



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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Success Stories from the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Stream Buffer Enhancement in the Anacostia River Watershed



Through the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#), GreenTrust Alliance completed the Little Paint Branch Buffer Enhancement Project, adding 5.5 acres of forested and pollinator-focused headwater buffer to an existing 25-acre stream and wetland restoration project. This project is located at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Prince George's County.

This site is a significant bird and pollinator "refuge island" within view of I-95 and the Capital Beltway; it is located in the headwaters of the Anacostia River's Little Paint Branch, which is highly urbanized and a high priority area for restoration activities. GreenTrust Alliance planted 1,682 native trees across four acres of former cropland. This resulted in the restoration and enhancement of 1.5 acres of pollinator habitat. This project will also help improve water quality and reduce pollution. Congratulations on this great restoration project!

[Learn More About the Grant Program](#)

Virtual Workshop: How to Garden with Native Plants and Receive Rebate Incentives

Sacred Grounds

Caring for people and wildlife



How To Garden With Native Plants

A virtual workshop for creating rain gardens and wildlife habitat

March 2, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for Prince George's County

March 9, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for Montgomery County

Registration for Prince George's County residents: bit.ly/pg_sgzoom

Registration for Montgomery County residents: bit.ly/mc_sgzoom

Learn from experts how you can easily create a native plant garden at home that protects our waterways and supports wildlife, and learn how your county can provide you with financial support to do so!



On Thursday, March 2nd between 7:30pm and 9:00pm, the National Wildlife Federation will hold a virtual workshop for Prince George's County residents to learn about gardening with native plants and how to receive rebates through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program.

The Prince George's County workshop is supported by a Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship grant. This grant was awarded to the National Wildlife Federation to conduct workshops about rain gardens, native plants, and County resources and engage with faith-based organizations on these topics.

[Register for the Prince George's County Workshop](#)

Virtual Sustainability Summit for Homeowner and Civic Associations



Are you a Prince George's County resident or board member of a Homeowners or Civic Association? Do you care about your community's health and want to keep your neighborhood clean, green, and climate-friendly?

On Thursday, March 30th between 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Sustainable Maryland will hold a virtual sustainability summit for Homeowners and Civic Associations. By attending, you will:

- learn how your Homeowners or Civic Association can organize itself to become a more sustainable community

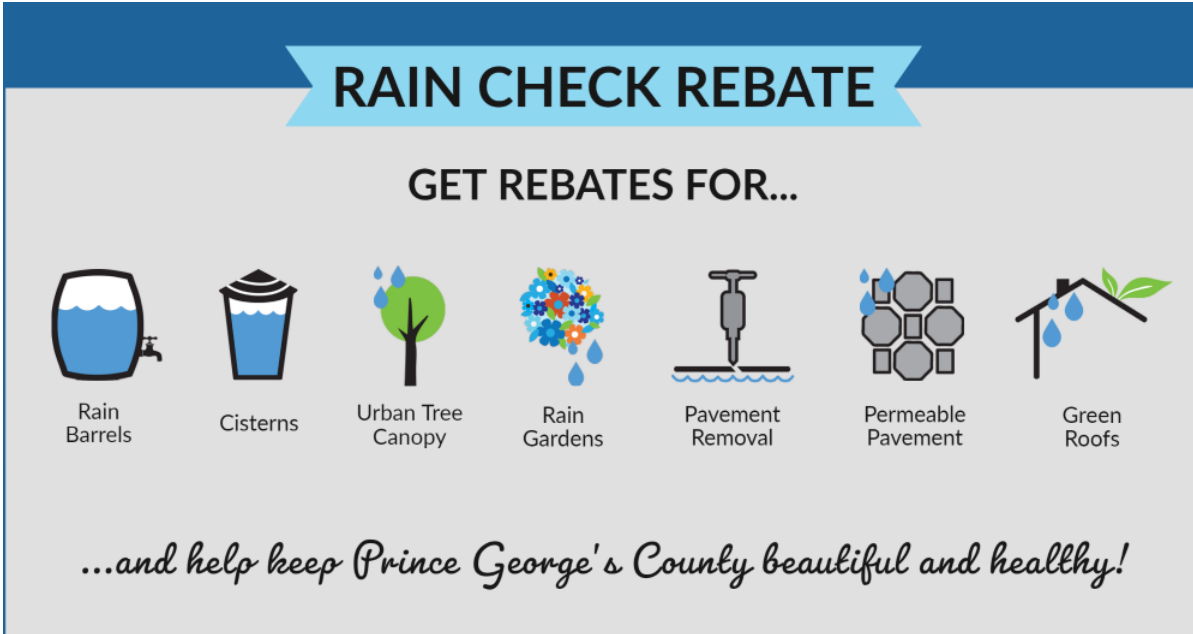
- hear success stories from the Wyndham Woods Homeowners Association and the Birchwood/Clearview Community Association

