



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*A Watershed Partnership*

# Backgrounder

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The Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award program recognizes local governments throughout the Bay watershed that demonstrate a commitment to protecting and restoring their local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Since the program's inception, 70 localities from across the Bay watershed have been selected as Bay Partner Communities. Seven communities have been selected as the recipients of the 2003 awards.

*Chesapeake 2000*, the most recent Bay protection and restoration agreement, recognizes that active partnerships with the 1,650 local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are critical to the restoration and protection of the Bay and its rivers.

## 2004 Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award Recipients

### Anne Arundel County, Md.

#### *Gold Award*

Anne Arundel County has adopted an aggressive Storm water Management Program, supported by its September 2001 Storm water Management Practices and Procedure Manual. This County manual provides a comprehensive tool to manage storm water runoff. The County is updating three of its water reclamation facilities to remove nitrogen through biological nutrient removal. They have pioneered and promoted nitrogen reducing onsite wastewater treatment systems.



Anne Arundel has purchased alternative fueled vehicles. They are also leading a multi-year, citizen-oriented effort know as Small Area Planning. Anne Arundel is involved with countless intergovernmental and regional cooperative efforts that address development and growth issues, such as Patapsco/Back River Tributary Strategy Team, the Lower Western Shore Tributary Team, to name just a few. Anne Arundel also has developed the Greenways Master Plan to provide a interconnected network of green space.

The County is also a leader in education and engaging the community. The County is sponsoring a Stewardship Open House and partnered with the Blacks of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Chesapeake Ecoscapes to provide environmental education. The Public Schools provide a meaningful Chesapeake Bay experience to 42,000 students each year.

### Frederick County, Md. – *Gold Award*

Frederick County promotes the “Community Concept” which encourages growth around existing communities with the facilities and infrastructure to accommodate compact development. There are two zoning districts in the County, the planned unit development zone which allows a flexible mix of housing types, densities, setbacks and commercial uses, and the mixed use development district which provides for a

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mixture of commercial, employment, residential uses. These districts are part of Frederick County's comprehensive plan that was created with eight community-visioning meetings and two years of public hearings.

Frederick County has an aggressive storm water management maintenance inspection program, with at least 150 inspections per year. The County has implemented a program to identify sites for new storm water management and has just completed its first retrofit assessment in the Lower Bush Creek Watershed.

The county also collaborates with the MD Cooperative Extension to promote rain barrels and rain gardens to homeowners. Frederick County and local land trusts co-sponsor rural legacy grant application and are the co-holders of 21 easements on 2,681 acres of farm and forestland. The County is working with a variety of partners on developing a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the Lower Monocacy River watershed and will also begin work on developing a plan for the Upper Monocacy.

Each year, all 6th grade students attend the Outdoor School where they visit various streams and rivers to perform water quality tests.

#### **Prince William County, Va. – Gold Award**

Prince William County is being recertified as a Gold Bay Partner Community for its leadership in storm water management, innovative comprehensive plan, and watershed management. Prince William has one of the most comprehensive maintenance programs for storm water facilities and systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with over 350 facilities and 300 miles of drainage systems under County maintenance. The County has approved bioretention facilities for development for the past several years and has worked diligently with a developer to implement low impact development techniques for a major development in the County. In order to promote LID practices in the County, both the County and State have offered financial incentives to the developer.

The comprehensive plan was adopted in 2003 and was shaped by citizen preferences and sound land use planning. The plan targets 39% open space at final build out. The comprehensive plan also promotes the minimization of impervious surfaces through low impact development techniques, semi-pervious or pervious surfaces, and by limiting parking spaces.

Prince William purchased a 227 acres wetlands site for conservation and to conduct wetlands classroom education to teach students and citizens about wetlands. The County also facilitates the "Water Quality Roundtable" that meets three times a year to discuss local water quality and Chesapeake Bay issues.

#### **City of Salisbury, Md. – Gold Award**

The City of Salisbury works cooperatively and actively with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team to develop and implement watershed management plans that address the protection, conservation and restoration of stream corridors, riparian forest buffers and wetlands. The City of Salisbury also works closely with Urban Salisbury, a non-profit organization, to support and promote mixed-use development in the Downtown area. The City has an Urban Greenway, which is a trail that runs through the city park and has a high use from the local residents for walking, bicycling, and jogging. Program Open Space funds have been used to create a Riverwalk along the Wicomico River.

Salisbury is also noted for its tree-loving mayor, the Honorable Barrie P. Tilghman, who prohibits the Public Works Department staff from cutting down a tree anywhere in the City without prior justification and approval. The City of Salisbury is

currently in the process of replacing a small dam on the Wicomico River that will feature fish passage to allow migrating fish to move upstream. The City is also recognized for its environmental education program, Diary of a River, a two-week program for the Gifted and Talented students in Maryland. These students engage in hands-on scientific research at three locations along the Wicomico River studying the impacts of residential, agricultural and recreational development on the local waterways.

**Loyalsock, Pa. – Silver Award**

In 2002, Loyalsock Township restored 750 feet of Miller's Run, a tributary of the West Branch. As part of this project, the banks were seeded with a flood-plain wildlife grass mix and 50 trees and shrubs were planted. As part of this project, they are producing interpretive signs to be placed at each end of the run informing citizens of the benefits of restoration projects. The Township has purchased 56 acres of open space, comprising 56 acres of four contiguous forest areas, which have been set aside for passive recreation. Loyalsock has a full-time Sewer Enforcement Officer that conducts inspection of all septic systems in the township. A large portion of the township is zoned for mixed-use housing. Loyalsock has 4.5 miles of bicycle and pedestrian pathways that link four municipalities. Loyalsock implements a storm water management ordinance that applies to all new construction and renovation projects.

**Town of Purcellville, Va. – Silver Award**

The goal of the Town's zoning is to support good storm water management, flood plain preservation and scenic creek preservation. The development is oriented around Town Centers in order to preserve open space. The Town does not allow new wells or septic systems to be installed but instead requires new houses and businesses to hook up to the Town water and sewer lines. The Town successfully encourages infill development on vacant parcels in existing neighborhoods. The Town works with both state and local governments to develop and implement watershed management plans and works with Ten Friends of Catoclin to develop a watershed management plan.

**Town of Rock Hall, Md. – Silver Award**

The Town of Rock Hall, with a population of 1,396, has adopted storm water management requirements that are more stringent than the State requirements for the Eastern Shore. Low impact development and a variety of vegetative practices are implemented in new and redevelopment projects in the Town. Rock Hall's comprehensive management plan is currently being revised based on a shared community vision. The Town's Center Commercial district supports mixed-use development and growth around existing infrastructure. During the annual Fall Fest and Party on the Bay, which are hosted by the Town, environmental education activities are held and watershed organizations set up booths to educate the public.

*For additional information about programs restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay visit [www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net).*