



CHESAPEAKE BAY
Landscape Professional

Certifying Conservation Landscaping
Professionals in the Chesapeake Region

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cblpro.org

CBLP Certification Program Goals



Two level, voluntary, individual, stackable, regional credential

Consistently-trained professionals design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes for a healthier Chesapeake Bay

Partners in watershed restoration, TMDLs and green infrastructure/low impact development

Online database to connect clients and employers with CBLPs

Network of aligned training partners

Program Development And Piloting

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:



Chesapeake
Conservation
Landscaping
Council

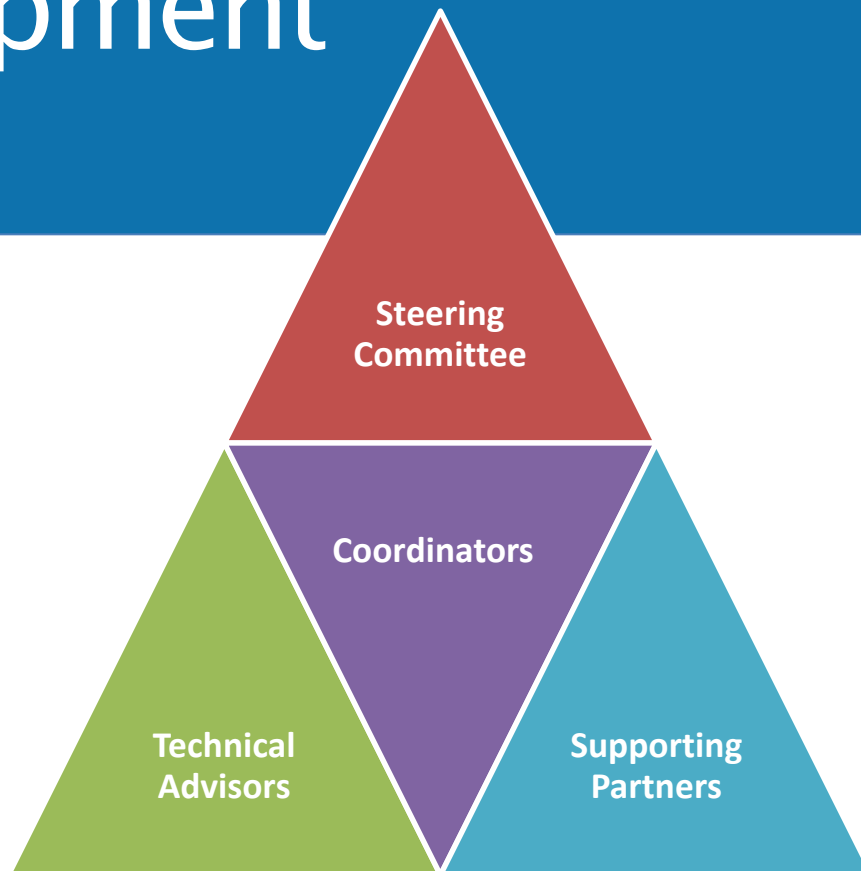
UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community



WETLANDS
WATCH



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OUR FUNDERS:



