Trees improve the quality of our lives in many ways. They improve air quality, mitigating storm water, provide shade and enhancing aesthetic beauty, provide wildlife habitat, and increase property values. The biggest gift we can give ourselves and the generations that come after us is to be good steward of this amazing and essential resource. Yet our collective actions and lack of knowledge are two of the greatest threats to trees.

Improper pruning and mulching, using pesticides are just a few of the things that can harm trees. Ashburton Area Association’s (AAA) goal will be use funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to ensure that their neighbors, our communities and the next generation of young people who will inherit this earth, understand the valuable and the role trees play in our lives.

AAA will coordinate a plan that uses tree planting and maintenance efforts to (1) build deeper connections with neighbors in the Callaway-Garrison community that adjoins Ashburton, (2) engage students from two partner schools in service learning and tree stewardship, and (3) increase the quality of life for the residents of Ashburton, not through a single event but over the long term through advocacy and education. What follows is a project outline for the phases of their work.

They selected sites for their planting that help further the three goals just outlined, and where some degree of planning and therefore buy-in already existed. They chose plant species in collaboration with their tree expert partners, Edible Eden and the Forest Service. The trees are in keeping with the two environments in which they were planted.

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