The Clean Water Partnership recently joined county officials, regional leaders and subject matter experts in a roundtable discussion titled “The Clean Water Partnership: A Success Story of Community Collaboration.” Hosted by Governing and highlighting the best practices and lessons learned of the Clean Water Partnership, the discussion covered the challenges, opportunities and rewards of integrating a private partner into Prince George’s County’s scalable approach to meeting regulatory stormwater requirements.

The half day event included remarks and presentations from the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment’s Barry Stanton and Adam Ortiz, and a special keynote address from Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary of the Environment, State of Maryland.

Leaders from across the Chesapeake Bay region left the event with valuable insights regarding public private partnerships, as an alternative to traditional approaches used to meet stormwater management requirements in their jurisdiction.
The CWP Mentor Protégé Program: Providing Opportunities Beyond the Work Site

LARGO, MARYLAND

Since the launch of the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) this past February, the CWP MPP team has worked closely with the eight initial cohorts to help them leverage their existing capabilities and identify areas of development that will take their business to the next level of success.

At the onset of the program, each of the protégé firms participated in a business assessment designed to help identify and evaluate their strengths, weaknesses, and existing capabilities—in order to better compete for procurement opportunities with the CWP and on other stormwater projects throughout the region. Upon completion of the assessment, the CWP MPP team got to work developing customized business development plans, aimed to provide the protégé firms with the training and support necessary to address their deficiencies. Subsequently, the team also developed a CWP Training Curriculum that focuses on providing the protégé firms with more knowledge and a better understanding of the stormwater management sector. The CWP MPP courses include monthly sessions on cost-estimating, project development, work processes, scheduling, completing the project, and last but not least, maintenance.

Green Forever Landscaping, Inc. is one of the eight protégé firms participating in this year’s Mentor Protégé Program. Based in the Upper Marlboro area of Prince George’s County, MD, this small, minority business specializes in complete ground maintenance of commercial and residential properties. The Founder and President, Nikita Floyd, has been in the lawn care business for more than 28 years, starting his first lawn mowing service at the age of 19. While he is very knowledgeable of the landscaping industry, he saw the Mentor Protégé Program as an opportunity to expand upon his current skillset and learn more about a field he knew little about—stormwater management.

“I started providing lawn and landscaping services when I was 19 years old, so I definitely know how to do my job,” said Nikita Floyd, President of Green Forever Landscaping. “But joining the CWP Mentor Protégé Program has created more opportunities for me to learn about stormwater management, gain access to jobs, build relationships, grow my business and my potential, and help the environment all at the same time. It’s a win-win!”

Since becoming a protégé firm, Floyd has been awarded work on a CWP project—completing the design and construction alongside Bradley Site Design, on the recent retrofits at the Junior Achievement Finance Park in Prince George’s County, MD. While he is always thankful to win a bid, Floyd gets his day-to-day motivation just knowing that there are more opportunities to come in very near future.

“I look forward to seeing a line-up of projects that I can bid on through the CWP because it always feels good to know that there’s another opportunity ahead,” said Floyd. “That type of impact makes you feel hopeful, and when you’re hopeful about something, that makes you motivated about life in general.”

Floyd most recently bid on two additional CWP projects and is currently waiting to hear the outcome. The relationship’s that Floyd has built through the CWP MPP, however, has also helped the Green Forever team land smaller landscaping opportunities outside of the CWP. Floyd expressed that he has no regrets about joining the program.

“Overall, this has been a positive experience for me. There hasn’t been one situation that they’ve put in front of me where I haven’t been able to take something positive away from it,” Floyd mentioned. “You can take this experience to any other area outside of Prince George’s County, apply it, and be ahead of the game.”