THE
CAMPBELL
FOUNDATION

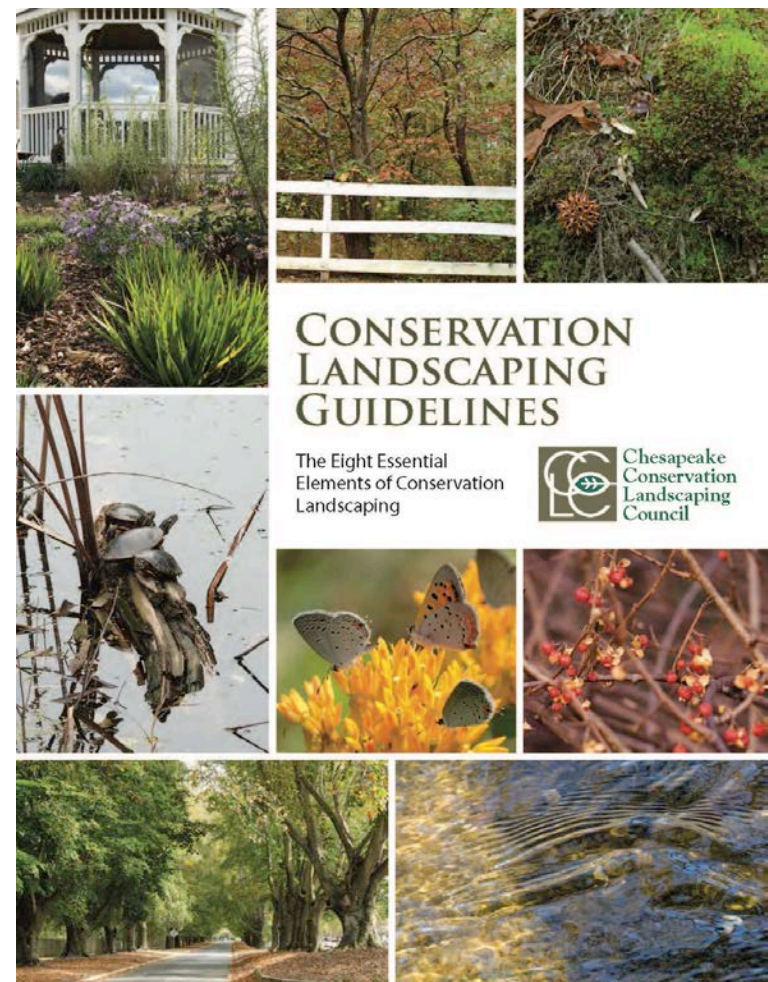


Virginia
Environmental
Endowment

PRINCE CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Sustainable Landscapes for a Healthier Bay

- Work with nature to benefit the environment and function efficiently
- Use locally native plants that are appropriate for site conditions
- Remove and manage of invasive plants
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Promote healthy air quality and minimize air pollution
- Conserve and clean water
- Promotes healthy soils
- Managed to conserve energy, reduce waste and use of pesticides and fertilizers



Need More Stormwater Practices On Private Property

Residential Stewardship Practices



- Rain Barrels and Cisterns
- Rain Gardens and Bio Swales
- Native Plant Landscaping
- Tree and Buffer Planting
- Urban Nutrient/Turf Management
- Invasive Plant Management
- Permeable Hardscapes
- Impervious Cover Removal
- Downspout Disconnection
- Green Roofs
- Dry Wells



Regulatory Compliance & Credit!



How to Pick the Right Vegetation for
Bioretention and its Cousins

**David Hirschman, Center for Watershed
Protection**

There are “a lot of engineering
design details but
style is equally important” ...and
*“we’re not getting the plant
part right”*

“Vegetation
will be the *main driver for public
response*,
is a main *indicator of success or
failure* of a practice,
and the *Key to Performance* –
vegetative coverage is an important
indicator of pollutant removal”

A Network of Conservation Landscaping Specialists is Needed



- Trained professionals are ideal partners for local stormwater programs
- Attractive, well-maintained, functional BMPs help advance the cause
- Consumers don't know where to find qualified professional help
- Duplicative and inconsistent trainings across jurisdictions
- Failures often due to problems with design, installation or maintenance
- CBLP will help move conservation landscaping into the mainstream -- engage & empower landscaping trade

Native Plants & CBLPs



- Availability & specifications
- Right plant, right place – plant failure
- Proper Care, mowed or weeded
- Design Style, public perception & Cues to Care
- Design to minimize maintenance
- Habitat & Biodiversity

Grant Deliverables

The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional *certification* initiative will develop and pilot a *voluntary*, regional, advanced, 3-*track* credentialing system and network of *consistently trained*, qualified landscape professionals who *demonstrate knowledge and skills* to properly design, install and maintain sustainable landscaping practices and small-scale stormwater retrofits.



