



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

June 2022

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Project Highlight

AGUAS SANAS FAMILIAS SANAS, HEALTHY WATERS HEALTHY FAMILIES



Centro de Apoyo Familiar



Stormwater runoff is rain or melted snow that runs off impervious surfaces, such as parking lots and roofs, and flow into our storm drains and waterways. As runoff flows, pollutants, like pet waste and litter, are picked up and enter our waterways which can have harmful effects on human health.

Centro de Apoyo Familiar recognized this issue and received grant awards in 2017, 2018, and 2021 to support their Aguas Sanas Familias Sanas (Healthy Waters Healthy Families) program. This program engages and trains Latino church promotoras (community health promoters) to be stormwater leaders in their community. By participating in these trainings, the promotoras go on to lead their own workshops to educate their community on local environmental issues, ways to address these issues, and County resources and programs.

Over 500 families have been engaged in their workshops over the years, and we're so proud to have been a part of this journey. Thank you, Centro de Apoyo Familiar, for all you do and to all the promotoras for being active environmental stewards!

These projects were funded by the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#). To see a list of this year's awards, [click here](#).

[Read the Full Story Here](#)

Rain Check Rebate Program

RAIN CHECK REBATE

GET REBATES FOR...



Rain Barrels



Cisterns



Urban Tree Canopy



Rain Gardens



Pavement Removal



Permeable Pavement



Green Roofs

...and help keep Prince George's County beautiful and healthy!



LEARN MORE & APPLY:

[CBTRUST.ORG/PRINCE-GEORGES-COUNTY-RAIN-CHECK-REBATE](https://cbtrust.org/prince-georges-county-rain-check-rebate)

The Prince George's County [Rain Check Rebate Program](#) offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will reduce stormwater runoff, reduce pollution, and improve the water quality of local streams and waterways.

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 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!

The seven stormwater practices eligible for rebates include: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs.

To learn more about this program and the different stormwater practices, please visit our website at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-rain-check-rebate/> or contact Kathy Somoza at rebate@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 ext. 120.

Welcome our new Rain Check Rebate intern, Kevin McNeill!

Kevin has a natural passion for environmental health which led him to take on work that focuses on the enrichment of natural and surrounding environments. For over a decade, he has been involved in hands-on work in youth development, environmental protection, and educational community engagement.



Prior to joining the Trust, Kevin has worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission where he designed programs that provided area youth with many positive and uplifting activities to engage with. Kevin's impact around the Maryland-DC area is grand, and we are so grateful to have him as a part of our team this year!

What is Urban Tree Canopy?

One of the seven practices supported by the [Rain Check Rebate program](#) is urban tree canopy. Planting trees has many benefits, such as combatting climate change, adding greenery to your home, reducing erosion and stormwater runoff, and cooling down the area around your home.

Only trees native to Maryland are allowable under this program. Choosing to plant native species, whether a tree or flower, is beneficial because they require less water and pesticides as they're already well-adapted to the soil and local climate. Additionally, native plants promote native butterflies and birds to thrive.

Applicants can receive a **rebate of up to \$150 per tree planted**. Each tree must be native, at least five feet-tall when planted, and planted between October and May. Tree planting is limited to October to May because temperatures are cooler, which increases the survivability of these young trees. So, while you cannot plant trees through this program right now, this is the perfect time to think about whether you'd like to plant any and what trees you'd like!

To learn more about urban tree canopy and all other practices supported by the Rain Check Rebate program, click [here](#).



Six arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) trees are pictured in this urban tree canopy project. A total of 22 trees were planted as a part of this project in Brentwood, Maryland.

[Learn more about urban tree canopy](#)

News

June is Flood Awareness Month

June begins the start of Hurricane season and Flood Awareness month in Prince George's County. Don't get caught off guard from heavy downpours or localized flooding events, be flood smart with these tips.

- Signup for Alert Prince George's at alert.mypgc.us.
- Consider buying flood insurance
- Make an emergency preparedness plan, know your evacuation route, and keep essential documents in a waterproof safe.
- Find out if you live behind a levee or in a flood-prone area at www.fema.gov.

Junio comienza el inicio de la Temporada de Huracanes y el Mes de Concientización contra Inundaciones en el condado de Prince George.” No se deje agarrar desprevenido por lluvias torrenciales o inundaciones localizadas, sea inteligente en contra de inundaciones con estos consejos.

