



About the Butterfly Commons

The Butterfly Commons Project is a collaboration between:

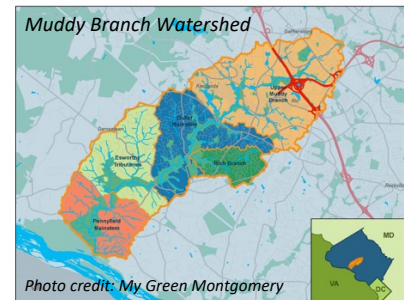


Public accessibility:

The project is accessible to the public. It is situated on lands held by the Lakelands Community Association adjacent to 1333,1335,1337, 1339, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379 Main Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Managing stormwater:

The Butterfly Commons was initiated and funded to address stormwater runoff coming from rooftops and other adjacent impervious surfaces. Runoff was a particular problem because it led to salting of sidewalks during winter, the dissolved salt then entered the Muddy Branch Creek harming aquatic wildlife and impacting the quality of our drinking water.



The roots of native plants often grow more than a foot deep underground while turf grass is typically one or two inches. The deeper roots of the natives break through the compacted clay soil and allow stormwater to infiltrate. Because of these deep roots, the Butterfly Commons will help to reduce stormwater runoff and subsequently reduce the need for salt on area sidewalks during the winter. Once established, these deep roots will also help native plants thrive even during drought conditions.

Reducing pollutants in our waterways:

Because native plants are adapted to our local conditions, they do not require fertilizers or other inputs. Therefore, conservation landscaping reduces nutrient runoff into our waterways.

Increasing biodiversity:

The Butterfly Commons uses a technique referred to as conservation landscaping. It promotes greater biodiversity because it incorporates plants that are specifically native to Maryland and are known to provide food sources to pollinators. Because native plants and insects have coevolved, these plants provide more and better food and habitat for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

Inspiring the community:

In addition to providing ecosystem services, the Butterfly Commons project also serves as a demonstration site for community members who are interested in adding Eco-Functioning Space to their own yards.

For more information about Eco-Functioning Space and this project please visit www.urbanecosystemrestorations.org. You can also learn more about this project in prior issues of the Lakelands Leader (e.g., Page 20 of the [May 2020](#) issue, Page 7 of the [June 2020](#) issue, Page 14 of the [September 2020](#) issue).