- For Individuals
- **Advanced**, stackable credentials aligned w/ existing trade certifications
- **Regional** (Bay-wide) & conservation-focused
- Financially self-supported by certification fees
- **Managed by a regional consortium**
- **Branded & marketed** to gain preferential acceptance in hiring

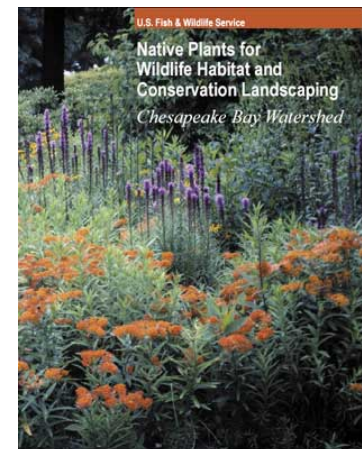
Landscape Professionals' Expectations

- Marketable, voluntary, Bay-wide credentials
- Increased earning potential
- Connection with clients and job opportunities
- Align w/ existing credentials and CEU requirements
- Access to consistent, high-quality training/education opportunities
- Unified and predictable standards



Our Approach

- Shape program with input from key stakeholders
- Engage technical experts to build program content
- ***Use existing materials*** to the greatest extent possible
- Design a certification that is ***rigorous without being onerous***
- Collaborate with partners who already “own” part of the process
- Establish reciprocity for CEUs with other providers



CBLP Pilot Strategy

- Develop partnerships with experts to ensure consistent training and to facilitate expansion
- Limit pilot sites/partners to streamline process
- Focus efforts geographically- Metro DC and Hampton Roads
- Provide customizable training options to accommodate varying knowledge and skills
- Create highly dynamic, interactive training with focus on collaborative practice, critical thinking and problem-solving



CBLP Pilot – VA, MD, DC

**Mar-
August
2016**

- Content Outline & Study Materials
- Develop Exam
- Develop Plan
- ID TAs for Pilot

**Sept 2016
– January
2017**

- Run Pilot Program

**Dec 2016 –
Mar 2017**

- Assess & Refine
- Feedback from Candidates
- Guidance from TAs

**Spring
2017**

- Train the trainers
- Launch in MD, DC, VA, PA

**Late
2017/2018**

- Expand to NY, DE, WV



CBLP Level 1 Credential Process & Components

Foundation in Design, Installation, & Maintenance

Previous
Education,
Certification,
Training, or
Experience in
Related Field

Pre-Workshop
Webinars on
Core Topics
(Optional)

In-Person
Workshop
(Optional)

Self-Study
Written
Material

Required Maintenance Practicum

Application & Fee

Exam



SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE MANUAL

for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

By Cheryl Corson, RLA, ASLA

Pilot Version
October 2016



Developed for the Chesapeake Bay Landscape
Professional Certification Program
cblpro.org

Level 1 Content Topics

- I. Intro to Sustainable Sites/Conservation Landscaping
- II. Intro to Laws & Regulations
- III. Landscapes to Benefit Human Health & Environment
- IV. Plan for Maintenance
- V. Native Plants and Natural Plant Communities
- VI. Stormwater BMPs
- VII. Sustainable Landscape Maintenance



CBLP-D, CBLP-I Level 2 Credential

Process & Components

Advanced Certification in Design or Installation

Prerequisites:

CBLP Level 1
Credential

Demonstrated
BMP design/install
experience

Multi-Day Intensive Seminar

- Small-scale BMP retrofit focus
- Emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration
 - Field component
 - Assessment
- Certificate of completion

Application &
Fee

CBLP Level 2 Study Guide

CBLP Level 2 Study Guide - New Content

- **Introduction to Level 2 CBLP**
- **Recognitions**
- **How to Use Guide**
- **Glossary**

Key References

- Regional Webcasts and Video
- *Chesapeake Gardening and Landscaping*- Ellis
- *Planting in a Post Wild World* – Ranier and West
- *Principles of Ecological Landscape Design*- Beck
- *Designing the Sustainable Site* -Venhaus
- *Sustainable Landscape Construction*-Thompson & Sorvig
- *Garden Revolution*- Weaner

CBLP Topics: Native Plants and Natural Communities

- Detailed site assessment and analysis:
 - Soils
 - Existing vegetation
 - Hydrology
- Identify and select locally native plants
 - Sourcing plant material
 - Cultivars
- Develop familiarity with regional plant community types
- Use natural communities as reference landscapes for designed plantings, considering:
 - Vertical & horizontal layers
 - Soil coverage
 - Plant behavior, growth
 - Maintenance plans
- Create designed landscapes that reduce maintenance needs
- Improve/create habitat for native wildlife:
 - Food, water, shelter
 - Green corridors
 - Adaptive management



