# Watershed Assistance Grant Program Overview

## Project Design & Watershed Planning

Megan Diehl

mdiehl@cbtrust.org | 410-974-2941 ext. 139

# Today's Discussion



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Overview of:
Chesapeake Bay Trust &
Watershed Assistance
Grant Program



02

Grant Program Tracks



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Application Process
&
Green SIMPLE Tool



04

Q&A Session!



*Empowering People.*

**RESTORING NATURE.**

# About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit grantmaking organization dedicated to improving the Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny watersheds. Our mission is to restore and protect our natural resources by focusing on three core objectives: environmental education, community outreach, and on-the-ground restoration.

Each year, the Trust awards millions of dollars in grants to support healthier local communities and a cleaner environment. We engage more than 250,000 individuals annually who are making a positive impact on our waterways and the natural resources of our region.

**We believe that empowering people to take action is the key to protecting forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more—right in their own communities.**



# Watershed Assistance Grant Program Overview

Partnering for Cleaner Waters

- Funding for Watershed Restoration Projects
- Designs, Planning, and Program Development
- Improving Water Quality
- Multiple Tracks for Different Project Phases

# Funding Partners

**The Watershed Assistance Grant Program is a partnership between the Trust and**

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)



# Program Tracks

## Track # 1: Project Design

Design of best management practices (BMPs)

- Stormwater best management practices to stream restorations and living shorelines



## Track # 2: Watershed Planning and Program Development

Planning and program development:

- Watershed assessments, action plans, and programmatic enhancements



# Eligible Project Locations and Applicants

## Project Locations

- The entire State of Maryland
- The West Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- The State of Pennsylvania (within the Octoraro Creek and Conowingo Creek watersheds in the Chester and Lancaster Counties)

## Eligible Applicants

Municipal, county, and regional agencies; nonprofit organizations; faith-based organizations; community and homeowners associations (HOAs); soil/water conservation districts; resource conservation and development councils; forestry boards; and public and independent higher educational institutions.

## Applicant Characteristics

The Trust seeks applications from organizations new to environmental grant-making as well as organizations experienced in design and planning projects. All applicants are welcome to contact the Trust for assistance in applying.

## Funding Breakdown

Final funding amounts depend on partner agreements and geographic eligibility. Contact the Trust with funding-specific questions.

This grant program is one element of the State of Maryland's Watershed Assistance Collaborative, which includes other opportunities for local governments and non-profit organizations, such as training events and programs for watershed restoration financing and planning.

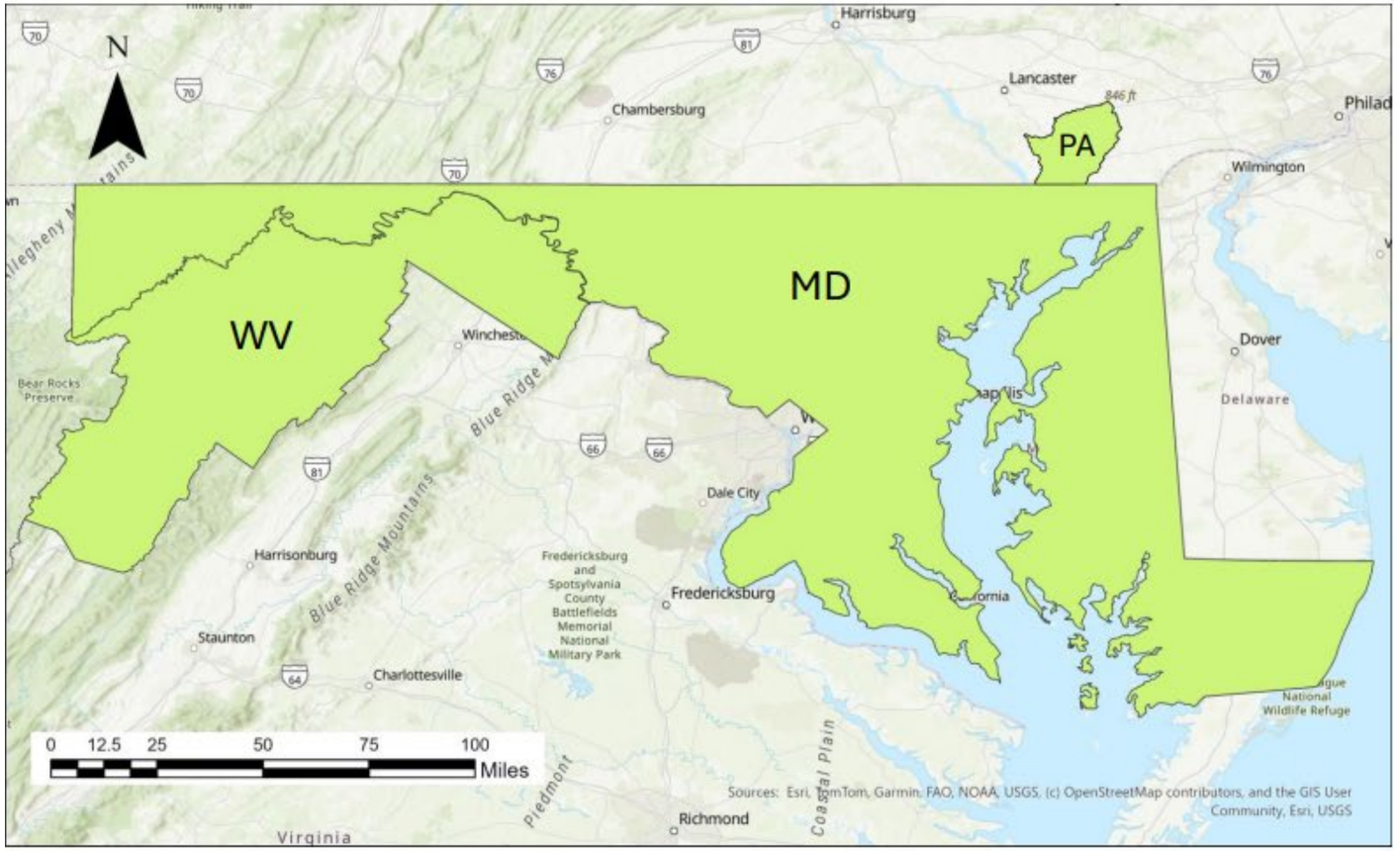
Scan me!

