



COVID CONNECTIONS IN OUR COUNTY PARKS

Nature Escape & Ask A Ranger

Liana Vitali, Naturalist, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Anne Arundel county has ...

140 parks and sanctuaries

9,400 acres of public park, recreation, and open space land

hundreds of miles of land and water trails





ASK A RANGER

A quarterly web-based series combining campy humor with environmental education all fueled by questions from the general public.



NATURE ESCAPE

An eight (8) week in person outdoor learning experience providing screen-bound children with outdoor nature play during the Covid-19 pandemic.



THE CHALLENGE

Create an immersive, entertaining, and educational digital platform that brings our parks to the people of Anne Arundel County during Covid-19 isolation and quarantine periods.

THE RESULT

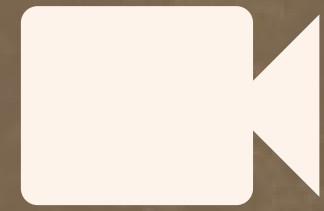
ASK A RANGER WEB-SERIES

A diverse team of rangers and naturalists with little to no film background but LOTS of willingness to fail while being creative

New collaborations between department teams (parks & marketing)

Virtual engagement with the public





Ask A Ranger - Episode 3 Sneak Preview





THE CHALLENGE

Safely offer screen-free, in-person outdoor learning and free play experiences for local children as a creative, immersive, and energetic outlet during these unprecedented times

THE RESULT

NATURE ESCAPE

Eight weeks of two hour/week programming occurring simultaneously at five (5) county regional parks for 6-10 y/o's.

Ten (10) high-quality volunteers recruited and partnered with ten (10) park rangers to deliver the program.

Eight (8) children to 2-3 rangers/volunteers per park/week.

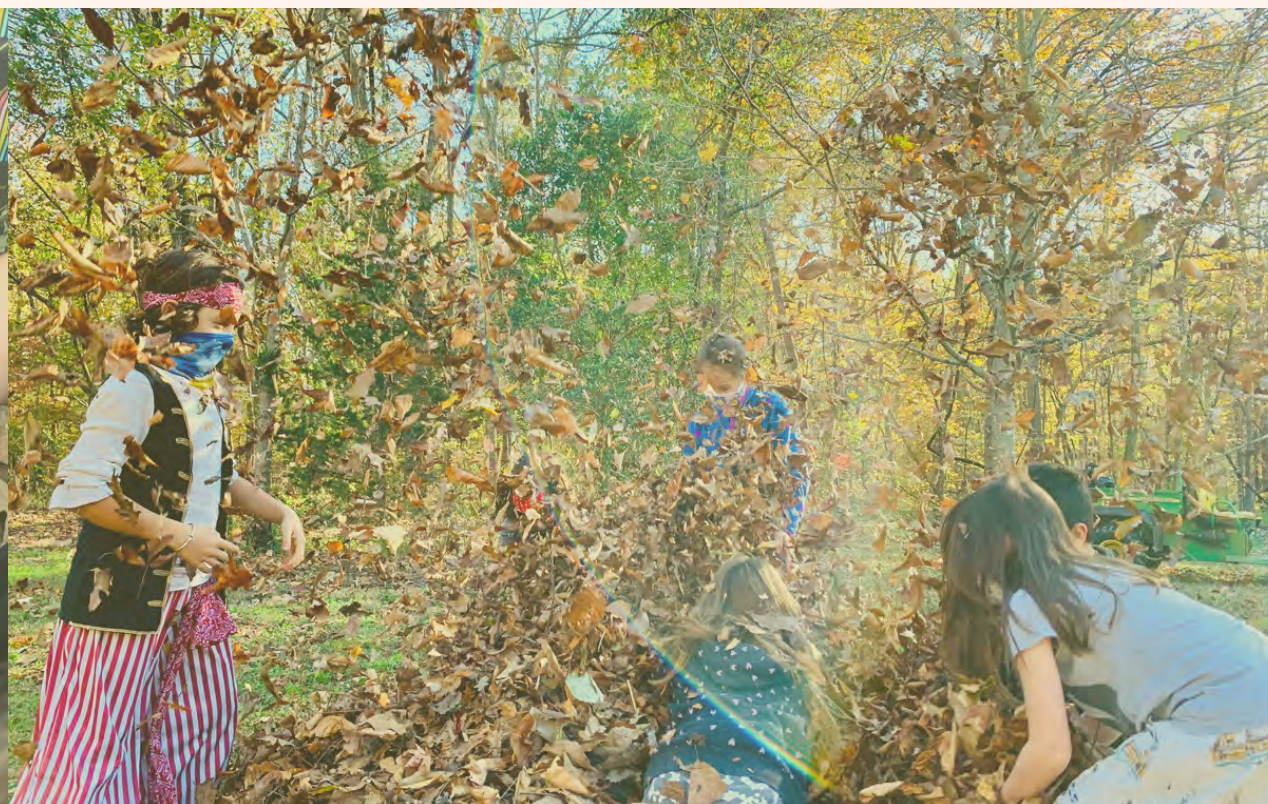
Weekly webinars to debrief the previous weeks' program, review the upcoming weeks' themes, and enhance the overall collaborative and community-based approach of the program.

