

For immediate release
Media Contact: Nancy Tait
804-864-1407
ntait@smv.org

Public Information
804-864-1400
www.smv.org

BayScapes Garden Under Way at the Science Museum of Virginia

RICHMOND — Keep an eye on the front lawn of the Science Museum of Virginia. Part of it is being turned into a **BayScapes Garden** filled with native plants. What's BayScaping? It's a method of landscaping that promotes better water and air quality, and wildlife habitat. In short — it's good for the Chesapeake Bay. Local volunteers, along with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Science Museum staff are planting the garden **Monday, May 11-Tuesday, May 12** and **Saturday, May 16**, weather permitting.

"Once our **BayScapes Garden** is established, the native plants will allow us to cut back on watering and using chemicals such as pesticide and fertilizer," says Science Museum Education Director Dr. Eugene Maurakis. "The plants will also reduce water runoff that can make its way into the James River watershed, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay."

"The plants provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife," says Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Virginia Director Chris French. "And the plants we've chosen don't require mowing which reduces gas-powered engine use for yard care. That helps air quality. If you decide to try this at home, you can cut back on maintenance."

The Science Museum **BayScapes Garden** covers 1/7 of an acre. It's out front so it's easy to see. Pick up a garden guide at the museum's Guest Services desk. Then

take a walk on the crushed stone path through the garden. Later in the spring, look for explanatory signs in the garden.

The **BayScapes Garden** is the result of a partnership between the Alliance and the Science Museum. Other partners include the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance. Funding is from Philip Morris USA and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.

The **BayScapes Garden** is free. For Science Museum information call (804) 864-1400 or 1-800-659-1727 or visit www.smv.org. The Science Museum is located at 2500 West Broad Street. For more information on the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay visit www.alliancechesbay.org.

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