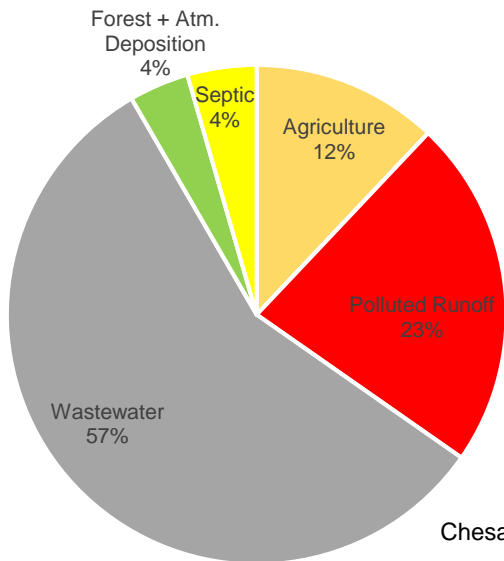




December 2013

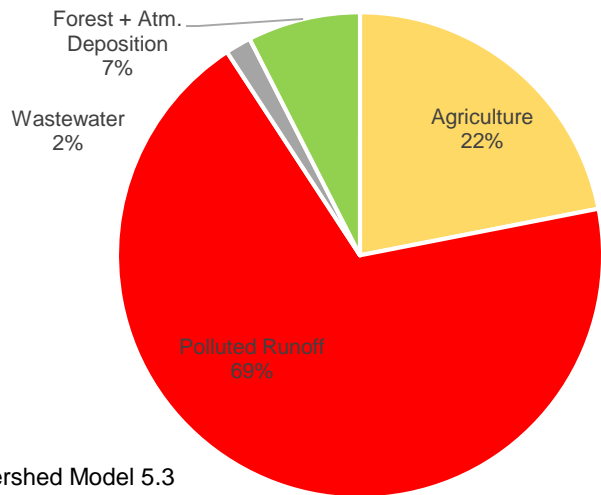
**BALTIMORE COUNTY HAS A PROBLEM: POLLUTED RUNOFF FOULS THE WATER, CLOSES BEACHES, THREATENS HEALTH**

Polluted runoff is a major source of pollution to all county rivers and creeks. (For example, in the Patapsco River it is responsible for 23 percent of nitrogen pollution; 31 percent of phosphorus pollution, and 69 percent of sediment pollution.) Runoff is the reason we have closed beaches and swimming advisories each summer. It's the reason the Maryland Department of Environment warns all Marylanders to avoid contact with rivers and streams for two days after a significant storm because runoff carries dangerous levels of bacteria into swimming areas. Unhealthy bacteria levels were recorded at Hammerman Beach, Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center, Middle River, Bear Creek, and other recreational water this past summer, with some readings 18 times higher than federal safety limits. That's a health risk.



Patapsco River Bay Segment  
 Nitrogen (pounds)

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model 5.3



Patapsco River Bay Segment  
 Suspended Sediment (pounds)



Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center WBAL tv

**THE COUNTY IS FIXING THE PROBLEM, BUT IS WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE; RELIABLE FUNDS ARE NEEDED**

Watershed	Lbs. Nitrogen reduced/year	Lbs. Phosphorus reduced/year	Lbs. Sediment reduced/year	Equivalent Impervious Acres Treated
Prettyboy Reservoir	303	12	8,735	10
Loch Raven Reservoir	6,562	1,733	7,355,122	452
Lower Gunpowder	4,260	1,362	6,056,700	259
Little Gunpowder Falls	0	0	0	0
Bird River	5,946	1,908	7,990,583	421
Gunpowder River	141	41	87,671	33
Middle River	2,706	1,534	6,133,527	708
Liberty Reservoir	0	0	0	0
Patapsco River	1,254	381	1,380,177	219
Gwynns Falls	1,487	444	1,536,961	314
Jones Falls	2,617	768	3,271,076	231
Back River	6,789	2,951	11,734,791	1,057
Baltimore Harbor	2,179	1,083	3,822,999	792
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,255</b>	<b>12,222</b>	<b>49,378,347</b>	<b>4,501</b>

*Source: Baltimore County NPDES MS4 Annual Report 2012—Tables 9-32, 9-33.*

This table shows the county has done a good job reducing polluted runoff, BUT it is significantly behind schedule. It has not met the requirements of its federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. That permit sets the mandatory goals for the county to better manage stormwater. The good news: The county has reduced nitrogen pollution from stormwater by 34,255 pounds a year, as well as other pollutants. It has improved drainage and treatment of polluted runoff on 4,501 acres of streets, parking lots and other hard (impervious surfaces). But those accomplishment are well short of NPDES goals. For instance, the permit required **Baltimore County to improve about 5,800 acres**. And the federal government will soon require the county to DOUBLE its efforts. Perhaps twice the funds may be needed. While the county has a good stormwater management program, **funding is clearly insufficient to reduce polluted runoff, and to make the county’s rivers and creeks clean as required by the imminent federal requirements.**



**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.