



Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration & Forestry Grant Program

FY27 Request for Proposals



Chesapeake Bay Trust | 108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403
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Introduction and Program Goals

The Anne Arundel County Government (the County), the City of Annapolis (the City), and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) are partnering to provide funds for projects that support the reduction of pollutants flowing into local waterways, implement cost-effective reforestation and greening efforts, and increase protected forested land. By supporting these stormwater and forestry goals, water and air quality can be improved, habitat and tree cover can be increased and protected, and flooding and erosion can be reduced.

The Trust has a mission to empower all people to participate in the restoration and protection of our region's natural resources through its award-making. As a result, the Trust strongly encourages applications directly from or that engage communities underrepresented in the environmental space. For more about the Trust's commitment to engage underrepresented groups, see our strategic plan at www.cbtrust.org/strategic-plan and <https://cbtrust.org/diversity-inclusion/>.

Eligible Applicants

Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, and the Trust welcome requests from the following organizations:

- ◆ Local watershed groups;*
- ◆ Community associations and homeowners' associations;*
- ◆ Service, Youth, and Civic groups;*
- ◆ Faith-based organizations;*
- ◆ Land trusts;
- ◆ Public agencies; and
- ◆ Public and independent higher educational institutions.

*Note: Applications for Tracks 1, 2, 3, and 6 must include at least one partner that represents a stakeholder group based in Anne Arundel County. Additionally, applicants for Tracks 1, 2, 3, and 6 **must be certified 501(c) non-profit organizations, except for homeowners or community associations located in the City of Annapolis.** If you are unsure of your eligibility, reach out to the Trust to confirm.

At A Glance

Program Summary: The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration and Forestry Grant Program is designed to provide funds for projects that support the reduction of pollutants flowing into local waterways, implement cost-effective reforestation and greening efforts, and increase protected forested land.

Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2027, at 4 PM ET

Eligible Project Locations: This program funds projects in Anne Arundel County, Maryland (County and City of Annapolis properties).

Request Amounts:

Watershed Planning, Design, and Restoration projects: \$15,000 to \$315,000 depending on track

Forestry projects: up to \$600,000 for projects in the County and \$45,000 for projects in the City of Annapolis.

Submit Your Application: Follow the instructions online at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/anne-arundel-county-watershed-restoration-and-forestry/>.

Contact:

Whitney Vong, 410-974-2941 ext. 122
wvong@cbtrust.org (general and County-specific inquiries)

Megan Andreasen, 410-974-2941 ext. 133
mandreasen@cbtrust.org (City-specific inquiries)

This Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on 10/28/2026.

The Trust recognizes that application processes can be complicated and time-consuming; the Trust continues to work to simplify our application processes where possible. New applicants, new organizations, small organizations, or any group that is experiencing capacity challenges or other barriers to applying, are eligible to receive guidance on the application process. Please contact the Program Manager, Whitney Vong (wvong@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 ext. 122), for assistance.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Trust staff to discuss applications at least two weeks prior to the deadline. The Trust cannot guarantee availability of site visits or project development assistance within two weeks of the deadline.

Eligible Project Locations, Funding Availability, and Timeline

Eligible Project Locations: Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis. Certain project tracks are County or City-specific, refer to the “Eligible Project Tracks” section for more information. Additionally, refer to [Appendix A](#) for more information on priority project locations and forestry project types.

Funding Availability: The funding partners anticipate funds available in Fiscal Year (FY) 27 as follows:

- ◆ \$1,336,350 available for watershed restoration projects in Anne Arundel County
 - ◆ \$58,800 of the funding available in the County is designated for projects in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area
- ◆ \$382,500 available for watershed restoration projects in the City of Annapolis
 - ◆ \$67,500 of the funding available in the City is designated for projects in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area
- ◆ \$600,000 available for forestry and land protection projects in Anne Arundel County
 - ◆ \$196,000 of the funding available in the County is designated for projects in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area
- ◆ \$45,000 available for forestry and land protection projects in the City of Annapolis

NOTE

The **Chesapeake Bay Critical Area** is located 1,000 feet landward from mean high tide or the edge of tidal wetlands, as designated on the State Tidal Wetland maps, and all waters of and lands under the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. To determine if your project is in the Critical Area, refer resources in [Appendix B](#).

Project Timeline: Projects must be completed within two years upon receipt of the award. Requests to extend project completion period will be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible Project Tracks

Applicants can request funds in the following project tracks:

- **Track 1 – Watershed Planning (City of Annapolis only): requests up to \$75,000**
- **Track 2 – Watershed Design: requests up to \$150,000**
- **Track 3 – Watershed Restoration Implementation: requests up to \$315,000**
- **Track 4 – Permanent Protection of Forested Lands: requests are not capped but should consider total available funding**
- **Track 5 – Afforestation/Reforestation on Protected or Unprotected, Uneased Land: requests are not capped but should consider total available funding**
- **Track 6 – Watershed Restoration and Forestry: requests are not capped but should consider total available funding**
 - **Watershed Restoration specific-components can request up to \$315,000**

Applicants interested in requests exceeding the general funding levels outlined above must discuss their project with the Trust prior to submission to receive approval to apply for a larger request. For all applications, please provide a clear application budget that itemizes project components into distinct line items.

The Trust requires that all applicants conduct a pre-application site visit with the Trust by February 12, 2027.

All projects proposed shall be voluntary. Any projects that are required under an existing or pending regulatory process or permit, are required for mitigation, or are required by a regulatory authority for any other reason

cannot be supported. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to determine if any regulatory requirements or conditions exist prior to applying for the grant.

Property type/ownership: Projects may be proposed on non-profit property, community-owned property, private property (if pursuing a permanent conservation easement), City of Annapolis-owned property, or public-school properties, with landowner permission documented through a Letter of Commitment included in your application. Projects located in road or utility right-of-way (ROW) areas are not eligible for the County but may be considered in the City of Annapolis with prior approval from the Trust. Projects associated with inlets and outfalls that cross ROWs are eligible but also must have prior approval from the Trust in advance of application. ROW project ideas can be discussed and approved for eligibility during the required pre-application site visit.

Maintenance: Routine maintenance of stormwater BMPs increases their long-term functionality and optimizes their performance in managing stormwater runoff. Maintenance strategies and techniques that simplify future maintenance responsibilities for property owners are encouraged. Watershed restoration and forestry projects should include short-term maintenance as part of their application's scope of work and include a plan for long-term maintenance beyond the scope of a grant (see to [Appendix D](#) for Considerations for Watershed Restoration Implementation Projects).

Track 1 - Watershed Planning– City of Annapolis projects only

This track supports watershed planning or watershed assessment projects for properties/areas only in the City of Annapolis. Watershed plans are a first step to assess the area with the community, identify potential target areas for restoration, propose restoration practice types if possible, and serve as a guiding document for future work, including applications for restoration projects. **Final products will include planning documents such as concept plans and/or watershed assessment reports to inform future design and implementation of restoration projects in this grant program.**

Track 2 – Watershed Design– Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

This track supports creating construction-ready designs and obtaining permits for specific watershed restoration projects. The strongest design proposals will:

1. Request funds to develop 100% design(s) for priority project(s) identified in jurisdiction-wide or watershed-wide planning documents (see [Appendix A](#)), that consider the below:
 - a. For projects that are not specifically identified in a detailed watershed action plan or are not among the top priority projects within an action plan, additional justification for the project and/or site selection must be provided (see [Appendix C](#) for Watershed Implementation Plan Resources).
 - b. Applicants submitting to this track should be ready to begin design of specific projects upon award. For applicants that have not yet identified specific restoration projects to move forward into design, please consider Track 1 – Watershed Planning (only eligible for City of Annapolis projects).
 - c. For stream restoration projects, [Appendix C](#) provides additional resources to ensure that your application includes important elements and

NOTES FOR TRACK 2

- Cost-effective requests for design are typically no more than \$150,000.
- Projects must be designed/ permitted/ sealed by a Maryland licensed/ registered professional.
- This track seeks to support projects that are requesting funding to bring existing design plans at 65% or higher to 100%. If your project is in the conceptual phase, reach out to the Trust to discuss your project idea.
- Consider if any designs could be supplemented with reforestation or afforestation efforts.
- Consider the timing of checking seasonal high groundwater table levels (taken in late winter to early spring).
- See [Appendix B](#) and [C](#) for resources specific to Track 2.

required information.

