



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

December  
2023

[Chesapeake Bay Trust Mission](#) | [Prince George's County Department of Environment](#) |  
[Grant Programs and Opportunities](#) | [Rain Check Rebate Program](#) | [Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) | [Newsletters](#)



## Thank You for Applying to the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Thank you to this year's applicants for applying to the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. We appreciate the time and effort that applicants put into developing their applications. The next step in the process is application review. All applications are reviewed and evaluated by an external Technical Review Committee (TRC) composed of individuals who are experts in the fields supported by the Request for Proposals (RFP) and individuals who represent communities served by projects funded by the RFP. The TRC ranks and scores all applications based on the evaluation criteria specified in the RFP.

including the consistency with the RFP, likelihood of project success, sustainability, cost-effectiveness, justification, partnerships, and demonstration value and transferability. Decisions will be announced in March 2024.

## **NEW: Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program is Open!**



The Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are excited to announce a new mini grant program: [The Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program](#)!

This mini grant program supports the creation and need for community gardens that provide resources to the Prince George's County community while supporting the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan. The primary goal of this mini grant is to fund community garden projects that help address food security and support neighborhood scale implementation of regenerative agriculture and other sustainable gardening practices.

This program supports both the development of new community gardens as well as the growth of existing community gardens that plan to expand regenerative practices. New community gardens can request up to \$9,500. Existing community gardens can request up to \$3,000 OR \$9,500 with the addition of mentorship. Mentorship can include, but is not limited to, mentoring applicants applying for community gardens, holding classes and information sessions, and conducting tours.

Requests are accepted on an on-going basis until funds for this fiscal year (FY24) are exhausted.

*Photo: Laurel City Community Garden: Courtesy of City of Laurel*

[Learn More About this New Mini Grant Program](#)

## Cheverly Resident Receives \$2,924.48 Rebate for Removing Impervious Pavement and Installing a Rain Garden



Impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, allow rainfall to accumulate in the form of stormwater runoff, which can contain pollutants and enter our local waterways. Removing pavement that is impervious and replacing it with grass or native plants increases filtration, reduces downstream erosion, replenishes groundwater, and reduces stormwater runoff.

Rain gardens are shallow, planted depressions full of water-tolerant native plants that soak up stormwater. Rain gardens allow water to slowly seep into the ground, or infiltrate, which reduces the amount of water flowing across impervious surfaces.

A resident in Cheverly removed 617 sq. ft. of pavement and installed a 236 sq. ft. rain garden at their residential property in Cheverly, through the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#). The top pictures above show the before, during, and after of one section of pavement that was removed and replaced with grass and root pavers. In the photo on the right, we can see the rain garden that features the following native plants: creeping phlox, winterberry, and butterfly milkweed. The resident received a rebate of \$2,924.48 (\$6/sq. ft. of pavement removed and \$10/sq. ft. of rain garden installed). Congratulations on a great project!



[\*\*Learn More About Pavement Removal\*\*](#)

[\*\*Learn More About Rain Gardens\*\*](#)

## **Upcoming Second Saturday Lecture Series Featuring Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program**

Join us for

# **SECOND SATURDAY**

## Lecture Series

---

**December 9th,  
4 to 6 pm**

**University Park Church of the Brethren**  
4413 Tuckerman Street,  
University Park 20782

Representatives for the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#) and PEPCO's Home Performance with Energy Star Program will share more about programs designed to improve the interior and exterior of your property and support a more sustainable Prince George's County!

The Prince George's Rain Check Rebate Program offers rebate incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve local stream and river health. Seven types of stormwater practices are eligible for rebates: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs. The [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) and the new [Community Gardens Mini Grant Program](#) will also be highlighted!

The PEPCO Home Performance with Energy Star Program provides technical and financial assistance to improve the energy efficiency of homes through energy audits and measures like insulation, air sealing and other installations that can reduce energy use, cut energy bills, and improve the comfort of the home. Energy audit costs can be reduced by 75% and there are also a number of energy-saving measures that are eligible for financial assistance of up to \$7,500.

