



project profile: regenerative design

National Aquarium in Baltimore

Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation Baltimore, Maryland

To complement its world-renown Inner Harbor facility, the National Aquarium in Baltimore is proposing to develop a new aquatic animal care and conservation education center on a site along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, Baltimore. As part of a Master Plan team led by Ayers Saint Gross and Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Biohabitats has been working to integrate an adaptive management approach into the design of the multiple-phase campus development plan that includes the renovation of a public works garage, a public park, water access piers, and ecological demonstration gardens.

Among the strategies proposed are tidal wetland and woodland restoration, phytoremediation, and upland water treatment wetlands, all of which are aimed at regenerating ecological processes of a portion of the Middle Branch riparian corridor and shoreline. These efforts relate directly to the Aquarium's mission by supporting Chesapeake Bay ecosystem recovery and inspiring stewardship of our aquatic environments.

Biohabitats' main objective was to demonstrate how the ecological interests of the project could be best served by using an adaptive management strategy that establishes a series of natural processes, monitors them over time, and adjusts elements according to the continual evolution of the elements and their processes—a strategy that also assists in project program development as well as enhancing visitors' experiences of the project.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

SERVICES	Inventory and Analysis Planning Green Infrastructure
CLIENT	National Aquarium in Baltimore
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE	Coastal Plain
BIOREGION	Chesapeake/Delaware Bay
WATERSHED	Gunpowder-Patapsco



Image Courtesy of Michael Vergason Landscape Architects



Image Courtesy of Michael Vergason Landscape Architects



Regenerative design strategies including water quality BMPs, energy conservation, and adaptive reuse are being seamlessly combined with ecological restoration initiatives including coastal wetland restoration, riparian buffer enhancement and greenway corridor conservation.