

Interfaith Greenway tidbits for the D'var, 1/8/18

1. The Interfaith Greenway is a hard-working landscape, engineered to capture and hold storm water until it can percolate into the soil. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
2. Beth Sholom's property is approximately 90% roofed and paved, impermeable surfaces over which hundreds of gallons of water rush every time it rains. The Interfaith Greenway reduces flooding across our property and that of our neighbors. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
3. Storm water runs across paved surfaces into gutters, gullies, and storm drains, collecting particulates and pollutants that ultimately find their way into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Interfaith Greenway captures these pollutants before they can run into nearby Cabin John Creek. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
4. A watershed is an area of land through which a common set of streams and rivers drain into a single body of water. The Interfaith Greenway is located in the Cabin John Creek watershed. Cabin John Creek runs into the Potomac River, which drains into the Chesapeake Bay. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
5. Drinking water for the Washington metro area comes from the Potomac River. The Interfaith Greenway is doing its part to keep the river clean. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
6. The Chesapeake Bay has the largest land-to-water ratio of any coastal water body in the world! More than 18 million people in 6 states impact the cleanliness of the water in the bay. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
7. Only about half the water in the Chesapeake Bay comes from the ocean. The rest comes from the 64,000-square-mile watershed in which we live. That is why it is so important to control litter and pesticide use, since those things eventually make their way into the bay. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
8. Why is the Interfaith greenway so 'curvy'? Those curves emulate the patterns in nature, slowing the water to a flow that gently trickles and oxygenates as it moves. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
9. The two circular seating areas in the Interfaith Greenway are set above dry wells-- underground basins that collect rainwater. When rain stops, the water simultaneously percolates into the ground and evaporates back the atmosphere, completing its natural cycle. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway

10. Much activity goes on below the Interfaith Greenway's walkways. The stepping stones are set above two-foot deep, gravel-filled trenches that hold and clean runoff water until it percolates into the ground. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
11. The plants in the Interfaith Greenway are all native to our mid-Atlantic region. They feed the birds and insects that live here, are resistant to extremes in weather, and are thus easier to maintain. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
12. The Interfaith Greenway is designed to appeal to our aesthetic well-being. The stepping stone paths require us to concentrate as we walk slowly along them, taking note of our surroundings, one step at a time. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
13. Visit the Interfaith Greenway and improve your well-being! Studies have shown that being around plants promotes concentration, improves memory and attention span, and helps people feel secure and relaxed. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
14. The native plants in the Interfaith Greenway provide beauty and interest throughout the seasons. Flowers and leaves in the spring and summer transition to colorful leaves, berries, twigs and bark in the fall and winter. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway
15. The Interfaith Greenway teaches us how home landscaping contributes to the overall health of the environment. By growing native plants and limiting areas of lawn and non-porous surfaces, our gardens knit together into a larger, life-supporting habitat. For more, go to www.bethsholom.org/greenway