



PRESS RELEASE

9/1/2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact
Lisa Baird, Program Director
Stream-Link Education
lisa.streamlink@gmail.com
443-538-6201

New Large-Scale Reforestation Project Underway in Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg, MD (August 30, 2021) – A new large-scale reforestation project is underway in Frederick County, being led by local non-profit and tree-planting powerhouse, Stream-Link Education (SLE). Land adjacent to Tom's Creek, owned by the Town of Emmitsburg (11 acres) and the Daughters of Charity (16 acres), will be planted with 8,100 native trees and shrubs over the course of the next 2 years.

"The thousands of native trees and shrubs will buffer, filter and ultimately reduce the most common pollutants coming from suburban and agriculture runoff that would normally flow into the Monocacy and the Potomac Rivers and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, 1,283 pounds of Nitrogen, 30.97 pounds of Phosphorous, and 34 tons of sediment per year will be intercepted by the buffer," said John Smucker, SLE's Executive Director.

But the benefits of planting a forest buffer go far beyond water treatment to include carbon sequestration, drinking water supply protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, floodwater mitigation, erosion control, soil revitalization, and air and stream temperature regulation. The trees will enhance the streams' resiliency to climate change and will be forever protected through a conservation easement. "Moreover, we estimate that this reforestation project will save the Town of Emmitsburg and its residents \$434,712.62 in stormwater management costs," said Town of Emmitsburg Mayor, Don Briggs. George Brenton, Administrator of the Daughters' Emmitsburg Campus, shares, "the Sisters are very good stewards of the environment; they are pleased to offer the 16 acres for planting."

Community engagement is a crucial component to SLE project success, growing the community of land and water stewards and fostering an environmental ethic. "This project will educate and engage over 900 citizens in hands-on tree-planting and tree maintenance activities. Volunteer events are open to the public and citizens of all ages are encouraged to attend. The first event will be held on October 9, 2021," said Lisa Baird, SLE's Program Director.

This is a multi-year initiative funded by a grant through the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund.

Many community groups and partners have pledged support including local municipal green teams, chambers of commerce, numerous scout troops, 4-H clubs, YMCA youth camps, local, regional, and global environmental non-profits, including the Common Market and One Tree Planted, faith-based organizations, schools and academic institutions, businesses, and more.

Community members eager to be a part of this important project should visit

www.streamlinkededucation.org and subscribe at the bottom to receive news and updates and to hear about upcoming tree-planting events. For unique partnership and sponsorship opportunities, contact Lisa Baird, Program Director at lisa.streamlink@gmail.com or 443-538-6201.

Stream-Link Education

The mission of Stream-Link Education is to connect community to conservation through educational and meaningful volunteer tree planting experiences. Volunteers walk away from a planting not only feeling good about their contribution, but also understanding the importance of their effort. Learn more at www.streamlinkededucation.org.

See available photos below. Additional photos available upon request.



Community volunteers of all ages planting trees at a Stream-Link event.



Volunteer attaches a tree shelter onto a newly planted tree at a Stream-Link event.



Community volunteers planting trees at a Stream-Link event.



Youth volunteers planting trees at a Stream-Link event.