

Restoring an Urban River, One River Star at a Time

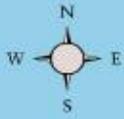
Casey E. Shaw
Grassroots Coordinator
March 6, 2020

Elizabeth River  **Project**
Making restoration a reality



The Revival of Elizabeth

The Revival of



0 1 2 3
Miles



The Elizabeth River Watershed

A "watershed" is the area that drains into a river when it rains. If you live in the Elizabeth River watershed, rain water runs off your lawn and street, then into storm drains and then the river. Along the way, this runoff becomes a toxic soup of

Great Dismal



Elizabeth River Project
Making restoration a reality

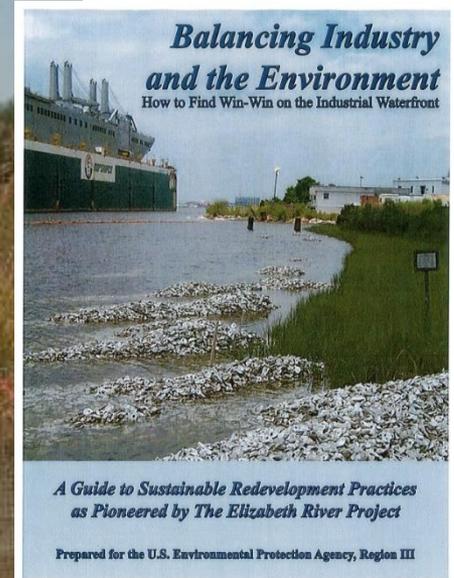


Our Mission:
Restore the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality through partnerships

River Star Businesses

**“Visible,
tangible, flying,
swimming,
recordable
results.”**

-Phil Stedfast, Kinder
Morgan River Terminals,
participant, River Star
Business



- 134 River Star Businesses
- Over 356 million pounds of pollution reduced
- 1,882 acres of habitat

River Star Homes

Recruiting homeowners since 2011



There are over 5,600 River Star Homes in the Elizabeth River Watershed committed to seven behavior changes for environmental sustainability, with more than 1,500 residing in Chesapeake.

River Star Homes

1. Scoop the Poop
2. Protect Storm Drains
3. Help Geese Migrate – Don't Feed Them
4. Don't Flush Medicines
5. Keep Grease Out of the Sink
6. Avoid Single-Use Plastics
7. Reduce Fertilizer Use



Install a Living Shoreline

- ✈ Deter Geese
- ✈ Improve Water Quality
- ✈ Protect Against Erosion
- ✈ Increase Habitat Value

Before



After 6 months



After 1 year



Cost Share for Living Shorelines

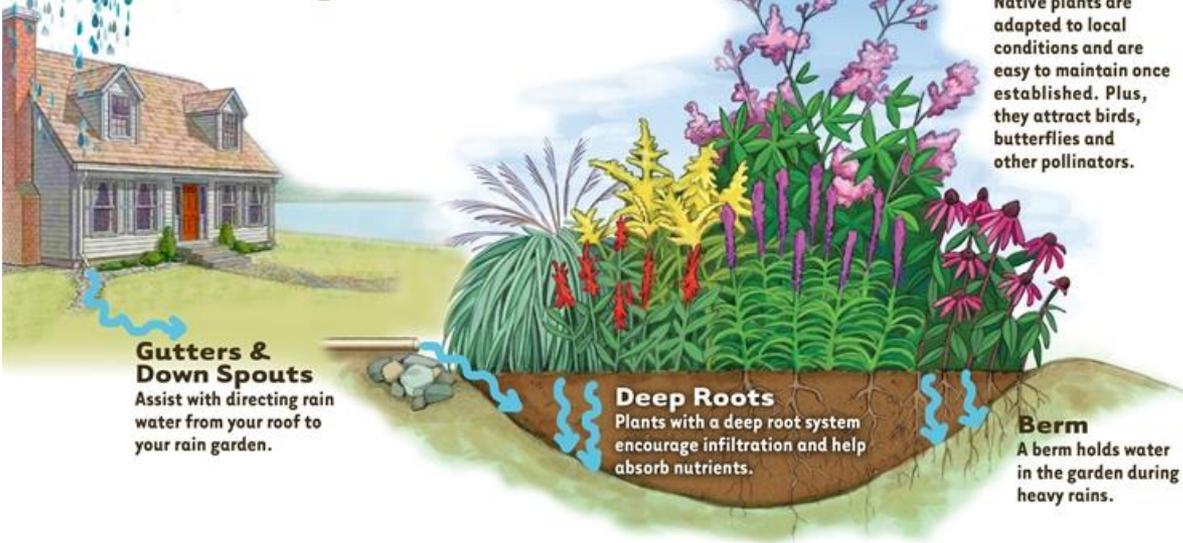


- Up to \$4,000 in living shoreline cost share assistance available
- Homeowners must live on the Elizabeth River and join the free River Star Homes Program
- Project must be a living shoreline (i.e. coir log toe, rock sill, or oyster reef sill) with native wetland grasses
- Required mitigation cannot be cost-shared

Reduce Runoff – with a Rain Garden

Up to \$2,000 cost share available for rain garden projects

How does a rain garden work?



Reduce Runoff – with a Rain Barrel

125-Gallon Rain Barrels

- You can save an average of \$200/year on water bill
- Over 200% more efficient than typical 55-gallon rain barrels
- Retails for \$300; you save \$225!

Delivered and installed for
just **\$125!!**

(Includes hardware and installation to
existing gutters)



River Star Schools 2nd Annual Youth Resilience Expo



Schools throughout the watershed showcased 17-student led projects with 3 Chesapeake Schools receiving the top honors:

Butts Road Intermediate, Great Bridge Intermediate, and Sparrow Road Intermediate

The Learning Barge

America's
Greenest
Vessel

The
Learning Barge

100% Off
the **Grid!**



"The students were talking the whole way back to school...not the usual chit-chat, but instead how they can conserve resources to save the river."

Project Blue Crab

2019-2020 **GreenSTEM**
RIVER RESILIENCE
Project Blue Crab



RiverFEST 2020

Elizabeth River Project
RIVER Fest
2020

Saturday, June 13, 2020 | 11am-4pm
ON THE WATERFRONT at **Elizabeth River Park**
1400 Elizabeth River Way, Chesapeake | At the foot of the Jordan Bridge

Come Aboard the Elizabeth River Project's
Dominion Energy Learning Barge
Discover
"What's In Your River"
Science Dome & Aquariums
Earn Your Free
River Star Home Flag
Have Fun with Free Children's
Activities & Games
Bring your Dogs on Leash
Shop the Organic Produce Sale
Enjoy Live Music
& Great Food Trucks
Browse Eco-Friendly Vendors

Don't forget to bring me!

Come aboard the Learning Barge!

Save the Date:
Saturday, June 13, 2020
at
Chesapeake's
Elizabeth River Park

Sponsorship Opportunities
Available!



Looking to the Future in Chesapeake

- Continue to grow River Star Homes & partner with the City for homeowner BMPs
- Complete Eastern Branch Restoration Strategy & support new focus on the Southern Branch
- Convene stakeholders for next Elizabeth River Watershed Action Team
- Cleanup contaminated sediments at Money Point Phase III, Scuffletown Creek, and Republic Creosote
- Also include dredging Scuffletown Creek to more permanently accommodate the Learning Barge?



- Living River Trust – Chesapeake maintains most remaining forested open space in the Elizabeth River watershed. Encourage city & stakeholders participation in creating a loosely connected corridor of habitat conservation sites

Find Your Starring Role



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