2. Focus on water quality and natural resource improvements, such as reducing the flow of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutants into local waterways, reducing erosion, and filtering airborne pollutants. A holistic design that incorporates watershed restoration and forestry techniques is highly encouraged.
 - a. Although water quality and water quantity issues often intersect, proposed projects that deal solely with water quantity issues will not be competitive in this program.
 - a. Nutrient and sediment loads reduced by your project can be determined using the County's Best Management Practices (BMP) Credit Calculator: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/wprp/bmp-credit-calculator/index.html>.
2. Ensure the project is permittable by regulatory agencies. The output of the grant award, i.e., the design and specifications, must be permittable by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as well as any other appropriate local, state, and federal entities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate permitting department during the conceptual design phase and to discuss their project with the permit reviewers. The MDE permitting webpage is located here: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/permits/Pages/index.aspx>
3. Describe how your project is cost-effective. A reasonable budget is required that includes the following:
 - a. Providing assurance that the best price was provided (i.e., were multiple estimates/quotes obtained for contractors) and is reflective of current, market prices/values.
 - b. Describing the cost-effectiveness of the project in terms of dollars per impervious acre treated and dollars per pounds of nutrients reduced and within the acceptable range presented in [Appendix C](#).
 - c. Justifying all budget line items (note: matching funds are encouraged but not required).

Applicants requesting funds for stream restoration design: Stream restoration design applications must demonstrate project need, landowner permission, use of the field's best standards and practices and recent research, assessment of alternatives demonstrating the proposed restoration was appropriate for the site, minimization and avoidance of natural resources impacts like tree canopy, ability to proceed through the permit and construction process, and cost-effectiveness. See [Appendix C](#) for stream restoration criteria that will be used to evaluate this type of project.

If the applicant or the local jurisdiction anticipates claiming credit for the practice and/or the applicant anticipates applying to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund for implementation funding, please refer to the Expert Panel reports and budget for any required additional calculations, sampling, and/or modeling that will be completed during the design phase. The Expert Panel reports can be found here: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/publications-archive/bmp-expert-panels>.

Track 3 – Watershed Restoration Implementation– Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

This track supports small- and large-scale restoration implementation projects in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. Small-scale restoration implementation projects include but are not limited to

bioretention cells, bioswales, rain gardens, or other stormwater BMPs. Large-scale restoration projects include stormwater wetland and marsh creation and enhancement; stream and wetland restoration; regenerative conveyance systems (also known as coastal plain outfalls, step pool storm conveyance, etc.); living shorelines (on community, other not-for-profit, or public property); and green roofs.

The City of Annapolis has designated funding for the implementation/ construction of projects in the [Chesapeake Bay Critical Area](#) that reduce impervious surfaces and

enhance native plants and tree canopy. This funding is for projects in intensely developed urban areas, defined by their high density of impervious surfaces, resulting in increased runoff and a higher risk of flooding and pollution. Projects should reflect a fair distribution of the benefits, ideally improving local water quality while also enhancing the environment for as many people as possible. Projects should also be visible to the surrounding community if not directly accessible by members of the public. An example project is conservation landscaping. Other potential projects include reducing imperviousness of buildings, parking lots, urban streets and walkways. Projects should address long-term sustainability and be an example for future development.

Track 4 – Permanent Protection of Forested Lands– Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

This track supports the purchasing, executing, recording, and monitoring of permanent conservation easements (PCEs) to protect, maintain, and preserve existing tree canopy in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. The PCEs shall be acquired, held, and maintained by the grantee or by a land trust subcontracted by the grantee. The best projects under this track are those seeking to protect ecologically valuable sites or existing habitats, such as riparian buffers, large contiguously forested tracts, and/or important wildlife habitat.

Reimbursement for easement values can be supported with funds from this grant program; however, funders can only support requests at or below the threshold based on the FY 2026 Market Analysis completed for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), (maximum of \$3,351 per wooded acre), OR at the average of two certified appraisals less than five years old.

Applicants requesting funds for easement values of \$3,351 or less per acre do not have to provide certified appraisals with their applications.

Applicants requesting > \$3,351 per acre are highly encouraged to apply with one certified appraisal completed in the last five years. If the project is selected for conditional funding, the funders will supply funds in advance to obtain the second appraisal and will absorb this cost regardless of whether the project moves forward. Grants will not be awarded for more than the original request per acre amount. Alternatively, an applicant may

NOTES FOR TRACK 3

Small-scale projects have a disturbance footprint of less than or equal to 5,000 square feet or less than 100 cubic yards of earth disturbed.

Large-scale projects have a disturbance footprint greater than 5,000 square feet or more than 100 cubic yards of earth disturbed.

For small-scale projects, consider if an in-situ soils approach and nature-based solutions are suitable for the site. Applicants interested in the in-situ approach can learn more through this [factsheet](#) or reach out to the Trust.

See [Appendix D](#) for considerations for watershed restoration implementation projects.

NOTES FOR TRACK 4

Permanent Conservation Easement (PCE) is a method of protecting natural resources and preserving natural lands. A conservation easement is an agreement that binds all future landowners ensuring the permanent protection of the land.

apply without a certified appraisal but will be required to obtain two certified appraisals as a contingency of the award at their expense. A second appraisal review of the initial appraisal (vs. a full second appraisal) is also acceptable. If the project moves forward, resulting in a PCE, expenses will be reimbursed by the funders. However, if a PCE is not obtained as a final product of the project, the applicant will only be reimbursed for the cost of an appraisal review or second full appraisal (up to \$5,000).

If awarded, the land protection (per-acre landowner incentive) payment will be placed in an escrow account held by the original applicant after the draft easement has been approved and all related contingencies have been met. The landowner will receive this payment once the final conservation easement has been fully signed and recorded.

Track 5 - Afforestation/Reforestation on Protected or Unprotected, Uneased Land– Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

This track supports afforestation and reforestation projects that provide ecological benefits in Anne Arundel County, including the City of Annapolis. View the priority project types in Figure 1 in [Appendix A](#).

Projects submitted into this program must be located on:

1. Land that is under a deed-restricted PCE that allows additional tree planting and under which protection of the tree planting project funded under this grant program can be added;
2. Public property, with records documenting that the site will not be developed and that provide assurance that the tree project will remain in place (e.g., park master plan and Letter of Commitment); OR
3. Land that is owned by an individual or entity that will agree to place a PCE, deed restriction, or long-term protection agreement for tree planting on the property on where the project will be implemented.

If pursuing a PCE through this track, funds for easement costs will be considered as eligible budget request items with the exception that the threshold value for requiring appraisals is \$7,521 per acre, the NRCS WRP threshold for cropland. As described in Track 4 above, applicants may a) request easement costs below the threshold without incurring an obligation to obtain appraisals, b) request easement costs above the threshold and be responsible for obtaining appraisals as a condition of the award at an expense that will only be reimbursed if the project moves forward, or c) request easement costs above the threshold and supply justification in the form of at least one appraisal.

If awarded, the land protection payment (per-acre landowner incentive) will be placed in an escrow account held by the original applicant after the draft easement has been approved and all related contingencies have been met. The landowner will receive this payment once the final conservation easement has been fully signed and recorded.

A permanent conservation easement is one instrument to ensure protection of your proposed tree planting site. If a PCE will not be obtained for your proposed project, the landowner must agree to sign a long-term protection agreement. The duration of the protection will vary based on the location of your project. Projects located in the County will require a thirty (30)-year long-term protection agreement for tree planting. Projects located within the City of Annapolis will require a 10-year protection agreement. The applicant must provide a Letter of Commitment from the landowner acknowledging that permanent or long-term protection for the land will be a final product of this project.

