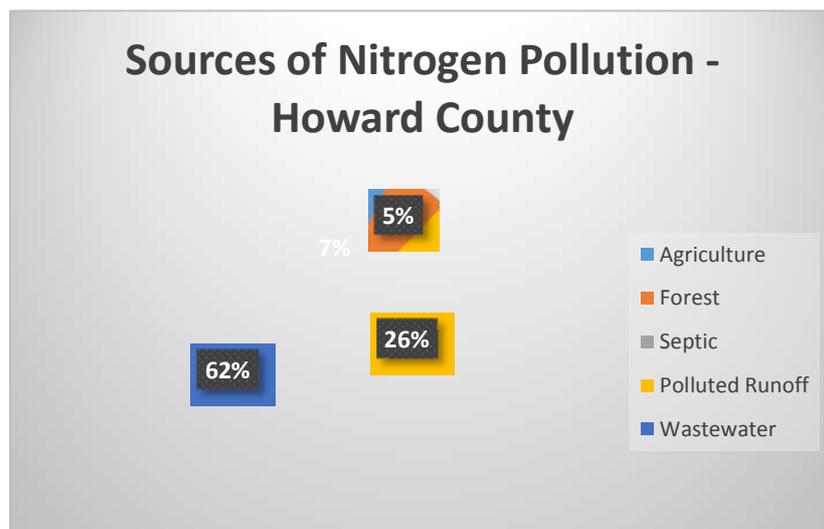




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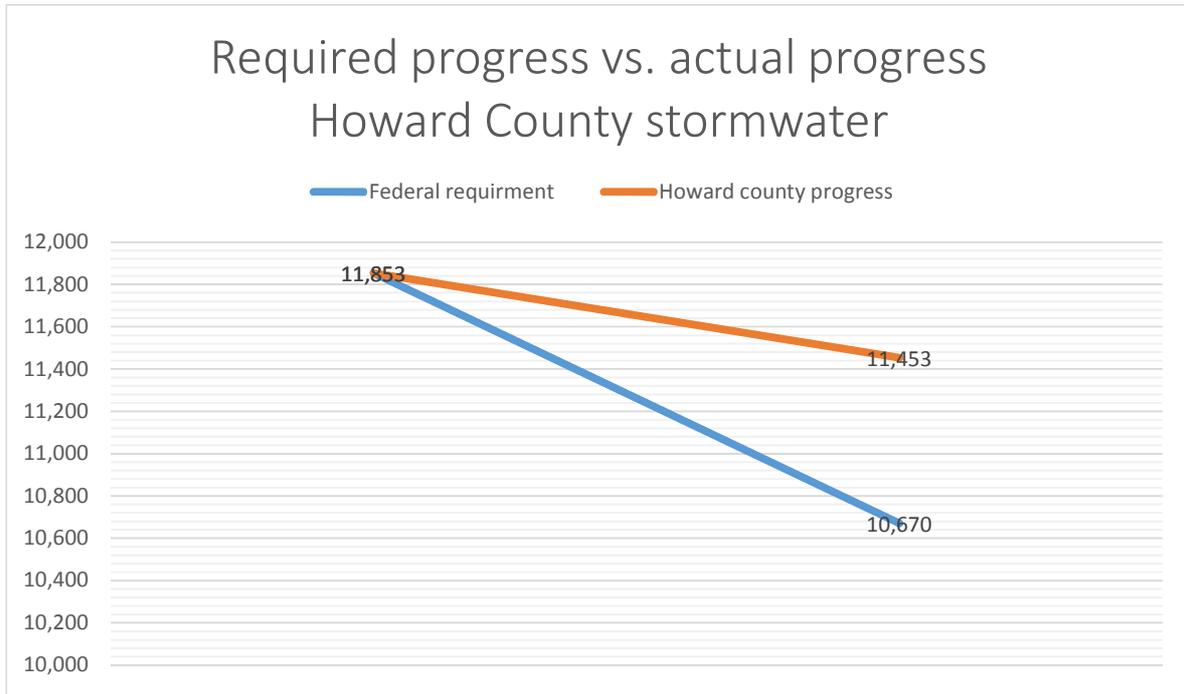
HOWARD COUNTY HAS A BIG PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF

Polluted runoff is a major source of pollution in Howard County. About one-quarter of the nitrogen pollution in county rivers comes from polluted runoff, and much of its sediment pollution. Dog waste, chemicals and other contaminants run off county streets, parking lots, and other surfaces during a rain storm, and discharge straight into the Patuxent River, Patapsco River and other rivers and creeks. This toxic flush is called stormwater. Howard County and the state are getting a handle on the largest source of nitrogen pollution: sewage plants. Thanks in part to funding from the “flush fee,” for instance, the upgrading of the Little Patuxent sewage plan was completed in 2012. The plant is discharging 205,000 fewer pounds of nitrogen pollution a year after the upgrade. The Patapsco sewage plant that also receives county sewage will be upgraded by 2016. The county isn’t making the same progress reducing polluted runoff (see page 2). This problem increases the flooding of basements and roads. It also makes downstream water unfit for human recreation and marine life.



Source: Howard County Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan, revised July, 2012

THE COUNTY LAGS FAR BEHIND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE POLLUTED RUNOFF; DEPENDABLE FUNDING IS CRITICAL



Source: Mark S. Richmond, Howard County Storm Water Management Division

Howard County is well behind the “watershed restoration” requirements set in its current federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. To reduce polluted runoff, the permit required the county to improve treatment of polluted runoff on 1,185 acres – or 10 percent of the county’s total hard (impervious) acres where the pollution wasn’t being treated. The county had five years to achieve the improvements, from 2005-2010. The permit has been extended, giving Howard County two extra years. But as of June, 2012, the county had improved 400 acres, or about 3.3 percent of its impervious surfaces. The county is doing some excellent work to reduce polluted runoff: restoring streams, better managing residential and commercial application of lawn fertilizer, improving stormwater ponds, planting trees and using other strategies. It also has plans for effective new projects. But a new NPDES is about to be issued to the county which will DOUBLE the requirements for watershed restoration, requiring the county to improve treatment on an additional 20 percent of its impervious surface. The county isn’t meeting current requirements with current funding; it can’t possibly meet the tougher new standards without some increased, dependable source of revenue.

Innovative solutions are sitting on county drawing boards. What’s 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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