presentation attendees

604 sq. ft. of conservation landscaping

CCC Member: Andrea van Wyk



Project Elements

Restoration

The Dream Center's native plant garden was designed to filter storm water runoff and create food, shelter, space, and water for native pollinators. The garden consists of 350 native perennials, 2 native trees, 1 bird bath, and 1 bluebird nesting box. Two rain barrels divert rain from the building, and serve as a water source for watering the plants. Leading up to the garden installation day, the Aquarium looked to recruit volunteers from two faith based congregations, The Pathway Church of God and TAYR, a Spanish speaking congregation that rents a worship space from Pathway. On June 26, 2016, the two congregations came together to bless the garden and space for the community.

Education

On April 6, 2016, the Aquarium hosted a "Watershed 101" workshop for the Pathway Church of God's youth group of 24 high school aged students. The workshop consisted of a PowerPoint presentation that explained what a watershed is, and how their actions affect the health of Masonville Cove and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. On June 11, 2016, before the planting, 21 volunteers participated in a "Gardening for Native Plants" workshop hosted by the Aquarium's partner The National Wildlife Federation. The workshop explained the importance of native plants for pollinators and how to replicate the Dream Center's native plant garden in their own backyards.

Art

For the 24 x 11' concrete slab located in the middle of the garden, the Aquarium partnered with Jessica Chambers, a local art teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School to create a pollinator inspired mural. Jessica designed a stained glass monarch butterfly mural that included a bible verse to connect environmental stewardship to faith.



CBT Grant Awarded:	\$1,210
EPA:	\$4,033
National Aquarium:	\$4,038
NFWF:	\$108
Total:	\$9,389

Project Partners:



NFWF

