

SYMPHONY WOODS



PROJECT PROFILE
JULY 2021



CONTENTS



01
ABOUT THE PROJECT

02
CONSERVATION
LANDSCAPING

03
BIOCHAR

04
NATIVE PLANTS

05
PROJECT PARTNERS

06
TESTIMONIALS



SPONSORS INCLUDE:



THE CENTRAL PARK OF COLUMBIA



In 2021, a new community-driven concept plan for Symphony Woods was approved to make our lovely woods a place for everyone to come and enjoy nature and art.

In cooperation with project sponsor, Inner Arbor Trust, Howard EcoWorks has created a beautiful, sustainable vision for this treasured community space, while creating green jobs for our community members and second chances for deserving citizens to get back on their feet.

The concept plan for Symphony Woods is rooted in environmental sustainability. These 51 acres of protected open space is intended to benefit the community, and to serve as the Central Park for our community.

The implementation of this concept plan involved the installation of conservation landscaping along with the use of biochar.

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

A conservation landscape or Bayscape is the practice of modifying the land in a way that incorporates environmentally sensitive design and non-invasive native plants to create a diverse landscape that helps to protect clean air and water and support wildlife.

Conservation landscaping provides benefits in the form of clean air and water, supporting wildlife, and supporting a more beautiful and healthier human environment.



THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES IN SYMPHONY WOODS FOCUS ON:

01

Tree Protection

The mature canopy of trees has an extensive root system; tree protection zones were established around each tree and these areas were simply mulched.

02

Soil Restoration

For the majority of the conservation landscaping area, the soil was decompacted using a mechanical aerovator, it was top-dressed with 2" of compost and biochar and then the soil amendment was worked into the soil using rakes and hoes

03

Native Plantings

Dozens of species of native plants were planted throughout the conservation landscaping area.

BIOCHAR



Unique to this project, is the use of biochar as a component of the soil amendment. Like compost, biochar adds organic matter to the soil and supplies the plants and trees with important nutrients. Unlike compost, biochar can last in the soil for hundreds of years, it greatly increases water retention, it can act as an effective filter for water pollutants, it can reduce stormwater runoff volumes and it sequesters carbon in the soil.



BED SIZES



| Bed | Tree protection Area (square feet) | Conservation Landscape Area (square feet) | Total Area (square feet) |
|--------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 1700 | 1500 | 3200 |
| 2 | 2900 | 2500 | 5400 |
| 3 | 660 | 2670 | 3330 |
| 4 | 990 | 1650 | 2640 |
| Total | 5260 | 6670 | 11930 |

TOTAL # OF PLANTS PLANTED: 5186



NATIVE PLANTS

SHRUBS

SUMMERSWEET



WITCHHAZEL



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA



VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE



MAPLELEAF VIBURNUM



GROUND LEVEL PLANTS

FALSE BLUE INDIGO



(*Baptisia australis*)

This member of the pea family is great for pollinator populations like native bees. Wild indigo also fixes nitrogen, making it beneficial to other plants in its surroundings.

FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE



(*Penstemon digitalis*)

This perennial plant attracts pollinators like hummingbirds and bumblebees. This species is a great bloomer in clay loam soils with poor drainage.

WILD GINGER

EPIMEDIUM

SWEET WOODRUFF

SEDGE

RUSH

WHITE WOOD ASTER

SIBERIAN BUGLOSS

AMERICAN BUGBANE

WILD GERANIUM

CORALBELLS

BLUE FLAG IRIS

LEOPARD PLANT

GOLDEN RAGWORT

WOODLAND PHLOX

MAYAPPLE

BLUNT MOUNTAINMINT

BLUE-EYED GRASS

ZIGZAG GOLDENROD

CELANDINE POPPY

FOAMFLOWER

GOLDEN ALEXANDER

TESTIMONIALS



On July 28th, our community members, project partners, and donors gathered to celebrate Howard EcoWork's successful project at the Symphony Woods site. In addition to crew-led tours of the beautiful new gardens, the event entailed a wonderful speech by County Executive Calvin Ball, touching on the importance of youth jobs, sustainability, and open space.

Ellen Flynn Giles (pictured on the right), an Inner Arbor Trust Board Member, spoke passionately about the ability of this project to help with stream restoration and ecological sustainability. The trails and gardens, she says, will maintain the integrity of the site, while drawing people in from the highway and surrounding areas.



Chair of the Columbia Association Board and member of the Columbia Art Center Advisory Committee, Janet Evans (middle) is thrilled that this project is finally coming to fruition, since the land has been underutilized for so long. Janet especially loves the welcoming perennial gardens and the new trails, which, she says, will make the public space more accessible and help preserve the green space.

