On 01/10/14, Clare Walker<clarewalker@verizon.net> wrote:

Hello Ron,

Yes the Environmental committee at Hillcrest would be excited to partner with you to on a project - particularly storm water management between our properties - it is an area we have discussed in the past (I have cc'd this email to David lack because I think he first raised the idea of a rain garden on the area between the two parking lots about 8 years ago and looked into the possibilities of getting a grant then.

I think about 4 years ago we planted a line of trees in that strip that were supplied by Jim Himmel as part of the Catonsville Canopy project and maybe 6 or more years ago we cleaned out the area closer to to Summit Avenue  as an Outdoor classroom for Hillcrest, that the Otters program now also use.

Let me know if you would like to meet / how we can assist.  I know we have lots of plants growing in the Hillcrest courtyard that are rain garden plants and are multiplying quickly so some could be dug up for a rain garden project as well as many other native plants.

thanks
Clare

On 1/7/2014 9:20 AM, Ron\_Cindy Gunderson wrote:

Dear Clare,

I understand from a couple of folks with children at Hillcrest that you are the person responsible for environmental projects.  I am fortunate to have a few grandchildren who attend, or have attended, Hillcrest and realize the energy and enthusiasm of the faculty!  Erin, my daughter-in-law, speaks very highly of you and of your involvement in hands-on projects.

I am writing as a Trustee at Catonsville Presbyterian Church and as one of the coordinators for our emerging Earth Care ministry.

There is an interest throughout the Baltimore area among churches to develop projects that address storm-water management/runoff in an effort to mitigate the effect of the watershed upon the bay.
There is an added incentive to reduce fees related to storm-water.
I will be meeting with a planning team early in February to consider ideas on how the combined effort of churches can be constructively coordinated to address environmental issues and developing projects.

We will very likely seek the advice and services of a specialist in designing storm-water mitigation projects before we do any serious planning.
Planting additional trees and creating small garden areas where rainwater runoff is occurring will be considered.
One area we are interested in addressing is located adjacent to our parking lot and between our property and the Hillcrest ES property.  Preliminary thought is being given to creating a rain-garden in this area, maybe more than one, as the landscape needs may dictate.
We hope to fund this project, or projects, with combined church and external grant funding.  Again, we are way too early in the process to even consider this aspect until a clearer sense of scope has been established.

Do you think there is an interest in an evironmental project in cooperation with Hillcrest ES?
I would be happy to meet with you, and anyone you believe should be included, at the school to discuss this further.
I look forward to chatting with you about this possible opportunity.

Sincerely,
Ron Gunderson
Earth Care Team, Catonsville Presbyterian Church