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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

# CWP Joins Prince George's County Environmental Forum

In collaboration with Councilmember Tom Dernoga, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) participated in District 1's Prince George's County Environmental Forum, spreading the word about stormwater improvements and efforts in the County.

In February, the CWP Community Outreach Team joined the Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS), the Greenbelt Climate Action Network, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the Anacostia Watershed Society, Climate Parents, the Sierra Club and the College Park Committee for a Better Environment as they informed the community at the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department.

Organized by Councilmember Dernoga, the forum included more than 100 attendees who heard about topics that highlighted county-specific environmental legislation and policies. These included how to create a county climate action plan, a ban on pesticides, the Brandywine Power Plants and advocating for renewable energy in our county schools.

Taking the opportunity to meet with the community and other stakeholders at the forum, CWP Community Outreach Team members presented information about key updates and environmental efforts, including providing how the CWP is working with the local economy to improve stormwater infrastructure.

## By the Numbers

Program Costs Expended To Date  
**\$134.5M**

Local/Minority Business Participation  
**\$113.4M**

Current Status Completed  
 # of Sites Mar '20    Credits Acres  
**141**                    **2,419.87**

Reporting period as of March 2020

Make sure you "Drop" back to the CWP website to view additional content about the partnership such as our American Infrastructure Magazine Op-Ed and State of Maryland New COVID-19 Business Relief Programs.



Carrollton Elementary School teacher, Teresa Trozzo (L) and Rebecca Starosta (R) participate in CWP's fall planting events with their students.

# CWP Spring School Planting Event Set to Bloom

This spring, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) will kick off its successful school planting events yet again in cooperation with Prince George's County Public Schools.

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## CWP Kicks Off First Stream Restoration Project for County



The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) added stream restoration to its offering in Prince George's County, tackling its first project in Lanham, Md. in order to naturally stave off stormwater pollution.

Beginning in January, the CWP started construction on Mission Drive, between Goddard Corporate Park and Greenbelt Road, in order to create a stable and meandering channel that will help prevent erosion and limit pollution. The 1,070-foot stream restoration project is no small feat for Forestville, Md.-based D&F Construction Co. Inc., a certified Minority Business and prime general contractor. Other local county-based firms: Assedo Consulting, LLC, Dirt Plus, Inc., Green Forever Landscaping (a Mentor Protégé Program graduate), Soltesz, LLC and Geotech Engineers are also assisting. Collectively, work will include best management practices (BMPs) improvements that are treating stormwater runoff and meeting municipal separate storm sewer systems requirements (MS4) at the same time. Construction is expected to be completed this summer.

CWP is committed to the design, construction and long-term maintenance of stormwater improvements installed by the program. The goal is to create self-sustaining stream systems, but maintenance is often needed until the site matures. Just like our pond retrofit projects, the CWP program is committed to utilizing small, minority and women-owned businesses in Prince George's County for 30-40 percent of the total project scope.

The CWP program is set to start construction on multiple new stream restoration projects this summer. Projects range from small scale, adding "rip rap" or boulders to slow the flow of water, to large scale construction projects completely changing the face of the stream.

### Why Stream Restoration is Important

- Approximately 75 percent of all sediment pollution in the Anacostia Watershed is caused by erosion of riverbanks and river bottoms.
- Stream restoration can help reduce the amount of sediment pollution entering the watershed while improving stream health and enhancing habitat value.

### How Do We Restore Streams to a More Natural State

The CWP's restoration program includes engineers working with landscape architects to design stream improvements and adding design elements, like:

- Cross vanes: a series of rocks placed in a 'V' pattern to reduce erosion; and
- Step pools: a series of pools built with rocks, to slow down the flow of water, and other common restoration techniques.

These techniques stabilize stream banks to reduce erosion and minimize the down-cutting of channels into the Chesapeake Bay by using natural materials such as rocks, logs and native plants.

## CWP Spring School Planting Event Set to Bloom

Using last year's momentum, where the CWP Community Outreach Team completed 14 educational and interactive planting events in the fall with stakeholders and the community, the CWP is set to expand its efforts with the remaining five schools sites which completed construction this winter. The program general contractors, certified disadvantaged/minority business SMC, certified minority businesses D&F Construction and Nardi Construction facilitated the construction aspect of our project sites and prepared each site for the upcoming planting events. Each stormwater facility was designed by Soltesz, LLC and landscaping designs were prepared by local, certified woman-owned business Bradley Site Design.

