
Irvine Nature Center

Irvine Nature Center Stream & Wetland Restoration

Owings Mills, Maryland



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An educational nature center lives its mission to protect nature by restoring stability, function, and habitat to 1,550 feet of stream and adjacent wetlands.

SERVICES

Inventory & Assessments
Design-Build
Permitting
Construction Procurement
Construction Management

Located on a 210-acre site featuring forests, meadows, wetlands, and headwater tributaries of the Jones Falls, a highly regarded headwater trout stream, Irvine Nature Center has a mission to inspiring people to explore, respect, and protect nature. Irvine recognized the need to protect and improve the nature in its own backyard. Several sections of tributaries on the site had been ditched to support agricultural practices and those alterations, along with more recent land use changes nearby, had caused the streams and wetlands to become degraded.

With funding from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Capital Improvement Grant and a partnership with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), Resource Environmental Solutions, Biohabitats, and Irvine Nature Center teamed up to implement stream and wetland restoration. The design restored the degraded stream sections, diverted stormflow to adjacent field areas where it infiltrates and creates localized wet habitat areas, restored riparian wetland hydrology, reduced sediment and nutrient loading, and reestablished a mosaic of native emergent, forested, and scrub shrub wetlands. The project restored 1,550 linear feet of stream and enhanced wetlands adjacent to the stream. Revegetation involved planting more than 2,100 trees and shrubs, and seeding with native dry and wet meadow herbaceous seed mixes. MASCD regards the project as a model for municipalities seeking nutrient and sediment credits.