

Soil and Water

2017 Sustainable Garden Tour

Alexandria-Mount Vernon Area

Sunday, June 11th 1 PM – 5 PM

Get inspired to create a sustainable landscape at your home, school or business! Local residents open their gardens and share their experiences landscaping with nature in mind. *Please enjoy each garden at your own pace. Visit as many or as few as you like. Free and open to all.*



1. Thornburg Residence, 10815 Harley Rd, Lorton, VA 22079

The 7.5 acre natural woodland Thornburg garden is on historic Mason Neck adjacent to Mason Neck State Park and a Federal Wildlife Refuge for the American Bald Eagle, combining historical and native plantings within an old growth American Holly/Oak forest. This Audubon-certified wildlife sanctuary uses biologically sound pest management practices with wildlife on patrol.

From Gunston Cove Rd and Route 1 head east on VA-242 E/VA-600/Gunston Rd toward Cranford Farm Cir for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Harley Rd for 0.6 miles. The destination is on the left. Park along their long driveway or in front grassy parking area.

2. The Residence at 7700 Midway Pl, Lorton, VA 22079

This National Wildlife Foundation Backyard Habitat is highlighted by a long babbling brook water feature that attracts frogs, turtles, skinks, opossums, and foxes. Many birds visit the site, as well, including cardinals, blue jays, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, and much more. The homeowners are devoted to improving and maintaining their garden beds, and continuing to add native plants.

When heading South West along Route 1, turn right on Lorton Road for 0.2 mi. Turn right onto Wildwood St. for 0.2 mi. Then turn right onto Midway Pl. The destination is on the left.

3. Young Residence, 9215 Allwood Dr, Alexandria, VA 22309

This Audubon at Home Ambassador's Garden features lovely mature trees and a foot rail fence giving this garden a country lane feel. See how the homeowners have managed tricky water conditions over the 30 years they have lived here.

From Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy and Forest Haven Dr turn left onto Robertson Blvd for 0.2mi. Then turn right onto Allwood Dr. The destination is on the left.

4. **The Residence at 9012 Captains Row, Alexandria, VA 22308**

The homeowners' keep true to their belief that "being an environmentalist should not be expensive" by using recycled materials to enhance their garden. The residence features a native plant collection, a gravel driveway and walkways made of recycled material, and several structures made of cob, straw, and mud gathered from their back yard, including a wood shed, a bee habitat, and much more.

When heading northwest on George Washington Memorial pkwy turn right onto Stratford Ln for 300ft. Then turn left onto Captains Row for 200ft and the destination is on the left.

5. **Martin-Siegel Residence, 8707 Stockton Pkwy, Alexandria, VA 22308**

There are many conservation activities to see at this certified Wildlife Sanctuary site! Adjacent to Little Hunting Creek, this property features a conservation easement that protects the water body, as well as additional features to soak rainwater into the ground, including porous pavers, a rain garden, rain barrels, and native plant landscape.

From George Washington Memorial pkwy and Stratford Ln, turn left onto Camden St for 0.2mi. Then turn left onto Stockton pkwy for 0.5mi. The destination is on the right.

6. **Ward Residence, 1029 Gladstone Pl, Alexandria, VA 22308**

In this garden site, a grassy front yard has been replaced with native plant species and other plants attracting rabbits, bees, and birds. Other wildlife (including a blue heron, pair of mating mallards, and foxes) flock to the large man-made pond in the rear yard that serves as habitat for goldfish and frogs. The property also features a wooded area and vegetable garden.

From George Washington Memorial Pkwy and Chadwick Ave, head west toward Mt. Vernon Trail for 200ft. Turn right onto W Boulevard Dr for 300ft. Then turn left onto Gladstone Pl for 300ft. The destination is on the left.

7. **McGlone-Crumbling Residence, 4534 Eaton Pl, Alexandria, VA 22310**

Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are all welcome here, but no lawn is allowed! Multilayered sun and shade plantings, healthy soils, forested riparian buffer, and a tree that overhangs part of the house to intercept storm water all contribute to restoring healthy green spaces in Fairfax County. Native plants are grouped by habitat type in this Audubon at Home certified Wildlife Sanctuary.

From Franconia Rd and Craft Rd, head down Craft Rd for 0.2mi and turn left onto Lillian Dr for 0.2mi. Then turn left onto Eaton Pl. The destination is on the left.

