



# Prince George's County Newsletter

June 2018

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## Keeping Prince George's County Beautiful

*Efforts to Make Prince George's County Litter Free*



Litter, or trash that has not been collected or accounted for at our waste and recycling facilities, ends up in our communities and becomes a nuisance. Litter found in our streets is picked up by wind or rain and flows into storm drains that end up in our rivers. Litter not only detracts from the beauty of our communities, but can also be harmful to humans and wildlife. Contaminated rivers can prevent us from going swimming, fishing, and eating fish or other seafood, because we may get sick. Litter can be harmful to wildlife especially when animals such as turtles, birds, and fish, become entangled in the litter or mistake the litter for food.

Luckily, we can all do our part to help reduce litter and improve water quality in our communities and in the County by preventing litter and trash from entering our waterways. This includes disposing of our trash properly, controlling our amount of waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling, and participating in cleanup events and litter reduction programs provided by the [Prince George's County Department of the Environment](#) (DoE).

## Volunteer to help make Prince George's County litter free!

Sign up for the [Litter Free PGC Volunteer Portal](#) to receive emails from the DoE Litter Reduction office to be notified of volunteer opportunities.

### Rubbish to Rhinos and Dinos

#### *Litter Education Through Art*

*Rubbish to Rhinos and Dinos* is a project currently underway by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC's) [Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation](#). As an outreach and education component of a larger [Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship](#) grant project, *Rubbish to Rhinos and Dinos* aims to raise awareness and educate the community about litter.

Trash and recyclable materials are being collected from parks and streams to be repurposed into a dinosaur shaped community trash art project. The completed dinosaur sculpture will be installed at Bladensburg Waterfront Park this fall. The sculpture will provide a visual and educational representation of the amount and types of litter removed from the watershed, and serves as a reminder to the public to not litter.

Contact Antonia Bookbinder, Special Programs Division's Sustainability Instructor, at [Antonia.Bookbinder@pgparks.com](mailto:Antonia.Bookbinder@pgparks.com) to learn about volunteer opportunities.



*Design created by Lindsey Abdale.*

### PGCLitterTRAK App

#### *Report Litter Collected*

The [PGCLitterTRAK](#) app, developed by the [Prince George's County Department of the Environment](#) (DoE), was designed to assist County residents, community organizations, and businesses to report litter collected during individual and group cleanup events. We are excited for our grantees to report their litter efforts using the app.

Information submitted through the app including bags of litter removed, items collected, and litter pick-up locations, will assist DoE with meeting their trash reduction rate of 170,628 pounds per year within the Anacostia River Watershed. Data provided through the app will also help DoE develop real-time maps cataloging litter collected throughout the County.



County residents, community organizations, and businesses are encouraged to [register](#) for the

PGCLitterTRAK app and organize a litter clean-up today! Once registered, users can sign-in to view the [LitterTrak map](#) to see where residents and groups have removed litter and their progress towards a Litter Free Prince George's County.



*Litter raft captures floating litter at Bladensburg Waterfront Park during a cleanup event.*

### **We want to hear from you!**

Please send your photos and project success stories to Nguyen Le at [nle@cbtrust.org](mailto:nle@cbtrust.org) to be featured in a future newsletter.

## **Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Program** *Litter Reduction Focused Grants Awarded*

In 2014, the Prince George's County DoE and the Chesapeake Bay Trust established a partnership to offer the [Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#). The grant program supports stormwater restoration and retrofit projects that engage residents of Prince George's County in clean water efforts.

In addition to the M-NCPPC project above, the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program supports the following litter reduction efforts through the following awards:

- **Anacostia Riverkeeper**  
This project reduces trash in the Anacostia River watershed through the installation of multiple trash bandalongs in local rivers. These bandalongs work to trap and capture litter found in the river and prevents it from continuing to flow downstream. The first bandalong in the County is expected to be installed by July 2018.
- **Anacostia Watershed Society**  
The Watershed Stewards Academy educates and trains residents in watershed protection issues and empowers them to design, conduct, and implement community restoration projects and activities including two community cleanup events that removed 700 pounds of litter from the Anacostia River watershed. In addition, through the Treating and

Teaching partnership, students stenciled eight storm drains on their school campus.

- **Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund**  
The *Conectando con la Naturaleza (Connecting with Nature)* project engages Latino residents in the County in community stormwater workshops, projects, and activities including two community cleanup events that removed 500 pounds of litter from the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River and six storm drain stenciling.
- **Pheasant Run, HOA**  
The homeowner's association promoted cleaner streams by placing litter receptacles around the common areas where green infrastructure and pet waste stations were installed in the community.

## Get Involved

### *Additional Opportunities*



The [Prince George's County DoE](#) offers multiple programs aimed at reducing litter throughout the County. Residents can get involved through the following programs:

- [Adopt-A-Stream](#)  
DoE encourages residents, businesses, civic organizations, and academic institutions to adopt-a-stream to help keep our streams litter free.
- [Comprehensive Community Cleanup Program](#)  
DoE works with organized civic and homeowners associations to provide cleanup and maintenance services to their community over a 2-week period.
- [Volunteer Neighborhood Cleanup Program](#)  
DoE provides communities with technical assistance and materials for neighborhood cleanups and stream cleanups.
- [Volunteer Storm Drain Stenciling Program](#)  
Stenciling serves as a visual reminder that anything dumped in the storm drain contaminates our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

## Upcoming Events

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

### **Green Housekeeping Workshop**

Wednesday, June 27th - 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center

*Learn how to keep your household clean, green, and healthy. Lucky participants may receive a green household product giveaway! [Learn more...](#)*

### **Sustainability Expo & Rain Barrel Sale**

Saturday, July 14th - 9am to noon  
Davis Hall, College Park Public Works

*Learn about the Anacostia River watershed, the [Rain Check Rebate Program](#), the [City of College Park's Tree Canopy Program](#), and sustainable projects - and their benefits - for your home.*

*Pre-order a rain barrel at a discounted price of \$67.50 to pick up at the Expo and apply for a [Rain Check Rebate](#) to off-set all or most of the costs! This discounted price is only available until July 10th at 11 pm. Pre-order your rain barrel [here](#). [Learn more...](#)*

## 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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