



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

SITE ASSESSMENT

ACTION KIT



F O R M I N G

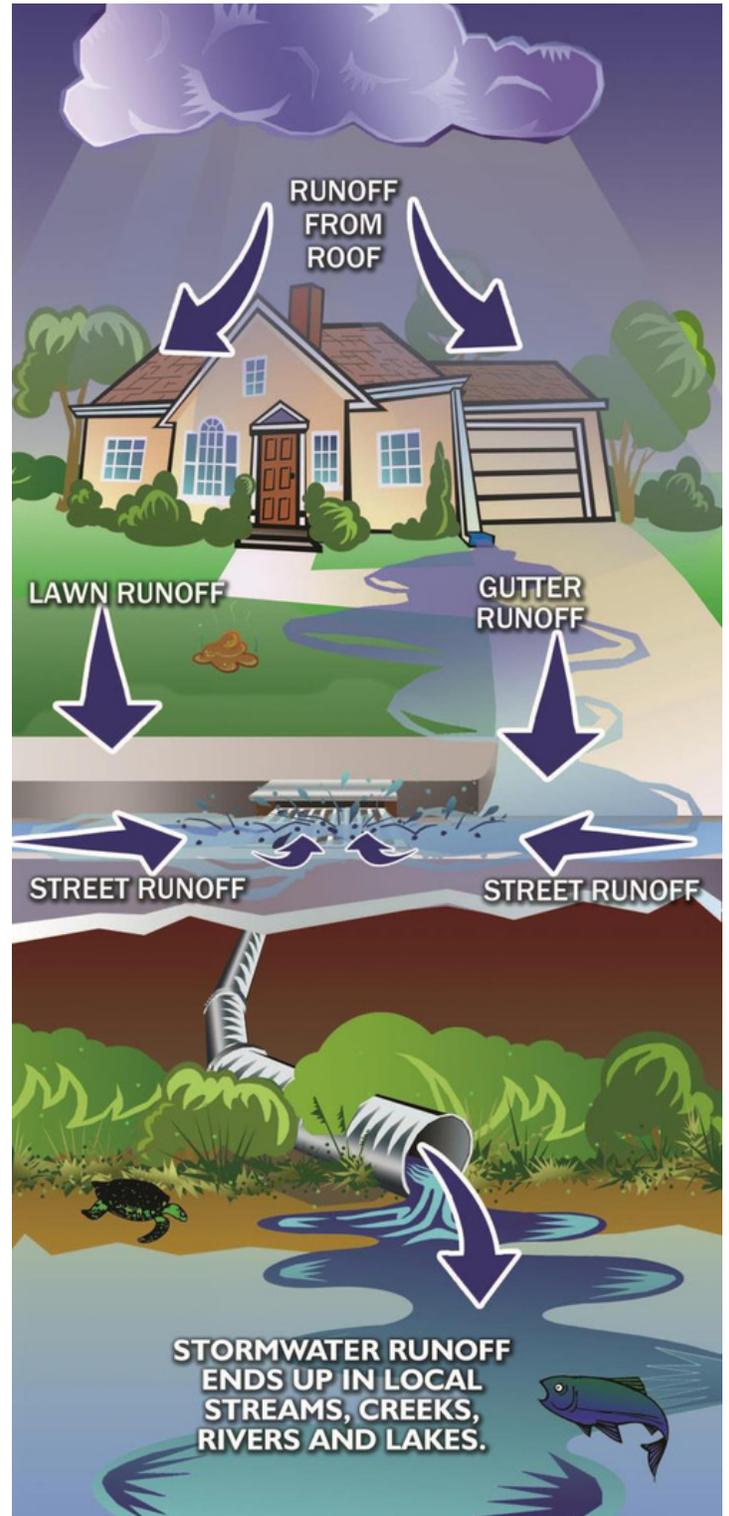
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of conducting a site assessment is to take a holistic look at residential and private properties that:

