



**GUNPOWDER
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CONSERVANCY

Clear Creeks at Saint Demetrios **Greek Orthodox Church (2022)**

Saint Demetrios is a Greek Orthodox church and preschool on 32 acres in Parkville, MD. The **Bay-Wise Project at Saint Demetrios**, funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust Outreach and Restoration Grant, grew out of the church's Green Club and its vision of bringing the Saint Demetrios community together in the mutual mission of being true stewards of the earth.

Project Accomplishments



As a result of the **Bay-Wise Project at Saint Demetrios**, the campus achieved Bay-Wise Certification and now features:

- 3 microbioretention practices
- 1 Children's Edible Bayscape garden
- 60 native trees



Throughout the year, GVC hosted an **Open House** and **5 free educational workshops** where parishioners and local residents alike learned Bay-Wise techniques that they could apply to their own yards. Topics included rain barrels and edible Bayscape garden maintenance.



The youngest members of the Saint Demetrios community also got their hands dirty for clean water! The church's preschool students learned how to measure out a garden bed. On Earth Day, young families created seed balls with a native seed mix as a fun way to add groundcover to the garden. Now children of all ages will benefit from having **access to a pollinator-friendly garden** that is beautiful, educational, *and* a source of healthy food!



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Spiritual Growth for Stewards

The **Bay-Wise Project at Saint Demetrios** was enhanced by our partnership with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) who helped the church form a Green Team in 2021. The Green Team truly are dedicated to bringing sustainable choices to their church community. We are confident the Green Team will lovingly maintain their conservation gardens for all to enjoy.

Opportunities for spiritual reflection were incorporated into the church's tree planting. Before the first trees were planted, IPC staff provided prayer cards for volunteers to contemplate a prayer on our relationship to water. As the last tree was planted, GVC staff shared a Tree Blessing in a Native American traditional method.

Award Winning Community Leader

GVC's 2022 Community Leader of the Year was Mary Triandafilou. Mary represented the Saint Demetrios Green Team at many meetings and was adept at mobilizing her congregation to attend workshops. Her involvement began when she and her husband, Lou, adopted the stream that runs through the Saint Demetrios property. She is an inspiration to her community with her positive energy and hope!

Learn how your congregation can get involved with the *Clear Creeks Project*
gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org

The Clear Creeks Project is made possible through funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; Baltimore Gas and Electric; Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



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