- hear from Prince George's County Department of the Environment staff, Dawn Hawkins-Nixon and Mary Abe, about sustainability and climate action efforts in the County

This summit is supported by a Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship grant. This grant was awarded to the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to support Homeowners and Civic Associations in developing Green Teams and community action plans aimed to address stormwater management, increase energy efficiency, create safer streets, and more.

[Register for the Sustainability Summit](#)

Rebates Available for Homeowners, Businesses, and Other Property Owners



The graphic features a blue header with the text "RAIN CHECK REBATE" in white. Below this, the text "GET REBATES FOR..." is centered. A row of seven icons represents different stormwater practices: a rain barrel, a cistern, a tree with a canopy, a rain garden with flowers, a pavement removal tool, permeable pavement blocks, and a green roof with a leaf. Below each icon is its corresponding label: "Rain Barrels", "Cisterns", "Urban Tree Canopy", "Rain Gardens", "Pavement Removal", "Permeable Pavement", and "Green Roofs". At the bottom of the graphic, a cursive-style text reads: "...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](#)

Accokeek Resident Receives \$300 for Planting Native Trees



Planting trees increases the total urban tree canopy, which is the area of leaves and branches that create shade under the trees. By reducing the amount of sunlight reaching buildings, trees can lead to lower air conditioning costs and cooler local temperatures. Trees in urban areas soak up rainfall before it becomes [stormwater runoff](#), which contributes to the pollution of our local waterways. Native trees also support our local wildlife by providing both habitat and food sources.

The picture above shows one of the two native eastern redbud trees planted at a residential property in Accokeek, through the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#). The two redbuds were planted near the driveway, where they will help capture and reduce stormwater runoff. These trees produce beautiful pink flowers in the spring. The resident will receive a rebate of \$300 (\$150 per tree) for planting these two trees on their property!

[Learn More About Urban Tree Canopy](#)

In Case You Missed It: Rain Check Rebate Year in Review



The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and their [Rain Check Rebate Program](#). Through this program, eligible applicants can receive a rebate or reimbursement for installing approved practices that improve neighborhoods and local waterways. We are excited to announce that Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021 to June 2022) for the Rain Check Rebate Program was another successful year with 133 approved applications, representing 299 projects, for a total rebate amount of \$158,912. The projects included rain barrels, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, and permeable pavement, and helped treat 69,519 square feet of impervious surface, a little over the size of one football field! Thank you to all of the residents of Prince George's County for their participation and support! We could not have done this without you!

[Read More on Our Blog](#)

Happy Black History Month!



Happy Black History Month! Here is a message from Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks:

"Dear Prince Georgians:

Every year since 1976, we have celebrated Black History Month during the month of February. During the month, the nation recognizes and honors the many achievements and contributions that African Americans have made to our nation and our society. It is a time for us to reflect on the past while celebrating the rich culture, heritage, and vibrancy of the African American community.

This year's national theme for Black History Month is "Black Resistance," which explores the resistance of African Americans against the historic and ongoing oppression that the Black community has faced for generations. For decades, African Americans have used resistance efforts to advocate for a society that is fair and just for all people, and this theme acknowledges these efforts and the resulting progress that has been made within the Black community.

Throughout the month, there will be a number of fun, family-friendly events taking place in the County that will celebrate and commemorate the history and culture of the African American

community. We are proud to honor African American heritage in our County this month, and throughout the entire year, and we encourage all Prince Georgians to celebrate with us.

Happy Black History Month!

Yours in service,

Angela Alsobrooks

Prince George's County Executive"

[Read More on the Prince George's County Community Connections Bulletin](#)

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Megan Andreasen at 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 \$140 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.

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