- Suscríbese para recibir alertas de Alert Prince George's en alert.mypgc.us.
- Considere comprar seguro contra inundación
- Haga un plan de preparación en caso de emergencias, conozca sus rutas de evacuación, y mantenga documentos esenciales en una caja fuerte impermeable.
- Conozca si vive detrás de un dique o en una zona propensa a inundaciones en www.fema.gov.



Angela D. Albanese
County Executive



ENVIRONMENT
Andrea Croome Director

Be FloodSmart

Floods

are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and they can happen anytime...anywhere.

Floods occur in all 50 states and you can be a victim of flooding, even if you live miles away from water. During Flood Awareness Month in Prince George's County, learn more on what causes flooding and how to protect your home.

What causes flooding?

In just a few hours, hurricanes and summer thunderstorms can bring heavy rain, which can lead to severe flooding.



How do you protect your home?

1 Alert Prince George's

Whether you live in a high, moderate or low risk area, everyone is at risk for flooding. The County offers a notification service that sends you a text or email in the event of a major flood. To sign up, visit alertL.mypgc.us. For additional floodplain information, contact Salman Babar at (301) 636-2060.



3 Make a flood plan

Know evacuation routes and keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place.



It's important to understand the risk to life and property associated with residing behind levees located in the Anacostia Watershed. Residents who live behind levees are encouraged to understand their risks and prepare accordingly. To learn more, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at www.fema.gov.

★ Source: www.floodsmart.gov

★ Source: "NFIP: A Real Estate Professional's Guide to Discussing Flood Insurance," FEMA P-2002, March 2009

2 Purchase flood insurance

Remember, most homeowners insurance does not cover floods. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers Prince George's County residents up to a **25% discount**.

Just one inch of water in an average sized home can cause **\$25,000** worth of damage. **

Buy insurance before the water starts to rise! It takes 30 days after purchasing flood insurance for the policy to go into effect.

CLAIMS Over 20% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low risk areas. *

4 Help prevent local flooding

Keep trash and debris away from storm grates and inlets.



Happy Summer, Prince George's County!



 ENVIRONMENT



SUMMER BEGINS

Summer has arrived, so let's make the best of this season and prepare for the upcoming hot weather.

- Keep cool by wearing light-colored and lightweight clothing.
- Drink plenty of water using your reusable water bottle.
- Choose "reef-friendly" sunscreen products.
- Monitor for extreme heat waves and check on elderly and/or disabled neighbors.
- Find more tips on how to #BeatTheHeat this summer at mypgc.us/1783



[More Tips on How to Beat the Heat](#)

Explore Summer Programs at Your Local Parks!

Explore all the different programs the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and your local Department of Parks and Recreation have in store this summer!

Registration is fast, simple, and flexible. You can register your child for as many summer day camp sessions as you want and still schedule summer vacations. No matter what you choose, your child will have a safe, memorable summer. Before you can register for summer day camps or summer playgrounds/teen centers, you must first [set up a free ParksDirect account](#).





To register for a summer camp, clubhouse, playground, teen center, or summer STEAM program, please [visit Parks Direct](#) and search for the keyword of each program.



Learn more about Summer Programs

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Whitney Vong at wvong@cbtrust.org to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Events and Opportunities

The Anacostia Watershed Society is hiring for the following positions:

- [Gifts Officer](#)
- [Manager of Education](#)
- [Operations Administrator](#)

The Anacostia Watershed Society's mission is to protect and restore the Anacostia River by bringing partners and communities together to achieve a clean and safe Anacostia River for the benefit of all living in its watershed and for future generations. To learn more about the positions and organization, click [here](#).

National Harbor River Cleanup

Every third Saturday of every month from May to October

Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Parking Lot for the National Harbor Carousel

As a part of Potomac Riverkeeper Network's Trash-Free Potomac Campaign and Alice Ferguson Foundations Trash-Free Initiative, the Potomac Riverkeeper Network are hosting River Cleanups throughout the watershed from May until October! Join them to help tackle the Potomac Rivers trash pollution!

The National Harbor registration begins 30 min before the start time of the event and will meet in the parking lot for the National Harbor Carousel. Gloves, bags, and trash pickers will be provided at the registration table. Any minors participating must have a parent or legal guardian attend with them and sign their waiver. [Register and sign the waiver here](#).

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 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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