



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

www.chesapeakebay.net

Press Release

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Six Maryland Local Governments Recognized for Efforts to Protect Chesapeake Bay and Local Waters

Annapolis, Md. (January 26, 2006) – Federal and state Bay restoration leaders recognized sixteen local governments today for their dedication to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maryland municipalities selected for integrating Bay-friendly measures into the management of their towns, cities and counties include:

Gold

Montgomery County
City of Rockville
Carroll County
City of Greenbelt
City of Aberdeen
Prince George's County

Silver

Town of Hampstead

Since 1997, the Bay Partner Community program has recognized local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for their commitment to protecting and restoring the Bay and its rivers.

“The restoration of the Chesapeake Bay depends on federal, state and local governments, businesses and private citizens stepping forward to do their part to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from flowing into the Chesapeake Bay,” said Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources C. Ronald Franks. “The Chesapeake Bay Partners Community Award program recognizes the critical role and contribution of Maryland counties and municipalities in meeting this goal. I congratulate the efforts of Maryland's new Gold Partners: City of Rockville, City of Aberdeen, City of Greenbelt, Carroll County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.”

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Local Governments Awarded for Helping the Bay 2-2-2-2

Communities are evaluated on their completion of a set of programs, activities or benchmarks that protect and restore their part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Selection is based on the municipality's population and the percentage of benchmarks met in four categories: improving water quality, promoting sound land use, protecting and restoring living resources and habitat, and engaging the community. Gold level partners have met a higher percentage of benchmarks than silver partners.

In addition to Maryland municipalities honored, several local governments in Pennsylvania and Virginia were recognized as well. In Pennsylvania, Plymouth, College, and South Middleton Townships and the City of Lancaster earned gold status, while Chester County and the Borough of Lewisburg were recognized as silver level partners. In Virginia, Arlington and Clarke Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria earned gold awards.

The Bay Partner Community Awards are sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program and its Local Government Advisory Committee. The Committee was created in 1988 in recognition of the critical role that the more than 1,650 local governments in the watershed play in the partnership's ability to achieve its goals. The Local Government Advisory Committee is coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Currently, 73 local governments are Bay Partner Communities.

Since 1997, the Bay Partner Community program has recognized local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for their commitment to protecting and restoring the Bay and its rivers. For more information about Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities, visit the website Bay LOGIN at www.baylogin.org. Information on the most innovative programs and practices are highlighted on the site under "Local Government Innovations."

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