# Watershed Assistance Grant Program

## Map of Eligible Project Areas

**Legend**

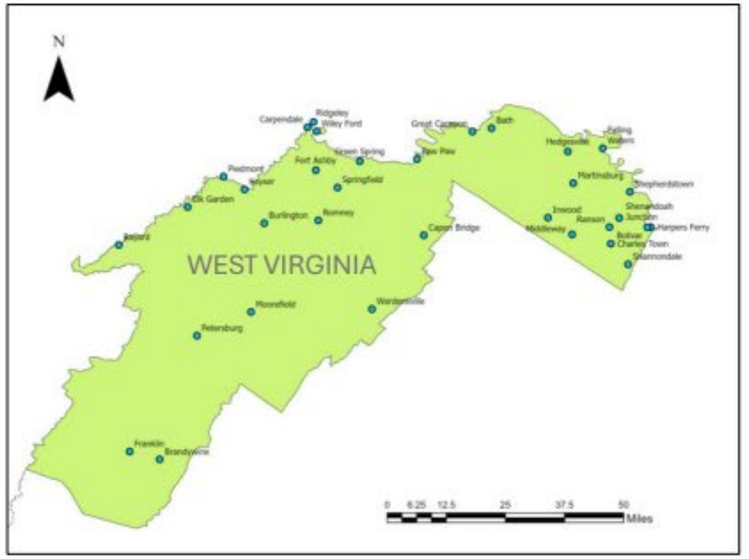
- Eligible Project Area
- Cities in Pennsylvania
- Cities in West Virginia







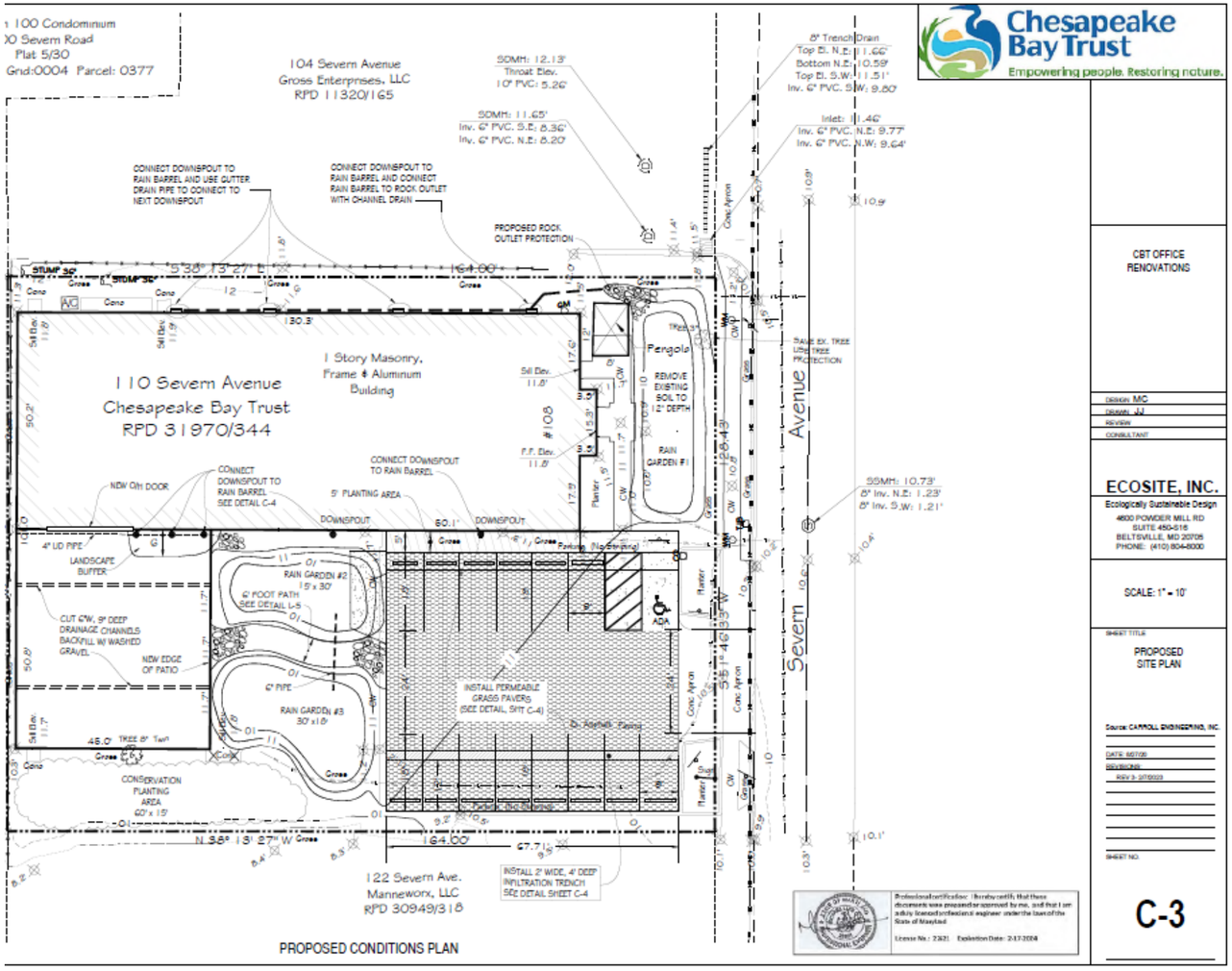
More information on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan




**Maryland:** Statewide
**West Virginia:** 8 Bay watershed counties – Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton
**Pennsylvania:** Octoraro Creek & Conowingo Creek watersheds (Chester & Lancaster Counties)

# Funding by Track

- **Track 1 – Project Design:**
  - Generally, up to $100,000 for the design of BMPs:
    - Bioretention cells and large-scale rain gardens
    - Stormwater management practices (LID, GI, water quality BMPs, ESD)
    - Submerged gravel wetlands
    - Agricultural BMPs
  - Generally, up to $150,000 for the design of restoration practices:
    - Stream restoration
    - Wetland and marsh creation/restoration
    - Living shorelines



# Funding by Track

- **Track 2 – Watershed Planning and Program Development:**
  - Generally, up to $75,000 for planning and program development
  - Grant products will help:
    - Leverage designs, plans, or projects for future implementation funding requests
    - Support local planning efforts, such as FAPs, TMDL Implementation Plans, Green Infrastructure Plans, watershed action plans, and state WIPs
  - Strong proposals include projects identified in detailed watershed action plans or as priority projects within an action plan



