



Over \$1.3 Million Announced to Support Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis

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Annapolis, Maryland – The Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, the City of Annapolis, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce over \$1.3 million in funding awarded to eleven projects that focus on environmental restoration and protection. Through the Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program, awardees in Annapolis and other locations around Anne Arundel County will implement community-driven projects to improve water quality in local waterways, reduce stormwater and sediment runoff, and build resilient living shorelines.

“I love the fact that our Watershed Protection and Restoration team works directly with Chesapeake Bay Trust to get these grants to community-driven projects all across the county each year,” said **County Executive Pittman**. “This is government and local nonprofits working together at their best.”

The funding is designed to reduce pollutants and enhance habitat through watershed restoration practices led by local organizations such as watershed organizations; service, youth, and civic groups; faith-based organizations; and community associations and homeowners’ associations. These projects range in size and scope to accomplish on-the-ground, cost-effective treatment of impervious surfaces to control stormwater runoff and remove harmful pollutants to help the jurisdictions achieve local water quality improvement goals. To be considered for funding, projects had to be planned to occur in Anne Arundel County, including the City of Annapolis, and applicants were encouraged to engage at least one partner that represents a stakeholder group based in the County.

“We’re fortunate to have organizations throughout Anne Arundel County taking the initiative to protect water quality locally,” said **Erik Michelsen, Deputy Director of the County's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration**. “The County Watershed Restoration Grant Program provides a mechanism for those groups to tailor restoration solutions in a way that meets their needs, and has the support of community stakeholders.”

This year, the City of Annapolis contributed additional funds to pilot a new track that supports the management and maintenance of previously completed stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The regular maintenance of BMPs will optimize their performance, in turn protecting local

streams and the Chesapeake Bay by further reducing and treating stormwater runoff.

“We see a big impact when local government partners with communities and non-profit organizations to achieve a common vision for the environment,” said **City of Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley**. “Together, we can shift practices and behaviors to ensure a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. I am excited to see the impact of the 2024 awardees on water quality throughout our City and County.”

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program opened in 2014. The 2024 awardees will build on this decade of impact, implementing critical projects that improve water quality in local streams and waterways.

Funded through the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration and the City of Annapolis, awards are managed by the nonprofit Chesapeake Bay Trust, supported in part by the Chesapeake Bay vehicle license plates common on many vehicles in the County. The Chesapeake Bay Trust empowers people and communities to conceive, own, and lead their own projects to beautify their neighborhoods while treating stormwater at the same time. This type of stewardship has been shown to lead to higher sustainability of projects, and therefore longer-term benefits.

“We start to see a ripple effect in the health of our environment when we empower people to be the environmental leaders and advocates of their own communities,” said **Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust**. “We are grateful to Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis for partnering with us to deliver these grant funds back to the local organizations who have the power to make sustainable changes to their communities.”

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program 2024 Awardees

Georgetown East Townhouse Community - Severn River Association, Inc. - \$26,157

For the implementation of micro-bioretenion cells in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objectives will be to reduce pollutant loads entering Back Creek on the Severn River, attenuate flooding within the community common spaces, and improve habitat for pollinators through the replacement of turfgrass with native plants.

Village of Middle Cove Community - Arundel Rivers Federation - \$30,614

For the removal of 11,000 square feet of impervious surface in a residential community in Parole, Maryland. The primary objective of this project will be to prepare the site for afforestation by removing unused and dilapidated impervious surface within the community.

Elizabeth’s Landing Community - Green Trust Alliance - \$125,238

For the construction of 250 linear feet of living shoreline in a residential community in Pasadena, Maryland. The primary objectives of this project will be to stabilize eroding shorelines from wave action, including 150 linear feet of forested streambanks and valuable community access areas, reduce pollutant loads entering Stoney Creek, and create shallow water habitat.

Southdown Shores Community - Arundel Rivers Federation - \$312,081

For the installation of 530 linear feet of stream restoration in a residential community in Edgewater, Maryland. The goals of this project will be to daylight an existing, failing pipe with a Regenerative Storm Conveyance system that will reduce pollutant loads entering the South River and create new wetland habitat pools.

Stewart's Landing Community - Magothy River Association - \$62,000

For the construction of 129 linear feet living shoreline in a residential community in Severna Park, Maryland. The primary objective of this project will be to stabilize the eroding shoreline to reduce the sediment and pollutant loads entering Old Man Creek which will improve the stability and safety of the community's marina infrastructure.

Quiet Waters Park - Arundel Rivers Federation - \$289,262

For the creation of two living shorelines and new oyster habitat in a public park in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objectives of this project will be to stabilize eroding banks with traditional sills and oyster reef balls which will absorb wave energy and create a variety of wildlife habitats.

City of Annapolis - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - \$50,000

For the development of a cost-share maintenance program to restore existing best management practices (BMPs) in communities within Annapolis, Maryland. The goal of this project will be to improve the functionality of existing best management practices (BMPs) across communities in Annapolis so they can qualify for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System credits. The project will involve collaborating with the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council to restore existing BMPs and educating property owners, facilities staff, and community members on proper maintenance techniques to promote the longevity of their BMPs.

Southern District Police Station - Arundel Rivers Federation - \$63,676

For the restoration of two rain gardens and a swale as well as the removal of 1,800 square feet of impervious surface at an Anne Arundel County police station in Edgewater, Maryland. The outcomes of this project will be to improve on-site drainage issues by restoring an existing swale, rejuvenate two existing rain gardens with new native plants, and remove a defunct helipad to reduce surfaces that increase stormwater runoff.

Wardour Community - Severn River Association, Inc. - \$245,961

For the implementation of a stormwater best management practice (BMP) in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objectives of this project will be to improve water quality in the Severn River, protect nearby oyster restoration reefs from runoff and siltation, and improve the Wardour community's resilience to climate change through the creation of a step pool conveyance system.

Hillsmere Shores Community - Arundel Rivers Federation - \$56,005

For the installation of 650 linear feet of shoreline through marsh creation in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The community has experienced ongoing threats to existing infrastructure due to increasing storm surges and flooding. The goal of this project will be to increase the community's resilience to climate change through the creation of marsh which will reduce shoreline erosion, filter stormwater runoff, and provide wildlife habitat.

Annapolis Overlook Community - Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - \$50,000

For a watershed assessment and concept plans in a residential community in Annapolis, Maryland. The primary objective of this project will be to identify areas and provide recommendations for residential-scale and larger scale stormwater best management practices (BMPs). By assessing the Annapolis Overlook community for BMP opportunities, the future goal will be for these BMPs to be implemented to provide the community with better stormwater management practices which will lead to a healthier Aberdeen Creek.

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The Partners:

About the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration (BWPR)

The BWPR, a division of the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, is responsible for implementation of the County's stormwater restoration project strategies that meet mandated federal and state water quality requirements. For more information about the BWPR, visit www.aarivers.org.

About the City of Annapolis, Department of Public Works (DPW)

The DPW is responsible for managing the City's stormwater system and implementing and supporting projects that help the City meet its federal and state water quality requirements, including projects that restore the natural stormwater management and pollutant capture functions of creeks, rivers, wetlands, and shorelines. For more information visit <https://www.annapolis.gov/2015/Stormwater>.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area, from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. Every year, the Trust empowers about 400 groups by providing grants and technical assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Chesapeake Bay license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments such as Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: On average, 90 cents of every dollar go to programs.

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