



Prince George's County Newsletter

October 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 understand how difficult it has been for everyone who must attempt as much normalcy as possible while following the latest reopening guidance. 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 continue to spend 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 an update on the programs and share their resulting success stories through our monthly newsletter. There is much to appreciate in the beauty of natural resources and those working hard to protect them.

Grant Opportunity Closing November 19: Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program



The Prince George's County Government and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are excited to announce the seventh year of our partnership for the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program!](#)

What this funds: This grant program funds on-the-ground restoration activities that improve neighborhoods, improve water quality, and engage Prince George's County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams.

Who can apply: Non-profit organizations, municipalities, watershed organizations, educational institutions, community associations, faith-based organizations, civic groups, and more.

How much can be awarded and project types:

- Water quality projects (track 1) for \$50,000 to \$150,000
- Tree planting projects (track 2) for \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Citizen awareness and engagement projects (track 3) for \$5,000 to \$30,000

Application process and Deadline: Review the Request for Proposals and submit your grant application through our online system [here](#). **The application deadline is November 19, 2020 at 4pm EST.**

Review Process: All applications go through a Technical Review Committee. The technical team reviews the proposals based on cost benefit, experience, suitability for implementation, consistency with the Request for Proposals (RFP), sustainability, and other selection criteria that are relevant to the proposal and that are published in the RFP.

See past project for ideas and potential collaborations: Visit [Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Projects](#) to view past successful projects.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Calling All Landscape Professionals for the Rain Check Rebate Program Contractor Training

The graphic features a green banner at the top with the date "November 5, 2020" and a yellow circular badge that says "VIRTUAL TRAINING via Zoom". Below the banner, the "rain check" logo is on the left, showing a blue barrel with water splashing and colorful flowers. To the right, the text "RAIN CHECK REBATE Contractor Training" is written in large blue letters. At the bottom, there are five logos: Prince George's County, Prince Georges Proud, Department of the Environment, CBTRUST, and Low Impact Development Center.

Did you know the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#) allows homeowners to receive rebates for installing one or more of the seven approved practices? The approved practices include rain barrels, cisterns, tree plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs. Property owners may implement some of these practices on their own or seek out a professional contractor. Some of the approved practices, such as installation of permeable pavement, require a professional contractor.

Rain Check Rebate Contractor Trainings, conducted in partnership with the [Low Impact Development Center](#) (LID), span over two non-consecutive days and cover both classroom and hands-on field exercises. Due to COVID-19, this year's Day 1 will be conducted as a virtual classroom training. Participants who complete both days of training will be added to the County's public list of contractors who have completed the Rain Check Rebate Contractor Training. This list is provided as a resource for property owners looking for contractors to install the Rain Check Rebate practices on their property. Get your name on the list and register for the training today!

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Tips to Prepare Your Rain Check Yard for Winter



As winter approaches, it is important to maintain and prepare your rain barrels, rain gardens, and other practices for the cold temperatures to ensure that they continue to function properly.

Here are five tips to help you prepare your Rain Check Yard:

- Drain and disconnect rain barrels.
- Remove leaves and other debris from rain gardens and permeable pavement.
- Apply a new layer of mulch in rain gardens and around trees.
- Use salt not sand, which can cause clogging, in moderation to melt ice on permeable pavement.
- Continue to water young trees this fall if they do not receive 1.5 inches of rain per week.

What is a Rain Check Yard?

A Rain Check Yard is a property that has installed one or more of the seven eligible practices from the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate](#) program. The seven eligible practices include rain barrels, cisterns, tree plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs. This program provides reimbursements to property owners for installing these approved practices. Rain Check Rebate participants can receive a yard sign to proudly display their commitment to keeping our waterways healthy and clean!

[Read the full Blog Post](#)

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

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



Events and Opportunities

Natural Mysteries and Little Known Facts

Friday, October 30 - 7pm to 8pm
Audubon Naturalist Society, Online

Listen to fantastic nature stories about fatal attractions, deceptive tricks, bioluminescence, and more. Tune in to some of Mother Nature's little known stories, mysteries and natural facts that are bizarre, deceiving, or just fascinatingly unknown. [Learn more](#)

Virtual Steam Festival

Saturday, October 31 - 11 am to 3 pm
M-NCPPC, Virtual

Join the M-NCPPC's Department of Parks and Recreation in a day of youth empowerment through scientific experiments and activities from home. [Learn more](#)

Wildlife Management Online Course

Registration Opens: Sunday, November 1
University of Maryland Extension, Virtual

This non-credit course is designed for individuals wishing to increase their understanding of wildlife, wildlife management and wildlife habitats. This course will begin on February 1, 2021 and runs to May 15, 2021. [Learn more](#)

Salt Watch Kickoff: How Salt Impacts the Environment and What You Can Do About

STEM at Home: Birds with Ranger Tim

Friday, November 6 - 12 pm to 1 pm
Prince George's Memorial Library System, Online

Join The Patuxent Research Refuge's Ranger Tim and library staff for a discussion about the local bird populations, featuring a special feathered guest. Have all your bird questions answered! Families welcome! [Learn more](#)

Get Paid to Go Green: Funding for Conservation Practices

Tuesday, November 10 - 6pm to 8pm
Sustainability Matters, Online

Thought about planting a pollinator meadow or riparian buffer, but daunted by the expense? Find out how to get state and federal programs to cover most of the cost of eco-friendly improvements to your land! [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!

It

Thursday, November 5 - 12 pm to 1 pm
Izaak Walton League of America, Webinar

Join the Izaak Walton League of America to learn more about the Salt Watch program and how you can take action. [Learn more](#)

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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