

**Creation Care Task Force  
Diocese of Virginia  
2019 Annual Report**

In 2019 the Task Force continued to focus on supporting local level environmental initiatives. The goal was to implement on-the-ground projects in parishes and facilities of the Diocese of Virginia. The following is a summary of projects undertaken by the Task Force in 2019.

- Environmental Education at Shrine Mont Camps - July 2019 The Chair of the Task force conducted an environmental education program with the Explorers II camp at Shrine Mont. He led the group in a macroinvertebrate stream survey on Saltpeter Run, a stream in the George Washington National Forest. Campers collected and identified stream insects and crustaceans to assess the overall health of the creek. Campers also learned about preventing pollution associated with stormwater runoff.
  
- Rain Garden at All Saints Church, Richmond The Creation Care Task Force has been working with the staff and vestry of All Saints Church in planning a bioretention cell (commercial-size rain garden) to address runoff issues at the church. The Chair of the Task Force (a stormwater management professional) has met with the vestry and staff and consulted with them about runoff concerns and coordinated with Ecosystem Services to provide professionally designed plans for the rain garden. The Task Force Chair has also coordinated with the All Saints staff, Ecosystem Services and The Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District to apply for a grant through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). VCAP provides cost share assistance to private property owners that apply stormwater best management practices on their land. The rain garden is currently in the design phase. Installation is planned for the spring of 2020. Once installed, the rain garden will collect runoff from the roof of the church and infiltrate it on site and prevent associated pollutants from entering the nearby tributary and the James River.
  
- Resolution Calling for Diocesan Churches and Facilities to Discontinue Single-Use Plastics The Task Force has drafted a resolution calling upon all diocesan churches, offices, schools and conference centers to discontinue using single-use plastics, styrofoam and single-use plastic bottled water. These products are detrimental to the environment because of the resources needed to produce them and they are the main parts of the world's waste management crisis. Improper management of plastic has created massive bodies of floating trash in the worlds waterways and oceans and has proved fatal to wildlife. By discontinuing the use of the use of these products the Diocese of Virginia has an opportunity to play a leadership role in stemming the crisis. The resolution will be presented to the 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia in November 2019.
  
- Creation Care Task Force Social Media The Task Force increased its use of social media in 2019. The Task Force Facebook page shares information and resources about creation care

and promotes environmental volunteer opportunities. The Task Force's social media activity has reached 3,182 people so far in 2019.

The Creation Care Task Force will have a display table at the 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention on November, 14-16 in Arlington. Task force members will be on hand to answer questions about past and future projects and recruit membership. The Tas Force expects to have a visible presence at the convention with its focus on environmental matters.

Respectfully,

Lorne Field, Chair  
Creation Care Task Force  
Diocese of Virginia