



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WATER QUALITY CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Did you know that a project to improve the quality of your local stream can often bring community and economic benefits, in addition to environmental improvements? Here are the top ten ways that these projects can benefit you!

1

Reduce flood damage to homes, businesses, roads, bridges and other physical structures.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

By planting trees or shrubs along streams, the ground soaks up rainfall instead of allowing it to flood streets and structures, also helping to reduce stream bank erosion.

2

Lower costs associated with flood damage repair, wastewater treatment, energy usage and property maintenance.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Constructing an infiltration basin—a shallow dipped area in the ground with vegetation—holds stormwater runoff until it is slowly absorbed into the ground instead of flooding streets and structures. This also helps limit the amount of polluted stormwater entering wastewater treatment plants.

3

Increase sales at commercial and recreational fisheries, boat charters, outfitter shops and other tourism-affiliated businesses.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

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4

Improve public health and lower costs associated with health issues.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Adding a fence to keep livestock from entering a stream decreases nutrient pollutant and bacteria levels in the water, helping to keep both humans and animals healthy. Planting new trees helps to keep our air clean and contributes to our physical and mental well-being.

5

Increase local job opportunities.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Choosing to install green infrastructure practices creates a demand for workers to help with planning, design, construction and maintenance. As an area becomes more aesthetically pleasing, pedestrian traffic and tourism can rise, leading to an increase of business for local retail stores and restaurants.

6

Increase property values for residential and commercial property owners.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Installing a living shoreline in your community can help increase the property value of adjacent homes and help grow the local tax revenue.

7

Strengthen community ties and improve quality of life for all residents.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Planting new trees help common areas become more suitable for community events, which supports neighborhood connections. Studies show that urban crimes decrease while mental health improves when green infrastructure is added to vacant lots.

8

Increase crop yields and lower farming costs.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Planting cover crops is one method farmers can take to maintain healthy soil, which helps increase their crop production, decrease costs and risks, and improve profits, according to the American Farmland Trust and the Department of Agriculture.

9

Improve herd health and reduce veterinary expenses for farmers.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Conducting rotational grazing and pasture management lowers supplemental livestock feeding costs.

10

Provide information to educate community residents about the value of healthy waters.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

Watershed organizations, local governments or other groups can install educational signage when they create or restore a wetland to encourage community members to become stewards for their local environment.

**Find more water quality conservation projects
and learn how they can benefit your community at:**

www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/BMP-Guide_Full.pdf



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