



*Example of wet-retention pond with littoral and pond bank vegetation at Freedom Park*

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Parks have the potential to enhance the treatment of stormwater on-site through the implementation of a variety of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs have the potential to not only improve water quality but also provide multiple benefits, such as recharging of groundwater; providing habitat for animals; enhancing the microclimate and aesthetics of the surrounding areas; and even increasing surrounding property values. Freedom Park has a great example of a small BMP – a wet retention pond with littoral plantings. Wherever possible, the Authority should look to implement appropriate and high-quality BMPs.

- Multi-modal access to many of the system's parks is limited. This can be enhanced by increasing bicycle infrastructure and transit access, especially to the system's largest parks.
- While many of the system's parks have been improved to include energy efficient elements such as LED light fixtures, the VLPRA should continue to expand the use of energy efficient elements throughout the entire park system.