

V. Project Description

St. Philip's has been a part of the growing city of Annapolis since the 19th century. In 1870, St. Philip's Colored Mission was founded by women of St. Anne's Episcopal Church as a Sunday School for African American children. By 1874, services were held and a congregation was forming. In 1887, two buildings were purchased for worship and fellowship on Northwest Street. The location was on the edge of the Clay Street community, then a vibrant neighborhood of black-owned homes and businesses. In 1969, the parish moved to its present site on Bestgate Road.

The church's present Rector, The Rev. Randy K. Callender was called to St. Philip's on July 1, 2012. Fr. Callender's ministry, through teaching and preaching, is to build relationships. He feels called to help people, young and old, inside and outside the institutional church and to make it understood that all are welcome in the Episcopal Church.

Today, the parish is a vibrant, active and engaged community made up of 150 families. Under normal, non Covid-19 conditions, the church also welcomes many different organizations in Anne Arundel county that meet in its Great Hall.

St. Philip's has numerous stormwater management projects to maintain on its property and has a small congregation from which its donations are derived. Therefore, any grants for projects enable the church to help ensure that its stormwater management projects are working as effectively as they can to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff.

Project Description:

St. Philip's plans to replace existing dead or deteriorating Natives as well as add new Natives in a section of an existing Conservation Landscape garden that was installed in the Fall, 2015 on the church property. The previous Conservation Landscape project was supported by grant funding secured by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

For the Hillside Stabilization with Natives project, St. Philip's will focus on the section of the garden at the corner of Bestgate and Severn Grove Roads, which has the fewest number of remaining Native plants from the original planting in 2015, and includes the replacement of Natives along a section of Bestgate Road.

St. Philip's Church plans to apply for a Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) Mini Grant for spring 2021 to fund the replacement and addition of Natives in other parts of this Conversation Landscape garden.

Site Location:

The site location for the Hillside Stabilization with Natives project is at the corner of Bestgate and Severn Grove Roads in Annapolis, MD, 21401, on the St. Philip's Church property. **Pre-project photos are attached.**

Bestgate Road is a heavily traveled 35 mile per hour roadway with many stop lights, affording travelers the opportunity to see the garden every time they pass it. The foot traffic on the sidewalk along our project is also heavy, especially during events at the adjacent high school field, so having signs with information about Native plants will be a great educational opportunity for all.

The project site features a slope, giving way to impervious surfaces at the bottom (sidewalks, asphalt). The project site is in full sun and prone to having dry soil as a result.

Site Size:

The dimensions of the Hillside Stabilization with Natives Phase One project are 15' x 43', and the total square footage is 645.

Site Preparation:

In advance of the new Natives planting, St. Philip's is hiring a professional landscaper to remove all invasives and weeds from the project site.

Woods Memorial Church has offered an auger and volunteers to help St. Philip's dig holes for the larger Native plants in advance of the planting. This task will be done the day before the Planting Day.

Oversight:

The project's Planting Day will be overseen by the Project leader, Ann O'Malley, following the instructions of Jennifer Vaccaro (Living Landscape Solutions), the original designer of the St. Philip's Conservation Landscape Garden.

A Detailed Planting Plan and Sketch, Plant List, and Budget for the new project are attached. We refer the Unity Gardens Fall Planting Plan as "Phase One" and refer to a possible spring Planting Plan (e.g., from a CBT Mini Grant) as "Phase Two."

Oversight of pre-site preparation (i.e., weeding), site preparation (i.e., digging holes) and sharing the project's success will be the responsibility of Project Leader, Ann O'Malley.

Installation:

Planting will be done by volunteers from St. Philip's Church and Woods Memorial Church (Severna Park), and Planting Day is scheduled for **Saturday, September 19**, with a rain date of **Saturday, September 26**.

Volunteers:

Through St. Philip's involvement in the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy's Faithful Green Leaders program, which brings together environmental stewards from churches around the county, Ann O'Malley (St. Philip's) met Karen Royer from Woods Memorial Church. Ms. Royer offered to provide volunteers from Woods' much larger congregation to help with St. Philip's environmental projects, including the Hillside Stabilization with Natives project.

Volunteers from St. Philip's church and from Woods Memorial Church will make up the bulk of the volunteers for the installing new Natives, and the job is expected to be completed in half a day.

There will be a total of three volunteers for digging holes for the plants before the planting and 16 volunteers for Planting Day. Below is the list of volunteers:

Pre-Planting Day – Digging Holes

Ann O'Malley, Karen and Bob Royer

Planting Day:

Ann O'Malley
Newton Gentry
Tony Roane
Cindy Hall
Marina Schofield
Karen and Bob Royer
Peggy and Jim Newman
Julie and Don Van Hassent
Julia Erickson
Linda Eggbeer
Jenny and Phil Henry
Sally Sasche

Given the pandemic and health crisis, all our volunteers will follow county, state and federal guidelines and mandates for preventing the spread of Covid-19. We will ensure that our volunteers wear masks when within six feet of one another. We will maintain social distancing, even when planting, and work in groups of 10 or less on sections of the garden when installing Native plants.

Should further Covid-19 restrictions be placed on the public, we will revisit our plans and consider spreading out our planting days so fewer volunteers are together. We will also seek advice from the county Health Department for planning purposes to ensure that our planting plans are consistent with state and county guidelines and mandates.