



**GUNPOWDER
VALLEY**
CONSERVANCY

Clear Creeks at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (2019 - 2020)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) is a Catholic parish and school situated on 8.5 acres in Essex. In 2018, OLMC students helped reduce stormwater runoff by planting a rain garden on their campus. During 2019 - 2020, their efforts were further augmented with the installation of several more Bay-Wise landscaping practices through the **Bay-Wise Project at OLMC**, funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust's Outreach and Restoration Grant. The project was guided by the watershed principle of "Do Unto Those Downstream as You'd Have Those Upstream Do Unto You!"

Project Accomplishments



The **Bay-Wise Project at OLMC** featured 16 free educational workshops. With the assistance of approximately 200 volunteers, we were able to install the following on-site:

- 5 microbioretention practices
- 2 rain garden (1st installed in 2018)
- 1 Bayscape
- 4 rain barrels
- 10 large native trees

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake offered two events at OLMC that helped parishioners connect the watershed restoration work with their faith tradition and teaching. A "Water & Garden Keepers" group was formed on campus to cultivate volunteers to maintain the gardens, as well as educate others about the importance of environmental stewardship.



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Self Guided Bay-Wise Tours

Educational signs were installed near several of the Bay-Wise practices. These signs included either a graphic of how stormwater is processed or examples of native plants that benefit pollinators and other native wildlife. Each sign also included a quotation or message chosen to resonate with the Catholic faith. In 2019, OLMC achieved [Bay-Wise Certification](#) for their property.

Clean Water from a Parking Lot

In 2020, we piloted a parking lot remediation project at OLMC. We removed four parking spaces to improve water quality to Hopkins Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. More specifically, we installed two microbioretention practices to filter 17,000 sq. feet of stormwater runoff. [Watch our short video](#) about the project!

Award Winning Community Leaders

Our 2019 Community LEADERS of the Year were Alex Brylske (pictured on the right) and Doug Demeo (on the left) from OLMC. Alex connected OLMC students and teachers to the project. Doug's passion for the environment made him a natural for promoting the project to OLMC's parishioners.

Learn how your congregation can get involved with the *Clear Creeks Project*
gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org

The Clear Creeks Project is made possible through funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; Baltimore Gas and Electric; Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

