



March 6, 2017

Community Building and Clean Water – One Rain Barrel and One Tree at a Time

Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) offer the Rain Check Rebate and the Stormwater Stewardship programs for local residents, non-profits, and municipalities to support environmental education and clean water goals in the County.

Did you know there are seven simple practices you can install to beautify your property and help keep our streams clean? The seven Rain Check practices are: [rain barrel](#), [urban tree canopy](#), [cistern](#), [rain garden](#), [pavement removal](#), [permeable pavement](#), and [green roof](#).

Spring is just around the corner! Consider installing a rain barrel, planting a tree, and more with the [Rain check program](#). To date, citizens used the Rain Check Rebate program to soak up and slow down stormwater runoff by:

- installing 72 rain barrels and seven cisterns that capture 16,715 gallons of stormwater
- planting 206 trees and over 7,500 native plants
- removing 15,748 square feet of impervious surfaces and installing 13,093 square feet of pervious pavers and
- installing 12,408 square feet of rain gardens.

The Rain Check Rebate program provides up to \$4,000 for residential property owners and up to \$20,000 for larger properties such as businesses and condominiums. The process is easy with a short online form and site visit by Trust staff, Hannah Martin. Hannah can walk you through the process from start to finish.



Photo caption: [Rain barrels](#) slow down runoff from rooftops, protect nearby streams from erosion, and can be used to water plants.

The County and the Trust also partner to offer grants that support local nonprofits, towns, and cities. Established in 2014, the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program supports municipalities, watershed groups, and other community-based groups to engage citizens and to implement stormwater practices that support clean water goals. The grantees are still hard at work and will install 150 rain barrels, plant over 1,500 trees and over 20,000 native plants, remove over 9,000 pounds of trash, engage over 10,000 students and over 6,500 volunteers, and hold over 400 workshops to engage people in clean water efforts.

The groups funded by the grants are building connections in their neighborhoods, learning how to protect and preserve the natural resources, and building capacity for the future. For example, the Suitland Civic Association combined support from the grant program and Rain Check Rebate program to:

- hold three rain barrel workshops
- hire and train three Suitland residents to install rain barrels and
- install 30 rain barrels for Suitland residents.

Based on the post survey results, 93% said they would recommend a rain barrel to their neighbors and 86% reported they would reuse the water for plants. Finally, the grantee created a [How to Install a Rain Barrel Video](#) that can be used by others to install a rain barrel for their home or business.

Check out the list of grantees [here](#) to see how you can get involved in these projects or contact Sadie Drescher at sdrescher@cbtrust.org and 410-971-2941 xt 105.

Let's make 2017 the best year ever for greening Prince George's County!



Photo captions: Suitland Civic Association rain barrel installation workshop.

Chesapeake Bay Trust



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