### About Us: Middle James Roundtable

The Middle James Roundtable is a collaborative effort among various stakeholders in the Middle James watershed to improve water quality and the overall health of our communities. Roundtable stakeholders include elected officials, local government staff, the agricultural community, planning district commissions, business and industry, water and sewer utilities, commercial fishermen, soil and water conservation districts, developers, interested citizens, environmental groups, tourism and recreational groups, state and federal agency staff and public service authorities. Roundtable activities are dictated by the participants and can involve activities such as hosting forums to discuss local watershed issues and landuse, educating citizens about water quality, grant writing, coordinating workshops, social marketing campaigns, collecting and analyzing water quality data and planning and implementation of watershed goals.



Rain garden sign at Bon Air Public Library funded by MJRT grant 2017.



### www.mjrt.org



Coaster created to raise environmental awareness and stewardship.



This cooperative project has been funded by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency through contract #16323 and #16451.

# Middle James Roundtable



Bringing people to the table to discuss water quality



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# *Improving Water Quality One Citizen at a Time*

The Middle James Roundtable is committed to reducing nonpoint source pollution in the Middle James



Photography Courtesy of Monacan SWCD, Betty McCracken 2017

watershed. Many of the current and future projects target citizen education. Members of the Roundtable are working to continue stakeholder engagement and water quality implementation

projects in the watershed.

Scope of work includes an annual regional watershed conference, quarterly steering committee meetings, web-based electronic outreach, website maintenance, presence at local environmental education events, and support and installation of best management practices (BMPs) as funding allows.

#### **Recent Projects:**

#### **Rain garden Installation**

A rain garden is just like other flower gardens with one important difference—it collects and treats rain water so it will not become polluted runoff. Stormwater contains common pollutants: fertilizers, pet waste, pesticides, etc. This runoff often ends up in storm drains that carry it to local waterways. Rain gardens use permeable soils and hearty native plants that capture and filter stormwater so that it does not harm our local resources.



The Roundtable partnered with the City of Lynchburg to install a rain garden in the Fairview Center Parks and Recreational Facility. Participants gained knowledge of design and functionality and increased their enthusiasm for this water quality best management practice. In addition, runoff from the park will be cleaner.

#### **Soil Test Voucher Program**

A soil test incentive program is available for Henrico and Richmond residents. It offsets the cost of a soil analysis, which helps establish happy, healthy plants. Vouchers are available to cover the \$10 processing fee for a standard soil test. Contact us for more information.

#### Best Management Practice Signage

As BMPs are installed across the watershed, the Roundtable Steering committee engaged in the opportunity to educate the public on BMP types and highlight importance. Sign templates were created for priority BMPs, including agricultural and residential BMPs which can be used by localities, watershed organizations, and other BMP implementation entities to make and install signs at BMPs with public access. Funding was used to install one rain garden sign and eleven cattle exclusion signs within the watershed.



#### **Get Involved**

If you are interested in assisting the Roundtable with current or future projects, please email info@mjrt.org and indicate any projects of interest.

#### **Middle James Roundtable**

8600 Dixon Powers Drive P.O. Box 90775 Henrico, VA 23273-0775