A scholarship fund established by a county nonprofit Friends of Parks association ensured children from all financial backgrounds could attend the program.

Covid safety protocols strictly enforced.



Program Highlights





PARENT/CARETAKER TESTIMONIAL

"I'm really grateful for this program as a parent struggling to enjoy nature myself and not always knowing where and how to encourage my kids to interact with nature. We hope for some winter and spring programming and wished this would be available all over Maryland. We signed up for all eight sessions from the get go. We regret nothing and would do it over even if the cost rises. This was truly amazing."

Program Totals and 2021 Goals

1

~300 CHILDREN

engaged in Nature Escape throughout the county

2

100%

of participating children surveyed asked their parents/guardians if they could return each week

3

0

Covid-19 exposures reported

4

**NATURE ESCAPE
2021**

Three new parks coming onboard with the ability to serve almost 600 children

FUTURE PLANS

SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

Watershed Stewards Academy, National Recreation & Parks Association

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Maryland Recreation & Parks Creative Programming Award

SOLVING CONTINUITY ISSUES

What to do when life goes back to normal?

LIANA VITALI

NATURALIST
CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

JUG BAY WETLANDS SANCTUARY
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY RECREATION & PARKS

RPVITA23@AACOUNTY.ORG

A group of five people are standing in a wooded area with fallen autumn leaves on the ground. They are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including jackets, scarves, and hats. Some are wearing face masks. The background consists of bare trees and dense brush. The text 'WOODLAND EDGE RESTORATION' is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