Projects on individual private, commercial private, community-owned, nonprofit, and government-owned property are eligible for funding. *If your project site has an existing easement in place (such as an agricultural easement, floodplain easement, etc.), reach out to the Trust to confirm eligibility in this program.* Assurance that projects funded under this opportunity will remain protected and in place must be provided.

Successful applicants will be obligated to provide the following items or actions:

1. Verify that the property has an existing long-term protection vehicle that will allow reforestation/afforestation and modify that vehicle if not **OR** obtain permanent/long-term protection for the land through a) a fully signed and recorded PCE or b) a signed long-term protection agreement. The length of long-term protection will vary depending on where the project is located.
2. Develop a planting design and plan;
3. Provide monitoring and maintenance in the first two years to ensure a survivorship rate consistent with guidelines in the [Maryland Forest Service “Forest Conservation Technical Manual” Fourth Edition of 2024](#);
4. Develop a Forest Management Plan or a long-term maintenance plan (2 to 10 years) that ensures long-term forest management, including invasive management (if relevant to the site);
5. Any required permits;
6. Provide planting activities, including procuring contractual or volunteer services; and
7. Work with the planting contractor to replace any trees as required under the plant warranty (see [Appendix E](#) for performance standards).

Successful applicants will not be required to provide monitoring or maintenance beyond two years post-planting and will not be required to perform any easement monitoring activities.

Track 6 - Watershed Restoration and Forestry – Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

Watershed Restoration and Forestry projects must combine elements from Track 3 (Watershed Restoration Implementation) and Track 5 (Afforestation/Reforestation on Protected or Unprotected, Uneased Land), described above, to be eligible for this track. This track allows applicants to request funding to support stormwater BMPs and afforestation/reforestation efforts at a shared project site in one request. Any trees planted through this project must be protected long-term through a PCE, MOU or other long-term protection vehicle. ***If you are interested in this track, please reach out to the Trust early to coordinate a site visit.***

Applicants must be able to clearly distinguish the proposed afforestation/reforestation and stormwater BMP components of their project in the narrative and application budget. Provide a clear application budget that itemizes project components (forestry and watershed restoration) into distinct line items. If you need assistance building your budget, reach out to the Trust. Funding for afforestation/reforestation are supported

NOTES FOR TRACK 5

Afforestation is planting trees on land that previously has not been covered in forest or has not been forested in a long time.

Reforestation is planting trees to enhance and restore an existing forest.

A **Forest** is a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants covering a land area of 10,000 square feet or greater. A “forest” includes areas that have at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50% of those trees having a 2-inch or greater diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground and areas that have been cut but not cleared. Orchards will not be considered as forests through this funding opportunity.

Permanent Conservation Easement (PCE) is a method of protecting natural resources and preserving natural lands. A conservation easement is an agreement that binds all future landowners ensuring the permanent protection of the land.

Anne Arundel County has designated funds for afforestation/reforestation projects in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

by fee-in-lieu dollars; therefore, all tree planting work proposed must be voluntary. **If implementation of a BMP requires trees to be replanted for mitigation associated with a permit, forestry funds cannot be used to fund these plantings.**

Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- Removing impervious surface and replanting the area with native trees.
- Constructing a stream restoration project and adding more trees adjacent to the site to create a riparian forest buffer.

Successful applicants will be obligated to provide the following items or actions:

1. Verification that the landowner of the proposed project is committed to protecting and maintaining the project long-term through long-term protection vehicles that may include a PCE or Long-Term Protection Agreement and/or a Memorandum of Understanding or Maintenance Agreement. The exact level of protection needed for the project will be determined by the City of Annapolis or Anne Arundel County, if your project is successfully awarded.
2. Develop a planting design and plan;
3. Provide monitoring and maintenance to the trees in the first two years to ensure a survivorship rate consistent with guidelines in [Maryland Forest Service “Forest Conservation Technical Manual” Fourth Edition of 2024](#);
4. Develop a Forest Management Plan or a long-term maintenance plan (2 to 10 years) that ensures long-term forest management, including invasive management (if relevant to the site);
5. Any required permits;
6. Provide planting activities, including procuring contractual or volunteer services; and
7. Work with the planting contractor to replace any trees as required under the plant warranty (see [Appendix E](#) for performance standards).

Online Application Submission Instructions

We have a new online award management system, hosted by SmartSimple! The Trust uses this online system for the application process, and if awarded, project management. **Please login to SmartSimple to access your awards and applications.** You can access SmartSimple in two ways:

1. Through our website: <https://cbtrust.org/login> and clicking the link “Log In to the Bay Trust Awards Portal”, **or**
2. The Chesapeake Bay Trust’s SmartSimple page: https://chesapeakebaytrust.us-1.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp

If you have applied to the Trust in the past, your profile and award data has been migrated to our new system. You can access the new system by entering the same email you used in our former system (Blackbaud), click ‘forgot password’, and follow the prompts to create a new password. If you are a new applicant, click the blue “Register” button on the landing page and follow the instructions.

See <https://cbtrust.org/login> for help setting up your account and finding funding opportunities.

Applicants must submit applications in the **Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System** by **4:00 PM ET on February 26, 2027**. Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close promptly at 4:00 pm.

By submitting an application to this program, applicants acknowledge that: 1) they are compliant with federal employment and non-discrimination laws and 2) they have not been debarred, convicted, charged or had a civil

judgment rendered against them for fraud or related offense by any government agency (federal, state or local) or been terminated for cause or default by any government agency (federal, state, or local). In addition, all final products will be provided to the funding partners for use and distribution at the sole discretion of the funding partners.

Deadline

Applicants must submit applications in the **Chesapeake Bay Trust Online System** by **4:00 PM ET on February 26, 2027**. Late applications will not be accepted, and the online funding opportunity will close automatically and promptly at 4 PM ET. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit at least a few days prior to the deadline given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. The Trust cannot guarantee the availability of technical assistance for our online system on the deadline date.

Narrative Questions

You will be asked to upload an MS Word or PDF file (5-page limit, excluding question prompts and materials such as Letters of Commitments, photos, and other supporting documents) addressing the narrative questions, and to include relevant information as described in the Eligible Project Types section of this RFP. Please address all questions and ensure your answers describe how the criteria in the “Evaluation Criteria” section will be met. Use the hyperlinks below to download the **required** narrative questions template for your Project Track. Complete all questions and upload the completed document as a Microsoft Word or PDF file.

- [Track 1 Watershed Planning Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 2 Design Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 3 Watershed Restoration Implementation Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 4 Permanent Protection of Forested Lands Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 5 Afforestation/Reforestation on Protected or Unprotected, Uneased Land Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 6 Forestry and Watershed Restoration Projects Narrative Questions](#)

Evaluation Criteria

Sub-criteria		Description and Scoring Guidance	Scoring*
Criteria 1. Project Justification and Need (20 points total) – applicable to ALL TRACKS			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Project Goals and Justification	Does the applicant clearly communicate the background, purpose, and goal(s) of the project?	Scale of 1 to 10
		Does the applicant justify the need for the project and practices proposed?	
		Does the project fit into other environmental stewardship activities occurring in the community?	
		Has the applicant ensured that the project will not adversely affect public safety, infrastructure, and/or properties?	
		Does the project support the County and City's priorities? (Refer to Appendix A for the County and City's priority considerations.)	
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Benefits to the Watershed	For Tracks 4, 5, and 6 , does the project propose a project that will include afforestation, forest preservation, and/or reforestation?	Scale of 1 to 10
		Are the ecological benefits of supporting the project well-defined? I.e., does the project increase biodiversity, promote habitat connectivity, and/or provide water quality benefits?	
		Does the project support local, big-picture planning efforts, such as total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plans, county-wide green infrastructure plans, watershed action plans, State of Maryland watershed implementation plan (WIP) strategies, a local watershed plan, etc.?	
		For the following track, consider these additional questions: Track 3 (Watershed Restoration Implementation): Does the project include the estimated calculations for nutrient and sediment loads reduced by the project using the BMP Credit Calculator ?	

