



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Background

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109 • Annapolis, Maryland 21403 • 410-267-5700 • toll free 800-YOUR-BAY

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, sixty-five 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.

2003 Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award Recipients

Adams County, Pa. – Gold Award

Adams County, a rapidly growing rural community, has been selected as a Gold level Bay Partner Community for successfully managing the challenges of growth and development. For example, the county's innovative Storm Water Management Plan for the Monocacy River watershed, sets storm water management guidelines for the 19 municipalities within the county and strongly recommends the use of best management practices, low impact design techniques, and reduction of impervious surfaces.

The county also maintains strong partnerships with non-profit and community groups to educate and involve citizens in their environmental management efforts.

Annapolis, Md. – Gold Award

The City of Annapolis has been designated a Gold level Bay Partner Community for its achievements in storm water management, sound land use planning and coordination amongst city departments and community members.

Annapolis has implemented innovative storm water management practices in both new developments and redevelopments within the city. Additionally, the city has adopted a mixed use zoning classification to encourage traditional development. Annapolis requires many of the planned developments to protect open space through conservation easements.

Annapolis also provides a model for environmental management, through the use of an interdisciplinary environmental team that coordinates efforts amongst various City departments. The city maintains partnerships with various citizen groups to educate and involve community members in environmental management efforts.

Fauquier County, Va. – Gold Award

Fauquier County has been selected as a Gold level Bay Partner Community for its growth management and resource planning programs.

The county's management plan encourages preservation and protection of farmland, streams, steep slopes, historic structures, and limits impervious surfaces resulting from development. Mixed-use development is encouraged and concentrated in nine designated service districts where public water and sewer services are located. Additionally, Fauquier County works closely with farmers and other landowners through a wetlands bank program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The county also works closely with its schools to provide environmental education programs.

more →



Highland Beach, Md. – Silver Award

Highland Beach is a small, residential community of 85 households and is the oldest African American municipality in Maryland. The community has been selected as a Silver level Bay Partner Community for its work to reduce storm water runoff and citizen involvement.

The town has hired an environmental coordinator to work with homeowners to encourage the use of storm water management techniques such as infiltration trenches, dry wells, swales and rain gardens. Additionally, the town encourages the planting of native trees, shrubs, grasses and herbaceous plants to help filter and slow storm water runoff. Highland Beach is part of several partnerships with neighboring communities and the county to develop management plans for nearby waterways.

Howard County, Md. – Silver Award

Howard County has been selected as a Silver level Bay Partner Community for its implementation of state storm water management requirements as well as its partnerships with community groups. The county was the first in Maryland to adopt the state's new storm water management requirements that address the quantity and quality of storm water runoff for new development and redevelopment.

The county's Comprehensive Management Plan was developed with substantial input from the community and promotes the concentration of mixed-use development in its more urban eastern portion and the conservation of resources in its rural western portion. Additionally, the county has an active and successful environmental education program that includes citizen monitoring of water quality conditions and a partnership with Master Gardeners throughout the county.

James City County, Va. – Gold Award

James City County has been selected as a Gold level Bay Partner Community for implementing stringent development and redevelopment guidelines and involving community members in their management projects.

The county requires storm water management practices on all new development and redevelopment where impervious cover is greater than 10% of the site, which are guidelines even more stringent than state regulations. The county is currently updating its comprehensive plan and is gathering input from the community through a series of open stakeholder meetings.

Through several unique programs, the county identifies and protects open spaces, which are managed for conservation, recreation, and alternative transportation uses.

Additionally, the county has set a goal of preserving 300 acres of ecologically sensitive land per year for the next six years as one of the goals of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan. The county continues to work with outside partners, such as the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, to develop interpretive information as it relates to the several greenway and water trail programs in the county.

Lexington, Va. – Gold Award

The city of Lexington has been selected as a Gold level Bay Partner Community for the construction of storm water management structures as well as its partnerships with neighboring communities to develop watershed management plans. The city has incorporated biofiltration and bioretention structures into plant beds along Main Street and is constructing biofiltration structures in other areas of the community. Lexington has partnered with Rockbridge County to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for the area.

The city also has programs to educate homeowners about the correct use of fertilizers, pesticides, and household chemicals. A citizen's guide is being written to steer conservation and preservation of the watershed.