

# 2008 Conservation Landscaping Contest Application

Sponsored by the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

*Only typewritten applications will be accepted- please, no handwritten responses.*

## **Part 1 - Contact Information:**

NAME:

ORGANIZATION (if applicable):

STREET ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS (if different):

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

## **Part 2 – Property Details:** check one: **RESIDENTIAL** **NON-RESIDENTIAL**

1. **Property location:** \_\_ MD \_\_ VA \_\_ PA \_\_ DC; and County \_\_\_\_\_;  
Watershed/ nearest river or tributary \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Property size:** \_\_\_\_\_ acre(s)  
For sites less than 1 acre, provide an approximate fraction (eg., 1/2 ac, 1/4 ac) or square footage: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Type:** \_\_ Single-family home \_\_ Attached townhome/ apartment/ duplex \_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Setting:** \_\_ Rural \_\_ Urban \_\_ Suburban

## **Part 3 – Describe how your site meets the Eight Elements of Conservation Landscaping:**

### 1. HOW IS YOUR SITE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT?

*A conservation landscape is designed to benefit the environment and to function well for personal use.*

*Conservation landscape design occurs in the context of nature. It seeks to preserve, enhance and reduce impacts upon a site's natural features. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

- Not including buildings, approximate percentage of property that is
  - Conventional turf grass: \_\_\_\_\_%
  - Shrubs/trees: \_\_\_\_\_%
  - Garden/flowerbed areas: \_\_\_\_\_%
  - Hardscape (pavement, gravel, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_%
  - Water (pond, stream, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_%

*[continued...]*

## 2. HOW ARE LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS USED ON SITE?

*A conservation landscape contains locally native plants that are appropriate for the site conditions. Native plants have been naturally present in this region since the last ice age, and have co-evolved with associated animals to form interdependent communities. Properly sited native plants, once established, require few inputs of water, fertilizer or pesticides. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

The foundation for valuable wildlife habitat and other conservation landscaping goals is using NATIVE plants, so for recognition as a conservation landscape, use of natives on your property is required (credit will be given for varying degrees). Similarly, the use of non-native invasive species is discouraged. **To see lists of native and invasive plant species, visit the following web sites:**

**Native plants:** [www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/index.htm)

**Invasive plants:** <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/l.htm> or [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/midatlantic.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/midatlantic.htm)

- What is the approximate percentage of trees and shrubs on your property that are native to your locality (your property location you noted in question #1)? \_\_\_ %
- What is the approximate percentage of herbaceous plants on your property that are native to your locality? \_\_\_ % (do not include turf grass in your calculation, unless your lawn consists of native plants – then add a separate comment below)

### **Extra Credit (optional)**

- Attach a list of the plants in your gardens/ landscaped areas. List “native” and “non-native” plants separately. The list does not have to be a complete inventory and does not need to include quantities, but it will give us an idea of what species are growing there.

## 3. HOW DO YOU AVOID AND MANAGE INVASIVE PLANTS?

*A conservation landscape incorporates ongoing management to remove existing invasive plants and prevent future alien plant invasions.*

**Alien plants** are non-native species that occur in locations beyond their known historical natural ranges, most often brought to new regions by humans through horticulture. **Invasive plants** are those aliens that display rapid growth and spread, allowing them to establish over large areas, overwhelming and displacing existing vegetation and often forming dense single-species stands. *For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

- What is the approximate percentage of non-native plants in your yard? \_\_\_%
- Approximately what portion of the non-natives are invasive species? \_\_\_%
- Briefly describe any measures taken to remove invasive plants on the property (name species). Have your efforts been successful?

*[continued...]*

#### 4. THROUGH WHAT MEANS IS WILDLIFE HABITAT PROVIDED?

A conservation landscape encourages **native wildlife species** that may include birds, butterflies, bees, spiders, fish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, and other animals. An animal's **habitat** is the area where it finds food, water, shelter, and breeding or nesting space in a particular arrangement. Biodiversity – a wide variety of native plant and animal life – is critical to maintaining a healthy **ecosystem**. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).

- **Wildlife-friendly Features:** Please check all that are present in your yard.

##### FOOD

- Native trees
- Native shrubs
- Native wildflowers and grasses
- Dead wood
- Nectar plants (to attract pollinators)
- Bird feeders (seed, suet, etc.)