ANGELA ALSOBROOKS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ENVIRONMENT

February 26, 2021

Watershed Plan for the Tinker's Creek Watershed in Prince George's County

Prepared for:
Prince George's County, MD
Department of the Environment
Stormwater Management Division
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20772

RAMBØLL

FINAL REPORT

Project name **OSDS Index Map**
Project no. **2000025191**
Client **Howard County**
To **Zack Knight, PE**
From **Christina Swann, PE, Nathan Boyd, EIT, Brandi Len**
**Bill Meinert, PE**

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Frederick City Stream Restoration Site Assessment and Rec

**FREDERICK CITY STREAM RESTORATION SITE ASSESSMENT and RECOMMENDATIONS**
**FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Prepared for:

The City of Frederick
140 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Prepared by:

ECOSYSTEM PLANNING & RESTORATION
Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, LLC
8808 Centre Park Drive
Columbia, MD 21045

AND

CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION
Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.
3290 North Ridge Road, Suite 290
Ellicott City, MD 21043

ECOSYSTEM PLANNING & RESTORATION

# Eligible Budget Items

- Staff time to support project-related tasks
- Consultant/Contractor costs to create designs
- Permitting costs
- Indirect costs (not to exceed 15% of the sum of direct costs)
- Other costs associated with design and planning, upon justification







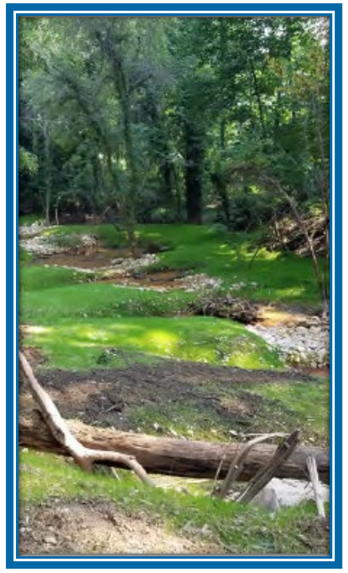


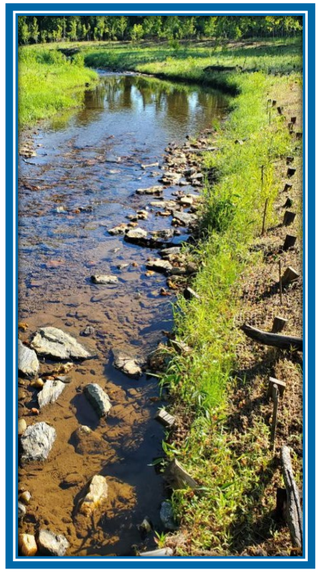
# Track 1– Project Design

Provides funding to create construction-ready designs and obtain permits for specific watershed restoration projects.

Examples:

- bioretention cells,
- large-scale rain gardens,
- other low impact development stormwater techniques,
- stream restoration,
- living shoreline,
- wetland and marsh creation,
- and any of the agricultural water quality best management practices.

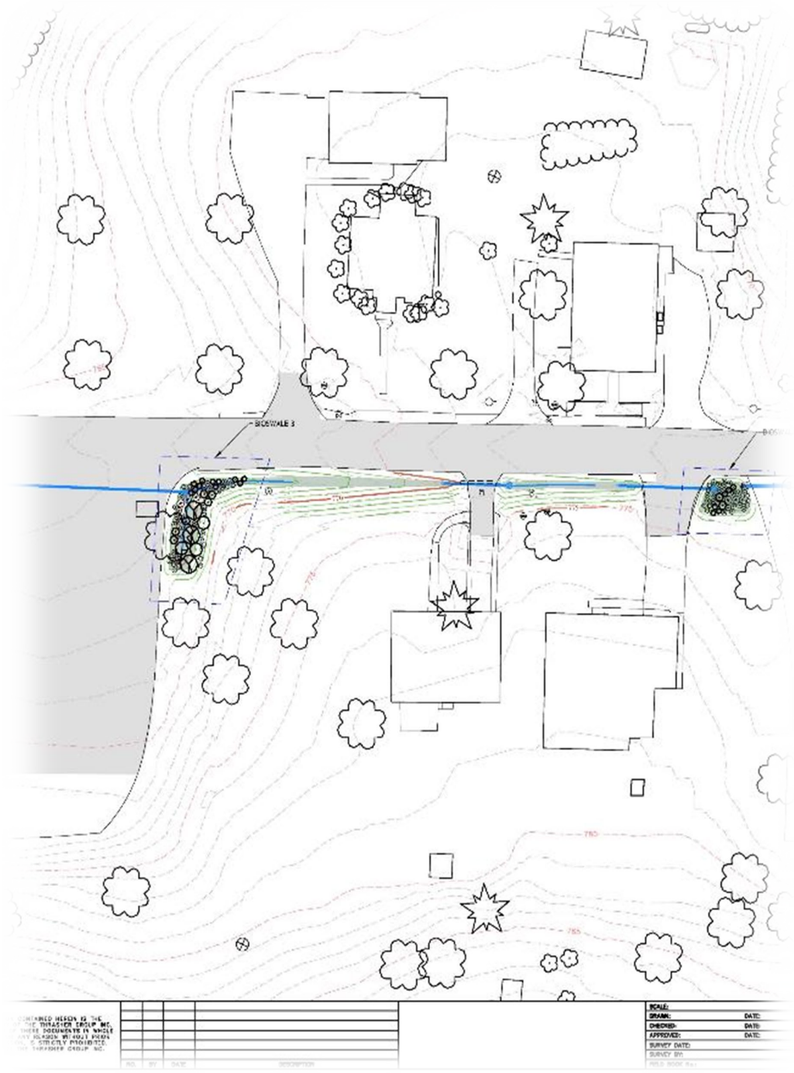






# Project Design – Stream Restoration

- Applicants interested in stream restoration design should apply to Track 1 (up to $150,000)
- Applicants should review and be familiar with the most recent science to ensure informed decision-making in site selection and restoration technique.
- Read ***Appendix C: Stream Restoration Criteria and Resources*** (in RFP)