WOODLAND EDGE RESTORATION

St. Andrew by the Bay Catholic Church

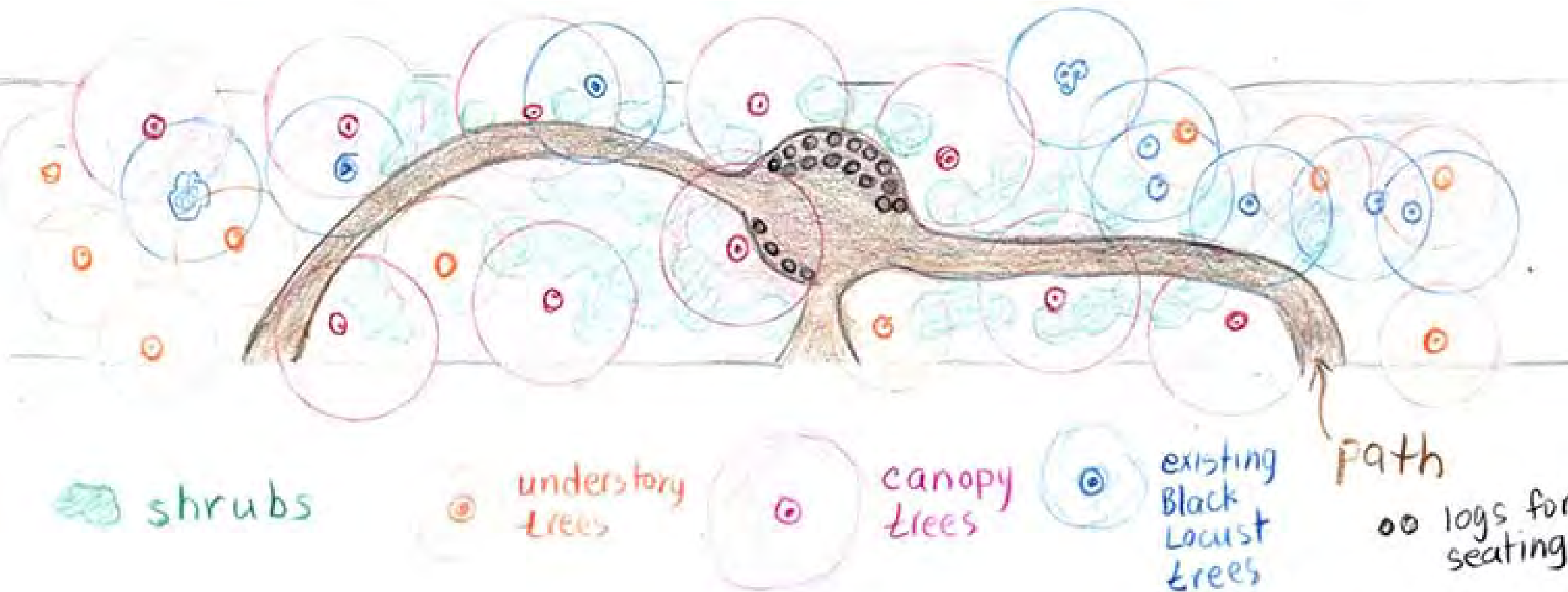
Cathy Tengwall & Mary Smith







OUR VISION



Welcome to a Native Garden

Our Maryland wildlife eats and lives on just 300 plants. Our birds, fish, insects, and amphibians depend on only 50 mammals. Native plants are trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, and plants that are indigenous from this area. Local insect and mammal eat these plants, produce, and visit's nests. Many birds have specific native plants to raise their young.

Keeping gardens in the landscape is vital to keeping the species we love. This landscape was designed to be buzzing with life. And you can do the same at home— just pick the right plants!

Unity Gardens
A Division of the National Wildlife Federation

www.nwf.org/unitygardens.org

Plant List

Plant list with small images and descriptions of native plants.







March 2020

Native Plant Sale





EARTH DAY PLANS



CANFIELD

Did we need to cancel
our project too?

Outreach

KNOW WHO YOU WANT TO REACH




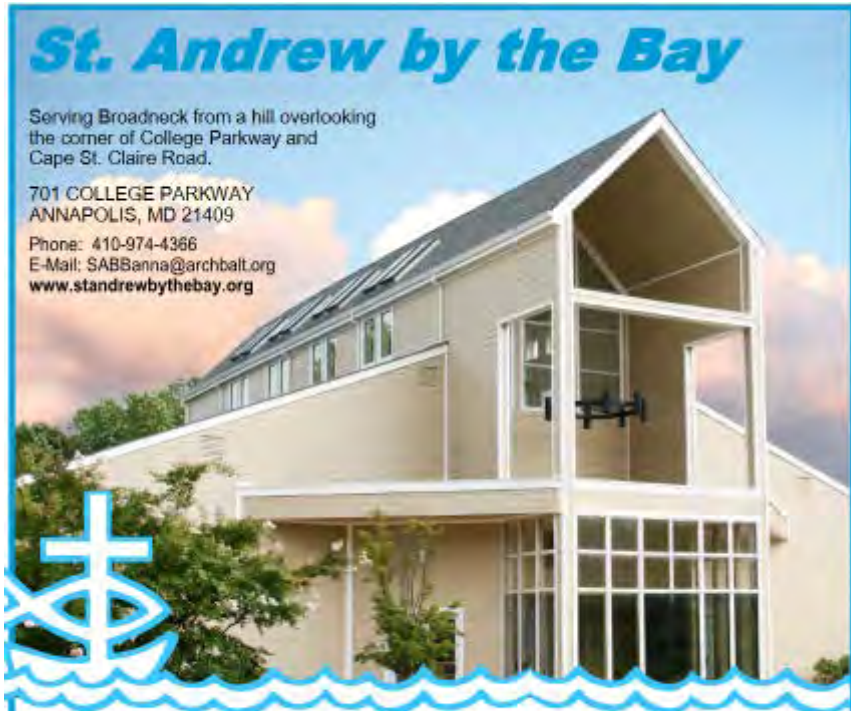
MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

