



Sacred Grounds Action Plan Worksheet August 2022 - June 2023

Congregation Name:

Green Team Leader/s Name and Contact Information:

Overall Goal: Care for Creation by caring for Chesapeake Bay's people and wildlife by planting native plants at congregation member's homes and on congregation grounds. This will help reduce stormwater runoff from our lawns into our rivers and streams reducing flooding and pollution and creating more wildlife habitat. This second year goals (for most congregations) will be to deepen and expand engagement of your community and reach beyond to other congregations in the region.

Steps to Success:

- Install and maintain native plant gardens on congregation grounds (designs, planting day, maintenance days); use a model for planting at home
- More members and neighbors' plant native plants at home (action plan, presentations, pledge, pickup day)
- More members and neighbors take additional steps at home – increase size of planting and focus on applying for county rebate programs (presentations, pledge, rebate workshops)
- Develop members and neighbors connection with their own watershed - (Northwest Branch, Patuxent, Anacostia (nature walks/cleanups)
- Spread the Green Word: share the learning with other congregations (video, articles in media, faith community forums, social media, personal outreach to other congregations)
- Deepen connections among congregations in each cohort, such that they have lasting relationships (joint leader meetings, joint walks and cleanups)
- Develop 3-5 year congregational action plans to sustain congregation's work

CONGREGATION'S OBJECTIVES

Please set a goal for how many members and neighbors (optional) will pledge to plant native plants at their home by June 2023. (Goal is to aim for 30-100+). Consider the following in setting your goal:

1. Number of congregation households _644_
2. Households with garden 322 (if possible to estimate)
3. How many pledged or picked up last year? 40

Your goal: _____60_____

IDEAS

Please brainstorm ideas for how you will engage and excite your members (and neighbors (optional)? Use ideas that worked well last year and consider how you might add or improve as needed. Discuss these questions to help you make your plan. See link to toolkit for ideas for all of these (updated toolkit link to be added).

How can you make it easier for your congregants to plant native plants?

1. Investigate additional "how to plant/grow" materials from Univ of MD Extension Service
2. Expand Native Plant Garden work days to include, "how to do this at home" lessons

How will you share your information to energize congregants?

1. Success stories poster in the Church vestibule
2. Flocknotes (parish e-mail blast), bulletin updates, after mass announcements

How will you tap into emotions and connect them to planting native plants?

1. Tie to Catholic Social Teaching's 7th principle, Care for God's Creation
2. Knowing that native plants are easier to care for and grow successfully

Seeing others participating is inspiring. How will you make your enthusiasm and actions visible to the congregation?

1. Field trip (maybe even to Mt. Cuba Center)
2. Sligo Creek walking tour

How will you connect your faith's teachings and rituals with Sacred Grounds to touch members spiritually?

1. Continued development of Catholic Social Teaching 7th Principle materials for Religious Education program
2. Garden tour - passport to collect stamps of native plant gardens visited - including those of parishioners

What assets does your congregation have? (People and resources in our congregation and community to help implement our strategy)

1. People with expertise (e.g. publicity, gardening, educating youth, etc.)
2. Clergy involvement (e.g. sermon, blessing of garden):
3. Other ministries or committees to engage:
4. Publicity channels (newsletters, bulletin board, worship service announcements, events of other ministries)
5. Anything you would like to add

ACTION PLAN

Native Plants Pledge

The native plant pledge is the central tactic used in Sacred Grounds to get people to commit to planting native plants at home. You should be promoting the pledge throughout the year. What tactics will you use to promote the pledge? (Summarize ideas inspired by questions above and add your new ideas)

1. Use the NWF pledge web page for registering participants to pick up native plants (sign the pledge and plant).
2. Communicate Catholic Social Teaching's Care for God's Creation principle and how planting native plants directly applies.

Conservation Landscaping Rebates for Homes:

This year we will focus more on getting members to apply for these municipal rebates to create conservation landscaping at their homes. Please consider how you will promote the incentive program to get people to apply. Summarize ideas inspired by questions above and add your new ideas. What tactics will you use?

