PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY | CORVIAS

CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

In 2015, Prince George's County entered into a community-based public-private partnership with Corvias, called the Clean Water Partnership (CWP), to meet US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water regulatory requirements while benefitting local businesses, schools, churches, and community members.

Phase one of the CWP will retrofit up to 2,000 acres of untreated impervious surfaces across the County. In addition to fostering the growth of local and Minority Business Enterprise companies, the CWP will work with the community to implement projects that will meet County compliance goals and educate the community on installed devices.

The CWP is using the following Best Management Practices (BMP) in completing projects across the County:

- Bioretention Gardens
- Bioswales
- Outfall Protection
- Permeable Pavement
- Pocket Sand Filters
- Pond Retrofits
- Regenerative Step Pool Storm Conveyance
- Stream Restoration
- Submerged Gravel Wetlands
- Tree Box Filters
- Tree Planting
- Wet Swales

Installation of Rip-Rap outfall at BMP-Gwynn Park High School

What is Stormwater? Why must it be treated?

Lawns, gardens, and bodies of water take in precipitation when it rains or snows, but roofs, paved roadways, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces cannot absorb this precipitation. This causes stormwater runoff, which often carries pollutants from those surfaces to local streams, rivers, and other bodies of water.

Runoff also poses problems on extremely warm days when precipitation enters local streams at high temperatures, creating a damaging environment for cold water wildlife. In addition, large storm events can cause water to enter these bodies of water too quickly, causing erosion of stream beds and embankments, potentially damaging waterways.

In order to achieve EPA compliance, the County must treat 15,000 acres of polluted runoff by 2025. The stormwater management devices installed by the CWP treat water and remove pollutants prior to entering local waterways. These devices can also slow down the pace of water entering bodies of water, so that it's cooler and safer for the wildlife habitat.

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How is the work being completed?

The CWP works closely with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Stormwater Management Division to obtain projects in dire need of retrofit.

The process includes local design engineers, surveyors, construction managers, stormwater maintenance consultants, and certifiers – ensuring all devices installed are built to meet the County's compliance goals and provide community benefits.

To organize this large effort, the CWP has developed various programs that create collaboration opportunities amongst County agency partners, municipal leaders, environmental organizations and private property owners. The programs include:

- **Alternative Compliance Program (ACP)** A partnership between the County and qualified 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt faith-based organizations. Organizations apply to be considered for the installation of one or more BMPs on their property. Qualified, participating organizations are eligible to receive a reduction in their Clean Water Act Fee.

- **Schools Program** The CWP is treating stormwater runoff on school sites across the County in partnership with the Prince George's County Public School System. Working with the PGC Public School's Capital Improvement Program office, schools must apply and attend a series of meetings with the CWP to ensure as little disruption as possible to school operations. Upon project completion, a group of students participate in a planting session. They learn about the devices and how they will improve water quality, and about native plants used to filter stormwater runoff.

- **General Production and Municipal Yards Program** Includes sites eligible for BMP installation within the 27 municipalities of the County. Designers coordinate with property owners, community associations, and Municipal leaders to garner support for proposed BMPs. This holistic approach provides opportunities for collaboration with the program's stakeholders.