



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
A Watershed Partnership

[www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)

# Press Release

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## **Six Pennsylvania Local Governments Recognized for Efforts to Protect the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay**

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

### **Gold**

Plymouth Township  
College Township  
City of Lancaster  
South Middleton Township

### **Silver**

Chester County  
Borough of Lewisburg

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 efforts put forward by these local governments highlight the critical role Pennsylvanians play in helping the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay,” said Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “Their work is a model for how partnerships among local, state and federal governments can to work together to meet the tough pollution prevention goals needed to help the Bay.”

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.

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

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In addition to Pennsylvania municipalities honored, several local governments in Maryland and Virginia were recognized as well. In Maryland, the cities of Rockville, Greenbelt and Aberdeen, as well as Montgomery and Carroll Counties earned gold status, while the Town of Hampstead was recognized as a silver level partner. In Virginia, Arlington and Clarke Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria earned gold awards.

Ten award recipients received the opportunity to apply for \$1,000 mini-grants to support the development of a local on-the-ground or community education/outreach project. Clarke County was awarded the grant to develop an informational website for its Easement and Sanitary Authorities and to purchase watershed signage. Plymouth Township will use its mini-grant to conduct a watershed field study with fourth-grade students, in partnership with the Luzerne County Conservation District and the Greater Nanticoke Area School District. The field study will allow students to create tie-dyed t-shirts with recycled acid mine drainage from local streams.

Chester County plans to improve riparian corridors at Nottingham County Park -- enhancing water quality as well as stabilizing the banks using native plant materials. The City of Lancaster is using the grant to fund development of Binns Park using environmentally sound landscaping practices and installing informational signage and brochures. College Township has chosen to return a portion of land to a riparian buffer for use as a demonstration site.

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.

For more information about Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities, visit the website Bay LOGIN at [www.baylogin.org](http://www.baylogin.org). Information on the most innovative programs and practices are highlighted on the site under "Local Government Innovations."

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### **For more information:**

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