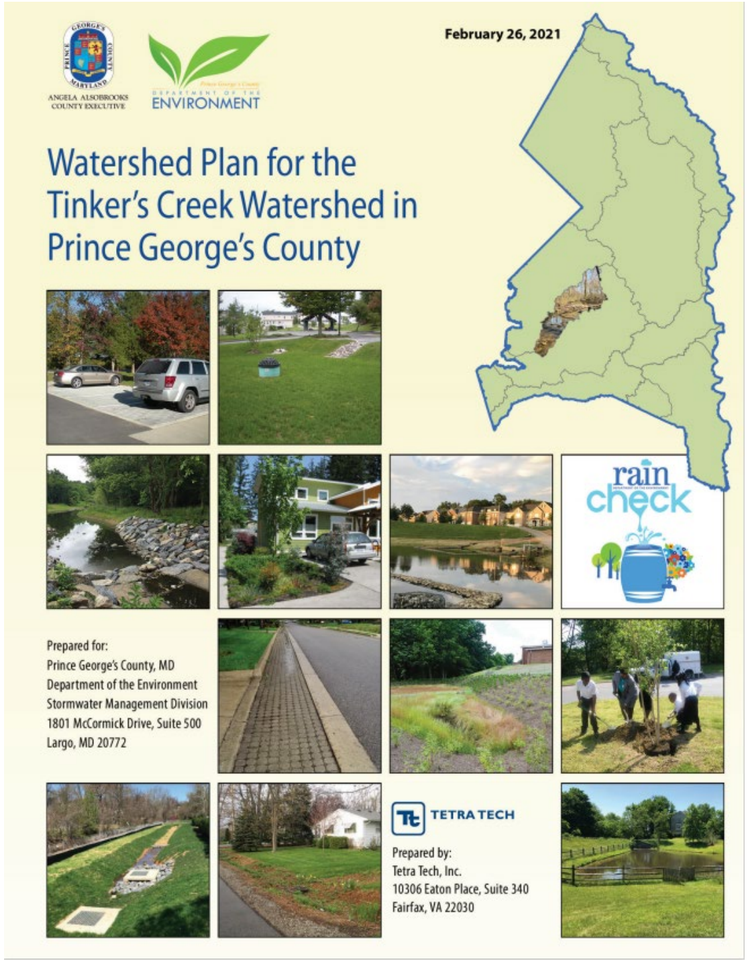


# Project Design Proposal Tips

The strongest design proposals will:

- Request funds to develop 100% designs
- Be Cost-effective
- Focus on water quality improvement, with co-benefits
- Include a conceptual sketch, photos of the restoration site, and a map of the drainage area
- Include letters of commitment from landowner(s)
- Include a scope of work and cost estimates from a qualified contractor
    - 3 estimates for contractual costs

# Track 2-
# Watershed Planning & Program Development



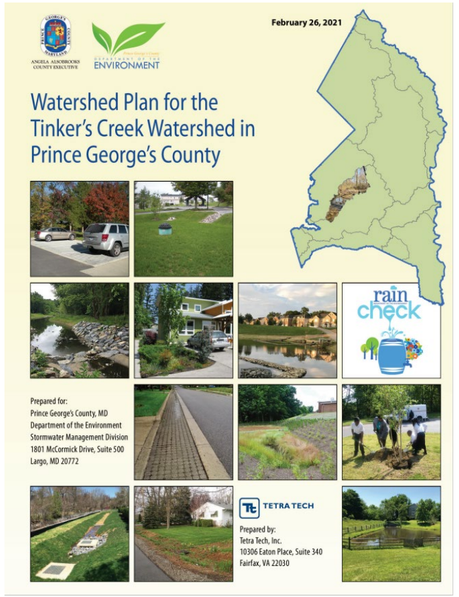

Provides funding for the development of watershed assessments, stormwater action plans or other planning or programmatic elements identified in already existing local documents.

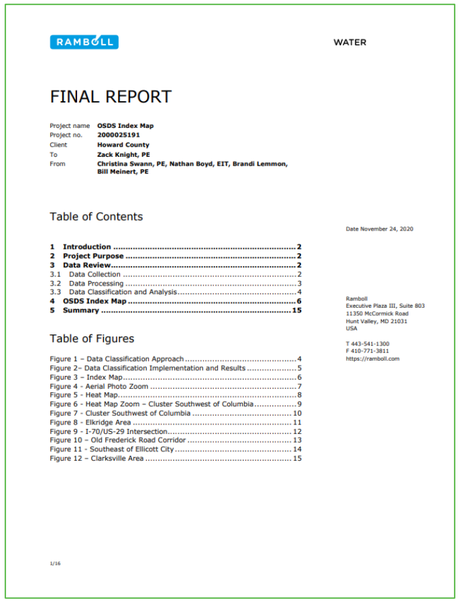
- Examples: projects addressing policy development or enhancement, organizational enhancement, watershed planning/assessment phase, watershed planning/action plans phase, or financing strategies.
- Stormwater action plans can be on the watershed (generally up to $75k), community (generally up to $30k), or individual property (generally up to $15k) scale.

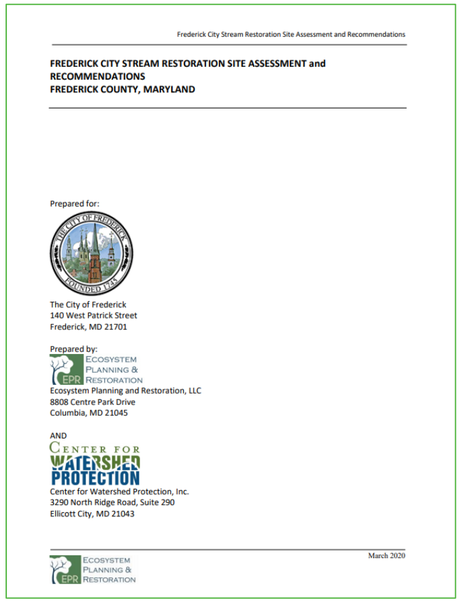
# Watershed Planning & Program Development - Proposal Tips

Strongest planning proposals will:

- Demonstrate how the project will set the local jurisdiction up for success in moving forward with implementation projects
- Demonstrate if limitations to previously amassed information exist – justifying the need for additional work
- Include detailed information on how information will be gathered
- Request funding for concept-level designs of top priority projects (action planning)