8. **Loft Ridge Rain Garden, 4320 Gypsy Ct, Alexandria, VA 22310**

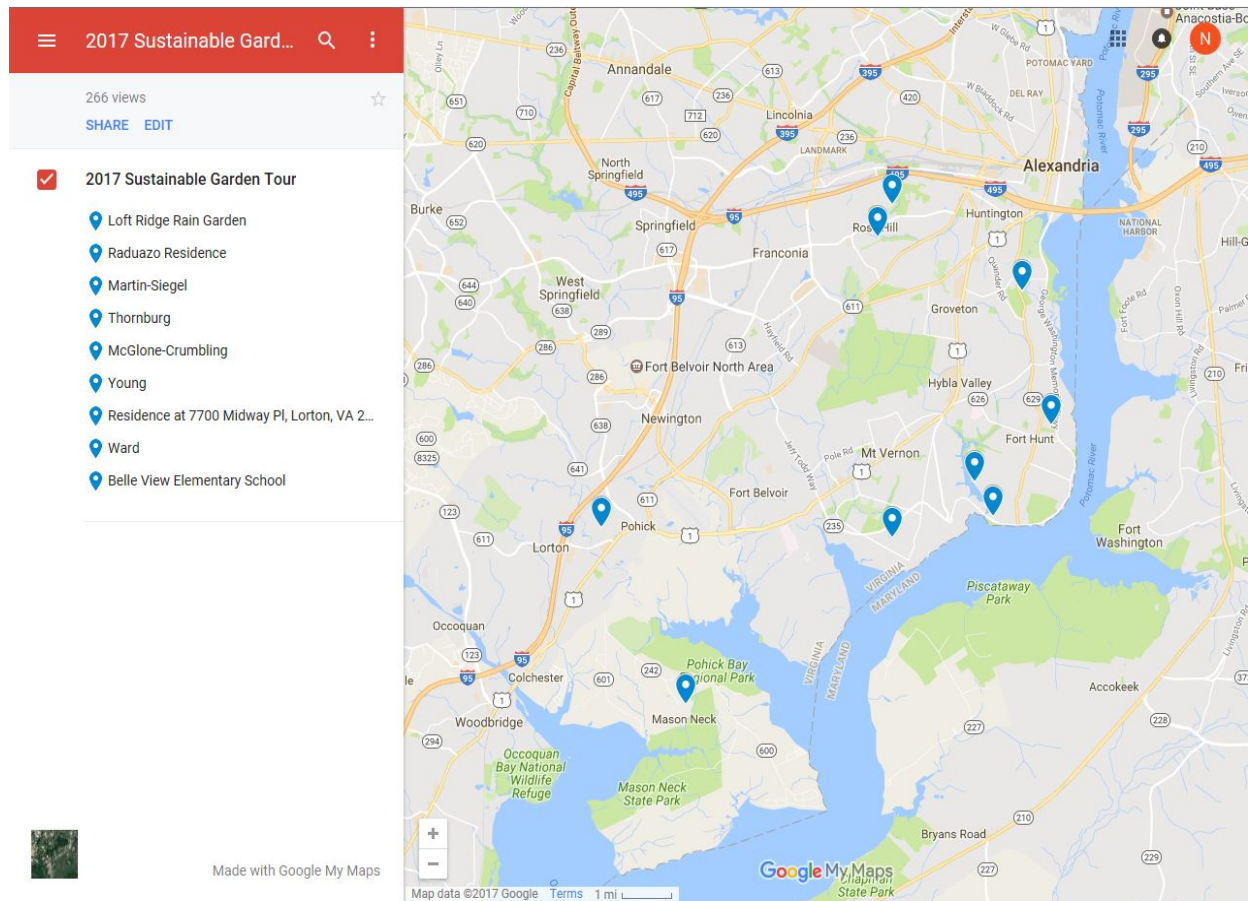
The Loft Ridge Rain Garden was one of the first Conservation Assistance Program projects. Installed in 2015, it captures rain from a row of townhouse roofs, protecting the nearby stream in the Cameron Run watershed.

*From Franconia Rd and Ridge View Dr, head north on Ridge View Dr toward Cheatham Ct for 0.1mi. Turn right at Cheatham Ct and then turn left toward Gypsy Ct for 250 ft. Turn right onto Gypsy Ct. The destination will be on the left. **To park, continue north past Cheatham Ct on Ridgeview Dr for 0.1mi until you reach a circle and see the tennis courts on the right.** Please park near the tennis courts on Ridge View Dr, either head-in parking in the circle or along the road. Please **do not** park in numbered parking spaces. The rain garden is a short walk down the paved path past the tennis courts.*

9. **Belle View Elementary School, 6701 Fort Hunt Rd Alexandria, VA 22307**

There are a number of outdoor learning classrooms on the Belle View Elementary campus, including an outdoor wetland laboratory that consists of roughly 800 plants. The other outdoor classrooms include a rain garden, raised vegetable beds, a sensory garden, and more. Stop by this site to see the new "classroom" exploding with natural exuberance.

From Belle View Blvd and Fort Hunt Rd, head south on Fort Hunt Rd. The destination is on the left.



For an online map of sites and descriptions, see

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/gardentour.htm>

or scan the QR code below.

This event is organized by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD). Please call 703-324-1423 (TTY 711) or email conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov for additional tour information.

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd

Special thanks to 2017 Garden Tour partners: Fairfax Master Naturalists, and Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green. Thank you!

