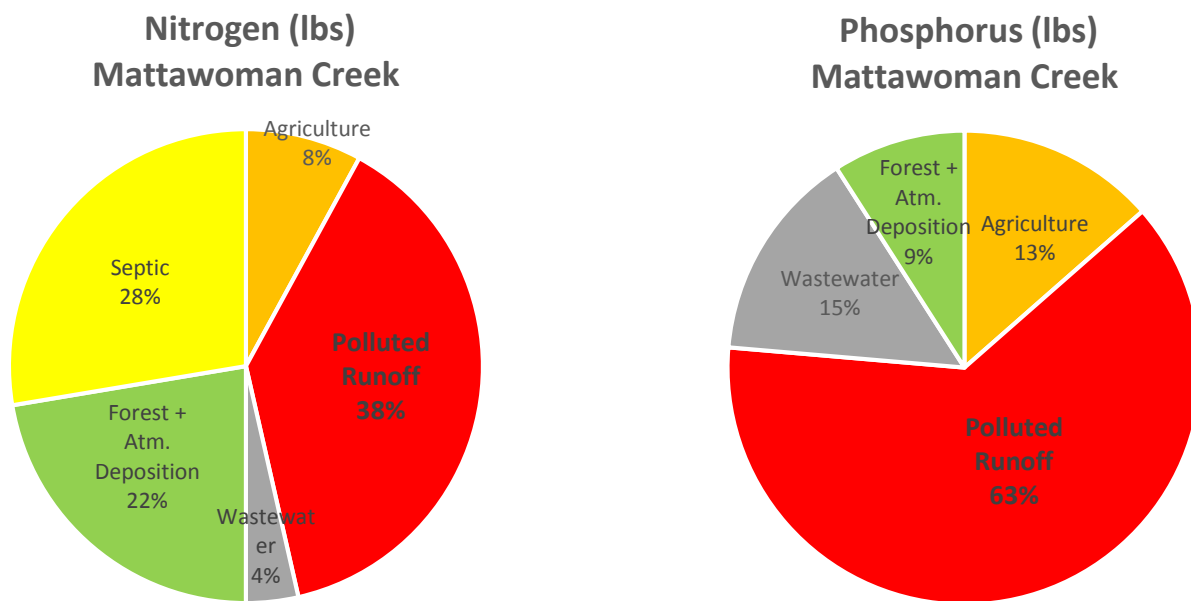




December 2013

## CHARLES COUNTY HAS A BIG PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF

Polluted runoff is THE LARGEST SOURCE OF NUTRIENT POLLUTION in some of Charles County's most valuable creeks and rivers. About 38 percent of the nitrogen pollution in the Mattawoman Creek, for instance, comes from polluted runoff, and 63 percent of the phosphorus pollution. Dog waste, chemicals, lawn fertilizer and other contaminants run off county streets, parking lots, and other surfaces during a rain storm, and in many cases discharge straight into local creeks. Charles County and the state are getting a handle on pollution from sewage plants. Thanks to funding from the "flush fee," for instance, the Mattawoman sewage plan was upgraded in 2007. As a result, the plant now discharges 462,296 fewer pounds of nitrogen pollution a year. The county isn't making the same progress reducing polluted runoff (see page 2). Urban and suburban runoff makes water unfit for human recreation and marine life. It also increases basement and street flooding. Charles County needs a reliable source of funding to reduce pollution runoff.

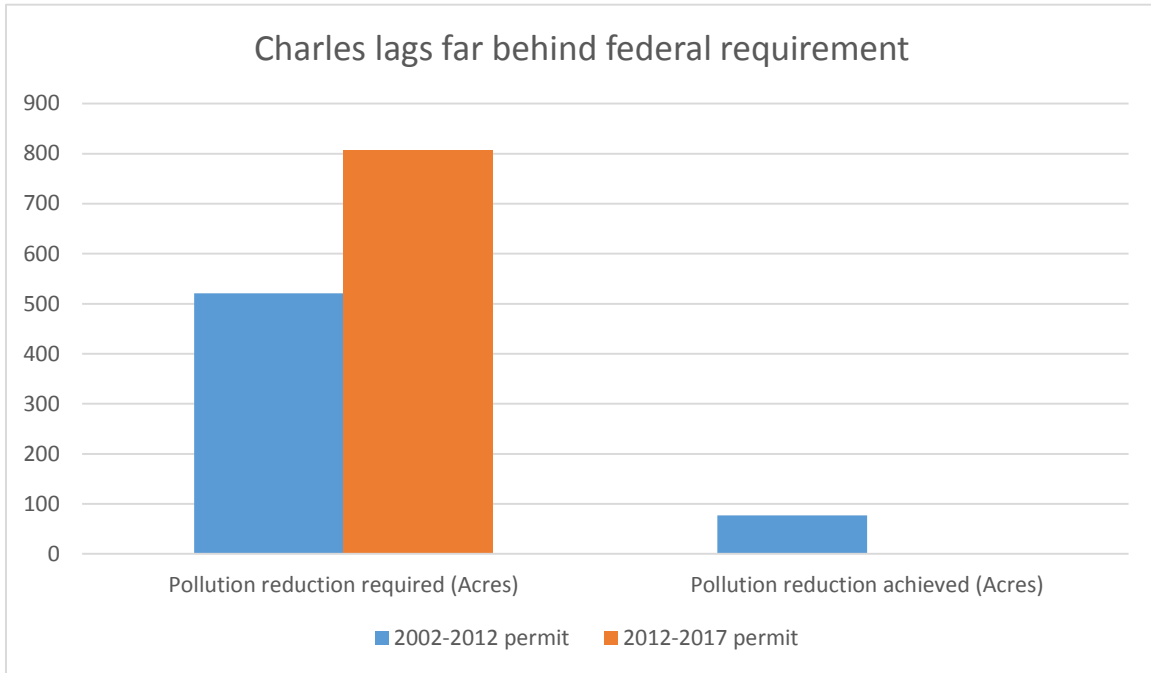


Source: Chesapeake Bay Program 2011 Progress Run Modeled Loads



**Sound familiar:**  
*"Homes all across the region experienced flood damage due to last week's rain, and those with basements are now in the unenviable situation of having to dry out and repair the damage done." BayNet, 10/6/2010*

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



Source: Charles County 2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Annual Report

Charles County has fallen far behind the “watershed restoration” goals set in its federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The permit regulates the county’s discharge of polluted runoff. The permit set a goal for the county to improve treatment of polluted runoff on a total of 286 acres between 2002-2007, or 10 percent of all hard surfaces. The permit time subsequently was extended, giving the county a total of 10 years to achieve that goal. Yet the county has only improved 87 acres needing treatment, or 3 percent. What explains the poor progress? Lack of funding. The county estimates it could have achieved the full goal if it had spent an additional \$6.2 million over those 10 years. The gap also represents real neighborhoods throughout the county (below) which have runoff problems, but must continue to wait for improvement projects.

The county is about to be issued a new permit which will require an additional 286 acres to be improved. **The county isn’t meeting current requirements with current funding; it can’t possible meet the new permit requirements without some increased, dependable source of revenue.**

Communities waiting for help when money is finally available include: Fox Run, Lancaster, West Lakes Village, Ryon Woods, White Plains, St. Charles, Wakefield, Bannister, Hunt Club and Northwood.

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.