Working with each school's "green team champions," members from CWP, the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) and Bradley Site Design collaborated on the instructional segment of the planting events in the fall. The CWP Community Outreach Team remained in contact with each green team champion through the entire process to support and address any questions or concerns.

### What are CWP school planting events?

At each participating school, environmentally conscious students join together to participate in the planting events. Not only does the CWP provide each student and school leader with a trowel and gloves, the planting events also include:

- CWP Community Outreach Team offers an overview and introduction of the benefits of CWP's best management practices to the school and environment.
- Anacostia Watershed Society members provide interactive demonstrations on how the facility works and how it contributes to our overall goal of cleaning the Anacostia River.
- Landscaping and stormwater professionals educate the students on the types of plants selected for their specific micro-bioretenion pond and why those particular plants were chosen.
- School Science teachers also participate with their students to inspire awareness of "green thinking" and incorporate these planting events and sites into the curriculum.

A fun fact for all students is being introduced to the "Little Blue Stem", a native plant that is able to thrive in the elements of the fluctuating Maryland weather and how to pronounce its original name *Schizachyrium scoparium*.

The Clean Water Partnership is committed to making significant strides towards achieving the goal of producing cleaner water in the Anacostia River and neighboring watersheds and we look forward to our continued partnership with Prince George's County and Prince George's County Public Schools. By engaging with our youth, the CWP team is making an impact in the community and inspiring our future green champions and eco-conscious leaders.

## CWP Embraces Collaboration Among Program Delivery Partners

Every Tuesday, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) hosts meetings among program delivery partners to help bring people and organizations together as we complete stormwater improvements across Prince George's County. While held previously in-person, the CWP has adapted its operations and communications to conference calls in light of efforts to keep our partners and employees safe during COVID-19.

The meetings bring key disciplines together to share information and keep CWP projects moving forward. Managing dozens of stormwater projects throughout Prince George's County requires keeping a close eye on a variety of program aspects, including construction contractor progress, budget constraints, environmental and permitting requirements and stakeholder concerns.

Participants include, but are not limited to, individual general contractors (GC): D&F Construction, Nardi Construction and Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting. These firms, who are implementing and managing stormwater improvement projects across channels and the county, provide focused and clear updates to ensure all partners are completing their tasks. Such updates and participants include:

- Construction Contractors report out about specific field progress and challenges; and
- Project Managers ensure that each project stays timely and aligns with its specific budget goals; and
- Maryland Environmental Service provides environmental updates and guidance following field inspections of the work; and
- Contractor Development ensures that contractors including mentor protégé firms stay connected to upcoming bid opportunities and projects within the program, including making sure that all are aware of training classes and services available to them; and
- Project Design Engineers attend the contractors' coordination meetings despite holding their own coordination check-ins; and
- Outreach Coordinators attend the meetings to provide updates and communicate concerns voiced by project stakeholders in the community.

The CWP program's general contractor meetings are an example of industry best-practice in collaboration where there is a mutual respect for the variety of experts in their field. Together, this forms a balanced team with the right combination of expertise and experience. This approach allows solutions to be formed collaboratively. Each team member has an important role to play and an important voice in making the CWP successful.

## CWP Stormwater Maintenance Markers Sprout in Prince George's County



The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) in conjunction with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) are installing information maintenance markers at the majority of our sites to keep the public informed about our efforts to beautify the community and reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

"Through our partnership with Prince George's County Department of the Environment, our hope is that these maintenance markers will increase the sense of ownership amongst the public as it pertains to stormwater management," said Keisha Brown, Corvias Partnership Liaison. "We want the community to be aware of the work we are doing as well as contact us and tell us what they are thinking. The CWP will continue to find ways to strengthen and build bonds with our community partners."

These information markers identify areas of ongoing improvements and provide the community with additional ways to contact the CWP. The marker also informs of the type of stormwater management device being installed, the CWP telephone number and the website: <https://thecleanwaterpartnership.com/>.

The information noted on the maintenance marker will allow the community to report any issues or concerns, as well as remain engaged on the functionality of our improvements and the appearance and upkeep of their neighborhoods. This serves as one additional touchpoint for the CWP, the community and its partners.



## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

# Meet Dirt Plus



### How long has your company been in business?

Dirt Plus, a long standing contractor with the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) based in Prince George's County. Established in 1993, the Upper Marlboro-based local small business is a leader in providing complete site development.

