



Prince George's County Newsletter

February 2018

[Mission](#) | [Rain Check Rebate](#) | [Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) | [Newsletters](#)



Program Highlight: Do Your Doody – Scoop That Poop

Pet Waste Management Initiative Kicks Off in Prince George's County

Funded by the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#), the Sustainable Maryland program at University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) partnered with Prince George's County Department of Environment (DoE) to help launch the new County **Pet Waste Management** initiative. The twin goals of this initiative are to help educate County residents about the issue of pet waste and to install infrastructure that will help communities find solutions.

The initiative was launched in April 2017, with a county-wide Pet Waste Summit. During the first phase, Sustainable Maryland partnered with **Bladensburg, Brentwood, Cottage City, Edmonston, District Heights, and Landover Hills**, meeting with their Green Teams, town managers, elected officials, and residents to identify locations for new pet waste stations. EFC also prepared customized outreach materials and communications plans crafted just for them.

TOWNS AND CITIES ADOPT THE PROGRAM

Sixty Pet Waste Stations Installed, Educational Materials Distributed to Residents, and Success is Monitored

As part of the initiative, partner communities committed to installing, maintaining, and monitoring pet waste stations as well as promoting pet waste management throughout their community. Over the course of the summer the town's municipal public works departments installed a total of 60 new pet

waste stations.

“The pet waste stations have been a great educational service for our residents,” said District Heights Commissioner Cynthia Miller. “As a pet owner, the convenience of these one-stop stations constantly reminds us how this effort creates a healthier environment. An extraordinary program!”



City/Town staff talking at the Pet Waste Summit.



District Heights staff and elected officials identifying pet waste station locations.

Towns also began monitoring the new stations, which they will continue to do for a year, in order to gather data on usage by residents. This will provide a snapshot on the amount of harmful bacteria being diverted from local waterways. At the same time, municipal staff sent out the customized educational materials, branded with the “Scoop That Poop” logo, to residents via newsletters, municipal websites, social media, listservs, and events. The educational materials included a Spanish-language brochure and catchy social media posts, as well as 4 feet by 6 feet banners and car magnets featuring the “Scoop That Poop” logo.

In District Heights, the pet waste stations were strategically located along areas that were both known to be heavily used by dog-walkers as well as adjacent to local waterways or drainage culverts. In Landover Hills, stations at high profile locations such as municipal gateways were also targeted.

“The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland was instrumental in getting Edmonston to ramp up its ability to deal with pet waste on our public areas,” said Edmonston Mayor Tracy Farrish Gant. “The material provided by EFC was invaluable to a town with a small budget for capital outlay. We now have residents calling us to alert us when stations are low on disposal bags and when the bins need emptied. The program not only helps Edmonston to meet its sustainability goals, it also improves the quality of life for residents using public spaces.”



Cottage City Town Administrator (former) Stan Mosley with new “Scoop That Poop” car magnet on a Public Works vehicle.

As part of Phase 1 of the Pet Waste Initiative, Sustainable Maryland staff and Prince George’s DoE also began developing a County Pet Waste App that will allow communities to easily monitor and report their pet waste station usage and will offer pet owners a map of county-wide pet waste station locations. Finally, a new public service video is being created that will help inform residents of the hidden dangers of unmanaged pet waste and will encourage pet owners to pick up after their pets.

GET INVOLVED IN PHASE 2

Attend the Pet Waste Summit & Connect with EFC and DoE

Phase 2 of the Pet Waste Initiative will begin in early 2018. Sustainable Maryland staff will be working with Berwyn Heights, Capitol Heights, Colmar Manor, Forest Heights, Hyattsville, and Seat Pleasant, in addition to several neighborhood associations.

The goal is to build upon and refine Phase 1's successful elements, while incorporating new strategies that become apparent after listening to the community stakeholders. The kickoff for Phase 2 will be the second Prince George's County Pet Waste Summit, on Thursday, March 29, from 6 to 9 pm at the DoE County Office Building, [1801 McCormick Drive, Largo](#). This event is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Please [RSVP here](#). Contact Mike Hunninghake at mikeh75@umd.edu if your community is interested in participating in this exciting new initiative!



Pet waste stations have educational signage, bags, and disposal area.

PRINCE GEORGE'S STORMWATER STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Pet Waste Education and Reduction Focused Grants Awarded

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (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.

Over the last four years, the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program supported pet waste reduction efforts through the following awards:

University of Maryland (UMD) - Sustainable Maryland program at UMD's Environmental Finance Center (highlighted in this newsletter): The first of two awards (Phase 1) launched a Pet Waste Management Initiative, an outreach and education effort designed to increase general awareness about the issue of pet waste pollution and to encourage residents to pick up their pets' poop. This project achieved the following:

- engaged 30 communities around solutions for pet waste and stormwater management in their neighborhoods
- convened a County-wide Pet Waste Management Summit in April 2017
- worked in six communities to install 60 pet waste stations
- conducted Green Team meetings with Cities and Towns
- developed standard signage, social media campaign, and an educational outreach video
- adapted the County's English outreach materials into Spanish
- began to develop a Pet Poop App to track future progress
- provided training for maintenance and monitoring to quantify pet poop removal

This year (Phase 2) the Pet Waste Management Initiative, will expand to an additional six

communities and other residential community associations to install 65 pet waste stations and continue the pet waste education and reduction efforts. Contact Mike at mikeh75@umd.edu to get involved.

People for Change Coalition: For implementation of a pet waste campaign that included education and outreach for the citizens of three Home Owner Associations (HOAs), installation of fourteen pet waste stations, maintenance and monitoring, and reporting results to the funding partners. This project worked with Glendale/Lanham – Glenn Estates HOA, Kettering/Largo – Kettering HOA, and Largo – Largo Town Homes HOA to install pet waste stations, hold outreach events, and perform monitoring of the pet waste reduced due to the grant work. The awardee also supported the Pet Waste Management Initiative kick-off effort in coordination with UMD and DoE.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC): To implement stormwater management practices, plant trees, remove invasive species, and engage citizens at seven parks and community centers in the Anacostia watershed. This project will install pet waste educational signage in community spaces and educate the community in fun, interactive ways about the importance of picking up after your pet.

Pheasant Run Homeowner's Association, Inc.: Installed three pet waste stations in the community space where additional conservation practices were installed. This project also installed six rain barrels, hosted a watershed expert to speak with the community, and installed a “little free library” focused on stormwater management.

ABOUT THE TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the streams, rivers, and other natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration.

Since 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$90 million in grants and projects that engage hundreds of thousands of dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all of our local systems—Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny.

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