



## Create Your Own **BUFFER GARDEN**



### **WHAT IS A BUFFER GARDEN?**

A Buffer Garden is simply a landscaped area designed to reduce pollution and improve the environment.

As our population grows, our need to protect our natural resources grows with it.



Buffer Gardens are an excellent way to help us be good stewards of our Bay and watershed.

### **BUFFER GARDENS**

- Reduce storm water run-off
- Prevent soil erosion
- Absorb excess nutrients before they reach the Bay
- Provide a habitat for local wildlife





# WHY HAVE A BUFFER GARDEN?



▶ The leaves, flowers, and seeds of native plants provide food and shelter for local wildlife, while the root structures hold soil and capture rainwater.

▶ Conventional lawns and gardens contribute to air and water pollution through the use of chemical fertilizers and water.



▶ During growing season, grass clippings account for 25% to 40% of landfill space.



**AND**

▶ Small gas-powered engines used in lawn mowers and string trimmers emit more hydrocarbons than a typical automobile!



# HOW TO START A BUFFER GARDEN:

- ▶ The simplest way to start is to identify an area where lawn or bare space can be replaced with native trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- ▶ Draw up a landscaping plan.
- ▶ Conserve existing trees.
- ▶ Use native plants.
- ▶ Avoid invasive species.
- ▶ Slopes, drainage ditches, and standing bodies of water are excellent locations. Planting in these areas stabilizes the soil, filters rain water, and slows runoff.

## A GARDEN FOR EVERY SPOT

With proper plant selection, you can create any number of specialized gardens. In addition to planting for sunny or shady areas, you can design:

- ▶ Mosquito-Repellent Gardens
- ▶ Pollinator Attracting Patches
- ▶ Butterfly, Hummingbird, or Rabbit Havens

## We Can Help!

Contact the  
Chesapeake Beach  
Green Team:



410-257-2230



[Info@chesapeakebeachmd.gov](mailto:Info@chesapeakebeachmd.gov)



# Volunteers Needed!