



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 and benefit local businesses, schools, churches, and community members. This document addresses the most common questions received about the partnership.



Completed Greenbelt Lake project

General

1. *What is stormwater management?*

Stormwater management is the process of managing surface runoff using the construction of a variety of drainage structures for runoff occurring on urban, rural, and agricultural lands.

2. *Why do we need to manage stormwater?*

The increased rate and volume of stormwater runoff pollutes streams, wetlands, lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay. The goal of stormwater management is to restore water resources so they are fishable and swimmable and to protect the quality of the future water supply.

3. *What is stormwater runoff?*

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snow flows over land and cannot be absorbed by the ground and increases when rain falls on impervious surfaces. The runoff is collected in ditches, inlets, and pipes and is discharged to a stream, pond, or wetland.

4. *What is an impervious surface and what happens when it's retrofitted?*

An impervious surface is one which does not allow water to soak through. Examples include: roofs, sidewalks, driveways, and roadways.

There are several ways to retrofit or treat the runoff from impervious surfaces. Improvements can be as simple as installing a vegetative buffer strip around the perimeter of a designated area, installing a tree island in a parking area; installing permeable concrete, permeable brick and concrete pavers; or permeable asphalt.

5. *How do stormwater management projects work to treat polluted runoff?*

Stormwater management projects may either filter pollutants and reduce the rate and volume of runoff or change the ground surface to allow stormwater to slowly infiltrate back into the ground and ultimately discharge into appropriate bodies of water.

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6. *What is a BMP? How does it relate to stormwater management?*

A Best Management Practice (BMP) is a technique used to reduce the volume and rate of stormwater runoff and filter the pollutants found in the runoff. These techniques and devices are located at collection or discharge points along the drainage path.

7. *What kind of BMPs are being installed as part of the CWP program?*

Bioretention, Bioswales, Impervious Pavement removal, Micro-Bioretention, Outfall Protection, Pocket Sand Filters, Pond Retrofits, Regenerative Stop Pool Storm Conveyance, Stream Restorations, Submerged Gravel Wetland, Tree Box Filters, Tree Plantings, Wet Swales. You can visit the website to obtain more information on the different types of BMPs: thecleanwaterpartnership.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Citizen-fact-sheets_FINAL_052616.pdf

8. *How do I find out if there are any planned projects in my neighborhood?*

You may view the County's DoE Map, at www.mde.state.md.us/Pages/Home.aspx or the Clean Water Partnership map, at www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com to find out where projects are being planned or constructed.

9. *Can the area around the stormwater facility be used during construction?*

Each project has different public use areas and requirements, and projects are planned so the work can be executed as quickly as possible with minimal disruption. The CWP's Community Outreach team works with the Project Manager to communicate all ground work to those who use the site.

10. *How much work is required in order for Prince George's County to be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates?*

To meet EPA Clean Water regulatory requirements, Prince George's County must treat 15,000 acres of polluted runoff by 2025. The CWP has been tasked with treating up to 2,000 acres of these impervious surfaces.

11. *Is there anything I can do at home to prevent stormwater runoff?*

Individual property owners can apply for the Rain Check Rebate Program which provides eligible applicants the opportunity to receive rebates for installing approved stormwater management practices. Homeowners, businesses, and nonprofit entities can recover some of the costs of installing practices covered by the program. Visit: www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.6D3F/Prince_George8217s_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm for more details.



Francis Scott Key Elementary School tree planting session



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12. Will the work impact traffic in my area?

The majority of CWP projects will be built in public right-of-ways and are designed with no interference to roadway traffic. In instances where traffic may be impacted, the team will develop a traffic control plan to minimize impacts.

13. How are the projects funded?

In 2010, the federal government required states to meet new standards under the Clean Water Act to address stormwater runoff pollution from impervious areas. To meet this mandate, Maryland's governor signed into law House Bill 987 requiring nine Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore to collect a fee from property owners to implement a stormwater program. The Clean Water Act Fee, collected by Prince George's County, is being utilized for the CWP and other projects across the County.

14. Who is responsible for maintenance of the installed devices?

The CWP will perform functional maintenance — including repair/restoration of BMPs, life cycle maintenance, repair to structural integrity of outfalls, and more — on all projects installed under the program for 30 years. Thereafter, the County will assume responsibility.

15. Who is the primary point of contact for the Clean Water Partnership?

Community Outreach and Communications:

Tasha Brokenberry

Tasha.Brokenberry@corvias.com

MBE Contracting Opportunities:

Nicole Copeland

Nicole.Copeland@TheCleanWaterPartnership.com

General Stormwater Project Information:

Pete Littleton

Peter.Littleton@corvias.com

Procurement

1. Are there opportunities for my business to work on a retrofit program?

Registering your business is the first step in the CWP procurement process, allowing CWP to validate suppliers' capabilities and ensure compliance with program requirements.

Registrations can be submitted to CWP Contractor Development Manager, Nicole Copeland. The Subcontractor Registration Application is shared by Ms. Copeland with our General Contractors and Consultants working on the program to be added to their bidder's list.

The Subcontractor Registration Application package can be requested by emailing Nicole.copeland@thecleanwaterpartnership.com or by downloading at the following: thecleanwaterpartnership.com/subcontractor-registration/



Capitol Heights Elementary School pavement removal



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2. *Who are the General Contractors and Design Engineers working on the Clean Water Partnership?*

- AED, Inc.
- Belstar, Inc.
- Bowman Consulting
- Bradley Site Design, Inc.
- Charles P. Johnson & Associates, LLC
- D&F Construction Company, Inc.
- EBA Engineering, Inc.
- Essex Construction, LLC
- Fort Myer Construction Corporation
- Low Impact Development Center, Inc.
- Nardi Construction, Inc.
- Soltesz, LLC
- Stormwater Maintenance & Consulting, LLC
- Total Civil Construction & Engineering, LLC

3. *Where can I find Clean Water Partnership contracting opportunities?*

Clean Water Partnership projects that are planned for production in the next 90 days can be viewed at thecleanwaterpartnership.com/bid-opportunities/.

