

Pocket Park at Huntley

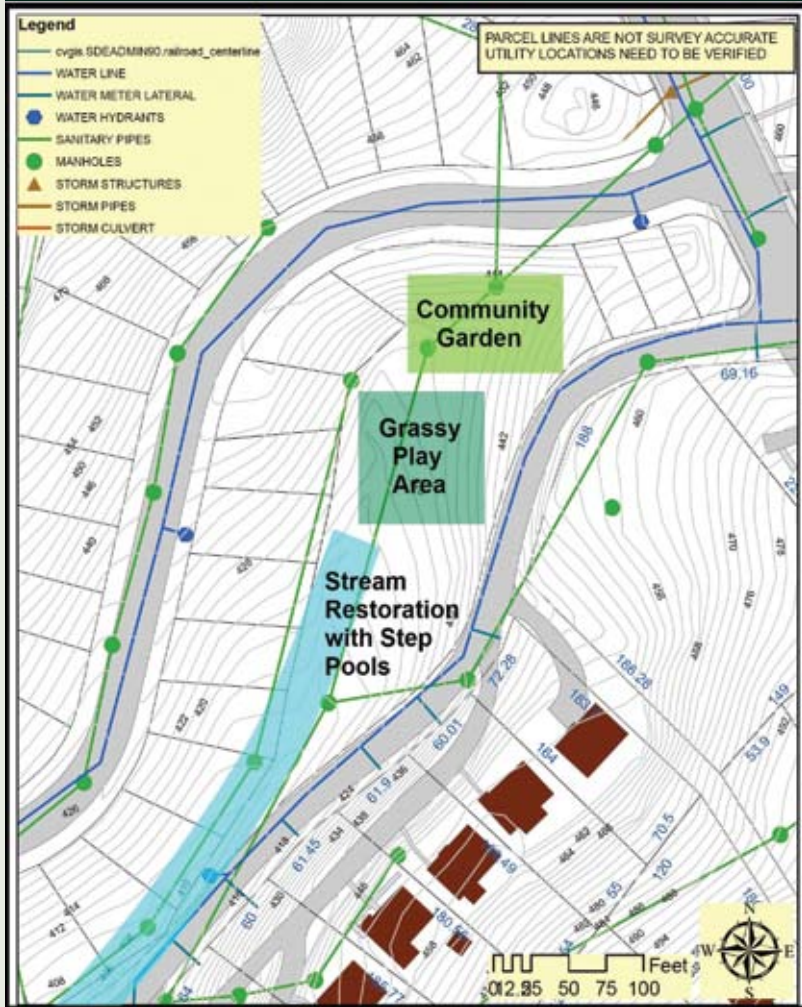
*Community Garden,
Play Area, and Stream
Restoration Project*

www.huntleyincharlottesville.com

- Unique gathering place for Huntley and the surrounding community on an acre of land that was previously unusable due to drainage swales.
- Community garden with a grassy area beside it so that parents can gather and work while kids play.
- Stream restoration project that preserves existing trees while adding new indigenous landscaping and rock step pools.
- Purifies over 50 acres of urban watershed by filtering stormwater, increasing groundwater recharge and preventing erosion.
- Innovative model for pocket parks across Charlottesville in how to utilize small areas, carefully balancing community life and environmental goals.

The park's genesis came from Huntley's desire for a Community garden where neighbors could gather and have sustainable food production while interacting with their children. It grew into a broader idea of what it means to live in a City. Parks are places that both preserve and utilize green space. They build community by offering neighbors a place to meet.

Pocket Park using one acre of Huntley's Open Space



Since a garden was a way to potentially bring Huntley together with surrounding neighborhoods, neighbors focused on areas of open space that were easily accessible to everyone. They settled on an acre of open space bounded by three streets. It was practically unusable because a drainage swale ran the length of it. About 50 acres of urban watershed funneled through it before hitting Moore's Creek without any filtration or groundwater recharge.

The idea grew to see this section of Huntley's open space turned into a public park that was also sensitive to the environment. At this stage the idea became truly innovative, a prototype for how to take small, constrained spaces, and offer balance between community amenities and true sustainability. Huntley neighbors hope this small park might then be able to be a model for how similar projects can build community throughout the City.

-Paul Beyer, Developer 4/28/11

Stream Restoration Project Arundel County, Maryland



Before Restoration
Severely Degraded Perennial Gully



After Restoration - Wet Conditions
Step Pool Storm Conveyance System



After Restoration - Dry Conditions
Step Pool Storm Conveyance System