WSA Database
Types of Practices

Bioretention Area

A large excavated pit backfilled with engineered media, topsoil, mulch, and vegetation. These are planting areas installed in shallow basins in which the stormwater runoff is temporarily ponded and then treated by filtering through the bed components, and through biological and biochemical reactions within the soil matrix and around the root zones of the plants. Unlike rain gardens these include underdrains, are larger engineered systems, and treat higher amounts of impervious surface.

Conservation Landscape

A practice that replaces sections of turf grass with native plantings. These plantings provide greater water infiltration and habitat and require less water and fertilizers compared to turf grass.

Downspout Redirection

Downspout redirection is the process of separating roof downspouts from the sewer/stormwater system and/or redirecting downspouts from impervious surfaces that drain to sewer/stormwater system onto pervious surfaces (most commonly rain gardens and rain barrels).

Invasive Plant Removal

Invasive plant removal events. If this was the primary purpose of your project, use the Project Maintenance form.

Litter Removal

Voluntary trash and debris clean-up events. If this was the primary purpose of your project, use the Project Maintenance form.

Living Shoreline Restoration

A non-structural alternative to hardening the shoreline with bulkheads or revetments, use vegetation and other natural materials to help protect shorelines from excessive erosion while allowing the shoreline to retain its dynamic nature and habitat features.

Oyster Planting

Raise native oysters in cages or floats attached to docks. These oysters are later returned to the Bay to help replenish the once-teeming population, which has been decimated by disease, poor water quality, and overfishing.

Permeable Surface Replacement

The practice of removing impervious hardscape and replacing it with porous pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water

filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain.

Pet Waste Station

Installation of pet waste stations that offer bags for waste pick-up and a trash can to deposit wastes.

Rain Barrel/Cistern

Rain barrels and cisterns are devices that are placed at the end of downspouts to collect rainwater and store it for later uses by the homeowner.

Rain Garden

A rain garden is a planted depression in the landscape that collects and allows rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces to be absorbed. Rain gardens are planted with native plants, include a soil media and mulch, and do not have engineered underdrains. Rain gardens typically treat residential rooftop runoff or impervious surfaces on residential property.

Riparian Buffer Planting

Buffer strips running parallel to a waterway and are vegetated areas of land that contains a variety of trees, shrubs, and native grasses.

Storm Drain Stenciling

Stenciling storm drains in a community with messages about how all water flows to the Chesapeake Bay may encourage people to dispose of trash properly and keep trash out of the drains and the Bay.

Stormwater Planter

A stormwater planter is a small, contained vegetated area that collects and treats stormwater runoff in a similar method as a bioretention. These systems collect and filter stormwater through layers of mulch, soil, and plant root systems, where pollutants are retained, degraded, and absorbed. Stormwater planters do not require a large amount of space and can add aesthetic appeal and wildlife habitat to city streets, parking lots, and commercial and residential properties. Stormwater planters typically contain native, hydrophilic flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Tree Planting

Residential tree plantings enhance the natural beauty of the area, protect watersheds, and provide habitat. The larger the area planted the greater the benefit to the environment.

Wetland Restoration

Wetlands can play a role in reducing the frequency and intensity of floods by acting as natural buffers, soaking up and storing a significant amount of floodwater. Restoration projects are designed to return natural functions to a former or degraded wetland.