St. Andrew by the Bay

Serving Broadneck from a hill overlooking the corner of College Parkway and Cape St. Claire Road.

701 COLLEGE PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21409

Phone: 410-974-4366
E-Mail: SABBanna@archbalt.org
www.standrewbythebay.org



Formed by God's Word,
called to be disciples of Jesus Christ,
empowered by the Holy Spirit

FR. ANDREW DEFUSCO, Administrator
adefusco@standrewbythebay.org

DEACON DAVID TENOWAL

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time


February 14, 2021

Live-Stream Masses on Facebook

www.facebook.com/St.AndrewByTheBay/

DAILY MASS
Mon., Wed.,
Thurs. & Fri.
9:00am
(live-stream)

SUNDAY MASSES
Sign up
on our website

 St. Andrew By The Bay Parish was ...
live.
February 21 at 11:21 AM · 🌐

Sunday, February 21, 2021 - 11:30AM Mass



👍❤️👏 15 12 Comments 1 Share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

October 2 Weekly Update

✓ Posted on October 02, 2020 in: [Weekly Update](#)



Sunday, October 4, 2020 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time PRAYER & WORSHIP Mass
Sign-Up For assistance, call 410-974-4366 or email sabbanna@archbalt.org.

Sunday Commentary Mass & Confession Times Little Sisters of the Poor ...

[Read More](#)

Adopt A Tree

✓ Posted on October 01, 2020 in: [General News](#)



Adopt a Tree OCTOBER 12 UPDATE: Thanks to everyone for adopting all the trees and shrubs for the Woodland Edge Restoration Project! We are so blessed to live and worship in a community where so many want to take care of this beautiful earth God has given us. We are still in n...

[Read More](#)

HEADINGS, CTA, MORE INFO, PICTURES

headings

Adopt A Tree

Help beautify the parish grounds, create an outdoor gathering space and nature/meditation trail, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve the environment. Creation Care Team members Mary Smith and Cathy Tengwall will be leading an effort to remove weeds, plant trees and shrubs, and create a gathering space and trail at Saint Andrew by the Bay as their capstone project for the Watershed Steward Academy and need help from parish volunteers.

Donate \$20 as Copayment for a Native Tree to be Planted at St. Andrew by the Bay.

We have been approved for a \$1000 grant from Unity Gardens to pay for shrubs and are expecting grant funds from other sources as well. We will get 20 trees from Replant Anne Arundel and need a copayment of \$20 for each tree. Four of the twenty trees have already been adopted!