### What is your specialty?

Recently, for the CWP, Dirt Plus has tackled a multitude of projects while maintaining best management practices for the county and the community. This work includes pond retrofits, bio-retention ponds, infiltration trenches, sand filters, stream rehabilitation and restoration.

### What is a typical day like for you?

A typical day includes communications with field personnel addressing equipment and material needs for the ongoing projects—ordering materials from suppliers, scheduling deliveries and projects, performing estimates and managing contracts through the lifecycle of each project and work task. Working at Dirt Plus can be challenging and rewarding for its hard working employees, as the work season can get hectic with project volume of work and all the daily challenges that arise in the industry during the summer months, but its employees take great pride in completing work for the county it calls home.

### What are you looking forward to gaining from this program?

"The Clean Water Partnership has afforded Dirt Plus the opportunity to become proficient at the construction and implementation of best management practices that ultimately provide Prince George's County with the cleanest stormwater runoff possible," said Andrew Dantos, Dirt Plus Business Development Manager. "The CWP has bolstered our presence in the environmental arena and with other local businesses. The general contractors within this program that we have worked with have been exceptional, and we look forward to continuing our great working relationship with all the members of the program. Dirt Plus has been a Prince George's County firm since inception and we will always strive to be there for the county and its residents in any way we can."

### LEARN MORE

#### Certifications:

Prince George's County SDDD  
Certified as an MBE and SBSB

WSSC Certified SLBE/SDV

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs  
Certified SDVOSB

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## Expanding Success through Mentorship, Training and Opportunity



The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is kicking off its fourth cohort of its highly successful Mentor Protégé Program (MPP). While seven local small businesses took a chance on a new and unproven 18-month mentor training program previously, the MPP has flourished with dozens of firms graduating and seeing results. It is also now expanding to include a focus on landscaping professionals.

As a result of ongoing stakeholder engagement, insights from the workforce and a willingness to continue the investment in local small disadvantaged firms, an all-new Emerging Landscapers Mentor Protégé Program (ELMPP) with 13 participating firms is beginning their mentoring and training journey.

The primary goal of the MPP is to increase the capacity of local, small, minority and disadvantaged firms in design, construction and maintenance of stormwater management and green infrastructure projects. The ELMPP, while an extension of the MPP, was initiated to provide developmental assistance to local small disadvantaged firms, assisting them in expanding their capabilities in landscape installation and maintenance with respect to stormwater management and green infrastructure.

“Corvias, in partnership with Prince George’s County, provided a clean slate for us to create, implement and lead a small business capacity building program in Green Infrastructure through the Clean Water Partnership. With each cohort of the Mentor Protégé Program, we have seen a significant increase in the competencies of the protégés, an improvement in their bid-win rate, a direct contribution to the local economy and a new pool of firms capable of working on low impact development projects. I’m grateful to be a part of such an impactful program and proud that it’s being recognized around the country as a leading example,” said Michael Burke, CWP Contractor Development & MPP Director.

Help us welcome our newest MPP and ELMPP firms and stay tuned to learn more about them through our Contractor Spotlights!

### MPP Cohort 4

C&M Construction Services  
Cleckley Development  
CWI Solutions  
Insight Engineering  
Millennium Concepts  
Minority Environmental Solutions & Services  
Sterling Enterprises

### ELMPP Cohort 1

1st Choice Facilities Maintenance  
AC Reliable  
Cavalla Construction  
C&M Construction Services  
Daylily Landscaping  
Faulkner Lawncare & Landscaping  
Maroon Gardens  
Millennium Concepts  
Minority Environmental Solutions & Services  
Sterling Enterprises  
T&G Services  
TCG Property Care  
The Georgetown Landscaping Company

## CWP Holds Safety Trainings for Delivery Partners



Continuing its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of its subcontractors is a top priority. The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) hosted two mandatory CWP Safety Toolbox Trainings in January and February, focusing on best management practices across stormwater projects underway in the county.

Between the two sessions, over 80 attendees, including general contractors and subcontractors, received training and safety tips related to CWP construction and maintenance activities under their purview.