- Gauge stormwater runoff
- Consider wildlife habitat
- Provide site-specific recommendations to reduce environmental impacts and restore local watersheds

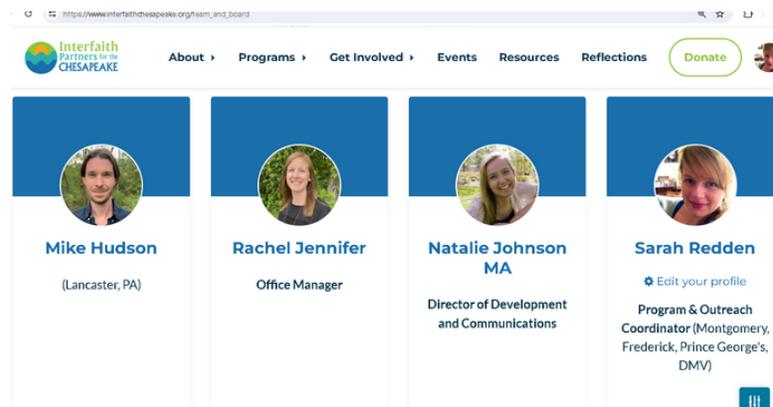
PROCESS OVERVIEW:

- Preparation
- Conduct
- Develop
- Share
- Find Funding



STEP 1: PREPARATION

This step includes identifying the correct point of contact for your region. IPC has amazing relationships with some wonderful technical partners that connect with residents, community and government leaders, and industries. These experts help communities live sustainably within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Please see below for a coordinator in your area.



[Find a Regional Coordinator in your region by clicking the link **HERE!**](#)

Find the best date and time for an IPC Regional Coordinator, you, and any other pertinent members from your green team such as the master gardener to schedule with a watershed restoration specialist. Create a free group poll with Doodle by [clicking this link **HERE.**](#)

Institutional Distrust: While government agencies often try to connect underserved communities with the resources that they need, many communities are reluctant to trust the government due to systemic racism or neglect.

STEP 2: CONDUCT

After the site assessment has been scheduled, the next step consists of performing a physical inspection of the property and surrounding area. The watershed specialist will collect data and take photos during the inspection. It will be beneficial to have all necessary green team members present during the visit to answer any relevant questions and may provide some information based on observational findings. Typically, site assessments take approximately 60 to 90 minutes depending on the size of the property.