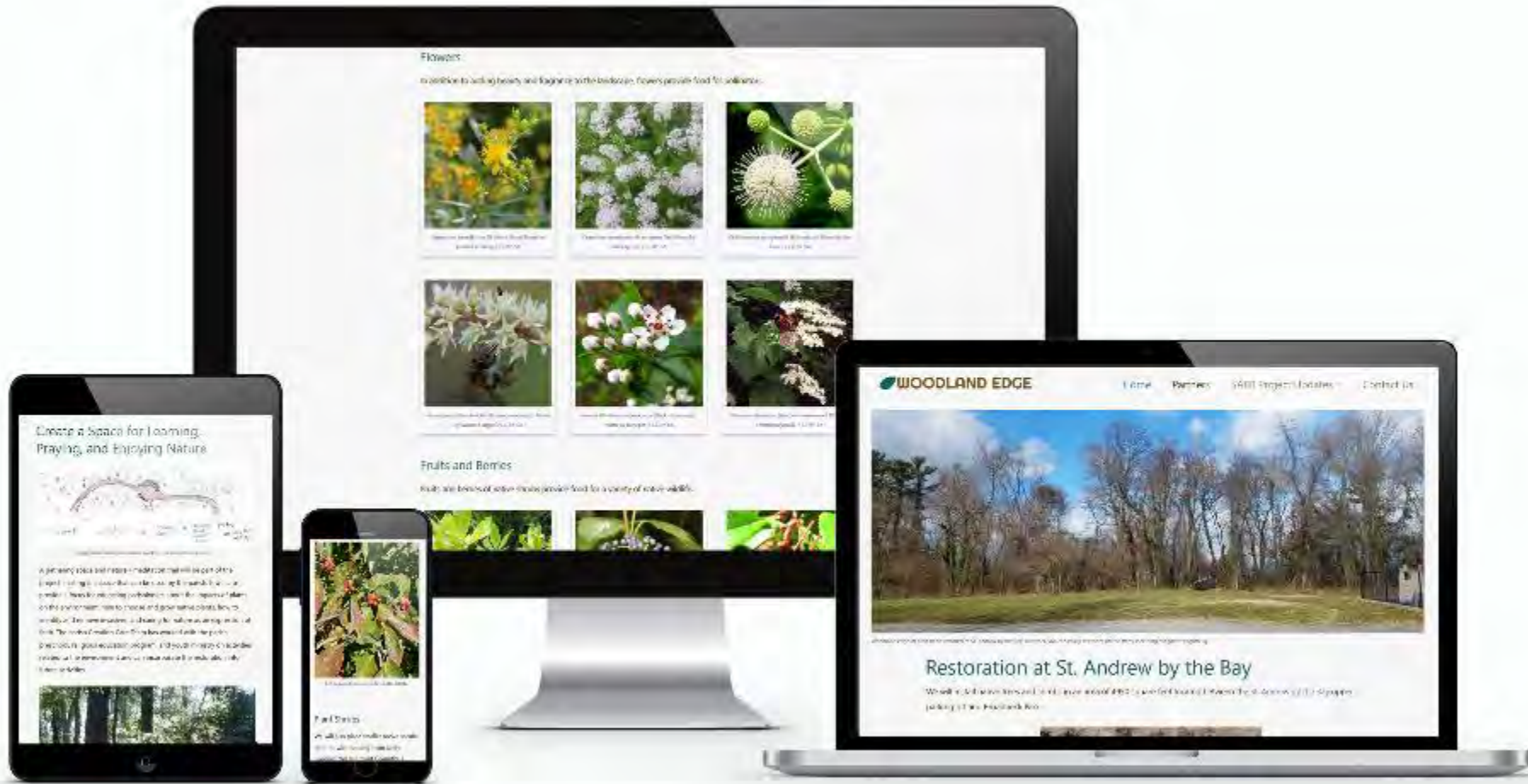
CTA

Please contact Mary Smith (mksmith2337@gmail.com) or Cathy Tengwall (cathy1542@gmail.com) for more information on adopting a tree.

more info

Find out more about the project at eco.mksmithdesign.com





eco.mksmithdesign.com

Preparing for our
Volunteer Workday:
Recruiting Volunteers



Volunteer to Plant Shrubs on November 14

- There will be 2 time slots, 9:00am-10:30am and 11:00am-12:30pm.
- Families are welcome and can include volunteers ages 10 or older.
- Planting will be done in teams, consisting of 1-5 persons from the same household.
- 6 teams will be planting during each shift.
- Each 'team' will plant 4-6 shrubs.
- Planting will take place near the upper parking lot.
- Access to restrooms will not be available during the event.



General COVID-19 Protocols:

We are committed to holding a safe event and will follow safety policies established by the Watershed Steward Academy and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The WSA Board has also asked that we stop the event if any of these safety policies are not followed.

All participants of this event must agree to:

• • •



COVID-19 & Event Participation Waiver

All volunteers need to sign and return the attached **Event Participation Waiver** in one of the following ways

• • •

Preparing for our
Volunteer Workday:
One Day Before

54 SHRUBS!



PLACE SHRUBS
THE DAY BEFORE









FRANK

Planting Day!