# Evaluation Criteria

- **Justification and Need**
  Demonstration of project background, issue to be to be addressed, and relevance to environmental environmental and community needs
- **Technical Soundness and Context Context**
  Appropriateness of the proposed method, definition definition of final products, and consideration of consideration of project context
- **Likelihood of Project Success and and Stakeholder Involvement**
  Coordination with key collaborators, landowner landowner permission, and co-benefits
- **Long-Term Sustainability**
  Consideration of project persistence, demonstration value, and climate change impacts
- **Audience Priority**
  Benefit to the defined audience, particularly underrepresented communities
- **Budget**
  Cost effective and appropriate budget items

# Grant Program Process



## Read

Read the Request for Proposals (RFP)



## Partners

Bring together the right partners

- Team building for successful projects
- Share RFP with team



## Schedule

Schedule a meeting with funders, if necessary, and send draft narrative/documents at least two weeks before the deadline



## Obtain

Obtain supporting documents and letters of commitment from partners



## Submit

Submit application – December 9th at 4pm

**SUBMIT EARLY!**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a few days prior to the deadline given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. The Trust cannot guarantee availability of online system technical assistance on the due date.

# Watch Our "How to Apply for a Grant" Video

For a detailed and thorough explanation of the application process, view our "How to Apply for a Grant" video using this link: https://cbtrust.org/login/



# https://cbtrust.org/grants/watershed-assistance/




## Watershed Assistance Grant Program

The Watershed Assistance Grant Program is a partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

This program provides support for watershed restoration project designs and permitting and for watershed planning and programmatic development. The ultimate goal of the projects funded through this opportunity will be to improve water quality in:

- The entire State of Maryland
- The West Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- The State of Pennsylvania (within the Octoraro Creek and Conowingo Creek watersheds in the Chester and Lancaster Counties)

By funding the earliest phases of watershed restoration projects and planning, the funding partners aim to provide local governments and non-profit organizations the ability to position themselves to quickly advance implementation work. The funding partners hope the products of grants funded under this opportunity will enable grantees to:

- Leverage resulting designs, plans, or projects to craft future proposals for implementation funding to the Maryland Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, grant programs at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, or other sources of support;
- Develop deliverables that will support local planning efforts such as Financial Assurance Plans (FAPs), Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans, county-wide Green Infrastructure Plans, watershed action plans, and State of Maryland Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) strategies and associated State Two-year Milestones.

**What this funds:** This grant program welcomes applications for the following project types.

**Program Status: OPEN**

**Deadline:** Wednesday, December 9th, 2026 at 4:00 PM EST

Click Here to View the Previous Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP!

**Narrative Questions**

Track 1 Narrative Questions

Track 2 Narrative Questions

**Start a New Application**

Get Started

Start a New Application!

# Online Application

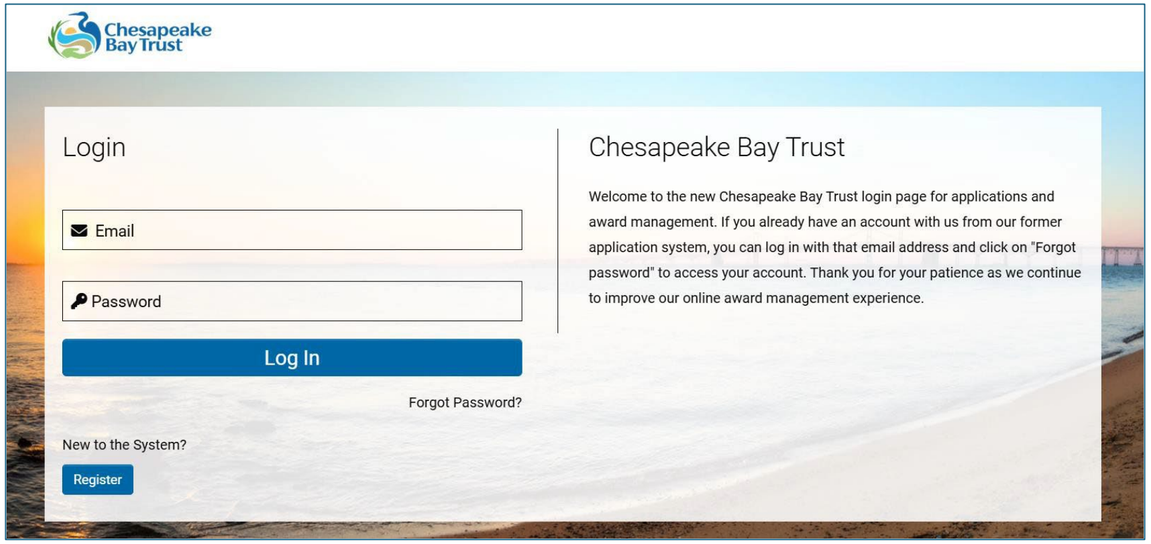
**What this funds:** The Clean Water Montgomery Grant Program funds public outreach and stewardship projects, community-based restoration water quality implementation projects, tree planting and reforestation projects, and litter reduction projects in the Anacostia River Watershed. Projects should educate and engage residents in watershed improvement while achieving measurable impacts and sustainable behavior change. Creative and innovative proposals are encouraged. Together, these efforts will restore and protect the local rivers and streams of Montgomery County.

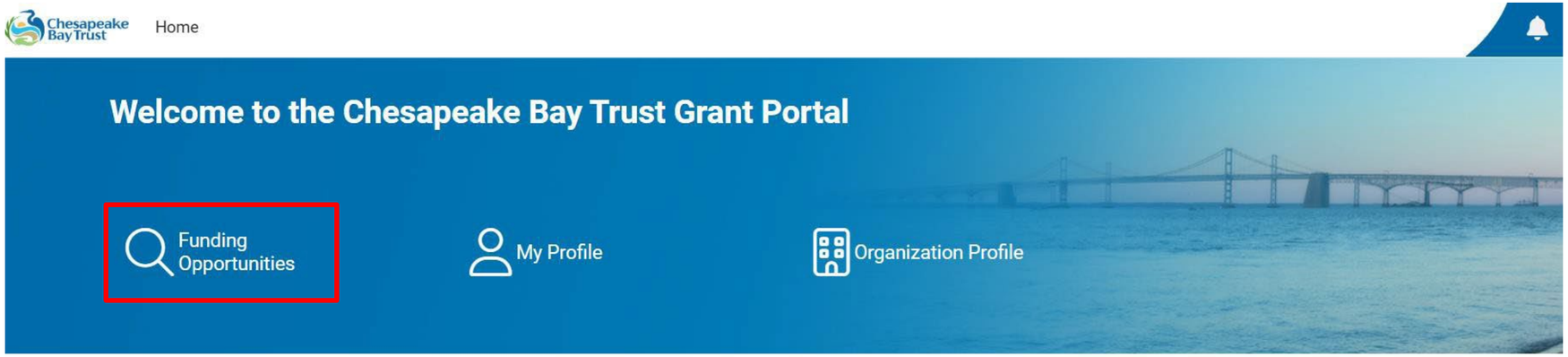
**Who can apply:** Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status, such as local watershed groups, faith-based organizations, service and civic groups, and more. If your organization does not have a current 501(c)3 status, a fiscal sponsor may be able to apply and secure funds on your behalf and we

