THE RAMBLE SUSTAINABLE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Providing economic opportunities through stream restoration

PROJECT GOALS

Conserve and revitalize Laurel's Broad Creek waterfront with community-oriented green infrastructure, while promoting sustainable economic development in the town.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Increased tourism to the town, driving visitors to local businesses.
- Provided a new, waterfront location for local businesses to operate.
- Created public water access, including opportunities for kayaking and fishing.
- Educate public on a regular basis via demonstrations of Best Management Practices (BMPs) used in project.
- Reduced costs associated with flooding damage.
- Developed a public, multi-use space at a beautiful waterfront location.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Improved water quality by reducing sediment and stormwater runoff.
- Increased shaded recreational areas by the addition of tree canopy.
- Conserved crucial habitat and biodiversity.
- Created a wetlands buffer using native plants.
- Minimized erosion caused by flooding.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Constructed wetland buffer.
- Wetland restoration.
- Vegetative channels for trapping stormwater runoff.
- Floodplain restoration.
- Plantings of native trees, plants and grasses.
- Woodland and pollinator meadows.

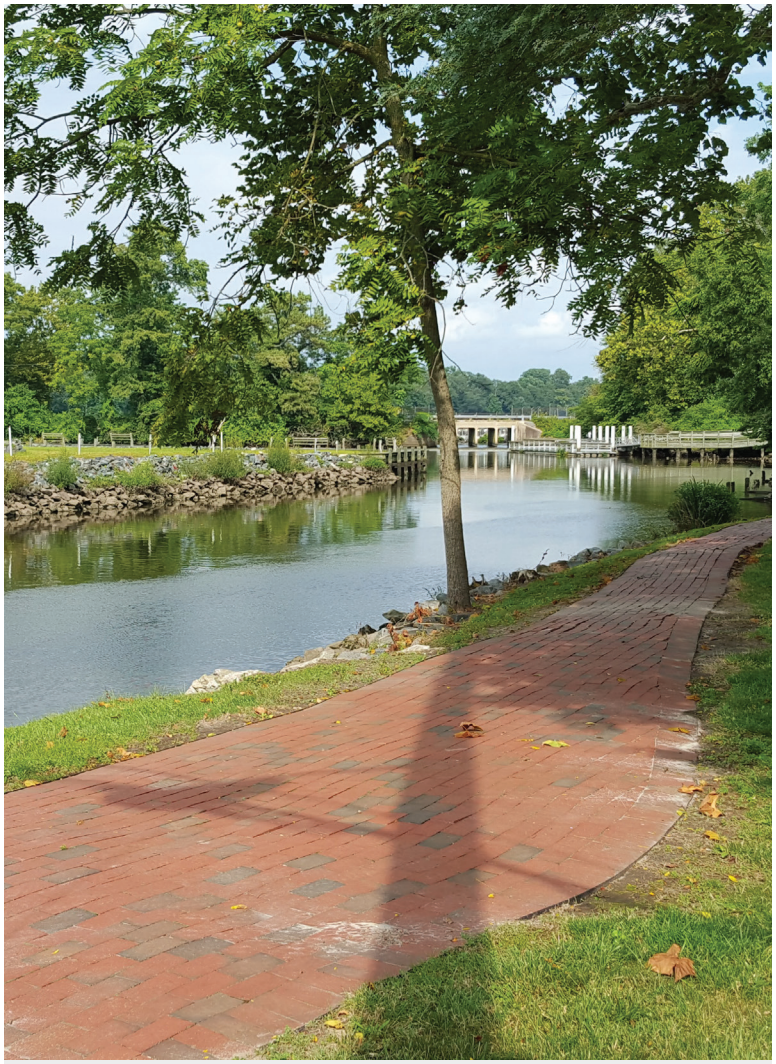

Photo: Laurel Redevelopment Corporation

> **"The idea for The Ramble was that we could tie green infrastructure into Laurel in a way that would not only improve water quality along Broad Creek, but also enhance the economic sustainability of Laurel's downtown. From the first day, it was important to us that we listened to the community's needs and understand their vision for the Laurel. That should always be the model for these types of projects: community first.**
>
> **- Dr. Jules Bruck**
> *Professor and Director of Landscape Architecture at the University of Delaware*

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ramble is an innovative, community-driven green infrastructure project between the town of Laurel and the University of Delaware. The project uses green stormwater design to enhance the health of its streams and minimize flooding, while also revitalizing the downtown economy and bringing vibrancy to the Broad Creek waterfront. Discussions about the project began in 2012 when the Laurel Plan Advisory Team engaged the town's government leaders, citizens and business owners to assess the community's needs. In 2014, the Laurel Plan Advisory Team unveiled The Ramble to citizens at Laurel Public Library, a plan which included trails, boat launches, a playground and improved public green spaces. Development has begun on a number of projects, including a user-friendly river walk, which will increase the connectedness between the town's parks and communities. Looking to the future, Laurel has adopted a sustainable growth plan, as well as a 10-year comprehensive land-use plan.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Infrastructural limitations of locating project in a floodplain.
- Understand practical limitations of the space and available funding.
- Find ways to ensure and encourage ongoing maintenance after installation.
- Essential to engage and inform community throughout the entire process.

THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- Town of Laurel.
- Laurel Redevelopment Corporation.
- University of Delaware.
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.
- Nanticoke Watershed Alliance.
- Sussex Conservation District.
- Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative.
- Cedar Creek Planning & Communications.
- DNREC Community Water Quality Improvement Grant.
- DNREC Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Program.

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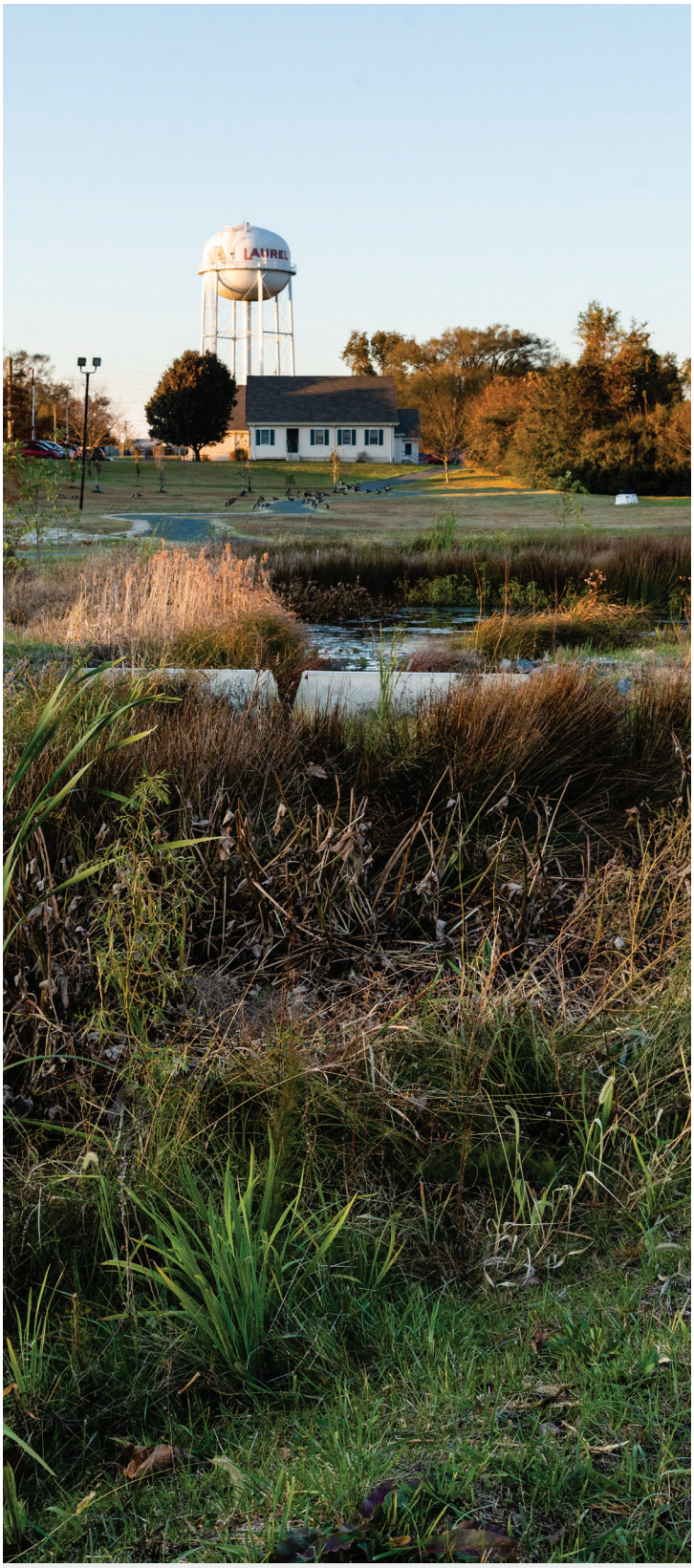

Vegetated channels trap and filter stormwater in Laurel, preventing nutrient and sediment runoff from entering Broad Creek. *(Photo: Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program)*