



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

May 2023

[Chesapeake Bay Trust Mission](#) | [Prince George's County Department of Environment](#) | [Grant Programs and Opportunities](#) | [Rain Check Rebate Program](#) | [Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) | [Newsletters](#)

## Success Stories from the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program

### Harnessing and Demonstrating the Power of Natural Filters in the Anacostia River

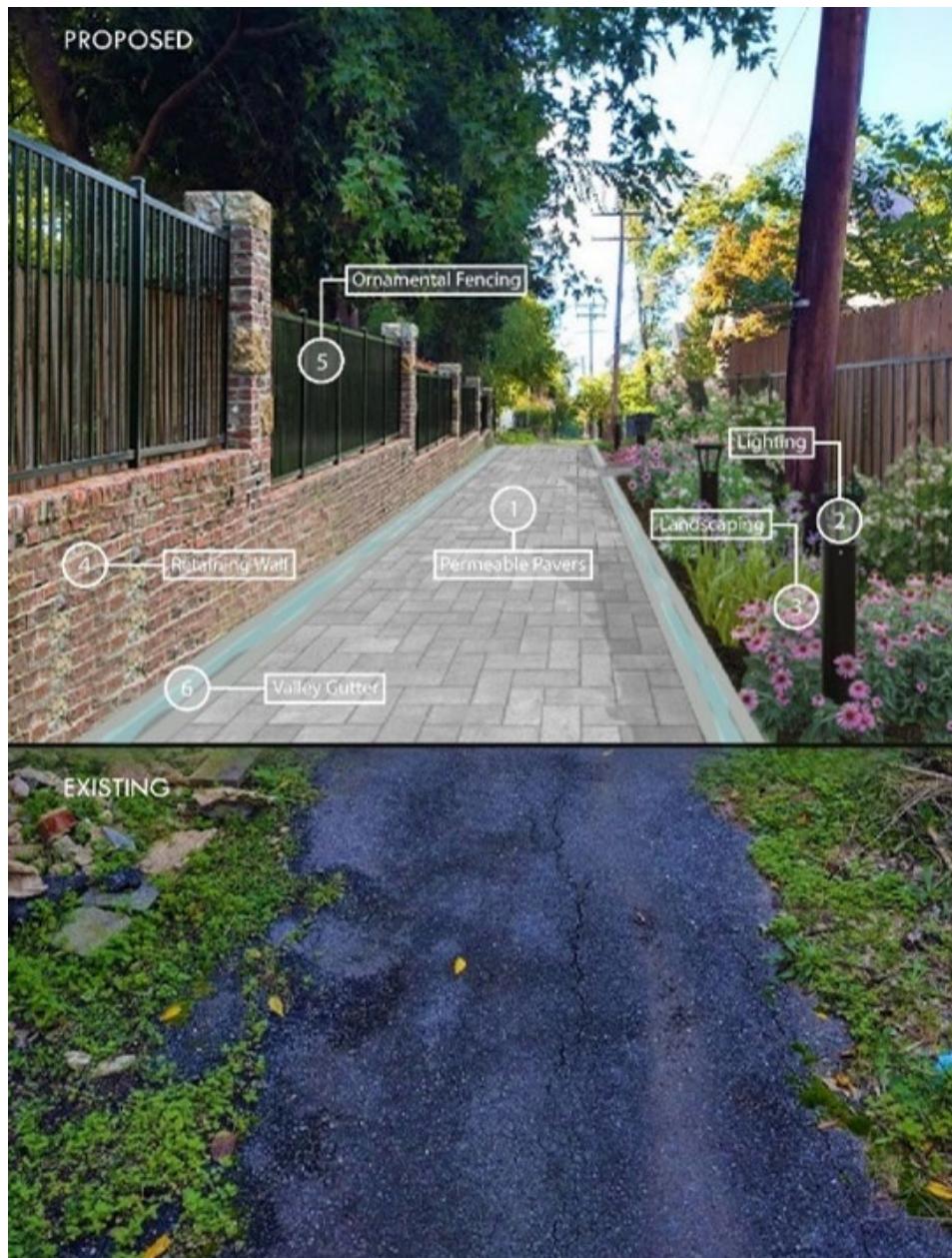


With a grant from the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#), the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) transformed Bladensburg Waterfront Park into a hub for engagement and demonstration of restoration techniques that are used to restore the Anacostia Watershed. AWS used Earth's natural filters—mussels, wetlands, and trees—to improve the health of the Anacostia River. The overall goal of this project was to engage residents in restoration efforts, which included the construction of floating wetlands with fourth grade "Rice Rangers". AWS held several hands-on opportunities for Prince George's County residents to participate in the restoration

efforts and learn about the value of mussels, wetlands, and trees in restoring the health of the Anacostia River.

In total, AWS and volunteers planted 100 trees, 126 wetland plants, and deployed and monitored 1,400 mussels in floating baskets. AWS also installed four educational signs at Bladensburg Front Park to educate visitors about the importance of natural filters and habitat restoration. AWS found they were successful in improving the river's filtering capacity, increasing awareness on the importance of wetlands, and restoring habitats that were lost due to invasive species. AWS will continue to maintain these projects to be sure that the impact will have a long-lasting effect. Congratulations on an amazing project!

### **City of Hyattsville Designs Green Oliver Alleyway**



With a grant from the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#), the City of Hyattsville developed concept designs for the greening of Oliver Alley in partnership with the Low Impact Development Center. The designs include permeable pavement, conservation landscaping, and other practices to enhance the usability of the space for community members. Once installed, the permeable pavement and conservation landscaping will reduce stormwater runoff and pollution in the community and the Anacostia River. These practices will treat approximately 33,541 square feet of impervious surface. Compared to traditional pavement, permeable pavement allows for runoff to soak into the ground so there is no longer standing water. Conservation landscaping includes native plants that increase infiltration and absorb runoff more effectively compared to turf grass, while also beautifying the space. These practices have both environmental and community benefit. We look forward to seeing the continued progress of this project!