**Start a New Application**

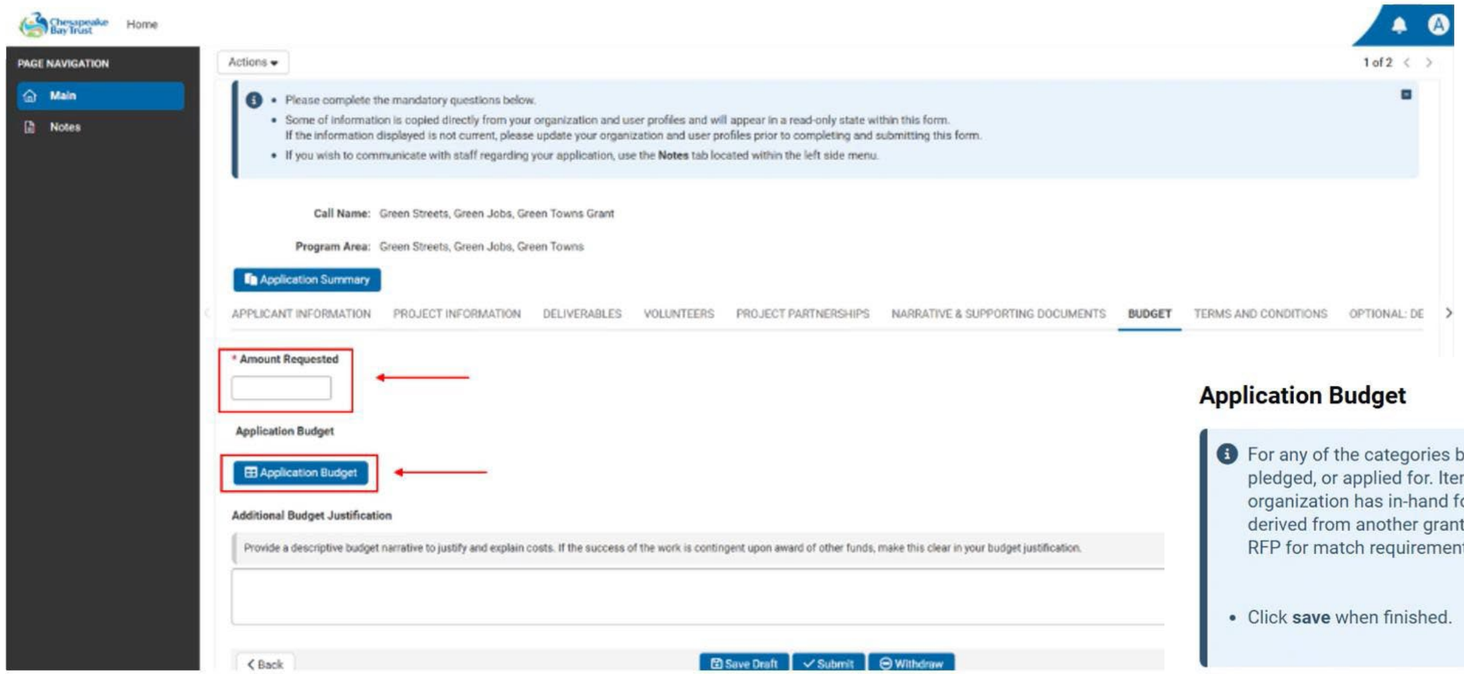
Click the button below to access and learn how to navigate our New Portal System

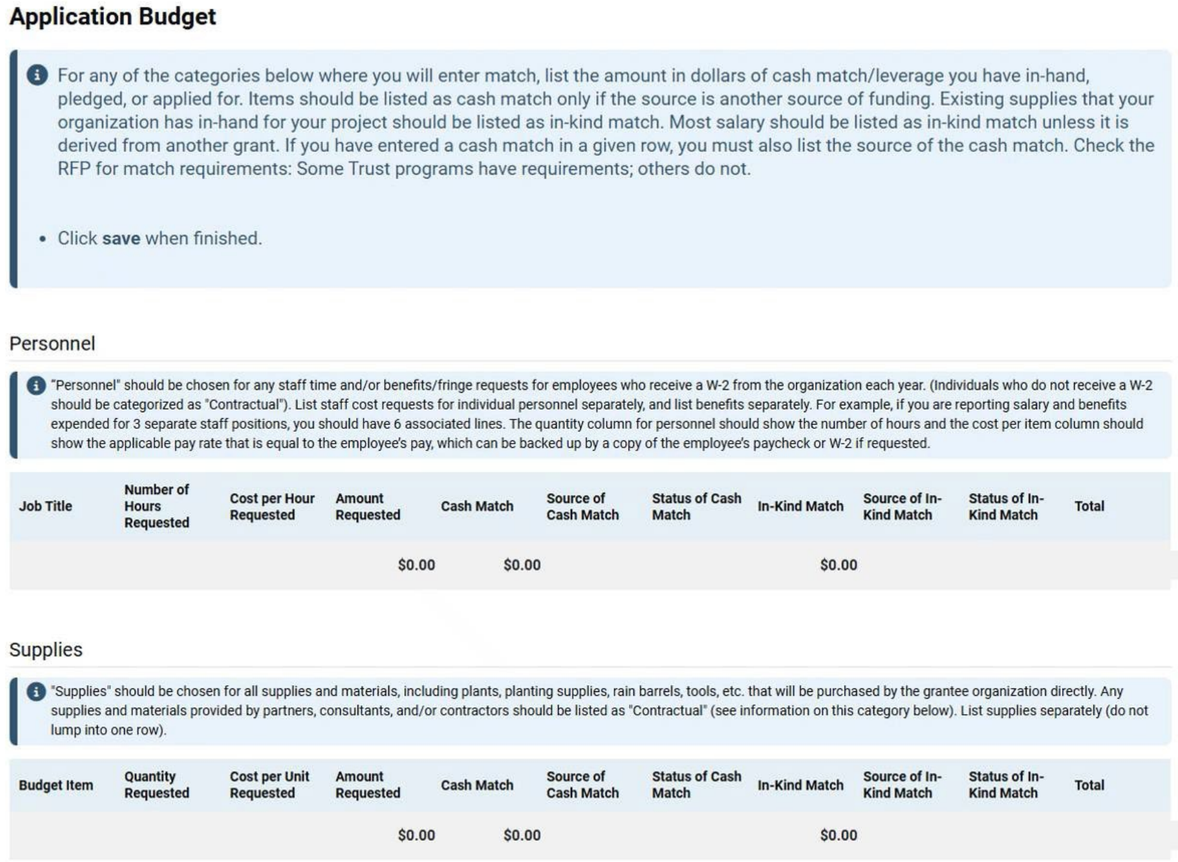
**Access The Bay Trust Awards Portal Here!**



