



Spa Creek CONSERVANCY Stewards of the Creek

keep our creek clean & alive



*The Spa Creek Conservancy is a volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Spa Creek watershed through **education, preservation, mitigation, and restoration.***

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Spa Creek Stewardship Program Partners with Annapolis Hyundai and Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury Automobile Dealerships to Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Annapolis, Md. – The Spa Creek Stewardship Program, Annapolis Hyundai and Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury automobile dealerships have joined forces to reduce stormwater runoff and improve the health of Spa Creek. Annapolis Hyundai and Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury are located adjacent to one another on West Street in Annapolis. This major initiative represents over \$175,000 in materials and labor, and is funded by grants awarded to the Spa Creek Conservancy by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The dealerships are also providing cash match to the grants.

Spa Creek Conservancy launched the Spa Creek Stewardship Program in 2009 with funding support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and in partnership with the Center for Watershed Protection. The program is for businesses and organizations to positively influence the water quality of Spa Creek and College Creek and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. A high priority area identified for stormwater retrofitting are automobile dealerships with their very large impervious footprints. The high degree of impervious surface, e.g., roof area and parking lots make them excellent candidates for stormwater reduction and mitigation best management practices.

Since 65%- 75% of stormwater pollution originates on private property it is imperative that organizations such as Spa Creek Conservancy seek out these property owners and assist them in developing effective approaches to meeting this critical challenge. Automobile parking lots accumulate pollutants such as gasoline, oil, and heavy metals that cannot be absorbed on paved surfaces. The pollutants are then washed into creeks by way of rainfall. This type of runoff is very toxic to our tributary biosystems and fisheries.

There are many proven techniques and technologies that can be implemented to slow down and stop stormwater pollution. At the Annapolis Hyundai and Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury sites, rain gardens, stormwater planters, and sand filters will be installed which will result in significant reductions and mitigation of stormwater runoff through infiltration and filtration reducing phosphorus, nitrogen, and heavy metal pollutants.

Rain gardens will catch stormwater runoff from its parking lots. The shrubs and native plants in the rain gardens will help slow and cool the flow of water into the creek, filter its contaminants by infiltration into the soil and generally improve the Creek's health. Working with the Conservancy in this stewardship

initiative gives the automobile dealerships the opportunity to better understand the importance of stormwater management practices and will also provide aesthetically pleasing conservation landscaping.

Work on construction of the stormwater planters and sand filters will begin in mid-November at the Annapolis Hyundai dealership and a big volunteer digging and planting day is planned for mid-December that will include volunteers from Bates Middle School, Annapolis Hyundai employees, and the Conservancy. The Rich Morton Lincoln Mercury stormwater management construction will occur in the spring 2011.

The Spa Creek Conservancy has received over \$1 million in grant funding over the past five years and will assist other participating businesses and organizations to apply for grants to cost-share major pollution prevention projects. They will also provide volunteers to implement smaller projects. Businesses and organizations in the Spa Creek Watershed are encouraged to become part of the solution by joining the Spa Creek Stewardship Program. Their involvement will mean a cleaner, clearer Spa Creek and a healthier Chesapeake Bay.

For more information, visit www.spacreek.org or contact Regina Rochez at rrochez2@aol.com.

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The Spa Creek Conservancy is a volunteer organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Spa Creek Watershed through education, preservation, mitigation, and restoration. Our goal is a fishable, swimmable creek.