PLANTING DEMO







ASSIGN EACH TEAM TO AN AREA







Working with Boy Scouts









**Welcome to
a Native Garden!**

The Maryland Wildlife Conservation Society has planted this garden to help restore native plant and animal life to the area. The garden is a mix of native plants and animals that are important to the local ecosystem. The plants are native to the area and the animals are native to the area. The garden is a mix of native plants and animals that are important to the local ecosystem. The plants are native to the area and the animals are native to the area.



Contact Us

Mary Smith mksmith2337@gmail.com

Cathy Tengwall cathy1542@gmail.com



Robert Williams

Millstone Village Subdivision (MVS)
Severn, Maryland

Community Concerns



- MSV is a diverse community/neighborhood with a rich mixture of cultures, such as Latin, Asian, African, Indian, European, Caribbean, etc. We have young, middle-age and mature families as well as singles that live in our community.
- Our residents care about the image, property value, safety, pets, children and the people in the community.
- Our residents communicate via Social Media (Facebook(FB), Instagram, Tweeter, LinkedIn), email, cellphone, HOA website as well as personal visits at one's resident.

Environmental Assessment



The most significant pollution sources were:

Standing Water,
Mosquitoes in the summer, and
Soil Erosion issues.



A few Rainscaping techniques that best suite our community:

Planting native plants,
Installing downspouts with rocks,
and
Implementing proper drainage of
Bio-retention (raingarden) area.





We did a Rainscaping project for our community.



Rainscaping project was visible and replicable, because it identified and resolved some of the stormwater issues in our community.



Our community residents were engaged with this project, because they helped resolved the water pollution issues in our community.

Capstone Project

MSV COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- I engaged the community via the Homeowners Association (HOA).
- We wanted the community residents to be aware of the water pollution issues and there were a number techniques that were done to resolve the issues.
- We used several communication techniques for outreach engagement:
 - HOA Community Meeting via Zoom
 - Halloween Planting Day Event Video
 - HOA Community FB Page & HOA Community Fliers
 - Email
 - Google Forms Registration
 - Community Newsletter
 - Sent letters to homeowners



Halloween Planting Day Event

Summary

- We were excited to announce plans to restore our neighborhood rain garden to address the standing water issues in the bioretention and swale areas in our community.
- Over 30 members of the community and District 1 Councilwoman Sarah Lacey assisted with install Maryland native plants that helped absorbed the standing water while beautifying the neighborhood.
- Following the planting project, we tried to host a Halloween celebration that would consist of a boxed lunch, candy giveaway and costume contest for the kids!
(Canceled due Covid-19 Safety Protocols)
- Social distancing measures were in affect and masks were required to participate; gloves and sanitation stations were provided.

What was successful & what lessons we learned?

Successes

- Community volunteers attended and participated in record numbers.
- Flexible planning for the event helped in organizing, facilitating and completing most planting activities ahead of schedule.
- Creative outreach activities, such as interactive FB Interviews with residents and Holiday theme videos.

Lessons Learned

- We got the kids interested with the event and the parents followed especially during the annual holiday event, such as Halloween.
- Not every community resident care nor appreciate the importance of community activities.
- Appreciate every volunteer by sending a thank you card.

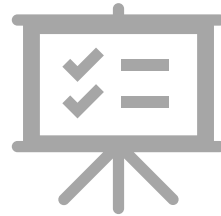
What is safe to do in person and how?

- Followed county health department requirements and recommendations for community during Pandemic, such as Covid – 19, via AAWSA.
- Requirements involved signing documents for county health standards for each community volunteer for the event.
- Ensure volunteers follow safety guidelines in accordance with county health department, such as wearing latex gloves and face masks as well as staying six feet apart from non-family members.
- Kept family members together to carry-out volunteer activities during the event to mitigate unknown health issues from other volunteers.