For information on the CWP Mentor-Protégé Program, or to learn about other initiatives the Partnership has implemented in support of the growth of local, small and minority businesses in Prince George’s County, MD, visit our website at www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com.
The CWP Schools Program is in Full Effect

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND

This summer, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) officially launched The CWP Schools Program—a pilot program designed to assist Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) with treating and managing stormwater runoff from impervious sites, by utilizing Best Management Practices or BMPs. This collaborative effort between PGCPS and the CWP will help the County achieve its compliance goals, while also providing an educational legacy for future generations committed to managing the water quality in our communities.

Eighteen schools in Prince George’s County were selected by PGCPS to be evaluated by the CWP to receive new, green stormwater retrofits. This includes a combination of elementary, middle and high schools throughout the County. Various types of BMPs, including bio-retention cells, sand filters and bioswales, to name a few, are being installed by local contractors on the outdoor grounds of each location, that will reduce the impact of sediments and pollution that flows into our natural waterways.

In addition to retrofitting the outdoor grounds of each school, the CWP Schools Program includes an educational component that will be used as teaching tools to more than 15,000 Prince George’s County students. Select schools will receive instructive signage educating students about the benefits of managing stormwater runoff and displaying how installed BMPs will perform at each site. During the fall planting season, students and faculty from the schools will also have an opportunity to participate in a volunteer tree planting session that will support the installed BMP devices. These educational learning sessions will take place during school hours and will give students a hands-on experience in preserving our environment.

To learn more about the Clean Water Partnership Schools Program, visit our website at www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com or join the #CWPSchools conversation with @PGCCWP on Facebook or Twitter.

The End Time Harvest Ministries 2016 Summer Wellness Ambassador Program

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Summer 2016 was definitely something to remember for 50 eager and ambitious students at Bladensburg High School in Prince Georges County (PGC). For the second consecutive year, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) supported the End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM) Summer Wellness Ambassadors Environmental Health Summer Camp Program. The robust 6-week, paid internship allowed students to work as summer interns with multiple local businesses, connect stormwater management to health, and participate in real life work experiences to help them prepare for the workforce. At their respective work sites, the students implemented strategies for several innovative stormwater practices such as weeding outside garden beds, maintaining ditch trash traps, and conducting inspections on stormwater management pond/pumping stations.

Educators providing workshop curriculums to the students included the Anacostia Watershed Society, environmental and health professors from Howard University, as well as members from the University of Maryland—helping students to test their stormwater management knowledge. Each intern gained perspectives on how PGC stormwater management problems impact the wellbeing of county residents, and discovered how the issue doubles the health threat of malnutrition and obesity.

The students did manage to find some time for fun, partaking in experiential learning field trips. A pontoon excursion on the Anacostia River at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and a trip to the Bostwick House allowed students to view the current condition of the historic river and groom native plants at a nursery, which will be used on future County stormwater management projects. The amount of knowledge the students gained over the summer proved how successful the ETHM program has been year after year, with 48 out of the 50 students performing 13% higher on the post stormwater management knowledge test given at the end of the program.

ETHM and the CWP would like to thank Eco City Farms, Port Towns municipalities, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) and all of the other local businesses and organizations that employed these wonderful students throughout the summer, and provided opportunities for them to help sustain their communities.

To view a live interview of three ETHM interns discussing their experience working with the DPWT this summer, please visit the CWP YouTube channel! To learn more on how your business or organization can help employ, volunteer or financially support ETHM, please visit www.ethm.org.
Ensuring a Cleaner Future for Junior Achievement Finance Park Prince George’s County

LANDOVER, MARYLAND

Whenever there’s an opportunity for the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) to help the environment, create jobs for local workforce, and educate and inspire Prince George’s County youth about the negative effects of stormwater pollution, we gladly rise to the occasion. When the opportunity presented itself to perform stormwater retrofits at the Junior Achievement (JA) Finance Park in Prince George’s County, there was no way we were going to pass it up!