# Application Budget




- Obtain cost estimates to build your budget
- Budget justification
- Fundraising, mitigation, lobbying/political advocacy, reimbursements, etc. are not supported through this program.

# Application Budget

## Supplies

"Supplies" should be chosen for all supplies and materials, including plants, planting supplies, rain barrels, tools, etc. that will be purchased by the grantee organization directly. Any supplies and materials provided by partners, consultants, and/or contractors should be listed as "Contractual" (see information on this category below). List supplies separately (do not lump into one row).

| Budget Item | Quantity Requested | Cost per Unit Requested | Amount Requested | Cash Match | Source of Cash Match | Status of Cash Match | In-Kind Match | Source of In-Kind Match | Status of In-Kind Match | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maple Trees | 20 | $50.00 | $1,000.00 | $200.00 | Donor | Pledged | | | Select One | $1,200.00 | × |
| Oak Trees | 25 | $45.00 | $1,125.00 | $200.00 | Donor | Pledged | | | Select One | $1,325.00 | × |
| Shovels | 15 | $35.00 | $525.00 | | | Select One | | | Select One | $525.00 | × |
| | | | $0.00 | | | Select One | | | Select One | $0.00 | × |
| | | | $2,650.00 | $400.00 | | | $0.00 | | | $3,050.00 | |

+

**Totals automatically generate in the gray bar at the bottom of each section.**

# Application Budget

Total

| | Amount Requested | Percent Indirect | Cash Match | In-Kind Match | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Personnel | $7,700 | 0.00% | $0 | $0 | $7,700 |
| Total Supplies | $2,950 | 0.00% | $400 | 0 | $3,350 |
| Total Contractual | $5,000 | 0.00% | 0 | $5,000 | $10,000 |
| Total Travel | $65 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | $65 |
| Total Field Trip Fees | $0 | 0.00% | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Total Equipment | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Direct Costs | $15,715 | 0.00% | $400 | $5,000 | $21,115 |
| Total Indirect Costs | $1,500 | 9.55% | $0 | $0 | $1,500 |
| Overall Total | $17,215 | 0.00% | $400 | $5,000 | $22,615 |

**This number should match the number entered in the Amount Requested field on the budget tab.**

Save Clear

After saving, use the additional justification box to further explain any budget items if necessary.

# What Happens After Submission



The Trust processes applications after the deadline



The Technical Review Committee reviews the applications



The TRC ranks and scores all applications based on the criteria listed in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of the RFP and then meets to discuss the application merits.

# What Happens After Submission



The TRC recommends a suite of applications to the Trust's Board of Trustees for approval



The Trust sends out decision letters by email in **March/June 2027** to the Executive Officer and Project Leader identified on the application



# What Happens After Submission

## If awarded:

Read and submit the signed award agreement

Review the award's requirements

Submit the award's requirements

Complete the work outlined in the application

## If declined:

Reach out to the Trust to schedule a debrief. The Trust will provide a summary of the Technical Review Committee feedback and recommendations on how your application could be improved and resubmitted to a future program.

The average approval rate from the last three rounds in this grant program is **32%**. This includes both fully and partially-funded applications.

We typically receive 50+ applications.

# Project Timeline and Reporting Requirements

### Award Received

Project timeline begins, 12-16 months to complete

### Kick off Meeting

Introductory meeting with the Trust and funders to go over the project and expectations