All bidding opportunities will be made available through the listed General Contractors. To be considered for these opportunities, please pre-register your business with the Clean Water Partnership at thecleanwaterpartnership.com/subcontractor-registration/



Construction at St. Ambrose Church

Local, Small and Minority Business

1. *Are there any minority business goals?*

The Clean Water Partnership has target class goals to utilize Prince George's County's certified local, small, minority and women-owned businesses for 30–40 percent of the total project scope.

2. *Is any of this work being completed by local businesses?*

Construction of these projects will be executed by local business enterprises, with a requirement of 50% of the annual target class amount.

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Property Owners

1. *Who decides what type of retrofit should be constructed on my property?*

The CWP has a team of planners, engineers, construction companies, and outreach staff who understand the local site conditions, BMP designs, regulations and community issues. Once the best technical location is selected, we will work with residents and property owners to make sure the projects are a good fit.

2. *What is the procedure if I decide to provide access to my property?*

There are several types of agreements that we can use to access property, construct the project, and maintain the facilities. This includes rights of entry and easements. We will coordinate with property owners to help work through any concerns.

Environment

1. *Will this affect the existing landscape and greenery?*

Some of the construction may require transplanting or removal of existing vegetation. We will replant these areas and in many cases, enhance the plantings or do new plantings.

2. *If trees are removed to complete a retrofit, can they be saved?*

Some designs will require the removal of trees to help stabilize channels or install BMPs. In those instances, surveyors will work with design engineers to ensure that there is protection and special care for larger and specimen trees. If needed, the team has access to organizations that specialize in green infrastructure planning, with respect to tree preservation. Furthermore, inspectors will assess the site to ensure all tree regulations are met before construction begins. The CWP will replant areas with the removal of larger trees.



Templeton Elementary School tree planting session



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3. *If trees are removed, are there plans for reforestation?*

Any disturbance of wooded areas over 5,000 square feet will require a tree conservation and forest restoration plan that must be approved by the County. The CWP will also plant trees and remove invasive plants in areas that are below this threshold as part of our environmental enhancement projects.

4. *How will this impact fish and wildlife?*

These projects will reduce and filter sediments, nutrient sources such as fertilizer, and other pollutants that negatively impact fish and wildlife.

5. *What is a stream restoration project?*

Stream restoration involves stabilizing the banks of streams using vegetation and rock structures. This helps to reduce the erosion of stream banks and bottoms caused by the large volume of runoff rapidly entering the stream from untreated impervious areas. These projects often include changing the channel geometry so that more of a natural system can be created that can maintain healthy wildlife habitat.

6. *Why is stream erosion a problem?*

Sediment from stream erosion carries pollutants and reduces the clarity of the water in a stream. This reduces the available oxygen in the water which is critical to having a healthy habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Pond Projects

1. *What is the purpose and typical scope of a pond retrofit project?*

Many ponds in the County are not designed to meet current water quality standards. A pond project typically includes removing sediment and debris in and around the pond, restoring or installing forebays at the entrance to reduce sediment loads, installing wetlands and safety benches around the perimeter, and retrofitting outfall structures to discharge water more efficiently. This construction is supported by ongoing site maintenance.

2. *How large are the ponds you are retrofitting?*

There are over 1,000 publicly and privately maintained ponds in the County. These range in size from surface areas of about a ¼ acre to several acres. We are generally going to retrofit ponds with drainage areas of 10 acres or more and surface areas of over 1/3 acre.

3. *What will you do to combat mosquitos?*

Our maintenance program will include plantings to help ensure a healthy habitat around the perimeter of the pond. These features are designed to attract dragonflies and other wildlife that feed on mosquitos. Removing debris and sediments on a regular basis will also reduce mosquito breeding areas.



Greenbelt Lake site



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Alternative Compliance Program (ACP)

1. *What is the Alternative Compliance Program?*

The ACP is a voluntary program for faith-based and qualifying 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The CWP will construct and maintain the BMPs on the property and the organization will receive a reduced stormwater fee. The organization can also receive fee reductions by conducting stormwater outreach and educational programs for its members. Learn more at thecleanwaterpartnership.com/alternative-compliance-program

2. *How does the Alternative Compliance Program relate to stormwater management?*

There are over 1,000 faith based and non-profit organizations with properties in the County, often with large parking lots and roof areas where BMPs can be installed.

3. *Who manages the Alternative Compliance Program?*

Prince George's County
Department of the Environment
Stormwater Management Division
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, Maryland 20774

4. *How is the Alternative Compliance Program funded?*

The program is funded in the same manner as other CWP work, through the Clean Water Act Fee collected by Prince George's County.



Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church



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5. *How can my organization become a part of the Alternative Compliance Program?*

You may download an application at:

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/311/Alternative-Compliance and complete an application. Please submit completed forms as an attachment through the County Click 311 website at: countyclick.princegeorgescountymd.gov/

You may also print and mail a copy of the application to the County:

El Hadji D. Fall, P.E., CFM.
Program Coordinator
Prince George's County
Department of the Environment
Stormwater Management Division
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

6. *My organization submitted an application for the ACP program stormwater but the project has not started yet. What is the approximate timeframe for the project?*

It takes up to two months to review the application, assess the site to make sure there are opportunities for BMP construction, and reach an agreement with the organization. The design and construction process could take up to six months. Finally, construction and project close-out can take one to four months depending on the time of year and coordination with the organization.



CWP Mentor Protege Program meeting