

**Bioretention Areas (Alexandria, VA)  
Beatley Central Library  
Completed in 2000**

Alexandria's Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library has several well-vegetated and aesthetically pleasing bioretention areas in its parking lot at the front of the building. These areas treat runoff from the parking lot as well as a portion of the runoff from the roof.

There is an additional bioretention area along the West side of the building, behind the reading garden. This area treats runoff from the remainder of the roof and from the cement garden patio. The West Side bioretention area is set back against the stream buffer and blends well with its surroundings. One thing to note is that the roof is made of copper and the bioretention areas help to remove a fair amount of copper oxidation from their receiving waters before it enters the stormwater system.



*Above photo taken in fall 2001.*

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**Construction** - Many of the bioretention areas here had to be reconstructed. They were not percolating properly because the original soil media used contained excessive clay content. They were corrected with sand plugs and they are now functioning well. (Gavan 2001)

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**ACCESSIBILITY:** The site is open to the public and available for viewing at any time.

**DIRECTIONS:** *From I-95: Take I-95 to I-395 N. Take the VA-236 E/DUKE ST exit (Number 3A). The library is at 5005 Duke Street on the left side about a mile from the exit ramp.*

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The information in this write-up was prepared by Krista Thompson Sharp at Friends of the Rappahannock in March 2002 through a grant funded project from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.