

**Bioretention Area  
(Alexandria, VA)  
Amie-Leigh  
Completed in 1996**

This residential area consists of 6 townhomes and has 4 rain gardens (residential bioretention areas) placed in the front yards. Two of the rain gardens are placed entirely on one lot while the other two are shared between two lots.

Each rain garden is approximately 225 ft<sup>2</sup> and the four gardens treat a combined drainage area of 0.5 acres. One of the gardens is only partially functioning because the owner has boxed a portion of it in with wooden rails. Normally partially disabling one of the gardens would be a problem, but in this situation they were built larger than necessary so the three remaining gardens can effectively serve the entire area.

*Photos taken in fall 2001.*



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**Construction** - Each rain garden allows the water to pond to a depth of 1 foot. The planting soil mix is 4 feet deep and is composed of loamy sand that is underlain by a 6-inch sand bed. Below the sand bed is 6-inch pea gravel layer. Running through the gravel layer are two 4-inch perforated pipes that are connected to a header pipe that convey the filtered water to the stormwater system. (Gavan 2001 and Fields 1996)

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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). Take a Right onto South Gordon Street. The homes are on the left-hand side of the street at 14, 16, 18 & 20 S. Gordon St.



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.