



2023 February/March

VTC Environmental Institute

*What an incredible day. I don't know how many times I can say "thank you" as it doesn't seem like enough. We can't wait to watch everything grow. Thank you again for everything – it was a perfect day.*

Chris Gorri, Chesapeake Bay Foundation



## Service Project: 2023

The Service Project gets better each year!

In 2021, our inaugural year, we provided and planted 6,000 American Beachgrass plants at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. In the past two years, they have taken root, meshed together, and have protected valuable beaches from the ravages of many storms. Last year, we provided and planted 15,000 of those same plants at a City of Virginia Beach boat ramp off Shore Drive; dramatically located beneath Lesner Bridge. While a winter storm took about a fifth of those plants out to sea - landscaping the Chesapeake Bay, no doubt - the remaining plants took root and are doing their job of protecting the Lynnhaven River where it meets open water.

The 2023 Service Project was the most ambitious of them all. On Monday, January 23 we restored a 1,700 square foot bioswale at the entrance of Pleasure House Point and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Center. In addition to clearing the bioswale of invasive plants and planting appropriate perennials and self-seeding annuals, once again we provided and planted American Beachgrass plants. The bioswale project restored a failed engineered feature to its original purpose. Grass plants will prevent erosion and reduce foot traffic in areas designated for turtles and other wildlife.

As in 2022, the 2023 Service Project concluded with presentations by City of Virginia Beach Public School Environmental Studies students. These high school juniors and seniors researched an ecological topic (bioswales), expertly presented the topic, and fielded questions from the audience.

### Sponsors



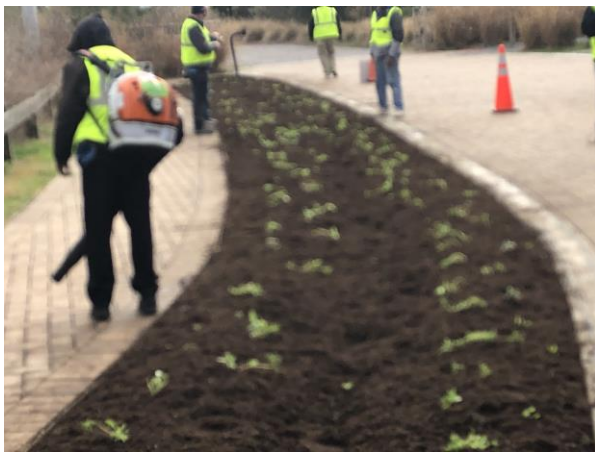




Clockwise, starting at top left.

Wes Bray surveying the completed bioswale; Barry Kessler (l) and Phil Bailey (r) spreading pollinator seeds as a finishing touch; Michael Moore (standing) directs the grass planting project; Dr. Jeff Derr after a morning of hard work; Ray Funkhouser (back to camera) prepares to begin planting; Harris Wheeler picked up the plants from Sandy's Plants, brought them to Virginia Beach, and worked on the grass plantings.





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Clockwise, starting at top left.  
Lawns & Gardens Employees putting finishing touches on the bioswale project; Paula Bray directing placement of perennials from Sandy's Plants; Wes Bray taking a rare break; Chris Gorri gives an overview of the Brock Center; Donor sign placed at the entrance of the Brock Center

*As a 501(c)(3) Corporation, all donations to the VTC Environmental Institute are tax-exempt.*

The VTC Environmental Institute provides great benefits for the turfgrass and landscape industries. We fight for you! Please donate and be part of our unique effort to advance both our industry and the environment through legislative action and partnering with environmental groups.

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