

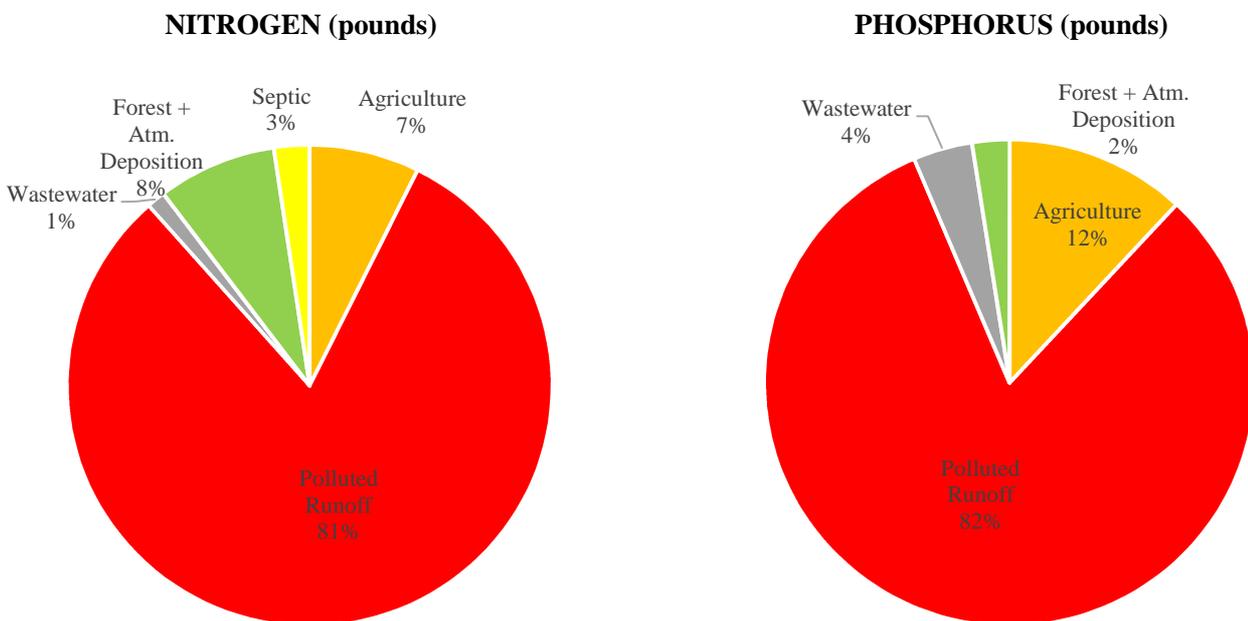


January 2014

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HAS A BIG PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF**

Polluted runoff is the largest source of water pollution in many Prince George's County creeks and rivers. In the Anacostia River, for instance, 81 percent of the nitrogen pollution comes from polluted runoff, and 82 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 the Anacostia River, Patuxent River and Piscataway Creek. This runoff makes water unfit for human recreation and marine life. It is the reason health officials warn us not to touch our creeks for two days after a rain storm; the water is too full of unhealthy bacteria that washed off the land. Runoff also increases local flooding. As an area is paved over, rain that would have soaked into the ground rushes with increasing volume and speed over the hardened landscape. The result: flooded basements and streets. Prince George's County needs a reliable source of funding to reduce polluted runoff.

**Anacostia River Pollution**

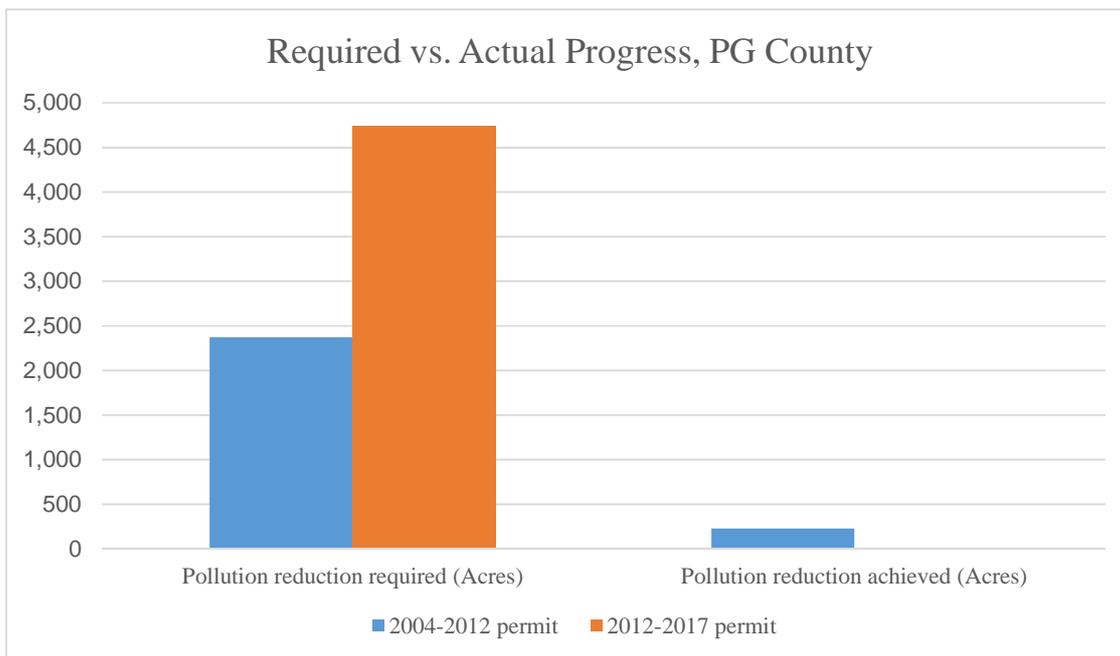


Source: Chesapeake Bay Program 2011 Progress Run Modeled Loads



**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

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAGS FAR BEHIND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE POLLUTED RUNOFF; DEPENDABLE FUNDING IS CRITICAL



Sources: Prince George's County 2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Annual Report, Addendum "Permit Administration"; Prince George's County Final Watershed Implementation Plan, July, 2012

Prince George's County has fallen far behind the "watershed restoration" goals set in its federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. 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 2,369 acres between 2004-2009, or 10 percent of all hard surfaces. The permit time subsequently was extended, giving the county a total of nine years to achieve that goal. Yet the county has only improved 229 acres needing treatment, **or less than one percent**. What explains the poor progress? Lack of funding. And it gets worse. The county recently received a new permit that **DOUBLES** expectations for the next five years. During that time the county must restore an additional 4,738 acres. But there's good news. After extensive study, the county believes it can achieve its permit goals, using a stormwater utility fee and an innovative public-private partnership to reduce overall costs long term. This program will fund hundreds of projects in neighborhoods throughout the county, reducing local flooding, and improving water quality.

Prince George's County has a big problem. Now, it also has a solution.

**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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