

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

# Watershed Protection and Restoration Program

Bringing Green Jobs, Revitalization and Clean Water to Prince George's County

Required by a Federal mandate, the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program instructs Maryland's nine largest counties and the City of Baltimore to establish a funding plan to pay for stormwater management improvements by July 1, 2013.

This program provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work.

It will benefit the County by creating 5,000 new jobs and new green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth jobs programs; beautifying our neighborhoods; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; and cleaning our waters.

## REVITALIZING AGING NEIGHBORHOODS



CREATING 5,000 NEW JOBS



EXPANDING EXISTING AND LAUNCHING NEW GREEN, LOCAL BUSINESSES



DEVELOPING A FELLOWSHIP WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES



Anacostia River  
Anacostia Watershed

PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF OUR FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

MAKING OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS HEALTHY AND SAFE FOR RECREATIONAL USES



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive



Adam Ortiz  
Acting Director

For more information on the program, please see the frequently asked questions on the back.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
*Watershed Protection and Restoration Program*

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# FAQs

## WHAT IS THE WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM?

In 2010, the Federal government required states to meet new standards under the Clean Water Act to address stormwater runoff pollution from impervious areas (that don't absorb water) such as parking lots, roads and roofs. In 2012, to meet this mandate, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law House Bill 987 (The Watershed Protection and Restoration Program) that requires nine Maryland Counties and the City of Baltimore to collect a fee from property owners to implement a program to address this issue, the Clean Water Act Fee.

## WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION?

Every day, trash, oil, sediment, chemicals and other pollutants collect on our roofs, roads, parking lots and driveways. When it rains, the pollutants travel over these surfaces, flow into the storm drains and eventually end up in our creeks, rivers, lakes and streams.

## WILL THIS FUND CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY?

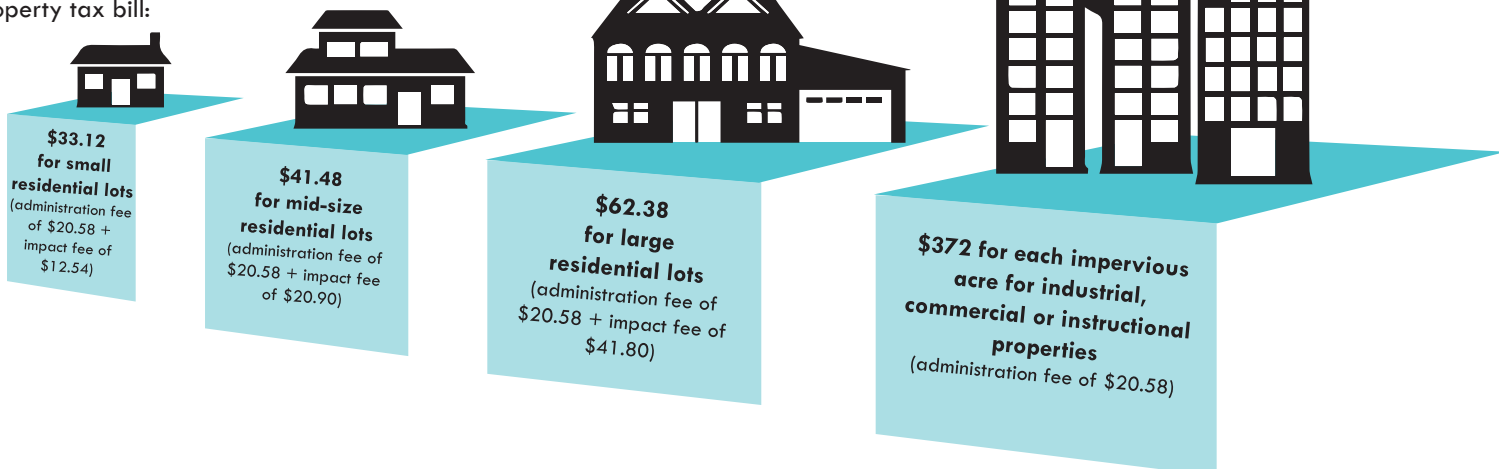
This fund provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work. It will benefit businesses and residents by creating 5,000 new jobs and new green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth jobs programs; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; and improving our waterways.

## HOW WILL THESE FUNDS BE SPENT?

The funds will be used solely to retrofit parking lots, roads and roofs with various treatment devices that will naturally filter out pollutants from stormwater. To meet the Federal mandate, the County has to treat 8,000 acres of uncontrolled impervious surfaces at a cost of approximately \$1.2 billion and complete the program by 2025.

## HOW IS THE FEE CALCULATED?

Prince George's County established a three-tier payment structure to be paid annually by property owners through their property tax bill:



## ARE THE FEES FAIR AND EQUITABLE?

Prince George's County is dedicated to meeting our Federal requirements while keeping the fees as low as possible. Our fee structure is equitable and lower than most Maryland Counties.

## CAN THE FEE BE MODIFIED OR REDUCED?

Property owners that retrofit their property with approved runoff treatment practices can receive up to a 100 percent reduction in the impact fee. The County will also provide a limited amount of rebate funds each year to property owners to retrofit their properties. A fee can also be appealed to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) if there is an error in the way the County calculated the fee.

## WILL THERE BE A PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

Yes, property owners who receive the homeowners tax credit or benefits from the Energy Assistance subsidy during the tax year for which the fee is billed, will automatically be exempted.

## DO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES PAY THE FEE?

Yes, but the fee is based only on the impervious surfaces of the principal residential property and not the land in agriculture.

## DON'T I ALREADY PAY FOR A STORMWATER PROGRAM?

Yes, but that program is designated for flood control and not clean water.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Clean Water Act Fee is administered by the Department of Environmental Resources. Please visit DER's website at <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/index.asp> or call (301) 883-5833 for more information.