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City of Gaithersburg and Chesapeake Bay Trust Announce Partnership for Watershed Restoration

Gaithersburg, Maryland--The City of Gaithersburg and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce funding to help support watershed restoration projects. The grant program helps the City of Gaithersburg meet the requirements of its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which requires reductions in stormflow volume and pollutants entering the City's waterways. Projects can fall under two types:

- Community-Based Restoration Implementation grants support the design and construction of such stormwater practices as bioretention cells, bioswales, streamside forest buffers, green roofs, structural controls to reduce pet and waste litter, and more. Other project ideas may be considered.
- Rainscapes Reward project grants include conservation landscaping and rainwater collection programs designed to reduce the amount of stormwater and chemical pollutants entering local streams and waterways. These projects can be installed at single-family residential properties, homeowners associations, private education facilities, nonprofits, and multifamily dwellings.

Projects must accomplish on-the-ground restoration that help meet local water quality and runoff reduction improvement goals, specifically in targeted watersheds and areas as reflected in the watershed restoration plans for the City of Gaithersburg.

Gaithersburg has committed \$140,000 for these types of projects specifically within the City limits; an additional \$850,000 is available through the Chesapeake Bay Trust and other partners for projects throughout Maryland.

"We are so happy to have developed this funding partnership with the City of Gaithersburg," said Dr. Jana Davis, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "When two groups with resources can come together and collaborate, it improves the access of funding for nonprofit organizations. In this case, the Trust can combine its goal of educating the public about stormwater with the City's goal to measurably improve our community's natural resources. We are thrilled to announce the availability of close to \$1,000,000 for our communities throughout Maryland."

"The City of Gaithersburg is eager to work with community partners in an effort to meet regulatory watershed restoration and water quality improvement benchmarks," said Meredith Strider, Environmental Specialist for Gaithersburg's Stormwater Management Program. "This innovative program encourages on-the-ground restoration projects as well as outreach and engagement activities that reduce stormflow and pollutants and engage City residents. We look forward to working with our residents and the Chesapeake Bay Trust as we all do our part to restore and protect our local water quality and the Chesapeake Bay."

The grants are available to 501(c)(3) organizations, which may include local watershed groups, community associations, service, youth, and civic groups, and faith-based organizations. Proposals are due September 28, 2016; grants will be announced in December 2016. Details can be found at www.cbtrust.org/grants/out-rest. For more information on Gaithersburg's Stormwater Program visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, supported in large part by the *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate program, promotes public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay as well as its rivers, streams and local communities. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$80 million in grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.