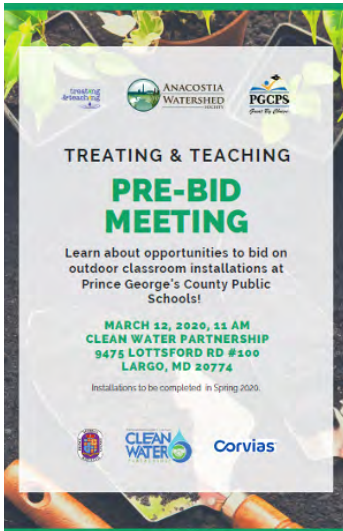
“Ensuring safety standards and protocols are followed from start to finish is imperative to the successful installation, completion and maintenance of CWP projects,” said Pete Littleton, Corvias Senior Operations Manager. “The CWP recognizes the importance of this safety training and how vital it is to the success of the program and for the community at-large.”

The trainings focused on Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines, personal protective equipment (PPE), trenching and excavation safety, construction working in confined spaces and electrical and heavy equipment safety. The sessions conducted by the CWP’s third Party Certifier, Maryland Environmental Services (MES) were highly interactive.

Each participant received a packet of materials for continued reference and learning and access to CWP team members for additional support as needed.

Nicole Copeland, CWP Contractor Development Manager, said “The Clean Water Partnership values the safety of our subcontractors. Our CWP Safety Toolbox Trainings emphasize the importance of our subcontractors incorporating a culture of safe practices throughout a project’s lifecycle”.

## Teaching & Treating Outdoor Classrooms Set for Learning



In our last issue, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) announced eight Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) were selected to receive new outdoor classrooms, as part of the Treating & Teaching Program. We're back with an update on the progression of the program as design efforts have been completed and construction is slated to start later this spring.

The Treating & Teaching program, supported by the CWP, promotes stewardship of Prince George's County waterways and environmental literacy in Prince George's County Public Schools.

The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) leads the Treating & Teaching program alongside other program partners and recently completed a pre-bid meeting where local firms were given access and an opportunity to learn more about bid opportunities for outdoor classroom installations at Prince George's County Public Schools.

A key aspect of the Treating & Teaching program is focused on building outdoor classrooms that are then utilized as teaching tools to educate students on stormwater management best practices (BMPs) as well as providing workshops for teachers and building facility staff to learn more about the BMPs installed at their schools. These workshops better equip teachers with the knowledge they need while providing students outdoor experiences and exposure to

the environment. Each outdoor classroom teaches students about stormwater management, their local watersheds and bodies of water, as well as how their habits can support the reduction of water pollution.

The selected schools have been paired with design teams (Bradley Site Design, Low Impact Development Center and Neighborhood Design Center), and worked together to develop plans for the outdoor classrooms to ensure they fit within existing plans for the school sites. During the pre-bid meetings, AWS team members Ariel Trahan, Director of River Restoration and Bryan McKnight, Green Infrastructure Program Specialist met with over ten firms on the bid opportunities. Following an overview and general question and answer, firms received additional time to review the plan sets and ensure their questions were answered to begin preparing their itemized bids.

In accordance with the competitive bid process, the Treating & Teaching program leads will evaluate the bids and following submittal and review, successful bidders will receive a notification of award for the projects to begin construction and installation this spring and summer!

Stay tuned to our next issue to continue following the progression of the Treating & Teaching Program!

## In the Community—Catch us if you can!



**1** Outreach Meeting Hakes Lake HOA Nnamdi Amaechi (TB&A) & Keegan McCormack (Soltesz)



**2** Outreach presentation to Associate Professor, Byoung-Suk Kweon's Landscape Architecture class at the University of Maryland. Kristina Bigby (Assedo Consulting) & Jason Mills (Soltesz).



**3** MLK Middle School Pre Con Meeting TB&A, D&F, Celsue Construction, HDR, Soltesz) & Jason Mills (Soltesz).



**Michael Burke, CWP Director Contractor Development & Mentor Protégé Programs**  
President, Quest2 Consulting, LLC  
Greenbelt, Maryland



**Christopher Williams, Principal**  
Grace Management & Construction LLC  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

## GEM DROPS:

# Small Business Insights from Firms Thriving in the Stormwater Market

Through its Contractor Development and Mentor Protégé Program, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP), a community-based partnership between Prince George's County and Corvias, invests in training and mentoring for local small businesses and infrastructure professionals while bringing improvements to stormwater management initiatives across the county. As part of a new series, Michael Burke, Director of CWP's Contractor Development and Mentor Protégé Programs, sits down with Prince George's County small business owners to talk about the challenges and opportunities they encounter as entrepreneurs growing, expanding and thriving in the stormwater market.