For more information contact Dave Brosch at [davidcbrosch@comcast.net](mailto:davidcbrosch@comcast.net). The event will be held on December 9th, 4:00 pm, at the University Park Church of the Brethren at 4413 Tuckerman Street, University Park 20782.

## **Stormwater Practice Maintenance Information Sessions for the Green Ambassador Program (GAP)**



Discover what educational activities and hands-on events are available through GAP and learn more about stormwater practice maintenance! Join the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional for either of the virtual information sessions as they discuss care for your gardens, rain barrels, and other stormwater practices! Also, suggest GAP activities you would like to participate in Spring 2024!

The Green Ambassador Program (GAP) is a neighborhood volunteer program in which neighbors support each other in providing stormwater practice maintenance. Green Ambassadors will work together to fill in the 'GAPs' that exist in long-term maintenance strategies.

Main GAP Goals:

1. Educate and train community members on proper stormwater practice maintenance
2. Encourage property owners to frequently maintain their stormwater practices
3. Assist neighbors with stormwater practice maintenance
4. Increase functionality of residential stormwater practices

Learn about the Green Ambassador Program (GAP) at the kickoff information sessions on:

[Wednesday, December 13th from 12-1pm and Thursday, January 11th from 7-8pm](#)

To achieve these goals, they need people like **you!**

Stay tuned for in-person activities and events in Spring 2024!

[Sign up for the Stormwater Practice Maintenance Information Sessions](#)

## **Information Session for Tantallon Potomac Protectors**

# TANTALLON POTOMAC PROTECTORS VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024  
7:00 - 8:00 PM



- Learn how to **reduce flooding** and improve **climate resiliency** in your neighborhood
- Sign up for a **free site assessment** of your property
- Take advantage of **free and low-cost** green practices available for a **short-time only** for Tantallon residents

**Register here and learn more:**

<https://tinyurl.com/tantalloninfo>

**Questions?**

Tantallon@allianceforthebay.org



**ALLIANCE**  
for the Chesapeake Bay



**CBTRUST**  
Chesapeake Bay Trust

[Sign up for the Information Session](#)

## Rebates Available for Homeowners, Businesses, and Other Property Owners

### RAIN CHECK REBATE

GET REBATES FOR...

Rain Barrels      Cisterns      Urban Tree Canopy      Rain Gardens      Pavement Removal      Permeable Pavement      Green Roofs

*...and help keep Prince George's County beautiful and healthy!*

The [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#) offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and other property owners to install practices that will reduce stormwater runoff, reduce pollution, and improve the health of our local rivers.

The seven stormwater practices eligible for rebates include rain barrels, cisterns, urban tree canopy plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement installation, and green roofs.

The total maximum rebate amount for the lifetime of a property is \$6,000 for residential properties and \$20,000 for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. **Please note that the total maximum rebate amount for residential properties has increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000 as of March 2022.** So, if you previously had reached the cap, you may be able to apply for more projects now!

[Learn More & Apply](#)

## Maintenance Support Available for Rain Check Rebate Participants

## MAINTAINING STORMWATER PRACTICES IN THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED

Receive FREE assistance with your stormwater practices!



Have you had a stormwater practice installed through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program? Introducing the Maintaining Stormwater Practices in the Anacostia Watershed program! This program is funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help support residential property owners with maintenance of their Rain Check Rebate projects. This program offers support for Anacostia watershed residents through:

- [Free Inspections](#): A landscape professional will evaluate your stormwater practice and provide a written report of maintenance recommendations
- [Discounted Maintenance](#): 50% of the cost, up to \$750, could be covered for the maintenance of your green feature while you learn proper maintenance techniques through hands-on preparation
- [Stormwater Maintenance Resource Center](#): Check out the online maintenance resources for more information about caring for your stormwater practices
- [Green Ambassadors Program \(GAP\)](#): Are you interested in joining a community volunteer maintenance team to maintain neighborhood stormwater practices, including yours?

If you are interested in participating, please review the [Property Owner Guide](#) or visit the [Stormwater Maintenance Resources website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Kristen Parsons**  
**202-599-8164**  
[kparsons@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:kparsons@allianceforthebay.org)

Thank you for doing your part to improve water quality and promoting a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay!