##### NESTING SITES/ roosting or wintering

- Native trees/shrubs
- Standing dead trees (snags)
- Meadow/grassland
- Nest boxes (birdhouses)
- Nest platform/cup
- Accessible barn or structure
- Bat box
- Butterfly box
- other \_\_\_\_\_

##### COVER

- Native trees and shrubs
- Native fencerows and/or bramble patches
- Tall grass
- Log/ stick/rock pile
- Discarded Christmas tree
- Winter roost box

##### WATER

- Stream/creek
- Vernal pool
- Wetland
- Bird bath
- Pond/fountain
- Drip faucet
- Rain garden
- Other (depression near downspout, pool cover, etc.)

- **Natural Areas:** Check any measures taken to improve existing, more natural habitat areas for wildlife (such as woodlands, wetlands, etc.) on or adjacent to your property.

- Not applicable – we do not have natural areas on our property
- Monitoring and/or controlling invasive plants
- Inventorying or tracking native plants
- Controlling deer by fencing or other means
- Including nest boxes if quality/quantity of standing dead wood is low
- Creating forest pools
- Actively restoring forest, riparian, grassland

#### 5. HOW IS GOOD AIR QUALITY PROMOTED?

A conservation landscape promotes good air quality, and helps to prevent and filter air pollutants. An environmentally-sound conservation landscape minimizes activities that directly create air pollution, promotes the use of trees and other plants that filter air pollutants, and eliminates or reduces the use of commercial products that are harmful or create polluting by-products. For more information, [see CCLC guideline](#).

Briefly describe practices that you use to promote good air quality.

- What type of equipment (gas, electric, manual, or other) do you use to: (a) mow grass \_\_\_\_\_; (b) clean up fall leaves \_\_\_\_\_; (c) trim shrubs, other plants \_\_\_\_\_; (d) trim or edge lawn and landscaping areas \_\_\_\_\_; (e) other \_\_\_\_\_.

[...more...]

## 6. WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CONSERVE WATER/ IMPROVE WATER QUALITY?

*A conservation landscape conserves water and promotes good water quality, preserving the natural water cycle while helping to keep waterways clean in the local watershed. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

- Do you reduce runoff by including the following in your yard? (check all that apply)  
 rain barrel(s)     rain garden(s)     replacing impervious surfaces with porous material  
 replacing grass with habitat garden     downspout garden     green roof  
 other (list here) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

- Describe your watering practices (when, how, equipment used):
- In what ways do you re-use water onsite?
- When your driveway or sidewalk needs tidying, do you use a  broom  hose  other?

## 7. WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO FOSTER HEALTHY SOILS?

*A conservation landscape protects and maintains healthy soils and amends disturbed soils to encourage native plant communities. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

- Describe measures taken prior to and during building construction to protect native soils, minimize the disturbance to existing soils and/or plants/trees, and minimize compaction (if applicable):
- Describe practices used to prevent erosion and/or compaction during any soil disturbance (such as building construction, landscaping, maintenance activities, other site uses, etc.):
- Do you use synthetic pesticides and/or fertilizers?  Yes  No  Sometimes
- Do you use organic alternatives to pesticides and/or fertilizers?  Always  Never  Sometimes
- Do you till soil?  Always  Never  Sometimes; Explain \_\_\_\_\_.
- When do you apply lime?  Annually in the spring  Never  When soil test indicates need
- When do you apply fertilizer? (check all that apply):  
 Spring  Fall  Annually  When soil test indicates need  At time of planting  Never
- What do you do with yard and garden waste?
- If you use mulch, describe how you use it in your landscape (when, where, type, etc.):

*[...only one more short page...]*

## 8. HOW DO YOU WORK WITH NATURE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY?

*A conservation landscape is managed or maintained in a way that requires fewer inputs, works with nature and promotes or works toward sustainability. For more information, [see CCLC guidelines](#).*

- Briefly describe any practices that you use to promote sustainability, minimize your waste stream in the yard/garden, re-use organic materials onsite, etc.:
  
- Name two principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that you use regularly:  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Extra Credit (optional)**

- Briefly name or describe one thing you do to share your conservation landscaping practices with others (children, neighbors, etc.):

**Part 4 – Photo submission:** Photos are required- please attach photos with submission. Photos may be from the previous year. They will not be used for scoring, just to help the judges picture the site. Electronic images are preferred if you have them. Clear color photocopies are fine. (Photos or photocopies cannot be returned.)

Submit photos by e-mail to [CLcontest@chesapeakelandscape.org](mailto:CLcontest@chesapeakelandscape.org)

OR mail hard copies to:

**CL CONTEST**

**c/o P.O. Box 701**

**Severna Park, MD 21146**

Application submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_