In this issue, Michael speaks to Christopher Williams, principal of Grace Management & Construction, LLC. Christopher, a local entrepreneur and construction professional, who has expanded his firm's capabilities after having graduating from the first cohort of the CWP Mentor Protégé Program.

**MB:** Talk to me about your experiences with the Mentor Protégé Program.

**CW:** *The opportunity that was afforded to me through the Clean Water Partnership was earnestly and honestly afforded to me, for what my potential was, for what my capability and capacity was. And all of that was just about who I was as a small business owner—my company is me, my capacity is me, my wealth and worth is me. Because when you open a small business, it is just you when you first start out. To have someone give you not just the opportunity, platform and training, but also give you the access to work is incredible. At the end of the year, we made enough revenue to cover expenses—salary, taxes, insurance—but now I have the ability to cover bonding and hire additional employees to meet the demand. I've got a line of credit and capital I never had access to before. So now when I come into a meeting, I am not coming to a meeting as a small business, I am coming to a meeting as an established business owner.*

**MB:** The whole point of this program was to teach you how to bid, win, put the work in the ground and also support you through that process. You all (MPP firms) said to me in the very beginning that what you really needed was “boots on the ground” experience. We know a lot of people that go through different trainings and don't really get a chance to apply their learnings.

**CW:** *Right, it's the difference of going through trainings with a business or potential future prime contractor as opposed to a future client. The CWP is not a future prime contractor; they are a future client. So now Grace Management is a client representative as a general contractor, I am representing the organization that “raised me”. I don't just have a relationship with the program, the program is really my big brother.*

**MB:** The reason why I do the meetings with the MPP owners is to find out how we help the owner improve his or her leadership capabilities and be a better leader overall. My learning in the program has been that when the owners understand that they are being developed, those are the companies that really take off in the Mentor Protégé Program. My belief was that if you help the owner develop as a leader, a better person, man or woman, those skills benefit the whole of the business. And the reality of how an issue they are dealing with in their personal life, is blocking them in their business life. There are not a lot of people that tie those things together, and most times, it's hard for people to even see the connection.

**CW:** *Sometimes I feel pressure to be different version of myself—I have to be a Chris that is an owner of the company, then I have to be a different Chris that is a husband, then I have to be a different Chris that is a worshipper at my church. But the reality is that, to be successful you have to be your authentic self. And when you embrace that, and really trust that, regardless of what the herd is doing—am I going to follow the herd or am I going to soar like an eagle and stay elevated above so I can see more clearly on where I am really try into land. Not just where I am try into go, but where I am going to land.*

Since graduating from the first CWP MPP cohort in 2017, Grace Management & Construction, LLC has performed as a sub and prime contractor on multiple CWP projects. The Prince George's County based firm has also increased their bonding capacity from \$250,000 to \$3,000,000, completed approximately 300 pond maintenance and retrofit task orders in Baltimore County, MD, significantly increased their bank line of credit, and since August 2018, continues to perform site work improvements for the City of Mount Rainer.

## Project Highlights



61st Avenue Fairmount Heights Micro Bio Retention Pond



Old Chapel Park Bio Retention Pond



Greenbelt Elementary School Micro Bio Retention Basin

## CWP Delivery Partners



## CWP Highlights



The National Association of Counties (NACo) granted Prince George's County a 2016 Achievement Award for the development of the Clean Water Partnership, in the category of Community/Economic Development.



The Maryland League of Conservation Voters honored the Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Director, Adam Ortiz, with the 2016 Environmental Leadership Award for his work with Corvias and the Clean Water Partnership.



The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) convenes leaders to turn ideas into action. CGI Commitments to Action represent bold new ways that CGI members address global challenges—implemented through new methods of partnership and designed to maximize impact. Commitments can be small or large, global or local. No matter the size or scope, commitments help CGI members translate practical goals into meaningful and measurable results.

## CONTACT US

### The Clean Water Partnership

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**ABOUT THE CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP:** The Prince George's County and Corvias Public-Private Partnership (P3), also called the Clean Water Partnership, is an agreement between County government and the private sector to retrofit up to 4,000 acres of impervious surfaces using green infrastructure. This community-focused program works to address the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, while simultaneously focusing on the needs of Prince George's County residents and local businesses.