In partnership,



## Opportunity for Increased Urban Tree Canopy Rebates in Underserved Communities

Additional Resources for Urban Tree Canopy Projects

**New!** Increased rebates for tree planting projects in eligible underserved communities

Additional rebate funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

See the Rain Check Rebate program website or contact program staff at [rebate@cbctrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbctrust.org) for more details.



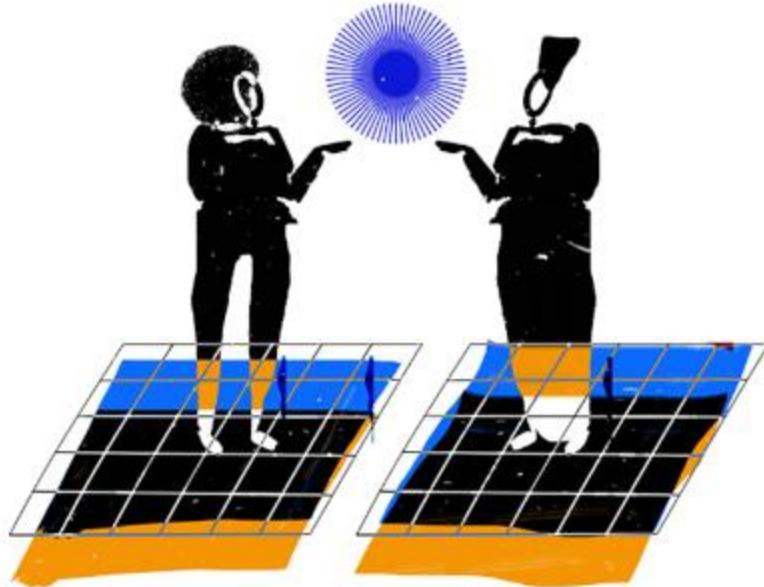
You may be eligible for a \$300 rebate for every 2 to 2 ½ inch caliper or larger native tree installed on your property! The Prince George's County Department of the Environment was awarded funds to supplement existing tree planting programs as part of the Five Million Maryland Trees for Climate Progress initiative. If your property is located within a designated underserved area, you may be eligible for an increased rebate.

\*Native trees should be planted between the months of October and May to optimize survival and success of the tree. Start planning your fall planting now!

This is a pilot program contingent on funding. Contact [rebate@cbctrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbctrust.org) for more information.

[Learn More about this Program](#)

**Make a Difference in Prince George's County with SharePower Community Solar**



**With SharePower community solar, you subscribe to locally produced clean energy, support energy justice for your income-qualified neighbors, and receive a tax deduction for your contribution.**

Subscribe to locally-produced solar energy with SharePower by Groundswell. SharePower community solar uses energy generated at a solar array at a location like a church, school, or apartment complex in your community. As a SharePower subscriber, your subscription will also support equitable clean energy access, advancing access to affordable clean energy, particularly for communities that have historically been left out. Because SharePower subscriptions make electricity bill savings available for income-qualified households in Maryland, the portion of your subscription fee that helps your low and moderate-income neighbors receive up to \$500 a year in no-cost electricity bill savings is tax-deductible.

[Learn More about SharePower Community Solar](#)

Note: Inclusion of any businesses or vendors in this newsletter is not an endorsement or recommendation by Prince George's County or the Chesapeake Bay Trust. This is only a means to share information.

### Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Megan Andreasen at [mandreasen@cbtrust.org](mailto:mandreasen@cbtrust.org) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



### ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust shares a bold vision for 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. We uniquely empower local community-based groups on the ground with the resources they need to take on a meaningful and measurable role in restoring forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities.

The Trust empowers these groups by providing grants and technical assistance. Every year, about 400 groups are awarded project money or provided other assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded \$146 million in grants and engaged hundreds of thousands of resident stewards in projects that have a measurable impact.

The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: on average 90 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

[Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) | [Contact](#) | [About Us](#) | [Giving](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)  
108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403