Even the smallest green space can make a difference.
Find one and make it your own!

Native plants are not only beautiful but support local wildlife like birds and butterflies and help filter polluted runoff keeping our streams and harbor clean. What can you plant in your community pits, strips, plots or pots?

**Tree Pits = Tree Gardens!**
If you have a street tree or existing sidewalk cut, you can have a garden! If you don’t have either but are interested, we can help arrange that!

If you’re up for the CHALLENGE and want to learn more, contact: Leanna@waterfrontpartnership.org or, text 443-996-6271

If you live in the Harris Creek Watershed, you may be eligible for a small grant and organizing support to do your whole block.
How to Get started:

Use the right tools for success!

1. **Weed:** Do not turn the soil over with a shovel, it will spread weed seeds. Only pull weeds by hand using gloves and hand tools such as dandelion poppers (stick the sharp end in straight under the root and pop it up) and spades (good for digging up bigger roots and also for planting). Wetting the soil first will help ease the pulling. If you need help identifying plants ask a Master Gardener or download a plant ID app on your phone.

2. **Plant** your seedlings (baby plants) or seed packets. Use a pointed tip shovel to dig, using your legs and not your back. Plant densely (close together) so plants will crowd out the weeds and keep each other moist. Native plants will come back bigger year after year. Seeds need more love than seedlings (water, weeding, protection), but are less expensive.

3. **Mulch and Water!** Use hardwood natural mulch about 3” thick. This helps keep the soil moist and adds nutrients as it breaks down. You can also lay cardboard or layers of newspaper down under the mulch for extra weed protection. Let soil dry out between waterings, but don’t let it dry out for too many days. July and August are hard months for plants; they’ll need a little extra. Use at least a gallon-sized watering can a few times a week or pull out the hose and help your neighbors.

**Recommended Native Perennial Plants for Conservation:**

**Tips:** Plant shorter/hardier plants towards the street side and taller towards the house. You don’t want people to crush them getting out of the car. Choose plants that have a variety of blooms times so you have something flowering most of the year. Keep it simple to 3 varieties. If your whole block uses the same plants, you can easily share, transplant and identify the flowers and weeds. Annuals are okay, but you’ll have to plant again next year. Some fun annuals to try are zinnias, sun flowers and cosmos.

- **Black-Eyed susan / Rudbeckia fulgida**
  - Maryland’s state flower!
  - Blooms: yellow flowers with dark brown center, June-Sept
  - Pollinators: bees, butterflies, beetles, wasps
  - Maintenance: remove dead flowers to prolong blooming; divide every few years

- **Threadleaf Coreopsis / Coreopsis verticillata**
  - Blooms: yellow flowers
  - Pollinators: butterflies, bees
  - Maintenance: trimming back plants in mid-summer will promote a fall re-bloom

- **Blazing Star / Liatris spicata**
  - Blooms: long stalk with showy, purple flower heads, July-August
  - Pollinators: butterflies, bees, flies
  - Maintenance: remove dead flowers to prolong blooming; divide every few years

- **Blue-Eyed Grass / Sisyrinchium angustifolium**
  - Blooms: blue-purple flowers with yellow center, May-July
  - Pollinators: bees, butterflies
  - Maintenance: cut back leaves after blooming; divide every few years

- **Blue Flag iris / Iris versicolor**
  - Blooms: purple flowers, late spring - early summer
  - Pollinators: bees
  - Maintenance: break off seedpods that form after the blooms have faded; prune back foliage in fall; divide every few years

- **Coneflower / Echinacea magnus**
  - Blooms: large purple daisy-like flower surrounding a spiky cone, midsummer-fall
  - Pollinators: bees, wasps, beetles, flies
  - Maintenance: remove dead flowers to prolong blooming; divide every few years