### Midway Progress Report

Detailed report on work completed and any changes to project plan

### Final Report

Comprehensive report on outcomes, lessons learned, and financial accounting

### Financial Documentation

Provide invoices, timesheets, and receipts to verify expenses

### Extensions

Possible case-by-case extensions for extenuating circumstances

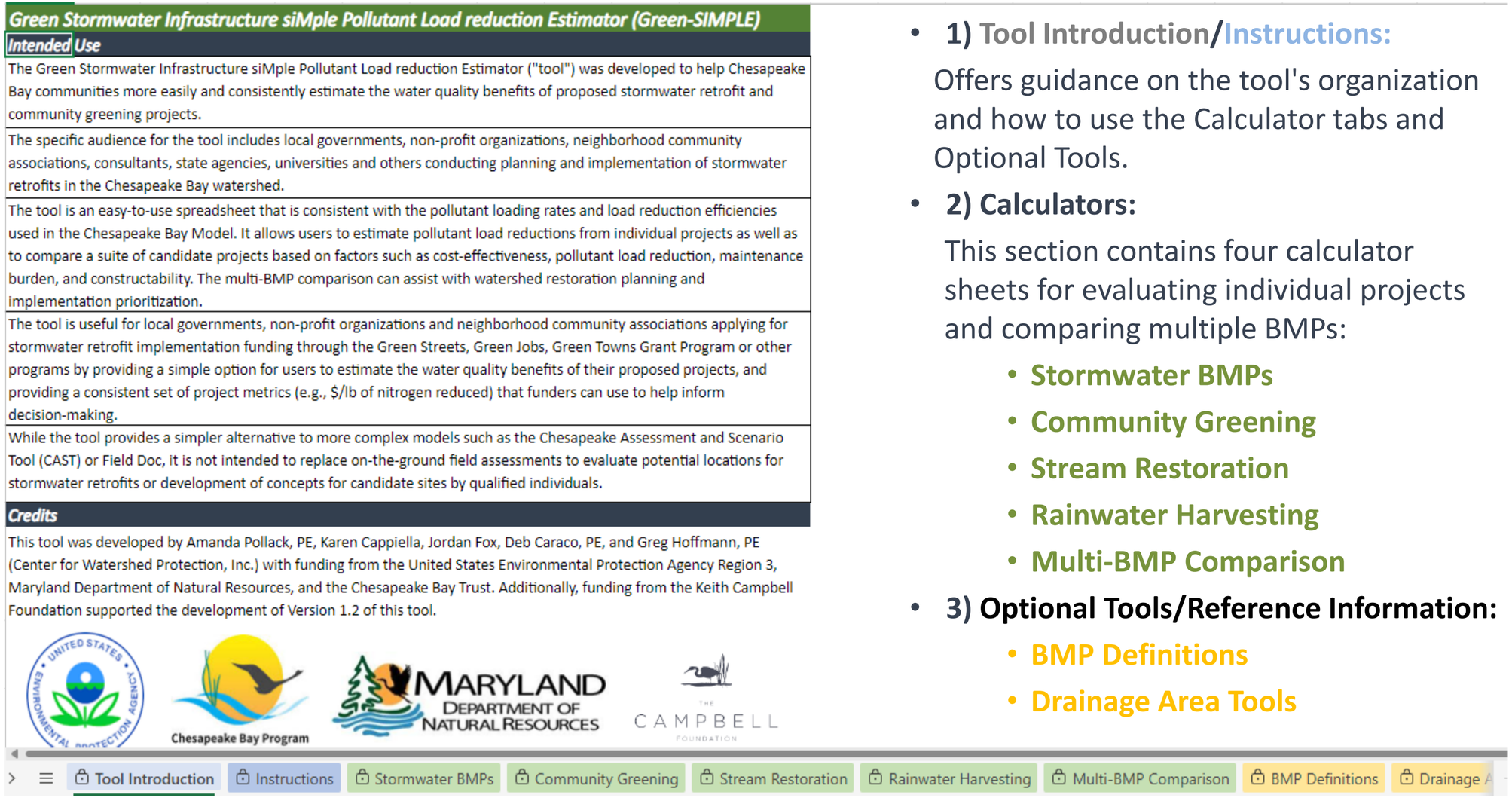
# Green SIMPLE Tool

**Purpose:**

- Aid Chesapeake Bay communities in estimating water quality benefits.
- Specifically designed for stormwater retrofit and community greening projects.



# Tool Organization



**Green Stormwater Infrastructure siMple Pollutant Load reduction Estimator (Green-SIMPLE)**

**Intended Use**

The Green Stormwater Infrastructure siMple Pollutant Load reduction Estimator ("tool") was developed to help Chesapeake Bay communities more easily and consistently estimate the water quality benefits of proposed stormwater retrofit and community greening projects.

The specific audience for the tool includes local governments, non-profit organizations, neighborhood community associations, consultants, state agencies, universities and others conducting planning and implementation of stormwater retrofits in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The tool is an easy-to-use spreadsheet that is consistent with the pollutant loading rates and load reduction efficiencies used in the Chesapeake Bay Model. It allows users to estimate pollutant load reductions from individual projects as well as to compare a suite of candidate projects based on factors such as cost-effectiveness, pollutant load reduction, maintenance burden, and constructability. The multi-BMP comparison can assist with watershed restoration planning and implementation prioritization.

The tool is useful for local governments, non-profit organizations and neighborhood community associations applying for stormwater retrofit implementation funding through the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program or other programs by providing a simple option for users to estimate the water quality benefits of their proposed projects, and providing a consistent set of project metrics (e.g., $/lb of nitrogen reduced) that funders can use to help inform decision-making.

While the tool provides a simpler alternative to more complex models such as the Chesapeake Assessment and Scenario Tool (CAST) or Field Doc, it is not intended to replace on-the-ground field assessments to evaluate potential locations for stormwater retrofits or development of concepts for candidate sites by qualified individuals.

**Credits**

This tool was developed by Amanda Pollack, PE, Karen Cappiella, Jordan Fox, Deb Caraco, PE, and Greg Hoffmann, PE (Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.) with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Additionally, funding from the Keith Campbell Foundation supported the development of Version 1.2 of this tool.

Chesapeake Bay Program

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

THE CAMPBELL FOUNDATION

Tool Introduction | Instructions | Stormwater BMPs | Community Greening | Stream Restoration | Rainwater Harvesting | Multi-BMP Comparison | BMP Definitions | Drainage A

- **1) Tool Introduction/Instructions:**

  Offers guidance on the tool's organization and how to use the Calculator tabs and Optional Tools.

- **2) Calculators:**

  This section contains four calculator sheets for evaluating individual projects and comparing multiple BMPs:

  - **Stormwater BMPs**
  - **Community Greening**
  - **Stream Restoration**
  - **Rainwater Harvesting**
  - **Multi-BMP Comparison**

- **3) Optional Tools/Reference Information:**
  - **BMP Definitions**
  - **Drainage Area Tools**

**GreenSIMPLE Tool Link:**
https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Green-SIMPLE_v1_2.xlsx

Chesapeake Bay Trust



# Key Takeaways

## Partnership Program

The Watershed Assistance Grant Program is a partnership between the the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Maryland DNR, Maryland MDE, and and West Virginia DEP.

## Funding Availability

The program has approximately $1.4 $1.4 million available inn Maryland/ Maryland/ Pennsylvania and $400,000 available in West Virginia Virginia for FY26.

## Eligible Project Locations

State of Maryland, State of West Virginia (within the Chesapeake Bay watershed), and State of Pennsylvania (within the Octoraro Creek and Conowingo Creek watersheds in the Chester and Lancaster Counties)

## Eligible Project Types

The program offers grants for project design (up to $100K for stormwater BMPs, up to $150K for stream restoration) and watershed planning/program development (up to $75K).

## Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted by **4 PM on December 9, 2026.**

Chesapeake Bay Trust




# Additional Questions?

Please reach out to the contact listed on the Watershed Assistance Grant Program webpage!
**https://cbtrust.org/grants/watershed-assistance/**

**Megan Diehl–Senior Program Officer**
**mdiehl@CBTrust.org**

Thank You!

For more information visit
**cbtrust.org**