CWP Joins Prince George’s County’s Annual Green Summit

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) participated in Prince George’s County’s fifth annual Green Summit. Joining the Department of the Environment (DoE) in October, the free, one-day Green Summit engaged, promoted, and empowered information seekers to hear more about environmental and health issues affecting the County they call home.

Attendees at the event — held at the Kentland Community Center — enjoyed green vendors, workshops, food trucks and raffle prizes. CWP Outreach team members Herb Kennedy and Rosalind Styles, joined in this sustainability effort, to greet community members and educated the public about green infrastructure.

Fielding questions from educators, students and the community leaders, the CWP outreach team provided community members with information and educational materials. This outreach effort also included CWP branded swag, like plantable seeded bookmarks, towels, pens, and our famed raindrop stress balls.

In a testament to CWP’s commitment to outreach, many community members indicated that they were already familiar with the program and spoke of stormwater retrofit projects in their neighborhoods. Eager to partner with community leaders and stakeholders, the CWP looks forward to participating in even more green-focused events in the weeks and months ahead.
Treating & Teaching Program to Expand Across Prince George’s County Public Schools

Eight Prince George’s County Public Schools will receive new outdoor classrooms in 2020 as part of a new expansion of the highly successful Treating & Teaching Program.

The schools selected as part of the program include John Bayne Elementary School, Carrollton Elementary, Crossland High School, Eisenhower Middle School, Robert Goddard Montessori, Waldon Woods Elementary, Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion, and Woodmore Elementary School.

The Treating & Teaching program, supported by the Clean Water Partnership, the community-based partnership between Prince George’s County and Corvias, promotes stewardship of Prince George’s County waterways and environmental literacy in Prince George’s County Public Schools. Students will help to design the learning spaces and will actively participate in planting and arranging the classrooms during installation, providing hands-on time working with the soil and learning about how the plants contribute to cleaner water within their watershed.

“In partnership with Prince George’s County and the Clean Water Partnership, this incredible expansion of the Treating and Teaching program will have a profound impact on hundreds of local students by making stormwater management and environmental literacy an active part of their classrooms and curriculum,” said Keisha Brown, Corvias Partnership Liaison. “Corvias and Prince George’s County are proud of the environmental and socioeconomic value to the community through the Clean Water Partnership, a community-based partnership, that has helped to limit pollution and clean waterways thanks to support from local businesses and the community.”

Created in 2016, the Treating and Teaching program is funded by Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, the Clean Water Partnership, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.

Program partners include the Anacostia Watershed Society, Bradley Site Design, Low Impact Development Center, Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, The Neighborhood Design Center, Out Teach, and the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center.

A Robust School Construction Year Winds Down with Interactive, Hands-On Planting Events

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) worked hand-in-hand with local Prince George’s County Public School (PGCPS) students to help make a “Cleaner, Greener Prince George’s County” this year.

Following the principles of our motto, the CWP, with the help of environmental partners that include Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), William Schmidt Center and Landscape Designers, worked together with tomorrow’s leaders to support the health of our waterways.

Known as the “Treating & Teaching” program, this collaborative partnership provides teachers and maintenance staff with the tools and resources necessary to build curriculums around stormwater technology and the proper techniques on aesthetic maintenance.

This year, we installed 16 bio-retention devices at participating schools across the county. These newly installed bio-retention basins, rain gardens and catch basins manage stormwater and chronic flooding while improving visual aesthetics of the school area. Over the last [NUMBER] of years, this amazing partnership has manifested into a well-oiled vehicle designed to educate Prince George’s County students on the importance of sustainable stormwater management and environmental stewardship beginning in their own schools.

The CWP along with AWS and Bradley Site Design collaborated on a series of hands-on, interactive planting events with green team students throughout the County. The CWP team tasked each school with assembling a group of environmentally conscious students, known as “green teams,” who helped to plan and champion these planting events. The hands-on, interactive planting event provided students with instructional opportunities to engage directly with our team of experts on how the facilities work and how they can contribute to a cleaner, greener Prince George’s County.

The planting events wrap up a year-long program with school administrators, maintenance teams and green team champions with each being trained on the importance of the project to our existing watershed and how to manage the site upon completion. The devices are designed so that minimal maintenance is required of PGCPS and the program is structured so that the CWP provides ongoing annual maintenance of each of the devices over the next 30 years.

We are proud of our partnership with the County and the long-term benefits that these stormwater management devices will provide to residents, our students and the environment. Kudos to the entire team for a job well done! We are#PrinceGeorgesProud!

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 Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team had the pleasure of joining the Potomac Knolls Homeowners Association (HOA) this holiday season for an important dinner and discussion about stormwater improvements in their community.

The December meeting of the Potomac Knolls HOA featured a holiday feast for attendees, including turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, bread stuffing, turnip greens, and “sweet tea.” Each month, Community Manager Deborah Proctor caters a delicious dinner spread for her community while providing important updates for her neighbors.