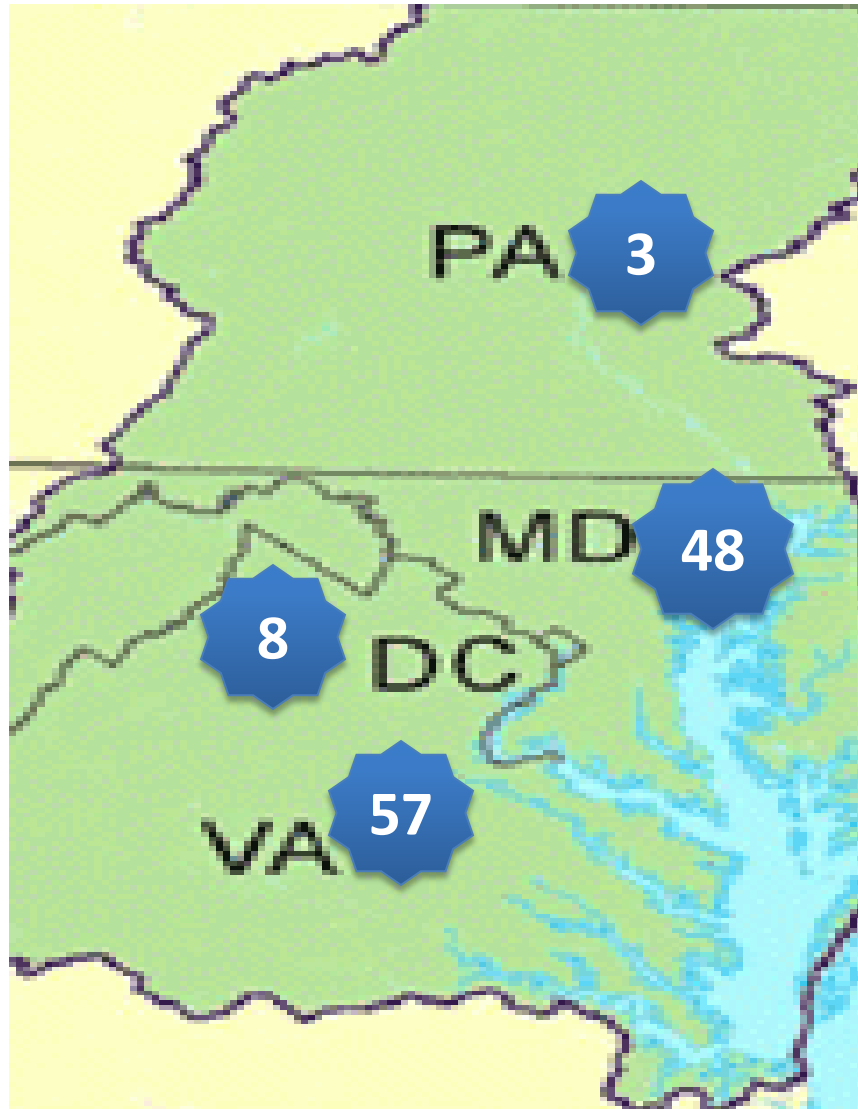
Cues to Care

- Sustainable landscape designs may not be appreciated or maintained if recognizable landscape language that communicates human intention is not part of the landscape
- Ecologically valuable landscapes may not be protected or maintained if the human intention to care for the landscape is not apparent
- Ecological function is not always recognizable
- The appearance of some natural communities and wildlife habitats violates cultural norms for neatness
- Design can use cultural values and traditions for the appearance of landscape to place ecological function in a recognizable context:
 - Colorful flowers
 - Neat edges
 - Signage
 - Fences or frames
 - Birdhouses or art



