



# Prince George's County Newsletter

June 2020

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## News & Updates

As we face the uncertainty of this health crisis together, please know that your well-being is of the utmost importance to all of us at the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George's County Department of the Environment. We understand how tough the situation is that you and your loved ones may be facing. We also realize there are many entities right now on the front line of COVID-19, and we respect the needs of those entities and are very grateful for their work to keep our population safe and healthy.

We are spending this time working hard to keep the Prince George's County grant supported projects and the Rain Check Rebate programs going and to make sure that the Chesapeake and other natural resources keep improving. In the meantime, we would like to offer you a little glimmer of normalcy through our monthly newsletter. There is much to appreciate in the beauty of natural resources and those working hard to protect them.

## Plants, Produce, and Pollinators



Did you know that June 22nd through 28th is recognized as [National Pollinators Week](#)? This week celebrates the essential role that pollinators play in the ecosystem and in our daily lives. Pollinators are creatures such as bees, birds, bats, and butterflies that help transfer pollen from plant to plant, which helps plants reproduce. The Chesapeake Bay region is home to over [2,700 plant species](#) including flowering plants, of which an estimated 75% rely on pollinators to aid with reproduction. Thus, pollinators play a major role in sustaining the beautiful native plants that fill the scenery, and even the food that makes it to our table!

Around one third of every bite of food we eat would not be possible without the important work carried out by pollinators. The next time you grow fruits or veggies in your garden, keep an eye out for pollinators. Don't have enough space to garden in your own home? Not a problem! Prince George's County offers five [community gardens](#), located in Cherry Hill, Walker Mill, Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex, Watkins Regional Park, and Old Landover Hills. County residents may also be able to participate in local community gardens, depending on where you reside in the County. The plants and produce grown in these gardens rely heavily on the work done by pollinators. Let's take this week to learn more about these special creatures!

[Learn More about Pollinators](#)

## Welcoming the New Rain Check Rebate Team



The [Rain Check Rebate Program](#) is a partnership between [Prince George's County Department of the Environment](#) and the [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#). This program offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will reduce stormwater runoff quantity, reduce pollution, and improve the water quality of local streams and rivers.

At the beginning of this year, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, in partnership with Prince George's County, welcomed Nguyen Le as the new Rain Check Rebate Coordinator! The Trust recently also welcomed Emma Cwalinski, the summer programmatic intern who will be working as part of the Rain Check Rebate team. Welcome to the team, Emma!



## Meet the Team

### Parkdale Schools the Neighborhood on Stormwater Management



Schools play a huge role in not only educating their students, but also in acting as a center for resources and a vehicle for change and improvement in their communities. The [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Program](#) recognizes the potential that these institutions have to engage the community and implement projects that improve the water quality of local waterways.

[Parkdale High School](#), located in Riverdale, received a grant in 2015 to provide impactful learning opportunities and hands-on engagement for Parkdale High School students and teachers in environmental stewardship and stormwater management. Parkdale worked with several partners on this project, including the [Anacostia Watershed Society](#) (AWS) and the [William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center](#) to bring a variety of hands-on activities with an environmental focus to Parkdale students and teachers. The school was also able to address the stormwater management needs of their campus by installing a series of [permeable surfaces](#) that allow water to infiltrate into the ground while filtering out pollutants.

Parkdale successfully installed a functional and educational stormwater management practice, while also engaging their community in stewardship. Congratulations to Parkdale High School on an exemplary project!

## Read More

### Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

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



## Events and Opportunities

### **Job Opportunity: Assistant Program Manager**

Central Kenilworth Avenue  
Revitalization Community  
Development Corporation  
(CKAR CDC), Riverdale Park

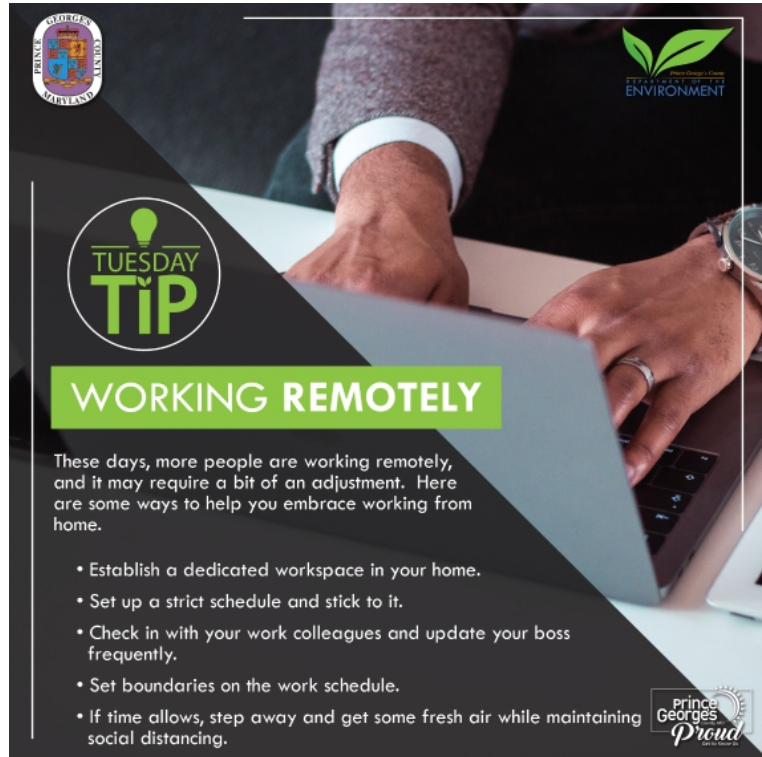
*CKAR CDC seeks a short-term Assistant Program Manager to help carry out tree-planting projects and other community revitalization projects. [Learn more](#)*

### **Job Opportunity: Environmental Educator**

Alice Ferguson Foundation,  
Accokeek

*The Alice Ferguson Foundation seeks an Environmental Educator to facilitate educational field studies and represent the Foundation at events. [Learn more](#)*

Due to COVID-19's impact on our region, many in-person events have moved to remote meetings, were postponed, or were cancelled. As information becomes available, the County's updates and resources are [here](#).



Stay safe and healthy, Prince George's County!

## ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY 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 \$120 million in grants and projects that have engaged over 2 million dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all of our local systems—Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny.

For nearly two decades, the Trust has received a "4-star rating" from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations.

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