



Prince George's County E-Newsletter May 2017



Our Mission

The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Trust is to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the water quality and aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay region and other aquatic and land resources of the State. The Trust will engage residents of the region in programs that lead to actions that measurably improve local communities and increase resource stewardship.

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“Treating and Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship” – A model program to engage students, teachers, and groundskeepers in Prince George’s County

The Prince George’s Department of the Environment (DoE) recognizes that schools are key sites for stormwater management projects because they have large parking lots and roof tops that create a high volume of stormwater runoff. Schools are also central hubs for citizens and students, making them ideal demonstration sites for public awareness. Therefore, schools provide a unique opportunity for Prince George’s County to connect the stormwater projects installed on school grounds with the environmental curriculum that supports the State’s Environmental Literacy graduation requirement.

In 2016, Prince George’s County Public Schools, DoE, and the Clean Water Partnership launched a pilot program called “Treating & Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship.” This program **trains teachers how to use their schoolyard, including the stormwater projects installed, as educational tools to support their curriculum.** In the pilot, eighteen schools received stormwater management practices to treat the runoff from impervious areas. Teachers from these schools attended workshops to learn how the stormwater practices functioned and could be used as teaching tools in the classroom (more online [here](#)). However, there was a need to continue training teachers and expand the effort to groundskeepers and students.

The DoE partners with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to offer the [Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) to support clean water projects and engage citizens throughout Prince George’s County. We requested applications to the grant program that would connect schools and the stormwater practices implemented on school grounds. The awarded project, expanded the “Treating and Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship” to an additional 16 schools in the first year and another 20 schools in the next year. Currently, the first 16 schools have completed the training and are in the second phase of the program where they install outdoor classroom features on their schoolyards.

The “Treating and Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship” grant project is unique and a “first in class” because it supports:

- teachers, municipal groundskeepers, and students in thirty six schools
- the Maryland Environmental Literacy graduation requirement
- Kevin Maxwell’s goal of 100% Green School certification for all Prince George’s County Public Schools
- the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- collaboration with top stormwater and education professionals in the state

The “Treating & Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship” program is a strong first step to train Prince George’s County teachers how to use the outdoor stormwater practices as a resource for teaching their students.

List of 16 Selected Schools for “Treating & Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship grant:

- Bond Mill Elementary School
- Calverton Elementary School
- District Heights Elementary School
- Frances Scott Key Elementary School
- Friendly High School
- Gwyn Park High School
- High Point High School
- John Hanson Montessori School
- Laurel Elementary School
- Oxon Hill Middle School
- Parkdale High School
- Potomac High School
- Rosa L. Parks Elementary School
- Scotchtown Hills Elementary School
- Templeton Elementary School
- Walker Mill Middle School

This innovative program connects the real-world problem of stormwater runoff with student learning outdoors on their schoolyards.

The Anacostia Watershed Society leads the grant project with partners from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, the William S. Schmidt Center, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Real School Gardens, Low Impact Development Center, Neighborhood Design Center, and Bradley Site Design. In addition, a diverse coalition of organizations supports this effort and includes local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, the DoE, and the Prince George’s County school system.

For more information about this effort contact Tara Baker (tbaker@cbtrust.org).

Prince George’s Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program – School Focused Grants Awarded

Over the last three years, the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program supported student and teacher engagement and stormwater implementation practices at schools in the following awards:

- **Anacostia Watershed Society (the project highlighted in this newsletter):** To launch the Prince George’s County Treating and Teaching: Stormwater Stewardship program - an innovative pilot program, which combines stormwater management projects with meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs), supports teacher professional development, integrates environmental material into curriculum, provides training for

teachers and maintenance staff, and implements small practices on school grounds.

- **Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin:** To implement the “Score Four Students, Schools, Streams and the Bay” program at Northwestern High School (Hyattsville) and Accokeek Academy (Accokeek) in watershed investigations and action projects.
- **REAL School Gardens:** To train and support students and teachers at Templeton, Capitol Heights, and Laurel Elementary to use outdoor classrooms, engage students, and provide meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs).
- **DuVal High School:** To implement a high visibility rain garden at DuVal High School in Lanham, Maryland.
- **Parkdale High School:** This project will treat stormwater runoff through the design and creation of green infrastructure. This effort will provide hands-on stormwater stewardship education and community mentorships for Parkdale High School students. This is a model project that brings together technical experts, non-profits, teachers, students, and the community to clean water and engage citizens.
- **New Hope Educational Institute:** Grant funds supported capturing and treating runoff from the school’s parking lot, educating students about stormwater pollution, and engaging the community in the design and implementation of stormwater management practices.
- **The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin:** Grant funds supported the “Score Four for Students, Schools, Streams and the Bay” program that developed Student Stormwater Action Projects at Parkdale High School (Riverdale), Northwestern High School (Hyattsville), and the Academy of Health Sciences (Largo). This project engaged 465 students, trained 11 teachers, and provided a series of watershed lessons and community resources to facilitate stormwater stewardship among students.

See a full list of grants awarded online [here](#) and contact Sadie Drescher (sdrescher@cbtrust.org) for more information about the grant program.



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