And for dessert, CWP team members provided a sweet overview about the stormwater program and its benefits. The CWP project team introduced themselves to the community, offering direct points of contact for questions and concerns about the stormwater program. CWP representatives included Greg Harless; contractor from SMC LLC; Brian Davila; Designer from CPJ LLC; Kristina Bigby, CWP Outreach Coordinator and Herbert Kennedy, CWP Outreach Coordinator.

Invited by the Potomac Knolls community, the CWP team was thrilled to inform the Potomac Knolls HOA about upcoming scheduled pond retrofits within their community; this included a thorough explanation of the construction and pond excavation process. At the meeting, the CWP team also presented information about the program’s overall goals, project details and specific construction information.

The CWP project team educated the community on various topics, such as defining stormwater runoff and best management practices that treat stormwater to improve water quality.

The team also fielded questions from the community that focused on tree removal requirements, project work hours, construction material staging areas and continued maintenance on the new stormwater device.

The CWP team and HOA meeting attendees left that evening satiated with both good food and good information!
After years of anticipation, the Prince George’s Clean Water Partnership (CWP) recently completed stormwater improvements to the Jewish Community Center and Miskan Torah Synagogue.

Made possible by the Prince George’s County Department of Environment’s Alternative Compliance Program, the CWP team worked diligently to ensure that the stormwater best management and best practices would be installed on the property, including rain gardens and tree planting, to capture and treat the Stormwater runoff from the property. The CWP team worked in collaboration with the City of Greenbelt, Greenbelt Housing Inc. and residents within the neighborhood to complete the project.

“I’m very happy with the final outcome and improvements to the property where the raingarden was installed to include the replanting of the trees and landscaping,” said Rebecca Hirsch, Miskan Torah Synagogue Building Committee Chair. “As far as I am concerned the project is a complete SUCCESS!”

The Alternative Compliance Program is an elective partnership between Prince George’s County and qualified nonprofit organizations and tax exempt faith-based organizations to improve County water quality by reducing and treating stormwater runoff.

Joining the wide and expansive pool of the Clean Water Partnership (CWP), Grace Management & Construction LLC has cemented its role as a new general contractor after having graduating from the CWP Mentor Protégé Program.

Grace Management & Construction LLC, a certified Prince George’s County small, minority and women-owned business, has been awarded its first contract as a General Contractor for the program, where they are currently working to install a micro-bio retention structure at the First Church of Christ Scientist in Hyattsville, Md.

While in the MPP, Grace had the opportunity to subcontract with the CWP Program’s General Contractors and successfully completed an installations of a microbio retention and trench drain systems. Following this success, Grace Management was selected to enter an additional capacity building Prime Protégé program to perform as a General Contractor. As part of the business assessment completed for all MPPs, the CWP team learned of Chris Williams’ interest in growing into a General Contractor and as a result of continued mentoring (following the bid out and award) Grace is acting as the General Contractor at the First Church Scientist project with the support of the rest of the CWP team.

Emphasizing its local business commitment, the Clean Water Partnership promotes and empowers certified small, minority and women-owned businesses throughout Prince George’s County to develop green infrastructure skills and build local capacity for a green economy.

In the Community—Catch us if you can!

1. Junior Achievement Volunteer Day
2. Rogers Heights Elementary School Planting Event
CWP’s Stormwater Fest a Success for Second Straight Year

Over 150 Prince George’s County residents and community stakeholders attended the highly anticipated Clean Water Partnership’s Fall Stormwater Fest. Held on October 26, the second annual event included Halloween costumes, a bounce house, face painting and valuable information sessions for Prince George’s County residents regarding the stormwater management program.

In addition to games and costumes, attendees visited stormwater exhibits, and various decorated “trunk or treat” vehicle trunks. Residents and CWP partners let loose with their creative sides with various themed and interactive exhibits, and unique, stormwater themed costumes.

Trunk themes included “The Cookie Monster of Sesame Street” designed by Charles P. Johnson and Associates (CPJ) and “The Grinch Who Stole Stormwaterville” designed by Tina Boyd and Associates (TB&A). However, HDR took home the first-place prize for “Jurassic Park” inspired theme exhibit. The use of real tree branches, recycled cardboard boxes and giant footprints leading away from the trunk clinched the win.

The event exhibits included engaging information for the community and project stakeholders. Youth attendees also received a “passport” at the registration table, which encouraged young explorers to visit each exhibit in order to receive stamps so they could attend a demonstration. Some of the exhibits included:

- Stormwater Maintenance Consultants’ (SMC) pervious vs. impervious surface exhibit;
- Maryland Environmental Service’s (MES) stormwater flow exhibit; and
- Maryland Department of the Environment (DOE) for their rain gauge giveaways and coloring books made from reusable materials.

Thanks to participation from local partners, the fun-filled morning ended with free prize raffles for rain barrels and gift certificates to local businesses, continuing to broaden the Partnership’s role in Prince George’s County and making sure the local community is in the know as everyone works together to create a cleaner and greener region.
Project Highlights

Barlowe Road Police Dept. Bio Retention Porous Paver

Walker Mill Middle School Micro-bioretention & Swale

CWP Maintenance Transfer Site Median Route 202

CWP Partners

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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.