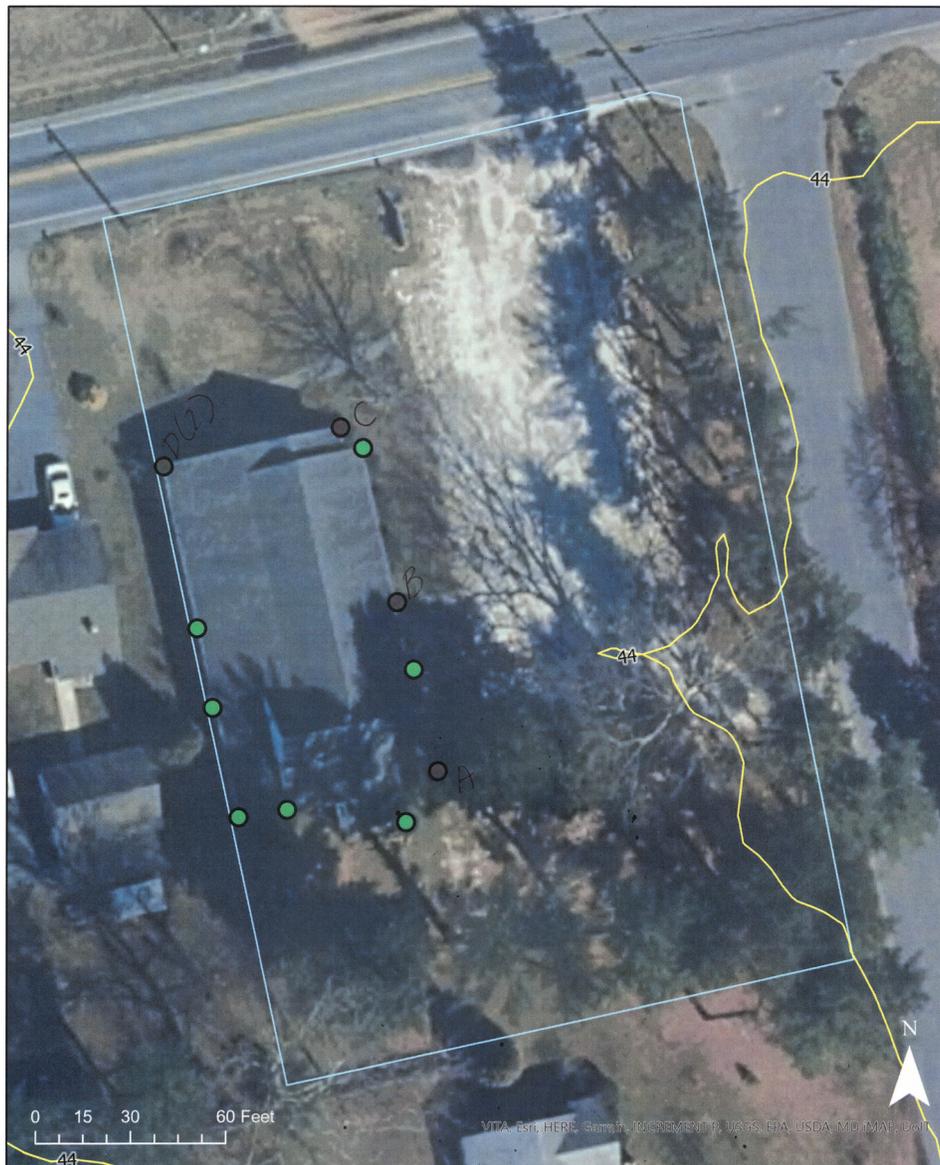
Often GIS datasets are utilized to evaluate watershed factors including but not limited to management of stormwater runoff, level of restoration efforts, and identify areas of opportunity for projects. The congregation's behavior will also be considered as data is collected to provide an appropriate preliminary concept and design.



Saint Gabriel Roman Catholic Church/Watershed Public Charter School Bioretention project located in Central Baltimore

STEP 3: DEVELOP

Once the site assessment has concluded the recommendations and design take on average 2 weeks to be completed and returned. The findings will provide the congregation with multiple recommendations on how to implement environmental stewardship projects on the property.



Example Aerial View of Potential Opportunities

Surging Seas: According to the National Climate Assessment, seas could rise by more than one foot by 2050 and up to eight feet by 2100. Meanwhile, hurricanes will continue to intensify, bringing stronger winds and more rain ashore.

STEP 4: SHARE

When you receive your final report, share with all members of the green team to discuss findings and next steps. There may be multiple projects suggested in the findings and having a meeting to debrief over the findings with your team will help to determine what project you decide to work on first.

Some ways to get a consensus on what projects your congregation should or can take on would be to have a group vote. Please keep in mind available funding opportunities as well when deciding next steps. Think about using a poll with benefits and drawbacks for each person to vote on. A great online tool you can use to create a free poll is Doodle. Please [click the link here to get started!](#)



Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Howard County

STEP 5: FIND FUNDING

Now that you completed the site assessment, received your findings, shared the report with your green team and decided on a project the last step is to look for available funding. IPC recommends watching this previous webinar on navigating the grant process with help from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. [Click here to access the recording.](#)

There are also ongoing programs depending on your region that your congregation may qualify for. Please note funding is available on a first come first serve basis.

Visit the Chesapeake Bay Trust for open opportunities and deadlines [HERE.](#)



Episcopal Church of the Ascension Gaithersburg ,MD