



## Potomac Science Center

### LOCATION

Belmont Bay, Prince William County, VA

### CLIENT

George Mason University

### MARKET

University & College Campuses  
Environmental, Open Space &  
Recreation Planning

### AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

LEED Gold (Anticipated)

### REFERENCE

Jim Miller  
George Mason University Facilities  
University Architect  
Tel# 703-993-2510  
Fax# 703-993-2524  
jmllec@gmu.edu

LandDesign is currently working with several subcontractors on the Potomac Science Center at George Mason University located in Prince William County, Virginia. The design of building and site will respond to the various guiding principles for the project established at the concept and stakeholder input work sessions. These include a goal to invite the public into the site, emphasis on site sustainability, LEED requirement and the objective for the site to support the Center's education and environmental mission. The Center's location on the Occoquan River are important characteristics to the education, research and public outreach that will occur at the facility. The Science Center will serve as a showcase of stormwater and low impact development techniques, highlighted in the "Water Story".

The new Center will be a uniquely multi-generational university facility. There will be university students of all ages who will intern and learn at the center with researchers working and teaching on-site. The interior "Discovery Lab" and outdoor environmental setting will serve the educational curriculum of local teachers and elementary school children on educational environmental field trips learning about watersheds, climate change and Northern Virginia river habitat. Citizen scientist and civic leaders will visit the center throughout the year. Outdoor spaces such as roof gardens, learning "islands" or "nooks", and outdoor classrooms and community space will support the physical activities of a green building as well as provide aesthetic and environmental functions. By defining a sequence of exterior spaces for invited engagement and private spaces where research occurs and knowledge is shared, the landscape will serve a variety of university events and activities.