Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program

October 6, 2021
Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program

Agenda
➢ Introduction
➢ Background & Program Goals
➢ Project Priorities
➢ Applying for WQPC
➢ Grant Administration
➢ Q & A
Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program

Montgomery County, MD

- **500 sq. miles**, over 1 Million people
- **Significant development** occurred prior to modern day stormwater management requirements
- Over **1,500 miles** of streams
- **Two** major river basins
- **184** spoken languages
MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) works to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting and improving Montgomery County’s air, water and land in a sustainable way while fostering smart growth, a thriving economy and healthy communities.
Our Water Quality Goals

1. Achieve stormwater control on impervious acres
   - New MS4 Permit to be issued in 2022
   - Upcoming areas of interest
     - Winter Salt reduction
     - Bacteria

2. Support local, regional and national efforts to protect water resources and the Chesapeake Bay

3. Engage public in water quality improvement
Streams and water quality are not what they once were

Stream Length of Sligo Creek is 26% of what it was 125 years ago:

Yellow = Historic
Blue = Current
Montgomery County Over the Years

Wheaton Woods Neighborhood

2021
Why a Grant Program?

• Another tool for the toolbox
  • Include others in protecting and restoring County streams
  • Provides a mechanism to work more fluidly with Non-profits

• Meet Regulatory Requirements (MS4)
  • Reduce volume of stormwater from impervious areas
  • Reduce pollutants getting into our streams (TMDLs)
  • Educate and engage all County stakeholders

• Focus on watersheds which suffer from the greatest impacts

• Funded by the Water Quality Protection Charge
  • Est. 2002
Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC)

• All property owners charged a tax based on impervious surfaces existing on the property.

• FUNDS:
  • Construction and retrofitting of Best Management Practices (BMPs) including inspection & maintenance/repairs
  • Watershed Operations & Outreach Programs
    • including this Grant Program
What is the Water Quality Protection Charge?

The WQPC began in 2002. It funds projects that protect and improve Montgomery County’s water quality.

Did You Know?

Most of Montgomery County’s tap water comes from the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers! Let’s keep our waters clean!

Learn more at MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/water
Grant Program Tracks:

Applications Open NOW, Due Dec. 2, 2021

1. Outreach (Outreach: up to $30K / Behavior Change: $50K)
   Assist Non-profit organizations to engage residents in water quality improvement through awareness and quantifiable behavior change

2. Community Based Restoration – Up to $100K
   Fund projects that demonstrate runoff reductions and significant social influence and impact

3. Litter Outreach & Implementation - Up to $50K
   Fund projects that demonstrate quantifiable litter reduction
Most households are within ½ mile of a local stream!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Stream Condition Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find Your Watershed: [montgomerycountymd.gov/water/streams](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/water/streams)
Priority Areas

Property owned by:

• Faith Based Organizations
• Homeowner Associations
• Private Schools
• Community Pools

• Projects that complement existing restoration efforts, watershed plans, or TMDLs
  • County Restoration Projects
  • Community RainScapes projects
Priority Areas

• **Suitability and Equity Assessment Maps & BIPOC Communities**

• **County Implementation Plans and Watershed Assessments**

• **Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan**
  - [http://anacostia.net/maps.html](http://anacostia.net/maps.html)
Through this program:

Nonprofits have accomplished a lot for Montgomery County.
## Tracking Metrics & Progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracking metric</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval Rate</td>
<td>63% (62 of 98 grants approved)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ Awarded</td>
<td>$2.8+ million over 6 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project type</td>
<td>57% - Community-based restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg: $49,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40% - Outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg: $33,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3% - Litter reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity &amp; Inclusion*</td>
<td>New for FY22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(comparing grants to equity map)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#volunteers engaged</td>
<td>5,634 volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ matching leverage funds</td>
<td>$870,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ volunteer service value</td>
<td>$982,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ Awarded: Grantee Match ratio</td>
<td>Roughly 3.5:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Tracking Metrics & Progress

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tracking metric</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency rate (Cost/IA treated)</td>
<td>$506,638/IA treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total IA treated</td>
<td>7.1 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sf of impervious removed</td>
<td>36,268 Sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sf of bioretention installed</td>
<td>30,149 Sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees planted</td>
<td>1,059 new trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># bags &amp; lbs trash collected &amp; type*</td>
<td>New for FY22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># workshops hosted</td>
<td>144* (being updates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># grants distributed by watershed</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation Project Ideas

• Pavement, Parking area & Driveway retrofits
• Rain Gardens
• Conservation Landscaping (Native Plantings)
• Riparian Buffer/Tree Plantings, and Reforestation Projects
• Pet Waste Reduction Programs
• Cistern & Rain Barrel Programs
• Lawn Stewardship/Conversion
• Litter Campaigns
• Other Innovative Ideas
Updates & Resources Added for FY22

1. Updated RFP with New Litter Outreach & Implementation Track

2. Equity & Inclusion focus in Project type, Criteria & Rating process -
   https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/equity.html

3. Updated Site Assessment form & RainScapes Plant calculator

4. Updated Evaluation Criteria & New Guidance Appendices

5. CBT Grant Tracker/Community Impact (added in FY21)

6. Grant Program Video (Added in FY21)
Items to focus on prior to submission:

• Landowner Permission
• Will any permits be needed?
• Do you need partners? Who?
• Maintenance Plan
• Identify the long-term project impact
• Establish Project Oversight & Roles
• How is your project team going to communicate?
• Is your budget accurate and logical?
At Project Completion

Apply for WQPC Credit!
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/wqpc/

• Reduction in annual tax bill
• Good for 3 years
• Assists with project success tracking, inspection and ensuring proper maintenance & function
Items we will **NOT** Fund

Stream Restorations, Stabilization projects, Wetland creation or Stormwater pond retrofits, etc
Items we will **NOT** Fund

Green Streets - Projects in the Right of Way (e.g. Curb Extension Facility, etc)
What DEP needs to see

• Before, During, After
• Smiling, happy people
• Videos
• **Good, thorough reporting**
• When in doubt, take a photo!

Acknowledgment of County & WQPC funding on all products & media
Resources

Montgomery County DEP -  www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep

Watershed Restoration – Stormwater Suitability maps
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/equity.html

Outreach Priorities - Public Outreach and Stewardship Workplan (POSWP)

• RainScapes Program Overview and Technical Manuals
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/rainscapes.html

Grant Questions and Technical Support:

Jeff Popp
jpopp@cbtrust.org
(410) 974-2941 ext. 103
Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program

Now Open and Accepting Applications!

Funding available to support watershed restoration and outreach projects throughout Montgomery County, such as...

- tree plantings
- streamside forest buffers
- stormwater education workshops
- conservation landscaping
- stream & litter cleanups
- litter and waste reduction programs
- behavior change efforts
- stormwater best management practices (rain barrels, rain gardens, etc.)

...and more!

Learn More & Apply by 12/2/2021:
https://cbtrust.org/grants/montgomery-county-watershed-restoration-outreach/
Questions?

Contact: Ryan Zerbe
Watershed Outreach planner, Watershed Restoration Division

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o. 240-777-7744
c. 240-832-8200

Please take our Clean Water Montgomery logo survey:

bit.ly/CWMsurvey