



**Bioretention Area  
(Alexandria, VA)  
St. Stephen's and St. Agnes  
Middle School  
Completed in 1994**

This was the first bioretention project for the City of Alexandria and is the oldest identified bioretention area in the State of Virginia. It is located within an island at the center of a roundabout in front of the school.

*The above photo was taken in fall 2001.*

---

**Construction** - Stormwater runoff is directed by grading and conveyance systems from the travel lanes and sidewalks into curb cuts, which allow the water into the bioretention cell. This bioretention, which is larger than required by current design standards, is 0.0381 acres in size and treats a 0.89-acre drainage area. It contains a 1.0-foot deep ponding area with mulch, underlain by 3.5 feet of planting soil mix, which has a sandy loam texture. Underneath the soil mix is a 6 inch sand bed on top of 6 inches of pea gravel. An underdrain carries away any of the excess water that does not infiltrate into the surrounding soils. Any overflow drops down an inlet that is also connected to the stormwater sewer system. (Gavan 2001)

---

**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 SEMINARY RD exit (Number 4). Turn right onto Seminary Rd/VA-420 E. Turn right onto Kenmore Ave. Turn right onto N Van Dorn St/VA-401. Turn right onto W Braddock Rd. The school is on the left side at 100 St. Stephen's Drive, before you get to Fort Ward Park.

---



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.