Criteria 2. Likelihood of Project Success (25 points total) – applicable to tracks as marked below			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Applicant Qualifications, Partnerships, and Permissions	<p>Does the proposed project team have the necessary qualifications to conduct the work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there relevant past project examples provided? If not, does the application include qualified technical experts and/or organizations to be part of the team (i.e., contractors/consultants included in the budget)? This could be included directly as requested funding or as matching funding in the budget. <p>Were appropriate supporting documents, such as Letters of Commitment, photos, maps of the site, plant lists, design plans, included in the application?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the applicant included a landowner letter of permission, if proposing a project on land not owned by the applicant? If key supporting documents such as a landowner letter of permission or other supporting documents are not submitted within the application, does the applicant detail where they are in the process of securing this documentation? 	Scale of 1 to 10
	ONLY APPLICABLE TO TRACKS 1 AND 2 Technical Soundness of Watershed Planning and Design Projects	<p>Does the project propose sound methodologies to accomplish the goals of the site?</p> <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track 1 (Watershed Planning): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed watershed plan or assessment consider how practices/actions proposed will impact the watershed and specific drainage area of interest? Track 2 (Design): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the practice type appropriate for the site, drainage area, and site conditions? Does it address the issues identified at the site? Did the applicant explain why and how the specific restoration technique was determined? Is the proposed restoration practice in line with best practices and recent research? Does the applicant provide information on where the project is in the permitting process? 	Scale of 1 to 15

ONLY APPLICABLE TO TRACKS 3, 4, 5 AND 6	Methodology for Implementation or Land Protection Projects	<p>Are methodologies sound and consistent with best practices?</p> <p>Does the timeline and scale of budget appropriately reflect the intended scope of the project?</p> <p>Are all required permits and permissions to conduct the proposed work in-hand? If not, what is the status of necessary documentation to progress the work forward if the proposed project is approved?</p> <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track 3 (Watershed Restoration Implementation): Will the proposed project appropriately address stormwater issues identified on the site? • Track 5 (Afforestation/Reforestation): Does the planting project methodology, including timeline, site preparation, planting method, planting plan, and species list (native species only) make sense for the project area? • Track 6 (Watershed Restoration and Forestry): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does the project timeline clearly detail and differentiate the work that will satisfy the Watershed Restoration and the Forestry aspects of the project? ○ Does the project address the questions listed in Tracks 3 and 5 above? 	Scale of 1 to 15
Criteria 3. Long-Term Sustainability (20 points total) – applicable to tracks as marked below			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Community Engagement & Project Sustainability	<p>Is the community appropriately involved in the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there community buy-in and are the community's needs and priorities considered? • Will the community be involved in volunteer or outreach/educational programming on the benefits and value of the project? • If the lead applicant is not a member of the community (e.g., an external non-profit doing work on land owned by another entity), is a transfer of "ownership" to the community built into the project and the ability of the "project owner" (community) to carry the work forward developed? • Will future disruptions such as changes in public interest, changes in rainfall, or sea level rise associated with climate change, change in land use, etc. impact the project? If so, has the application addressed the impact(s)? 	Scale of 1 to 10

ONLY APPLICABLE TO TRACKS 1 AND 2	Potential Impact	<p>Does the project describe how the final products will be used and/or leveraged within the community?</p> <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Track 1 (Watershed Planning): If a watershed assessment or plan is created, will the community utilize the plans to guide future work? - Track 2 (Design): Will designs created likely move forward to implementation or construction? 	Scale of 1 to 10
ONLY APPLICABLE TO TRACKS 3, 4, 5 AND 6	Monitoring and Maintenance	<p>Does the applicant propose a relevant and robust monitoring and maintenance plan that will be used to improve project sustainability in the future?</p> <p>Will the project persist, be well-maintained, and not threatened by various types of disturbance?</p> <p>Has the applicant addressed the need for ongoing resources needed to maintain the value of the project?</p> <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track 3 (Watershed Restoration Implementation): Is there commitment from the landowner to sign and execute a Maintenance Agreement (for City of Annapolis projects) or a MOU with Anne Arundel County DPW? • Track 5 (Afforestation/Reforestation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there an existing long-term protection vehicle in place? If not, is the process to put one in place clear (purchase/record a conservation easement or sign a long-term protection agreement)? ○ Is the support from the landowner or community to incorporate long-term protection? ○ Does the project include a Forest Management Plan or some similar maintenance/management plan to ensure that the site will be properly maintained? <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track 6 (Watershed Restoration and Forestry): Does the project address the questions listed in Tracks 3 and 5 above? 	Scale of 1 to 10

Criteria 4. Budget (25 points total) – applicable to ALL TRACKS			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Cost-effectiveness of Budget and Contractual Work	<p>Are all budget line items justified, reasonable, and necessary for the success of the project?</p> <p>Are there assurances the best price was provided (i.e., were multiple estimates/quotes obtained for contractors) and is it reflective of current, market prices/values?</p> <p>Is there an in-kind and/or cash match? Match is not required in this program but viewed favorably by reviewers. Examples of in-kind match may include donated contractor time or maintenance.</p> <p>For the following tracks, consider these additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Track 2 (Design): Does the project provide the cost per pound of pollutant reductions (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) to justify the project cost, or provide justification in another method? - Track 3 (Watershed Restoration Implementation) and Track 6 (Watershed Restoration and Forestry): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Is the project cost-effective as measured in cost (\$) per impervious acre treated and cost (\$) per pound of pollutants removed annually and for living shoreline projects, cost (\$) compared to ecological value? o All restoration implementation/ construction projects are required to have educational signage; have funds for interpretive signage been requested in the budget? - Track 6 (Watershed Restoration and Forestry): Does the budget clearly differentiate what expenses support the Watershed Restoration and Forestry specific aspects of the project? 	Scale of 1 to 25
Criteria 5. Impact (5 points total) – applicable to ALL TRACKS			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Demonstration Value and Impact	<p>Does the project have demonstration value and/or transferability to other communities?</p> <p>Does the proposal describe how this project will be used as a model or pilot for future efforts?</p>	Scale of 1 to 5

Criteria 6. Project Location, Type, and Audience Need (5 points total) – applicable to ALL TRACKS			
APPLICABLE TO ALL TRACKS	Audience Engaged	Based on application, is the audience being engaged in the project identified as overburdened, under-served, or as having a lower community well-being index score through resources and indicators such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD EnviroScreen Tool; • Anne Arundel County’s Community Wellbeing Index; or • Any localized, relevant socio-economic data and research. 	Scale of 1 to 5
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE FOR ALL TRACKS IS 100*			

Online Application Form

You will be asked to provide the following information on the online application form. Some items are required in order to submit your application. Refer to the online application for details.

Eligibility Quiz: This three-question quiz is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this award program and that your staff/organizational structure best supports a successful application.

Applicant Information Tab: Provide the Executive Officer’s name and email address.

- Both an Executive Officer and a Project Leader, two separate individuals, must be identified for all applications.
- The Executive Officer and Project Leader must both be able to make decisions on behalf of the organization either as a board member, an employee, or other approved position recognized by the organization but not a contractor of the application.
- To avoid conflict of interest issues, individuals associated with for-profit entities to be engaged in the project cannot serve in either role.

Project Information Tab: Provide a project title; project abstract; the watershed, county, and legislative district in which the project is located; and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the project location.

- Provide a project title
- In the “Project Description” section provide the project track and project description
- Provide the project start and end date
- Provide the county, watershed, and legislative district in which the event is located; and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the project location

Deliverables Tab: Provide estimated metrics for your proposed project such as project participants and outreach and restoration outcomes. Disregard deliverables that do not apply to your project.

Volunteers Tab: Provide a description of volunteer activities, the number of volunteers, and total number of volunteer hours.

Project Partnerships: Provide a list of project partner organizations or contractors, individuals, their areas of expertise, and their specific role(s) in your project.

Applicants are encouraged to upload a Letter of Commitment for the project from each partner describing in detail the partner's role or contribution to the project. Applications including strong Letter(s) of Commitment often receive higher scores. If not submitted with the application, Letter(s) of Commitment may be required prior to the release of any awarded funding. To better understand the Trust's definition of and policy on Letter(s) of Commitment, visit our Forms and Policies webpage: cbtrust.org/grants/applicant-resources-forms-policies/.

Narrative & Supporting Documents Tab: Use the links below to download the *required* narrative questions template for the track you are applying to. Complete all questions and upload the completed document as a Microsoft Word or PDF file.

- [Track 1 Watershed Planning Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 2 Design Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 3 Watershed Restoration Implementation Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 4 Permanent Protection of Forested Lands Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 5 Afforestation/Reforestation on Protected or Unprotected, Uneased Land Projects Narrative Questions](#)
- [Track 6 Forestry and Watershed Restoration Projects Narrative Questions](#)

Budget Tab:

You will be asked to enter items into budget categories. Totals will be automatically calculated on the page. Additional guidance on navigating the budget section can be found at [Grants Portal Login - Chesapeake Bay Trust](#). You will also be asked to provide a descriptive budget narrative to justify and explain costs. If the success of the work is contingent upon award of other funds, make this clear in your budget justification.

Terms and Conditions Tab: Agree to the specified terms and conditions for the program for which you are applying.

Watch our video on how to apply and how to submit an application using our online system at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/>.

Definitions

The Executive Officer is the individual that oversees the organization (e.g., Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, Mayor, President or Vice President, Principal (for schools), etc.) and has the authority to sign/execute award agreements on behalf of the organization. The Executive Officer information is tied directly to all the organization's applications and should not vary from application to application. If the Executive Officer could be listed as the Project Leader in a future proposal, we recommend listing a Board Member or other higher-ranking position of the organization as the Executive Officer in order to reduce the variation in the Executive Officer across applications.

The Program Leader will be responsible for all project coordination and correspondence with the Trust for the duration of the project. The email address entered here **MUST** be the same as the email address you used to log in to the online system. The Project Leader is the primary point of contact for the application, and the email address used to submit the application via the online system must be that of the Project Leader. Applications in which the email address associated with the Project Leader in the applicant information tab of the online opportunity does not match the email address used to submit the application will not be considered for funding. The Trust cannot conduct any official correspondence with contractors or other project partners. If at any time the Project Leader cannot continue in the position, the organization must contact the Trust and assign a new qualified Project Leader.

Demographics and Survey Tab (optional): Provide voluntary demographic information. Provide information about your organization’s current diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) efforts and future goals. Additionally, provide voluntary feedback on the application process.

Application Review Process

Each application is reviewed by a Technical Review Committee (TRC), composed of individuals who are experts in the fields supported by this RFP and represent communities served by projects funded by this RFP. The TRC ranks and scores all applications based on the criteria listed in the “Evaluation Criteria” section above, then meets to discuss the application merits. The TRC then recommends a suite of applications to the Trust’s Board of Trustees.

The funding partners reserve the right to fund projects and budget items that advance their missions and meet specific funding priorities and criteria.

To allow applicants to set expectations prior to investing time in application, the Trust provides historical application approval rates for the same or similar programs. The average approval rate for watershed restoration projects is 67% and the average approval rate for forestry projects is 84%, including both fully and partially funded applications.

Awards and Notifications

The FY27 Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration and Forestry awards will be announced June 2027.

All applicants will receive a letter stating the funding partnership’s decision. An application may be declined, partially awarded, or fully awarded. If approved, the Trust will send an award agreement with award conditions and due dates of status, progress, and final reports. The Trust will mail the first award payment to the requesting organization following: satisfaction of any phase one payment award contingencies, including upload of the signed award agreement. Ten percent of the total award will be held until the final report is submitted and approved. In cases where the awardee fails to submit a status report, progress report, final report, or other requirement by the due date, the Trust reserves the right to terminate the award agreement and require a refund of funds already transferred to the awardee.

When the project is complete, awardees are required to complete final reports that may include but are not limited to submission of all receipts for supplies, invoices for subcontractors/contractors, and copies of timesheets for personnel time used (timesheets must include date, name, time worked per day, and coding to tie the time worked to the award).

All financial back-up documentation will be grouped and numbered to correspond to the budget line item reported as spent. Organizations with outstanding final, progress, or status reports, or pending refunds, may be declined or if awarded funding will be required to submit all outstanding items prior to receiving additional award funds.

About the Program Partners

The **Anne Arundel County** Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration and the **City of Annapolis** administer the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and the County and City's Stormwater Management Inventory and Watershed Improvement Plan, which require reductions in storm flow volume and pollutants entering the waterways.

The **Anne Arundel County** Forestry Program administers the reforestation and afforestation requirements of the Critical Area Program and the Maryland Forest Conservation Act. A primary component of the Forestry Program is the coordination of voluntary reforestation, afforestation, and land protection projects with landowners and community associations.

The **City of Annapolis** Urban Forestry program manages all aspects of trees within the city. Its responsibilities include preserving the existing tree canopy by administering City code requirements, Critical Area law, Maryland Forest Conservation Act, and City development standards, as well as planting trees on both public and private properties.

The **Chesapeake Bay Trust** is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of our local systems, from the Chesapeake to the Coastal Bays to the Youghiogheny River. The Trust, supported in large part by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay License Plate, and partnerships with other regional funders, engages and empowers diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded over \$254 million in grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration and Forestry Grant Program is administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and funded by Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

Appendix A: Priority Project Locations and Forestry Project Types

For tracks 1, 2, 3, and 6, project locations in priority areas that connect with ongoing restoration efforts are encouraged. Couple your effort with an existing plan, in a priority area that may have additional needs/resources, and where your project can be most beneficial to the overall County water quality goals. To do this, applicants are encouraged to consider projects that are:

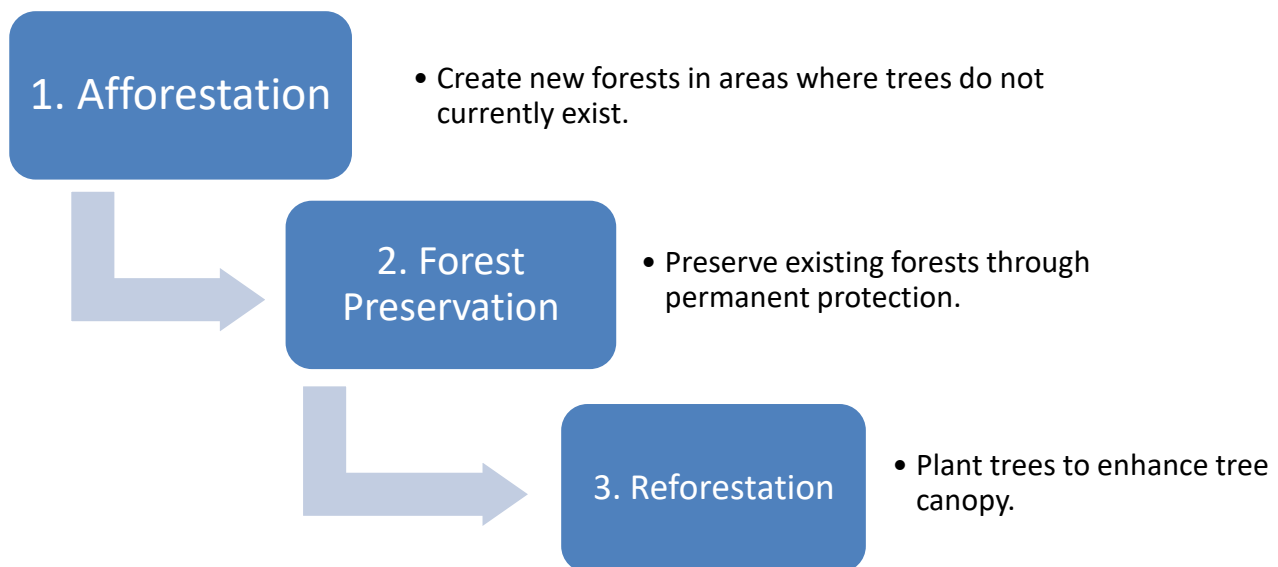
1. Located in watersheds that are high priorities for restoration in the County that have been described in Watershed and Assessment Studies located here: <https://live-aacounty.pantheonsite.io/public-works/bwpr/watershed-assessment-planning/watershed-studies> and
2. Connected to and/or complement other watershed stewardship efforts, since projects grouped together often leverage each other's value. Existing projects can be found at the following sites:

- Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration's Project map (<https://annearundelmd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7e7fb6733e448a8809938140bed9e18>) and

- City of Annapolis' Stormwater Management Inventory and Watershed Improvement Plan (<https://www.annapolis.gov/DocumentCenter/View/983/Watershed-Improvement-Plan-Final-PDF>)

For tracks 4, 5, and 6, Figure 1 ranks the County's priorities for forestry-related projects.

Figure 1. Eligible Forestry Project Types by Priority and Ranked by County and City of Annapolis Preference



Appendix B: Additional Resources

Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration Resources:

- BWPR’s “BMP Credit Calculator”: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/wprp/bmp-credit-calculator/index.html>
- “Restoration Estimator Tool” – use to compare general estimates for crediting potential between sites by clicking stream segments: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/wprp/restoration-estimator/index.html>
- Anne Arundel County BMP Credit Calculations Checklist: <https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Anne-Arundel-County-BMP-Credit-Calculations-Checklist.docx>

Mapping Resources to Determine Critical Area and Environmental Considerations:

- MDNR - CBCA and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative Critical Area Boundary Map Viewer: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/070383b2abf24d54b07c7aee74522ca2?draft=true&org=salisbury>
- Anne Arundel County’s MyAnneArundel Map: <https://gis.aacounty.org/gcx/WebViewer/?app=c82c5cff02544a56af888e4ff5c166a2>
- MDNR’s GreenPrint map, use to determine targeted ecological areas, and lands and watersheds of high ecological value: <https://mdgeodata.md.gov/GreenPrint/>
- Anne Arundel County Council’s Green Infrastructure Network Map, use to find areas to promote habitat connectivity and support the County’s green infrastructure priorities: <https://gis.aacounty.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=154d10429da84dc8ac035eaddcbbdf60>

Restoration, Living Shoreline, Maintenance, Native Plant, and BMP Design Resources:

- The Trust’s Additional Resources Page, specifically the “Restoration,” “Living Shoreline,” and Maintenance” categories: <https://cbtrust.org/additional-resources/>
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust Native Plant Species Selection Guide: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/External_Final-Trust-Draft-Plant-Species-Selection-Guide-Oct2021.pdf
- Watershed Stewards Academy Rainscaping Manual: <http://aawsa.org/wsa-rainscaping-manual-2>
- Anne Arundel County Stormwater Management Design Guidance: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/wprp/watershed-resources/AACO%20DPW%20Design%20Manual%20Chapter%2006.pdf>

Maps to Determine Site Characteristics and Climate Change Considerations on the Site:

- MDEnviroScreen- EJ Score Tool: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e4148f01acf743bf8ac1d2aa2dc0947f/page/MarylandEJ3_0
- Anne Arundel County’s Community Wellbeing Index: <https://gis.aacounty.org/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=d505648e54bb4496bebd08ba09e65079>
- Water Resources Registry (site details (e.g., topographic lines, land uses, and soils)): <https://watershedresourcesregistry.org/states/maryland.html>

- **NRCS Web Soil Survey:** <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>
- **2023 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland:** <https://www.umces.edu/sea-level-rise-projections>
- **NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer:** <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html>
- **Tetra Tech's Climate Impacts to Restoration Practices** (supported through the [Pooled Monitoring Program](#)): https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Grant16928-Deliverable11-FinalProjectReport_120820.pdf
- **Piloting the Development of Probabilistic Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) Curves for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed** (supported through the [US EPA Goal Implementation Team program](#)): <https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TLA1365-1.html>)

Relevant Stream Restoration Research:

The Trust highly recommends applicants interested in stream restoration practices review and be familiar with the most recent science to make informed decisions on site selection and technique. Research gathered through the Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Program focused on stream restoration has been shared on the Trust's website (<https://cbtrust.org/grants/pooled-monitoring-initiatives-restoration-research-award-program/> - click on the "Additional Information," then view the "Awarded Projects and Final Products" tab). Particularly, applicants may find final products from the following projects of relevance:

- Evaluating the Effectiveness and Sustainability of Novel Stream Restoration Designs for Coastal Plain Streams in Maryland: Integrating Existing and New Data from Stream Restoration Monitoring, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Solange Filoso
- Tree Trade-Offs in Stream Restoration Projects: Impact on Riparian Groundwater Quality, University of Maryland College Park, Dr. Sujay Kaushal
- Quantifying the ecological uplift and effectiveness of differing stream restoration approaches in Maryland, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Robert Hilderbrand
- Determining realistic expectations for ecological uplift in urban stream restorations, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Dr. Robert Hilderbrand
- Evaluating the Performance of Regenerative Stormwater Conveyances in Urban Versus Rural Watersheds, Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Thomas Jordan
- Improving Success of Stream Restoration Practices – Revised and Expanded, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dr. Theresa Thompson
- Determining the effects of legacy sediment removal and floodplain reconnection on ecosystem function and nutrient export, Towson University, Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp
- Quantifying the cumulative effects of stream restoration and environmental site design on nitrate loads in nested urban watersheds using a high-frequency sensor network, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. Claire Welty
- Impacts of Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance on Iron in Restored Streams and Potential Effects on Aquatic Organisms, EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC, Dr. Jamie Suski
- Evaluating impacts of freshwater salinization on mobilization of nutrients and metals from stormwater best management practices, University of Maryland College Park, Dr. Sujay Kaushal
- Literature Review on Techniques to Reduce Salt Loading to Streams, Center for Watershed Protection, Carol Wong.
- Vertebrate Community Response to Regenerative Stream Conveyance (RSC) Restoration as a Resource Trade-Off, Tetra Tech, Inc., Mark Southerland
- An Evaluation of Forest Impacts as Compared to Benefits Associated with Stream Restoration, Versar, Inc.
- Memories of the soils: Evaluation of soil nitrogen stable isotope as a robust metric to assess floodplain restoration and nitrogen removal effectiveness – Dr. Joseph Galella and Dr. Shreeram Inamdar, University of Delaware
- Climate Impacts to Restoration Practices - Dr. Jon Butcher, Tetra Tech

Appendix C: Resources for Track 2 Design Projects

Working with local partners, Maryland has published their “Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP)” outlining strategies to achieve water quality improvements (reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment) in the Chesapeake Bay. As part of the accountability framework for implementation of these water quality improvement goals and strategies, each state develops milestones in two-year increments. Submitted applications should include projects that align with key components of the state WIP. For example, projects that support local, big-picture planning efforts, such as implementation of milestones developed to advance WIP strategies, will be reviewed more favorably. WIP strategies include a wide range of practices and project types, and contributors to these strategies may include a variety of partners and types of lead organizations. Applicants with questions on this topic or about how projects can inform or contribute to WIP strategies are encouraged to contact the Trust. Projects can also support other local, big-picture planning efforts such as Financial Assurance Plans (FAPs), Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans, county-wide Green Infrastructure Plans, watershed action plans, or similar plans. Please see the state links below for more information:

Maryland WIP Resources:

- Overview and History: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/Phase3WIP.aspx>
- Maryland’s Phase III WIP: [Phase III WIP-Final Maryland 8.23.2019.pdf](#)
- 2026-2027 Milestone Resources and EPA Evaluation for Maryland: [EPA Evaluation of 2024-2025 Milestone Progress and 2026-2027 Milestone Commitments](#)

Considerations for Stream Restoration Design Projects

If your application includes stream restoration design, ensure that the following additional elements are included for consideration by reviewers:

1. Demonstrate project need, e.g., stream banks experiencing erosion, stormwater practices implemented/considered higher in the watershed draining to this site, etc.).
2. Present the alternatives analysis (detail the alternative practices and/or practice types that were considered at the site leading to the recommendation for the proposed practice and practice type).
3. Describe the practice type and the goals of the project to clearly link the goals to that practice type. Funding partners will consider stream restoration designs that aim to reduce erosion and provide enhancements to hydrology, habitat, vegetation, etc. while reducing impacts to existing natural resources.
4. Describe the existing conditions of the site and how the project will avoid natural resource impacts; avoidance of natural resources is required, including avoidance of trees and existing wetlands, to the maximum extent practicable. New Guidance for Restoration of Streams with Associated Wetlands: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/Stream-Wetland_NewGuidance.aspx
5. Describe existing utilities at the site and detail how you determined that the project will not adversely affect public safety, infrastructure, and/or properties.
6. Describe the assessment that has or will be done for the drainage above ground and through underground pipes (if present) and avoiding utilities.
7. Use the field’s best practices, as identified by the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, WV DEP, and the Trust. Refer to the EPA’s Expert Panel reports and budget for any required additional calculations, sampling, and modeling that will be completed during the design phase that are available at: <https://chesapeakestormwater.net/bmp-resources/urban-stream-restoration/>.

- a. The Trust highly recommends applicants interested in stream restoration practices to be familiar with the most recent science to make informed decisions on site selection and technique. Research gathered through the Pooled Monitoring Initiative's Restoration Research Program focused on stream restoration has been shared on the Trust's website (<https://cbtrust.org/grants/pooled-monitoring-initiatives-restoration-research-award-program/> - found under the "Additional Information", "Awarded Projects and Final Products" tab). Refer to the "Relevant Stream Restoration Research" section in [Appendix B](#) for a list of projects of relevance.
8. Describe the proposed team's experience with similar projects. Designs shall be done by licensed/registered professionals.
9. Detail how materials will be delivered to the site, where materials will be stored, and how construction equipment will be safely managed during the project.
10. Describe your ability to proceed through the permit and construction process:
 - a. The output of a design award must be permissible by the state, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all other appropriate local, state, and federal entities.
 - b. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Trust during the conceptual design phase and make an appointment to discuss their project with the permit reviewers.
11. Describe proposed maintenance and long-term sustainability of the project. Designs will be evaluated to ensure that completed projects are self-sustaining and will not require continuous manipulation for future project sustainability. If future stream restoration implementation is anticipated, describe how the completed project will persist and be well-maintained (and not threatened by various types of disturbance), including addressing any ongoing resources needed to maintain the value of the project.
12. Provide the following metrics for your project: linear feet to be designed, drainage area treated/planned (acres), impervious acre treated, estimated load reductions (lbs. of N, P, and S reduced), and estimated cost of design (\$).
13. Justify the cost-effectiveness of the project. Provide assurances that the best price was provided (i.e., were multiple estimates/quotes obtained for contractors) and is reflective of current, market prices/values.
14. **Benthic Data (for Maryland projects only): Stream restoration projects that may seek future implementation funding through the MD DNR Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Grant Program** (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding/grantsgateway.aspx>) must provide pre-restoration Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic macroinvertebrate data if located in one of the following areas:
 - a. Designated cold water streams (MDE Use Classes III and IV);
 - b. Existing cold water (identified by the presence of trout or benthic macroinvertebrate cold water obligates (*Tallaperla* and *Sweltsa*); or
 - c. High quality (MDE Tier II) stream catchments.
 - d. Mapping source for a, b, and c as noted above:
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=3c68c6a03266421d8036f70ac89d30de&extent=-78.9109,38.3342,-75.6727,39.7083>

To be considered consistent with MBSS protocols, benthic macroinvertebrate data must be collected by a person certified in benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, the sample must be processed by an individual who is certified in laboratory processing and subsampling, and a person who is a certified taxonomist in both EPT (E = Ephemeroptera, P = Plecoptera, T = Trichoptera) East and North American Chironomidae by the Society for Freshwater Science must perform the benthic macroinvertebrate taxonomy. The EPT Richness Index estimates water quality based on the number of distinct taxa from three major orders of stream insects that generally have low tolerance to water pollution. The contact information for individuals who are already certified can be found on the MBSS Registry of Certifications and information on how to become certified can be found on the MBSS Training website: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/streams/pages/mbsssfscertified.aspx>. Applicants with a

project located in one of the areas above who anticipate applying to the MD DNR Trust Fund should explain how the required MBSS biological data will be collected.

Cost-Effectiveness:

The table below provides dollar ranges in which proposals in the most recent two rounds of the Trust's [Watershed Assistance Grant Program](#) were funded for restoration design projects. Please contact the Trust for further support or questions regarding cost-effectiveness. *Matching funds, while not required, can improve the cost-effectiveness for your project for the below metrics:*

Design Practice Type	Cost per Pound Reduced: Nitrogen (\$/lb)	Cost per Pound Reduced: Phosphorus (\$/lb)	Cost per Ton Reduced: Solids (\$/ton)
Stream Restoration	Up to \$740	Up to \$86	Less than \$10
Stormwater BMPs (e.g., rain gardens, bioretention)	\$550 – \$30,000	\$1,600 – \$260,900	\$8,700 - \$184,600
Living Shorelines	Up to \$1,100	Up to \$2,000	Up to \$1,500
Wetland and Stream Restoration (Combination)	\$220 – \$6,400	\$820 – \$7,000	\$250 – \$1,000

Note: These figures reflect design-phase costs only and are based on funded design proposals from the past two rounds. They are provided for general guidance and are not strict caps, thresholds, or guarantees of competitiveness. Applicants should use these ranges to help calibrate proposed budgets and should explain any site-specific or project-specific factors that result in higher costs. Because project types, site constraints, and pollutant reduction methods vary, applicants should clearly describe how cost-effectiveness values were calculated.

Appendix D: Considerations for Watershed Restoration Implementation Projects

Restoration projects often involve larger sites with many factors to consider carefully from project conception to successful implementation. A few considerations for restoration efforts in your project include the following:

- 1) Consider the drainage above ground and through underground pipes. Have above and below ground utilities been identified and avoided in your design and implementation plans?
- 2) Ownership and approval for the proposed restoration effort must be secured;
- 3) Identifying and avoiding if needed above and below ground utilities;
- 4) Specifications for the BMP type and design and/or implementation/construction must be detailed and planned;
- 5) Permits and approvals from various stakeholders in the approach need to be secured in larger efforts;
- 6) Selecting contractors and managing their work;
- 7) Managing materials delivered to the site and construction machinery at the site; and
- 8) Ensuring the maintenance for the site is in place.

