**Benefits of Bayscapes**

**Beautify your yard.** With their diversity of colorful native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses, Bayscapes enhance the beauty of our waterfront and showcase our pride in our Chesapeake Bay heritage—but they are more than just visually appealing. They also...

**Decrease water pollution.** One of our major environmental problems is stormwater runoff—the water that flows over impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, etc.) directly into a creek. This water carries pollutants like car oil, sediment, and fertilizers that destroy our creeks and threaten our health. By collecting some of this water in your Bayscape garden, you can help filter out some of the pollutants and prevent them from reaching our creeks and the Bay. Cleaner water is safer and healthier for you and your family!

**Require less watering, weeding, and fertilizing than other gardens.** An established Bayscape of native plants needs little maintenance. Native plants are adapted to Maryland’s climate, so they can handle our seasonal droughts with little watering and don’t need as much fertilizer to grow in Maryland soils. Less fertilizer also means less nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

**Support native wildlife and attract butterflies.** Bayscapes provide the preferred habitat for our native wildlife, particularly the birds and beneficial insects that pollinate our flowers and trees.

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**“See Your Feet In Our Creeks”**

The Clear Creeks Project is a grant-funded, citizen-based initiative that helps answer a community desire to restore the water quality of the rivers and creeks in Middle River, Perry Hall, White Marsh, Carney, and other nearby areas in several small watersheds. Through educational outreach and hands-on efforts, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) and its community partners will assist residents in creek clean-ups, tree plantings, and yard and garden installations all designed to proudly maintain the health and heritage of our treasured Chesapeake waterways.

www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
P.O. Box 9733
Towson, MD 21284

This brochure was created by GVC. The Clear Creeks Project is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, BGE, and the MD Dept. of Natural Resources.

To have your yard assessed for a Bayscape, contact:

Amy Young
Clear Creeks Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator
410-404-4748
ayoung@gunpowdervc.org

For questions about Bayscapes, contact:

Patty Ceglia
Clear Creeks Bayscape Designer
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pceglia@gunpowdervc.org

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Bayscapes—a term coined by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay—are beautiful landscapes that work with nature to protect our creeks and the Bay. They:

- Replace lawn with native plants that support wildlife
- Reduce yard maintenance
- Intercept and filter rainwater before it runs into our waterways

**Don’t let your lawn run-off...**

Clear Creeks:
Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride
www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks
Bayscape gardens and buffers are **no different to design or install** than a traditional landscape or garden, and they’re easier to maintain!

**For those who live in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River or Lower Gunpowder Falls watersheds, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) will cover 60% of Bayscape garden costs for eligible property owners, and GVC will help you plan and install your Bayscape, all as part of the Clear Creeks Project.** The average-size Bayscape is 20’ x 20’ and costs homeowners only $264. If you are interested in a Bayscape garden or buffer, please contact us!

### BAYSCAPE BASICS

#### Design
A Bayscape is a landscape designed to mimic nature through the appropriate selection and placement of native plants. The most effective place for your **Bayscape garden** is a location where it can intercept water running off your lawn, driveway, patio, or other hard surfaces. A **Bayscape buffer** should be located adjacent to a water body such as a creek or shoreline. The size of the Bayscape garden or buffer is based on the size and shape of your property and the amount of lawn to be replaced. As with a traditional garden, the design and planting process also depends on what type of soil you have, how sunny the site is, and other factors. **GVC representatives will help you choose the best location and design for your Bayscape garden or buffer!**

### Plant
The planting process is, again, similar to any garden you might plant—the main difference is that native plants are used. Also, in order to promote healthy plant growth and drainage, you may need to add some compost and other soil amendments. Once you lay out your garden and have your soil prepared, it’s time to put in your plants! The numbered pictures in this brochure show just a few of the beautiful native plants and flowers from which you can choose. **GVC representatives will also help you prepare your soil, choose plants, and install your Bayscape.**

#### Maintain
To establish your Bayscape, you will need to do a little mulching, weeding, and watering at first, especially during dry periods. **GVC representatives will show you how to maintain your Bayscape—setting you up for success!**

#### Suggested Native Plants: (numbered images)
1. Bergamot (*Monarda bradburiana*)
2. Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
3. Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)
4. Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
5. Sweet pepper bush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
6. Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
7. Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
8. American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
9. Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
10. New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
11. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
12. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
13. Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
14. Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
15. River birch (*Betula nigra*)
16. Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
17. Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
18. Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

**More info:**
www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks