



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

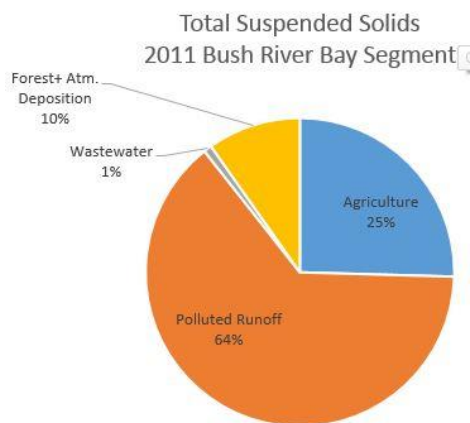
Saving a National Treasure

Stay Strong on Stormwater

December 2013

HARFORD COUNTY HAS A PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF FOULS OUR WATER, CLOSES OUR BEACHES, THREATENS OUR HEALTH

Polluted runoff is a major source of water pollution in Harford County, especially to streams and rivers that flow through populated areas, such as the Bush River and its tributaries. Runoff is the reason we have closed beaches and swimming advisories each summer. It's the reason the county health department warns all residents to avoid contact with county rivers and streams for a full 48 hours after a significant storm because runoff carries dangerous levels of bacteria into swimming areas. Unhealthy bacteria levels were recorded at least 25 times on the Severn River alone this past summer, some readings as high as 15 times higher than safety limits. We've nearly finished upgrading sewage plants. Now it's time to fix our stormwater systems.



On its webpage, Servicemaster Restore says:

"Water damage is the most common disaster to affect Harford County and Baltimore County homes."

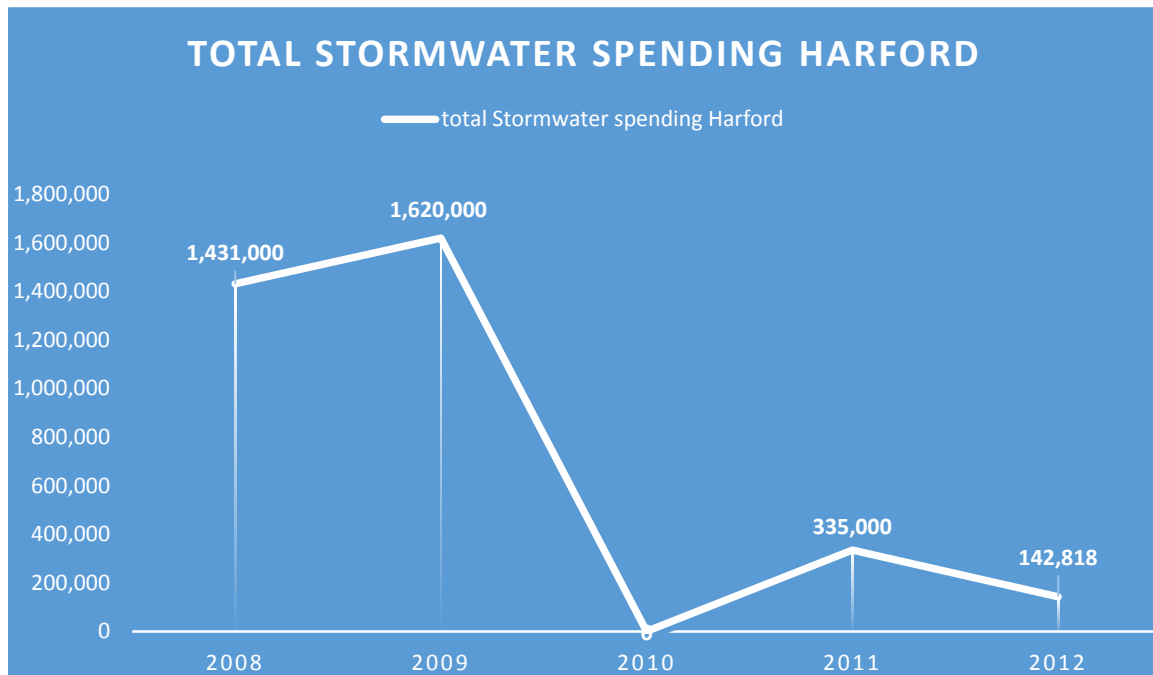
Source: CB Watershed 5.3 2011 progress run edge of stream load estimates.

Fifteen projects that would have helped ease the problems from polluted runoff in Harford County were put on hold this year alone. The projects (and amount shortchanged):

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| 8) | Joppatowne Area Watershed Restoration (\$1,500,000) |
| 9) | Lilly Run Watershed Restoration (\$250,000) |
| 10) | Maintenance/Repair of Dams (\$65,000) |
| 11) | Plumtree Run Watershed Restoration (\$2,000,000) |
| 12) | Sams Branch Watershed Restoration (\$750,000) |
| 13) | Stormwater Enhancement (\$75,000) |
| 14) | Stormwater Pollution Prevention (\$500,000) |
| 15) | Watershed/Stream Assessment Studies (\$500,000) |

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| 1) | Wheel Creek Watershed Restoration (\$200,000) |
| 2) | Woodland Run Stream Restoration (\$400,000) |
| 3) | South Bond Water Quality Demonstration (\$120,000) |
| 4) | Declaration Run Watershed Restoration (\$1,250,000) |
| 5) | Deer Creek Watershed Restoration (\$500,000) |
| 6) | Edgewood Plaza Retrofit and Stream Restoration (\$250,000) |
| 7) | Watershed Restoration/Improvements (\$9,250,000) |

Historically, Harford's spending on this problem has fluctuated



Source: NPDES MS4 2009-2011 Annual Report, Harford County, MD, Aug. 2, 2012

In fact, this year the county has allocated ZERO capital funds to address this problem, apart from the funding that will result from the reasonable stormwater fee. (Source – Hudson Myers, deputy director, Harford Division of Highways and Stormwater Management). When everyone contributes, everyone will benefit. In fact, the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center estimates, for instance, that for every \$100 million nearby Anne Arundel invests in stormwater improvements, the county will gain \$220 million in economic benefits and almost 800 jobs.

Innovative solutions are sitting on county drawing boards. What's been missing: funding.

Stay strong on stormwater fees.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Founded in 1967, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation organization dedicated to saving a national treasure—the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams. Its motto, Save the Bay, defines the organization's mission and commitment. With headquarters in Annapolis, MD, offices in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, and 17 field centers, CBF works throughout the Chesapeake Bay's 64,000-square-mile watershed to build an informed citizenry, advocate pollution-reduction strategy, and enforce the law. CBF is supported by more than 200,000 active members and has a staff of 170 full-time employees. Approximately 80 percent of CBF's \$23.6 million annual budget is privately raised.

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