Therefore, the following are guidance for finalizing your restoration project idea and developing the materials/information needed for the proposal narrative, budget, and other items for your application submittal:

- Implementation/Construction Projects must demonstrate sound design, cost efficiency, and provide a water quality benefit, with an emphasis on practices that treat impervious cover.
- Projects are expected to rely on widely-accepted stormwater BMPs, including practices approved by MDE (see [MDE's Accounting for Stormwater Wasteland Allocations and Impervious Acres Treated: Guidance for NPDES Stormwater Permits](#)) if the practice is not approved by MDE, background information on the proposed practice and a justification of the practice's use must be provided. If you have a project idea or project type that is not listed but believe it meets the goals of the award program, contact the Trust to discuss your project idea and if it is eligible for the program (this can also be done during the required Pre-Application Site Visit).
- Implementation/construction projects are required to provide maintenance and attest to executing a long-term project protection agreement, if awarded. Homeowners are responsible for routine maintenance. Projects must demonstrate that they are allowed by landowners who will agree to maintain the site and execute the protection agreement as follows:
 - **If your project is awarded, the landowner(s) will be required to sign and execute a Maintenance Agreement with the City of Annapolis (for City of Annapolis projects) or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW) pertaining to long-term protection and maintenance** (for projects outside the City of Annapolis and within Anne Arundel County).
 - ✓ This MOU or Maintenance Agreement will describe responsibilities for long-term protection of the project, to allow the County or City to access and inspect your project, and to claim any water quality, resource improvement, and/or credits resulting from the project.

- ✓ A sample MOU for awards in Anne Arundel County is located here: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/MOU_Anne-Arundel-Co-Sample.pdf. A sample Maintenance Agreement for the City of Annapolis is located on our program landing page here: <https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/STANDARD-StormwaterImpmtAgmt-PO-CBT-2023-12-20-PDF.pdf>.
- Landowners of successfully awarded living shoreline projects will be required to sign a MOU or maintenance agreement, including a private maintenance agreement.
- Landowner Approval of the Proposed Project: A signed Letter of Commitment must be included from any landowner(s) on whose property the project is proposed (except in cases in which the applicant is the landowner) OR who will have to allow access to site for construction or maintenance purposes. Review the Trust's definition of Letter of Commitment at: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Chesapeake-Bay-Trust-Letter-of-Commitment-Policy_072422.pdf. In your application, **the signed Letter(s) of Commitment must include the following:**
 - The landowner must state that they agree to the project's implementation/construction.
 - The landowner must state that they will perform general aesthetic/ routine maintenance or will allow maintenance to be performed by the grantee (if the grantee is not also the landowner) or other party. [General aesthetic (routine and non-structural) maintenance is completed seasonally and can include weeding, replacing plants, mowing, pruning, and similar tasks.]
 - The landowner must attest that he/she/they is/are **willing to execute** either a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Anne Arundel County or a Maintenance Agreement with the City of Annapolis, if the project is awarded.
 - If your project is a living shoreline, the landowner must attest that he/she/they **is/are willing to execute** a MOU (County) or Maintenance Agreement (City), including a private maintenance agreement, providing long-term protection of the project and a commitment of the landowner to provide full structural and routine maintenance.
- Community engagement, outreach, and support is important to the success of a project if the proposed project site is in a well-trafficked area and/or neighborhood. We encourage community and homeowner associations to work with a non-profit watershed organization for community outreach assistance.
- A Maintenance Plan for short-term (first growing season) and long-term (three years+) general aesthetic maintenance is required and a template is available at <https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Landscape-Maintenance-Plan.docx>. To ensure sustainability of projects, grantees will be required to commit or show commitment by the landowner or other party the short-term and long-term maintenance.
 - The applicant should describe what general aesthetic maintenance activities that will be done to support short-and long-term maintenance of the project.
 - **For living shoreline projects, the landowner is fully responsible for long-term maintenance.** In your Maintenance Plan for a living shoreline project, include a description of how the landowner will complete long-term maintenance of the living shoreline project upon completion, in accordance with Maryland Department of the Environment and Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) BMP Verification protocols, located here: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Documents/BMP-Verification/MD_NPS_BMPVerificationProtocols_3.12.25.pdf

- Contractual Work: If hiring a contractor to design and/or construct the project, *applicants are encouraged (but not required)* to obtain cost estimates/quotes from at least three service providers or put the work out for bid prior to completing the application. Contact the Trust if you need support finding a contractor for your project. If you have not obtained multiple estimates or quotes prior to application, you may describe the process by which you will obtain them, if awarded.
- Permits: Restoration projects often require a permit and if/what permit is needed for your project will be discussed during the required Pre-Application Site Visit.
- Final products expected for watershed restoration implementation/construction projects: Grantees will be expected to submit the **final designs; stamped as-built plans (if a permit was required) in electronic format (pdf, Geographic Information System (GIS), AutoCAD (Computer-Aided Design), etc.); final calculations of drainage area to the practice, practice surface area, and restoration credit calculations and pollutant removals** (the Trust can help with these calculations); and other deliverables proposed/approved with the final report.
 - The Anne Arundel County BMP Credit Checklist in [Appendix B](#) provides guidance on credit calculations expected for specific proposed practices.
- Project eligibility: Projects that are required under an existing or pending regulatory process or permit, are required for mitigation, or are required by a regulatory authority for any other reason **are not eligible** for this program. The applicant is solely responsible for determining if any regulatory requirements or conditions exist prior to applying. This program is for voluntary restoration projects.

Appendix E: Performance Standards for Reforestation Projects

Size	Number Required per Acre	Approximate Spacing (feet on center)	Survivability Requirement (at the end of the second growing season)	
Bare Root Seedlings or Whips	700	8 x 8	55%	385
Container Grown Seedling Tubes (minimum cavity width 1.5 in.)	450	10 x 10	65%	290
Container Grown (1, 2, 3 gallon)	350	12 x 12	75%	260
Container Grown (5, 7 gallon or 1 in. caliper B & B)	200	15 x 15	85%	170
Container Grown (15, 25 gallon or 1.5 to 2 in. caliper B & B)	100	20 x 20	100%	100
<p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) These stocking and survival requirements are the minimum numbers estimated to meet the definition of forest from bare land. 2) In certain circumstances, any combination of the above-mentioned stocking options, dry seeding, tree shelters, transplants, and/or natural regeneration may be more appropriate strategies to fulfill the requirements of an approved FCD. They will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the approving authority. 3) Spacing does not imply that trees or shrubs must be planted in a grid pattern. 4) For large-scale reforestation projects (>1 acre), reforestation costs (trees, planting, and maintenance for 2 years) should not exceed \$15,000/acre. 				



Appendix F: Best Management Practices Worksheet (Track 3 and 6)

A required Pre-Application Site Visit with the Trust and the County/City must be held prior to applying. It is strongly recommended that the project applicant organization, landowner, project designer, and any other relevant project partners attend the meeting. This worksheet should be filled out and submitted with your application.

1. What type(s) of project(s) are you planning?

Bioretention Cell/Rain Gardens	
Stormwater Wetland	
Stream Restoration	
Step Pool Conveyance System (SPSC)	
Living Shoreline	
Green Roof	
Other (detail in #2)	

2. If *Other* (in #1), provide additional detail:

3. What size project(s) are you planning?

Small restoration projects with a disturbance footprint of less than 5,000 square feet or less than 100 cubic yards of soil	
Large restoration projects with a disturbance footprint greater than 5,000 square feet or more than 100 cubic yards of soil	

4. Have you read the RFP?

CHECK: Yes ____ No ____

5. Could the project be designed to be implemented in distinct phases?

CHECK: Yes ____ No ____

6. Who owns the land on which the project will be located?

7. Is the landowner(s) willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County or a Maintenance Agreement with the City?

CHECK: Yes ____ No ____

8. How complete are your design plans?

30% complete	
60% complete	
90% complete	
100% complete	
Other or NA (describe below):	

9. Have you met with any County or City entities regarding permitting?

CHECK: Yes ____ No ____ If YES, describe below:

10. Provide additional detail regarding permit status and a list of required permits applicable to your project:

11. List relevant or potential partnerships for this project:

12. A completed drainage area data table **for each** Best Management Practice (BMP) will be required. Populate the table below (and if necessary), create additional tables for each BMP.

Type of BMP Proposed:	
Total Drainage Area to BMP (in acres):	
Impervious Area draining to BMP (in acres):	
As applicable, record Field Notes for BMPs here:	