[Learn More about this Grant Program](#)

## Rebates Available for Homeowners, Businesses, and Other Property Owners

### RAIN CHECK REBATE

GET REBATES FOR...

The infographic features a blue banner at the top with the text "RAIN CHECK REBATE" in white. Below the banner, the text "GET REBATES FOR..." is centered. Seven icons are arranged horizontally, each with a corresponding label below it:

- Rain Barrels: An icon of a barrel filled with water.
- Cisterns: An icon of a large cylindrical tank filled with water.
- Urban Tree Canopy: An icon of a green tree with blue raindrops falling from its branches.
- Rain Gardens: An icon of a cluster of colorful flowers with blue raindrops falling around them.
- Pavement Removal: An icon of a jackhammer digging into a paved surface.
- Permeable Pavement: An icon of a grid of grey hexagonal tiles with blue raindrops falling onto them.
- Green Roofs: An icon of a house roof with green leaves and blue raindrops falling from it.

*...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\*\*](#)

## Maintenance Support Available for Rain Check Rebate Participants



Have you had a stormwater practice installed through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program? Introducing the Maintaining Stormwater Practices in the Anacostia Watershed program! This program is funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help support residential property owners with maintenance of their Rain Check Rebate projects. This program offers support for Anacostia watershed residents through:

- [\*\*Free Inspections\*\*](#): A landscape professional will evaluate your stormwater practice and provide a written report of maintenance recommendations
- [\*\*Discounted Maintenance\*\*](#): 50% of the cost, up to \$750, could be covered for the maintenance of your green feature while you learn proper maintenance techniques through hands-on preparation
- [\*\*Stormwater Maintenance Resource Center\*\*](#): Check out the online maintenance resources for more information about caring for your stormwater practices
- [\*\*Green Ambassadors Program \(GAP\)\*\*](#): Are you interested in joining a community volunteer maintenance team to maintain neighborhood stormwater practices, including yours?