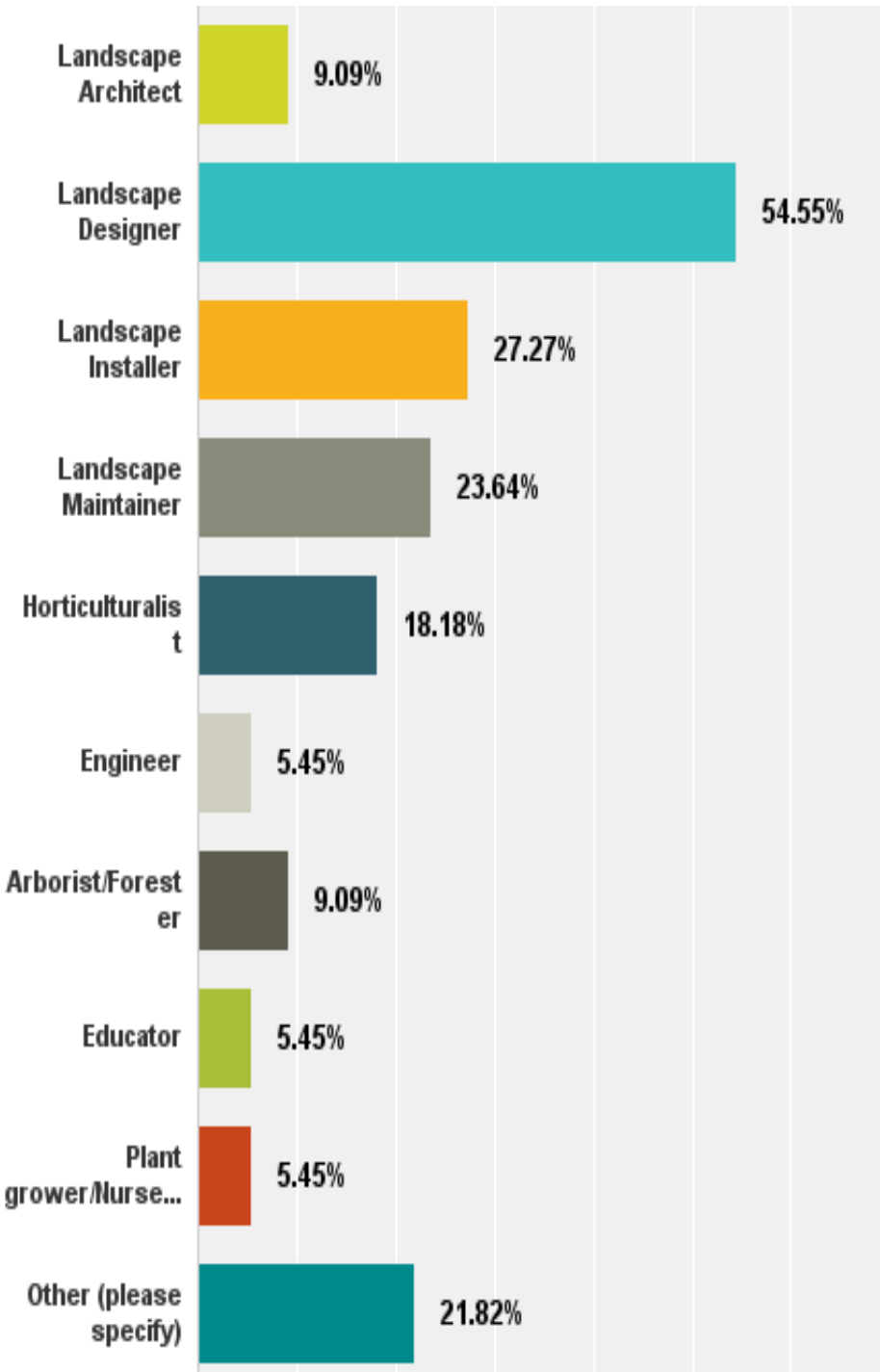
Joan Iverson Nassauer

Pilot Program – Level 1



116 Paid Applicants

- DC Metro Area – 56
- Baltimore/Annapolis – 15
- Hampton Roads – 22
- Charlottesville/Richmond - 17



Target Audience

LAs & LDs – 63%
Landscape Install – 27%
Landscape Maintain – 24%
Horticulturalists – 18%

< 10 yrs experience – 35%
10 to 36 yrs – 65%

Wrapping Up the Pilot

- Exceeded goal with 116 paid applicants, plus 10 being “grandfathered”
- 75 candidates took the exam in December; additional exams will be given in January and February
- Level 2: January 26-28
- Assessment & refinement period: February-March
- Launch/expansion: late spring





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