1. The Robertsons (members of St. Michael's) are approved for Rainscapes and will share how they applied during our webinar.
2. The Websters (members of St. Michael's) will share how they procured and installed their rain barrel through Montgomery County during our webinar.

Sacred Grounds Garden as Inspiration for Members

We encourage you to use your Sacred Grounds garden to inspire members to plant more native plants at home. What tactics will you use to do this? Summarize your ideas from above:

1. We will hold our Native Plant Giveaway this year at our Native Plant Garden so participants can see how the plants mature.
2. We will hold an "Introduction to Planting" lesson as part of our Fall Native Plant Garden Maintenance and Expansion.

Collecting Participant Information: Our grant requires we track several things; please make a plan to track the following:

1. Number of total participants in all activities (count each person once)
2. Copies of sign up sheets for each event
3. Number of total pledges and new pledges
4. Number of applicants for county rebates
5. Number, type and copy of publicity (e.g. announcements at worship service, newsletter articles, and other methods)

We recommend you use your green team meetings to keep track of how you are doing. At the end of the year you will submit this information to the National Wildlife Federation (edelsonn@nwf.org).

Please use this brainstorm as a guide to creating your congregation's detailed Sacred Grounds Action Plan and calendar for 2022-23.

Sacred Grounds 2022-2023 Calendar Overview (as of 8/25/22)

AUGUST, 2022

August 25 Sacred Ground Kickoff 7:00-8:15 pm
Kickoff for All Teams

SEPTEMBER

Congregation Team Meeting with Sacred
Ground Liaison for action planning

September 8 7:00 pm IPC Pollinator Gardens
Webinar

September 15 Training for collecting biological
data?

September 17 10am-12pm Boat Tour for DC
Congregations

September 24-25 9:00-11:00 am Sweep the
Creek FOSL

September 24 Hillcrest Day, DC Congregations

OCTOBER

IPC Faithful Green Leaders Training

Congregation Planting Day

Complete Congregation Action Plan

Focus Groups (some congregations only)

October 1 Garden Tour 1:00 pm Sligo Creek?

October 2 Garden Tours 2:30 St. Rose/4:30
Laurel Library?

October 15 Complete collection of biological
data

NOVEMBER

Congregations finalize all dates for programs

November 17 Sacred Grounds Leaders
Sharing Meeting

DECEMBER

December 1 7:00-8:15 pm Maintaining Your
Congregation Garden Webinar

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2023

January 12 7:00-8:15 pm Sacred Grounds
Leaders Sharing Meeting

Congregational Inspiration Webinar/Event: Why
Plant Native Plants? & Begin Native Plant
Planting Hope Pick-up Day Promotion

MARCH

March 2 How to Garden with Native Plants
Webinar County?

March 9 How to Garden with Native Plants
Webinar? County ?

APRIL (Not April 8-9)

TBD River Walk – Patuxent River

TBD River Walk – Sligo Creek

TBD River Walk – Seneca Creek

MAY

May 6, 7, 13, 14 Native Plant Planting Hope
Pick-up Days

Maintenance Day for Congregation Grounds

May 18 Rebate Application Workshop?

May 30 Participant Survey

JUNE

Congregation Teams Prepare 3-5 Year Action
Plans

Sun TBD Sacred Grounds Celebration

Thurs TBD Sacred Grounds Leaders Debrief
Meeting

Sacred Grounds 2022-2023
Plan Your Congregation's Calendar

Submit completed action plan and calendar to Sacred Grounds by November 15

EVENT	DATE
September	
Meeting for your team with Sacred Grounds Liaison for action planning	9/16/2022
October	
Congregation Planting Day for Native Plant Garden	10/22/2022
January/February	
Inspirational webinar on Why Plant Native Plants	Feb & Apr 2023
May	
Which day will you hold your Native Plant Planting Hope Pick-up Day?	
May 6, 7, 13 or 14?	5/13/2023
Maintenance Day for Congregation Grounds Native Plant Garden	5/13/2023
June	
Meeting for your team to prepare 3-5 year action plan	6/16/2023