Community Gardens as Green Infrastructure
Strengthening ties in underserved communities
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is offering free assistance to businesses, faith institutions, homeowners’ associations, and municipal property owners in the Broad Rock neighborhood to install money-saving and environmentally-friendly practices.

CBF will design and install "green practices" such as rain gardens and buffers on your property. These projects will reduce flooding and wet areas, beautify property, and prevent pollution from entering local streams. They can also potentially help reduce monthly stormwater fees.

A limited number of qualified projects will be chosen—first come, first serve!

Please contact Elizabeth Ronston at 804/780-1392 x3020 or at eronston@cbf.org for more information or to participate.

These projects are funded through grants provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia. For more information on the project and ways to get involved, visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/broadrockcreek.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
1108 East Main Street, Suite 1600
Richmond, VA 23219

9000 postcards
Challenges

• Explaining the “why” to church trustees
• Designing a project that met their needs and grant requirements
• Getting city’s easement signed
  – committed church to maintain bmps in perpetuity
• Getting city permits
• Organizing partners and contributions
Memorial United Methodist Church

FAITH CAN TURN STUMBLING BLOCKS INTO STEPPING STONES

Come Grow With Us!
A little help from the Pope

“Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity.”

“Our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity. Cowardice in defending it is a grave sin.”
Itea Virginica - Virginia sweetspire

3 Amelanchier canadensis
Canada serviceberry "Autumn Brilliance"

Echinacea purpurea (Purple coneflowers)
Seventeen 2-quart containers

Schizachyrium scoparium
Little bluestem. 18 2-quart.

Ilex verticillata
Winterberry (Six 1-gallon containers)

Sweet Bay Magnolia
Magnolia Virginiana
Four 2-gallon containers

115 Rudbeckia
plugs on 12" centers

Iris Virginica
Blue Flag
(18 1-qt plants)

7 Eupatorium fistulosum - Joe Pye Weed
4-qtt containers

Getonia apicalis (sweet pepper bush)
15 2-gallon containers

Peniculum Virgatum - switch grass
27 two-quart containers

Viburnum dentatum
Arrowwood viburnum (Autumn Jazz)
Four 2-gallon containers

4’ grass swale planted with junco
us effusus -- soft rush -- spaced 12”.
900 plants for 237” length of swale.

4. Vernonia novaboracensis - New York Ironwood
Amelanchier canadensis - Canada serviceberry "Autumn Brilliance"

Second Baptist Swale
Landscaping Plan
July 1, 2015
Contributors

• Funded by NFWF and Richmond Community Foundation
• Virginia State University: grew transplants in their greenhouse; workshops post-garden installation
• Medical College of Virginia: constructing 16 raised beds
• Shoosmith Construction: donating tipping fees for asphalt removal and curb and gutter installation
• Backyard Farmers: grading
• Chris Sonne: Design engineer
• City of Richmond: easement and permitting
• Congregants of Second Baptist
Community Benefits

- Installed a community garden in a food desert
- Food source now available to 2BC's industrial kitchen
- Paved the way for classes:
  - Virginia Union University Seminary classes and High School Prep classes
  - VSU community outreach on gardening
- Educated the community about simplicity of planting and growing your own food
Community Growth

- Selling for profit after church
- Goals to involve other, larger community gardens as well
- Urban Gardening Series hosted by VSU and 2BC
  - Included free tomato plants and raised bed with participation
- Class-a-rol: Local hospital's mobile kitchen to teach citizens how to eat nutritious meals. 2BC has invited them to use their food to teach members how to use what they buy
- VSU Theological Class: Summer course for high school students tour the garden to learn about creation care and "thin places"
- Local juvenile detention center inmates weed and water the garden
- As a designated urban community garden, applied for NRCS funds for a hoop house
Water Quality Benefits

• Treated 1 acre of surface (46,680 sf)
• Cut $728 of stormwater utility fee annually
• Reduced peak runoff flow by 30%
• Reduced P load by 25%, or 1.43 lbs/year
• Reduced N load by 23% or 9.55 lbs/year
• Cistern/beds will eliminate 11,000 gallons of runoff each year
• Richmond’s MS4 permit
• Dry swale will eliminate 3,200 gallons of runoff each year
Challenges

• Designing a project that met 2BC’s needs and CBF’s grant requirements

• Permitting:
  • Placement of the bioswale required an easement from the city to allow them to inspect the BMP in perpetuity.
  • Financial burden: if BMP failed, cost to 2BC

• Maintenance:
  • Too many cooks in the kitchen: often had conflicting information from gardening experts in the church
  • On-going garden design and business planning for urban farm

• Difficult first year:
  • Poor soil quality, remediation, hard winter, mis-timed green house starts