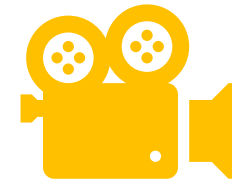
How to make virtual content engaging and effective?



Contact HOA of the community to have a community meeting to discuss awareness, issues and possible resolutions for water pollutions within the community via Zoom use visuals and accept input from the community.



Create a short video of the planned event that describes the event purpose as well as summarizing the issues and resolutions with photos from community assessment for the event via Zoom.



Present Video
Engagement Film

After the Event
Zorro

What you have planned next?



Monitoring and maintaining Rainscaping techniques via community volunteers to ensure that conservation landscaping is implemented year around.



Preparing plans for community inspection to be within county codes/standards as a baseline to the Community of Excellence goals.

Broadneck Baptist Church 2020 Virtual Music & Arts Camp



Located in Cape St. Claire since 1982, Broadneck is an intimate, inclusive community that honors asking questions, serving our neighbors, seeking justice, celebrating diversity and welcoming all of God's children. We seek to be a **community of hope and light** where all people are embraced for their unique gifts and invited to love God and their neighbor in active ways.



Annual Outreach Activity

- ▶ Children ages 5-12 years old; up to 40 children per session.
- ▶ One summer week, 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON.
- ▶ Music, crafts, Bible stories, group play, snacks, group presentation.
- ▶ Original script emphasizing theme of the week. Theme for 2020 was God's World, Our World

2019 Music & Arts Camp Theme: HEROES!





Past Music & Arts Camps

2020 Conundrum

- ▶ How to continue this important activity.
- ▶ Several solutions discussed which evolved into
 - ▶ 4 weeks of activities via projects bags collected each Monday or delivered to participants' homes.
 - ▶ Letter from Pastor attached to each bag describing contents and activities for the week.
 - ▶ Wednesdays at 10:00 AM Pastor available via ZOOM for a Bible story and discussion.
 - ▶ Password protected online resources for Music & Arts Camp participants and their families via the church website.

Grow Your Own Sprouts!!

► Supplies included: dried lentils, jar with lid, plastic go-box, small spray bottle

► Directions:

1. Put lentils in jar.
2. Rinse lentils in water, cover with water, and soak overnight. Poke holes in lid or cover loosely so air can get in. OR cover with paper towel or light cloth.
3. Drain water and pour lentils into both sides of the plastic go-box; let sit somewhere *not* in direct sunlight.
4. 2-3 times a day, lightly spray with water (small spray bottle included); don't let them dry out.
5. Once the lentils sprout (about 3 days!), move jar into sunlight to develop the chlorophyll.
6. Place in fridge to stop the growth and EAT.

► Sprouts are delicious in salads and on sandwiches. Experiment with other beans/seeds. Sprouts are a super food, too!

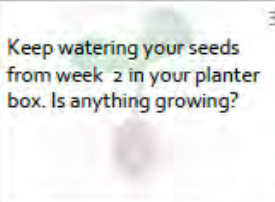
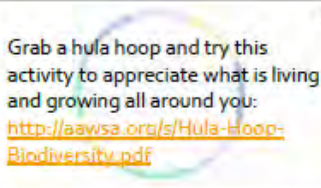
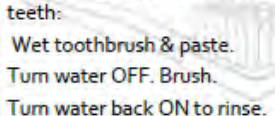
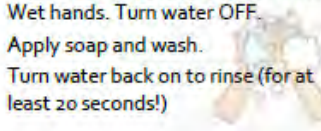
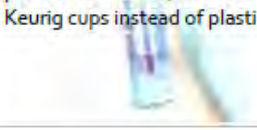

