



# RESTORING

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STREAMS & RIVERS—  
Watershed by Watershed

Prince George's County, Maryland, is home to more than 300 miles of streams and rivers that not only provide drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, recreation and educational opportunities, but also play a vital role in our local economy. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is working hard to restore and protect these waters for generations to come.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Attend the public meetings!

### WEDNESDAY

July 23, 2014  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Partnership Activity Hall  
at the Laurel Police  
Department  
811 5th Street  
Laurel, MD 20707

### THURSDAY

July 24, 2014  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

DoE Office Building  
1801 McCormick Drive  
(First Floor)  
Largo, MD 20774

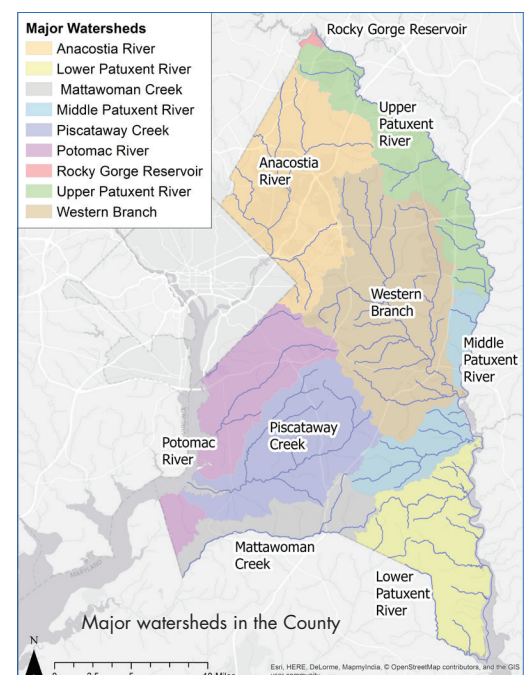
## What Are the Challenges Facing Our Waters?

Over the years, as more people moved into the County, the woodlands and open fields that allow rainwater to naturally filter into the ground were replaced with new homes and businesses that brought more rooftops, parking lots, driveways and roads that prevent water from soaking into the ground. Instead of filtering into the ground, rainwater rushes over these hard surfaces, picking up pollutants like oil, dirt, fertilizers, trash and pet waste and carrying them directly, or via storm drains, to our local stream and rivers.

## What Is the County Doing to Restore Our Waters?

Many of these polluted water bodies do not meet Maryland's criteria for clean water and thus require Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). A TMDL is essentially a "pollution diet" that identifies the maximum amount of a pollutant the waterway can receive and still meet water quality standards. The County is developing restoration plans for each U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved TMDL. These plans will spell out what actions—along with a timeline and budget—will be necessary to bring our water bodies back to health.

WATER BODY	POLLUTANT
Piscataway Creek	Fecal coliform bacteria ( <i>E. coli</i> )
Mattawoman Creek	Nitrogen and phosphorus
Anacostia River (Tidal and Non-tidal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus), biochemical oxygen demand</li> <li>Fecal coliform bacteria (enterococci)</li> <li>Sediment, total suspended solids</li> <li>Trash</li> <li>PCBs</li> </ul>
Western Branch Patuxent River	Biologic oxygen demand
Patuxent River Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fecal coliform bacteria (<i>E. coli</i>)</li> <li>Sediment</li> </ul>
Rocky Gorge Reservoir	Total phosphorus
Potomac River	PCBs—Tidal areas
Chesapeake Bay <sup>1</sup>	Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment
Cash Lake <sup>2</sup>	Mercury



<sup>1</sup> Watershed Implementation Plan developed by the County in 2011 ([www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Sustainable/Services/WaterQuality/WIP/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Sustainable/Services/WaterQuality/WIP/Pages/default.aspx))

<sup>2</sup> Cash Lake watershed is in the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, and thus is not covered by the County's MS4 permit requirements. The Patuxent Wildlife Refuge is on federal land owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior and therefore outside the purview of Prince George's County.

## WHAT IS AN MS4?

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), which include storm drains, pipes and ditches that collect and dump this untreated runoff into local water bodies. To prevent pollutants from being washed into the storm system, cities and counties of a certain size, including Prince George's County, must obtain an MS4 permit and carry out measures aimed at reducing pollution.



Bioretention systems like this one at Laurel High School collect and treat parking lot stormwater.

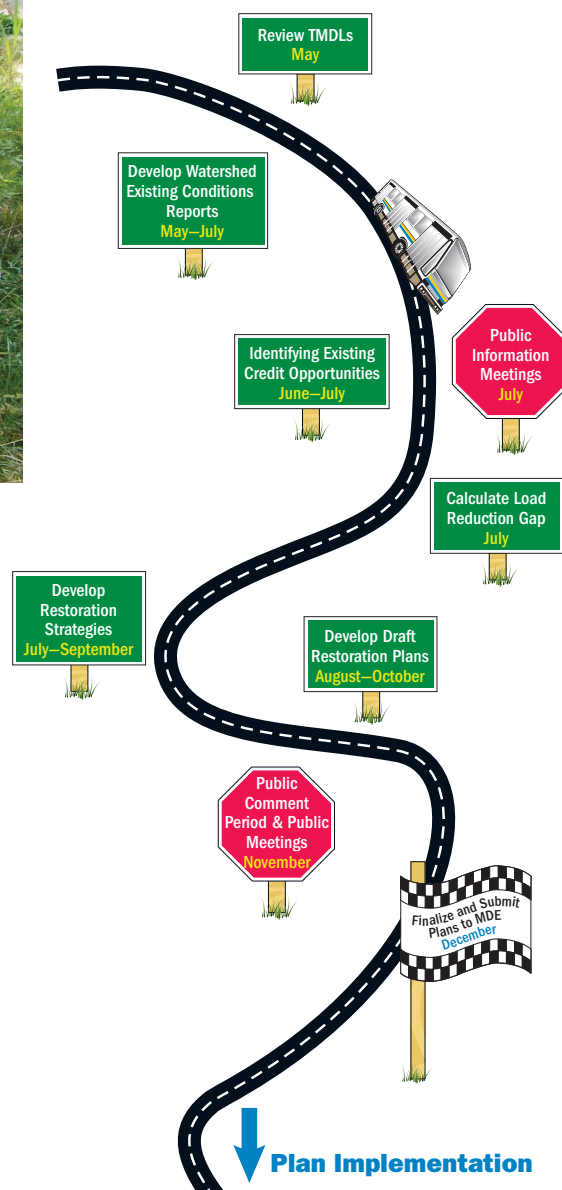
### Why Now?

On January 2, 2014, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued Prince George's County a new MS4 permit. The County's new permit requires the development of local restoration plans for each approved TMDL by January 2015.

### What Information Will the Restoration Plans Contain?

There will be restoration plans for five major watersheds—Anacostia River, Patuxent River Basin, Mattawoman Creek, Piscataway Creek and Potomac River. Each plan will describe the pollutants and sources of those pollutants specific to each water body, the land uses and natural features in the watershed, a method for determining the amount of pollutant reductions that need to be achieved and targeted pollutant reduction strategies for each watershed. The strategies will be prioritized and will include both programmatic measures as well as on-the-ground, pollution-reducing practices such as infiltration systems, rain gardens, streamside buffers and other types of best management practices.

## 2014 Road Map to Restoration Plans



For more information visit the County's stormwater website:

[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/stormwatermanagement](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/stormwatermanagement)

or contact Mr. Lilantha Tennekoon at 301-883-5833 or [LTennekoon@co.pg.md.us](mailto:LTennekoon@co.pg.md.us)