Earlier this year, our private partner Corvias announced its partnership with Junior Achievement of Greater Washington to perform stormwater retrofits through the CWP at their Finance Park located on the campus of G. James Gholson Middle School/Cora L. Rice Elementary Middle School in Landover, Maryland. Through a partnership with the Prince George’s County Public Schools System, signature sponsor Capital One, and the local business community, JA Finance Park impacts every 8th grade student in the County through 14-weeks of in-classroom personal finance curriculum taught by their teacher and an innovative, experiential 1-day experience at the facility led by volunteer role models from the community. The program provides students with a vigorous, hands-on budgeting experience, as well as exposure to an environmental solution to managing stormwater runoff.

The location currently has three bio-retention devices located in the front of the facility, and one in the back that has been revitalized to improve its performance and appearance. The completed project encompasses:

- A massive bed of native plants that process stormwater and provide habitats and food for nearby wildlife;
- Plants that includes pollinators to feed butterflies and hummingbirds; and
- A walkway consisting of permeable pavers

Benefits include a decrease in maintenance spending as a result of cost-saving stormwater collection and re-use, as well as the promotion of environmental awareness. The goal of this program is to provide students a glimpse of the work being instituted in the county through the Clean Water Partnership.

The project’s design and construction was completed by Minority Business Enterprises, Bradley Site Design and Green Forever, furthermore showcasing the CWP’s commitment to working with the small minority business community.

The unique partnership provides a great example of the private sector, government, and public school system coming together to help equip the youth of Prince George’s County with a sense of financial readiness and environmental stewardship.

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.
The CWP Highlighted at the 2016 Clinton Global America Conference

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

This year marked the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America’s sixth annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, bringing together leaders in business, government, and nonprofits, to develop and discuss solutions for economic growth, long-term competitiveness, and social mobility in the United States. The CGI, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges, and ultimately focuses on turning ideas into actions. A defining feature of CGI is their Commitment to Action; a specific and measurable plan for addressing a significant global challenge. To date, more than 3,400 commitments have been made by members of the CGI community, including the commitment to action made by Prince George’s County, MD and Corvias, to perform a bench-marking study of the county’s innovative Community-Based Public Private Partnership (CBP3) water investment model known as the Clean Water Partnership.

The CWP’s commitment to action—which focuses on addressing the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, while simultaneously emphasizing the needs of county residents and local businesses—was one of five commitments from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors highlighted on stage with former President Bill Clinton. Roland Jones, Director of Central Services for Prince George’s County, delivered the remarks on behalf of the CWP, providing a summary and progress update of the Partnership’s commitment in front of approximately 1000+ attendees. To view the video of the CWP’s update during the CGI America conference, you may do so by visiting the CWP website or by accessing the Clean Water Partnership’s YouTube page.

Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting Relocated to Prince George’s County

UPPER MARLBORO, MD

This summer, one of the Clean Water Partnership’s (CWP) general contractors, Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting (SMC), relocated its capital area office to Prince George’s County, MD and received certification as a County located business. SMC’s involvement in the CWP was the motivation behind the local, disadvantaged and women-owned business enterprise’s decision to relocate their employees from its former location in Virginia to its new location in Prince George’s County. Now located in Upper Marlboro, MD, SMC will transition into servicing construction clients throughout the capital area, while continuing to serve their current clients in Virginia.

Prior to working with the CWP, SMC had approximately 10 employees working in their Virginia office, with other capital area work supported by personnel located in the Baltimore area. SMC has been a general contracting partner with the Clean Water Partnership since its inception in 2015 and has since grown in staff with the volume of construction projects from the CWP. To date, SMC has hired four Prince George’s County residents, with the intent of hiring more as CWP projects and staffing needs continue to grow.

The firm’s long-term strategy is to build their Prince George’s County location to be self-sufficient, and the base of operations for all construction services provided to a wide range of clients throughout the capital area. With the relocation of SMC’s capital area office, all four of the general contractors working with the Partnership are now located in the County.

Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting
9311 Old Marlboro Pike, Unit C
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
http://swmaintenance.com/

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.

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