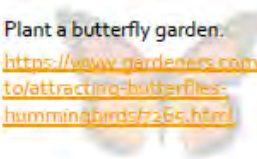





August 2020

God's World, Our World – How Can We Take Care of It? Projects for Kids & Parents



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>God's Gift of Growing Things What can we do to protect our green space?</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Keep watering your seeds from week 2 in your planter box. Is anything growing?</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Remove vines from trees. Be sure to look up the "bad" vines, like poison ivy! https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/towers-and-plants/groundcover-and-vines/remove-clinging-vines</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Investigate composting. www.annapoliscompost.com</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Grab a hula hoop and try this activity to appreciate what is living and growing all around you: http://aawsa.org/s/Hula-Hoop-Biodiversity.pdf</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Are vines & weeds taking over our other plants? Can we dig them out? Check out this video: https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonEcho/videos/228083049193761</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Look around at your family's green space or the nearest green space to where you live. What do you notice that you haven't before?</p>
<p>9</p> <p>God's Gift of Water Does our family waste this precious gift?</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Try this when you brush your teeth: Wet toothbrush & paste. Turn water OFF. Brush. Turn water back ON to rinse.</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Do we use the dishwasher and washing machine only for FULL loads?</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Are all our water faucets tightly closed when not in use? Even the tiniest drips waste lots of water. Go around and check all the faucets in your house to make sure they're not dripping.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Try this when you wash your hands: Wet hands. Turn water OFF. Apply soap and wash. Turn water back on to rinse (for at least 20 seconds!)</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Challenge your family to take showers instead of baths for the next week—showers typically use a lot less water!</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Where does water from our gutters go during a rainstorm? Can it be redirected to water our flowers and lawn? Check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRPb1aPjbdU</p>
<p>16</p> <p>God's Gift of Our Environment How much trash does our family make in a week? How to reduce?</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Use reusable grocery bags for all store purchases.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Reusable water bottles instead of plastic. For adults, reusable Keurig cups instead of plastic.</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Recycle as much as possible. Use as little plastic and foam as possible.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Buy second-hand and swap with neighbors & relatives.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Don't use plastic spoons, knives, forks or straws. Reusable works just fine!</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Sit quietly in your backyard for 10 minutes. What do you hear/see/smell/feel?</p>
<p>23</p> <p>God's Gift of Animals & Air How do we care for God's creatures and the air we all need to live?</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Make a bird or squirrel feeder. https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/bird-feeders-for-kids-to-make-2764688</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Plant a butterfly garden. https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/attracting-butterflies-hummingbirds/7265.html</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Help Mom & Dad use the car less. Combine trips or walk/ride bikes when possible.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Turn off lights when not in use. Use energy-efficient light bulbs. https://www.bae.com/SmartEnergy/ProgramsServices/Pages/EnergySavingsTips.aspx</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ask family members not to use aerosol spray cans.</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>What animals do you see in your yard? In your community? Take deep breaths outside. What do you smell?</p>
<p>30</p> <p>How Has Our Family Changed? Can we continue to be better caretakers of God's World?</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Check back over the month to note any changes you've made. Give yourselves a pat on the back!</p>					



2020 Virtual Music & Arts Camp



2020 Virtual Music & Arts Camp

- ▶ Parents were grateful for some type of activity for their kids. (Also for delivery of bags, since most forgot to pick up each Sunday!)
- ▶ Kids were involved in a non-ZOOM activity after the difficult spring transition to virtual learning.
- ▶ We did not “track” actual involvement of each family; in fact the live online activities (Bible story, conversation with Pastor Abby and a painting activity) were attended by only a few children.
- ▶ Church members pitched in to provide materials, labor packing bags, delivery and anything necessary to support families and this activity.
- ▶ Church members proud of creating a new style of outreach that we’ve used subsequently for Advent, back-to-school blessings and Lent bags delivered to each church member.
- ▶ Parents seemed to appreciate the environmental theme.

Lessons Learned

Take-Away for Watershed Stewards

- ▶ If kids are ZOOMing a lot, try to come up with alternate means of reaching out.
- ▶ Involve parents. Several of our activities required assistance from adults (building flower box, painting, garden in a bottle, etc.)
- ▶ Reuse whenever possible. We re-purposed donated clean, brown shopping bags and go-boxes used to deliver meals in a senior community, for example. We tried to put our message of “God’s World, Our World” into practice in materials and activities.
- ▶ Those of us who quarterbacked this program received tremendous satisfaction from being able to carry on a beloved program. We came close to cancelling but couldn’t bear the thought of a year without our Music & Arts Camp!