If you are interested in participating, please review the [Property Owner Guide](#) or visit the [Stormwater Maintenance Resources website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Kristen Parsons**  
**202-599-8164**  
[kparsons@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:kparsons@allianceforthebay.org)

Thank you for doing your part to improve water quality and promoting a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay!

In partnership,



## College Park Resident Receives \$1,016 for Installing a Cistern and Three Rain Barrels



Cisterns and rain barrels collect rainwater that flows from rooftops and store it for other uses like watering plants. They provide a supplemental water source and reduce the transport of pollutants from impervious surfaces to waterways. In the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program, the size of rain barrels ranges from 50 to 250 gallons for residential properties and cisterns are larger than 250 gallons for all property types. Rain barrels and cisterns capture and treat stormwater runoff, reduce pollution, and can lower water costs!

The picture above shows a 400 gallon cistern installed at a residential property in College Park, through the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#). This resident also installed three (50 gallon) rain barrels at their property, where 100% of the roof area is treated by the cisterns and rain barrels! The resident received a rebate of \$1,016 (\$2 per gallon size of the rain barrel/ cistern). Congratulations on these very successful projects!

[Learn More About Cisterns](#)

## Opportunity for Increased Urban Tree Canopy Rebates in Underserved Communities

Additional Resources for Urban Tree Canopy Projects

**New!** **Increased rebates** for tree planting projects  
in eligible **underserved communities**

Additional rebate funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

See the Rain Check Rebate program website or contact program staff at [rebate@cbtrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbtrust.org) for more details.

You may be eligible for a \$300 rebate for every 2 to 2 ½ inch caliper or larger native tree installed on your property! The Prince George's County Department of the Environment was awarded funds to supplement existing tree planting programs as part of the Five Million Maryland Trees for Climate Progress initiative. If your property is located within a designated underserved area, you may be eligible for an increased rebate.

\*Native trees should be planted between the months of October and May to optimize survival and success of the tree. Start planning your fall planting now!

Contact [rebate@cbtrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbtrust.org) for more information.

[Learn More about this Program](#)

## Thank You for Participating in Earth Day!

**GROWING GREEN**  
**Prince George's county MARYLAND**  
**WITH PRIDE**

**THE STATS**

**WE HAD A TOTAL OF 3,918 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS**

**75 COMMUNITIES**  
**39 SCHOOLS**  
**2 FAITH-BASED**  
**SERVED**

**60,880 POUNDS OF LITTER PICKED UP**

Angela D. Ahobrooks  
County Executive

Michael D. Johnson, P.E.  
Director

PRAISE 104.1 fm

Thank you to those who participated in last month's Growing Green with Pride event and all those who participated in Earth Day Activities during the month of April. We can all do our part to keep Prince George's County beautiful, healthy, and clean through activities like avoiding single-use plastics, planting trees, and participating in cleanup events!

## Let's all Work Together to Reduce Single Use!



## Reduce Single-Use

Beginning June 1, 2023, all food establishments in Prince George's County will provide disposable foodware and accessories by request only for all in-person, phone, and online orders of ready-to-eat-foods.

- As a customer, be sure to ask for the items and condiments you need to enjoy your meal!
- Foodware includes single-use items such as straws\*, utensils, condiment cups and packets, cup sleeves, splash sticks, stirrers, and napkins.
- Learn more about County Bill 14-2022: Accessory Disposable Food Service Ware at [mypgc.us/singleuse](http://mypgc.us/singleuse).

\*Under County law, CB 52-2019, only compostable and paper straws are permitted.



[Learn More About Reducing Single Use](#)

### Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Megan Andreasen at [mandreasen@cbtrust.org](mailto: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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