



Prince George's County Newsletter

July 2018

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Project Highlight: RainWorks - Quincy and Moss Run Watersheds *Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek*



Staff from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust met with the RainWorks project lead and property manager of Hillcrest Terrace Apartments to discuss the stormwater retrofits installed on the property.

[Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek](#) (FLBC) was awarded a grant from the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) in October 2015, to conduct the *RainWorks - Quincy and Moss Run Watersheds* project. This project was a collaboration between FLBC, [Friends of Quincy Run](#), and the [Better Bladensburg Block by Block](#) initiative. Through this award, FLBC completed five stormwater retrofit projects at one commercial and four residential

properties in the Town's of Bladensburg and Cheverly.

Stormwater retrofit is the term used to describe techniques that can be used to fix stormwater-related problems on properties, such as flooding or poor drainage. These include small stormwater management practices, such as rain gardens, to reduce pollution and beautify the space. Other examples of retrofits include permeable pavement, green roofs, and trees. These retrofits capture polluted stormwater runoff, allow it to soak into the ground, and keep sediment and nutrients out of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, retrofits can protect local streams from erosion and provide green space for recreation and habitat enhancement.

The *RainWorks* project identified and selected sites that had problems such as sidewalks and yards that were often flooded causing dangerous icing conditions in winter or experienced significant stormwater runoff after rain events that led to soil erosion and other issues. One goal of this project was to develop techniques that work well, are cost effective, and can be replicated at other properties and neighborhoods throughout the County. FLBC worked with property owners through the entire process, providing workshops and trainings to share what stormwater is, how small practices can help, and tips for maintaining these practices so they continue to look good and function after they are installed. The property owners are thrilled at the transformation and at what a difference the projects have made to address these issues.

Learn About Other Projects Funded by This Grant Program

Visit the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship [projects page](#) to learn about past projects!
We are adding projects to this page frequently!

Hillcrest Terrace Apartments

Beautifying a Community Space and Treating Large Volumes of Runoff



Before Installation

1.5 Years After Installation

The Hillcrest Terrace Apartments in the Town of Bladensburg received stormwater retrofits to treat a large volume of stormwater runoff coming from the roofs of the adjacent apartment buildings, while also providing an attractive and inviting space for residents to enjoy. This project consists of four rain gardens, two dry wells, permeable pavement, no mow grass, and a meadow with native plants.

Residents are excited about their transformed space and enjoy the presence of butterflies and birds in their meadow and rain gardens. The gardens include native plants and trees that have deep roots to enrich the soil and absorb more water compared to grass. Native plants also provide food and habitat for native insects, pollinators, and birds. Interpretive signage in English and Spanish is also installed at this location to educate residents and the community about the project.



Town of Bladensburg Residences *Reducing Runoff From One Yard to the Next*



A rain garden, weep wall, and permeable pavement pictured at this residence will capture runoff flowing downhill and reduce flooding in their yard.

Two residences in the Town of Bladensburg received stormwater retrofits to reduce stormwater runoff that caused flooding in their yards. These particular residences are located beside each other near the bottom of a steep street, where rain cascades down the hill, and runoff from adjacent lots flows from one yard to the next. These homeowners would often experience flooding and standing water in their yards during and after rain events.

The installation of stormwater retrofits on their properties helps address these issues. At the residence farthest downhill, the retrofit consists of multiple practices, including a rain garden, gravel swale, permeable pavement, drywell, and conservation landscaping. At the uphill neighbor's residence, a rain garden was installed in the adjacent corner of the yard that will help slow down and capture runoff on site before flowing downhill. The stormwater retrofits on both properties work together to reduce stormwater runoff and prevent flooding and standing water in their yards.



A rain garden installed at the adjacent corner of the uphill neighbor's yard slows down and captures runoff on site.

Town of Cheverly Residences

Reducing Standing Water to Improve Safety



Stormwater runoff now flows into a dry stream that leads to a large rain garden.

Two residences in the Town of Cheverly received stormwater retrofits to reduce runoff and improve safety in the community. The steep street in this community is plagued with runoff and icing issues. Water, sometimes from sump pumps, would flow from one yard to the next, and back yard drainage systems at most homes on this street would also direct large amounts of water to the curb. During snow and ice storms, the street is frequently impassible because large amounts of water flow constantly and freeze across the road and sidewalks. One homeowner expressed the difficulty she had walking to and from her car when the sidewalks would be consistently wet or icy.

The stormwater retrofits installed on these properties reduce stormwater runoff and increase infiltration, preventing water from pooling and then freezing during the winter time. Stormwater runoff from the property uphill, which previously flowed across the lawn and sidewalk, is now gathered in a dry stream which leads to a large rain garden. Permeable pavement and two additional rain gardens were also installed at the west end of the property.

Visit the [RainWorks](#) website to learn more about these projects.

We Want to Hear From You!

Send us your photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Nguyen Le at nle@cbtrust.org to be featured in a future newsletter.

Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

Improving Communities and Water Quality and Engaging Residents

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce the fifth year of our partnership for the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#). This grant program supports projects throughout the County that aid the community while treating and controlling stormwater. The goal of this program is to improve communities, improve water quality in the County's waterways, and engage County residents in stormwater issues.

Visit the [Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) webpage to view the *Application Package* for a program overview and application instructions and requirements. The deadline to submit an application through our online grant system is **September 27th at 4pm**. Contact Sadie Drescher at sdrescher@cbtrust.org with questions.

Get Involved

Upcoming Events, Workshops, and Volunteer Opportunities



July **Sacred Grounds Workshop**
Sunday, July 29th - 3pm to 5pm
Beloved Community Church

Learn simple ways your congregation can reduce stormwater runoff, design and install native plant gardens, certify as a Sacred Ground, and more! [Learn more...](#)

Bandalong Litter Trap Ribbon Cutting

Tuesday, July 31st - 10am to 11am
30th Street and Arundel Road, Mount Rainier

Join the Anacostia Riverkeeper in a ribbon cutting for the first in-stream Bandalong Litter Trap in the County. This Bandalong Litter Trap is designed to capture litter discarded onto roadways and transported by rain and wind into storm drains, keeping floating litter from reaching the Anacostia River, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean where it becomes marine debris.

[Learn more...](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Anacostia Watershed Society

August 11 - 1pm to 4pm
Colmar Manor Community Park

Join the Anacostia Watershed Society to restore the wetlands of the Anacostia River during this Wetland Workday! [Learn more...](#)

ECO City Farms

July 28, August 4, August 11 - 9am to noon
Bladensburg Farm

Volunteer with ECO City Farms and learn about urban farming in Prince George's County! [Learn more...](#)

Maryland Sierra Club

July 28, August 25 - 11am to 3pm
Little Paint Branch Park

Join the Maryland Sierra Club with invasive plant removal each month and help native plants grow and flourish! [Learn more...](#)

View more events and volunteer opportunities on the Chesapeake Bay Trust's [event calendar](#).

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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