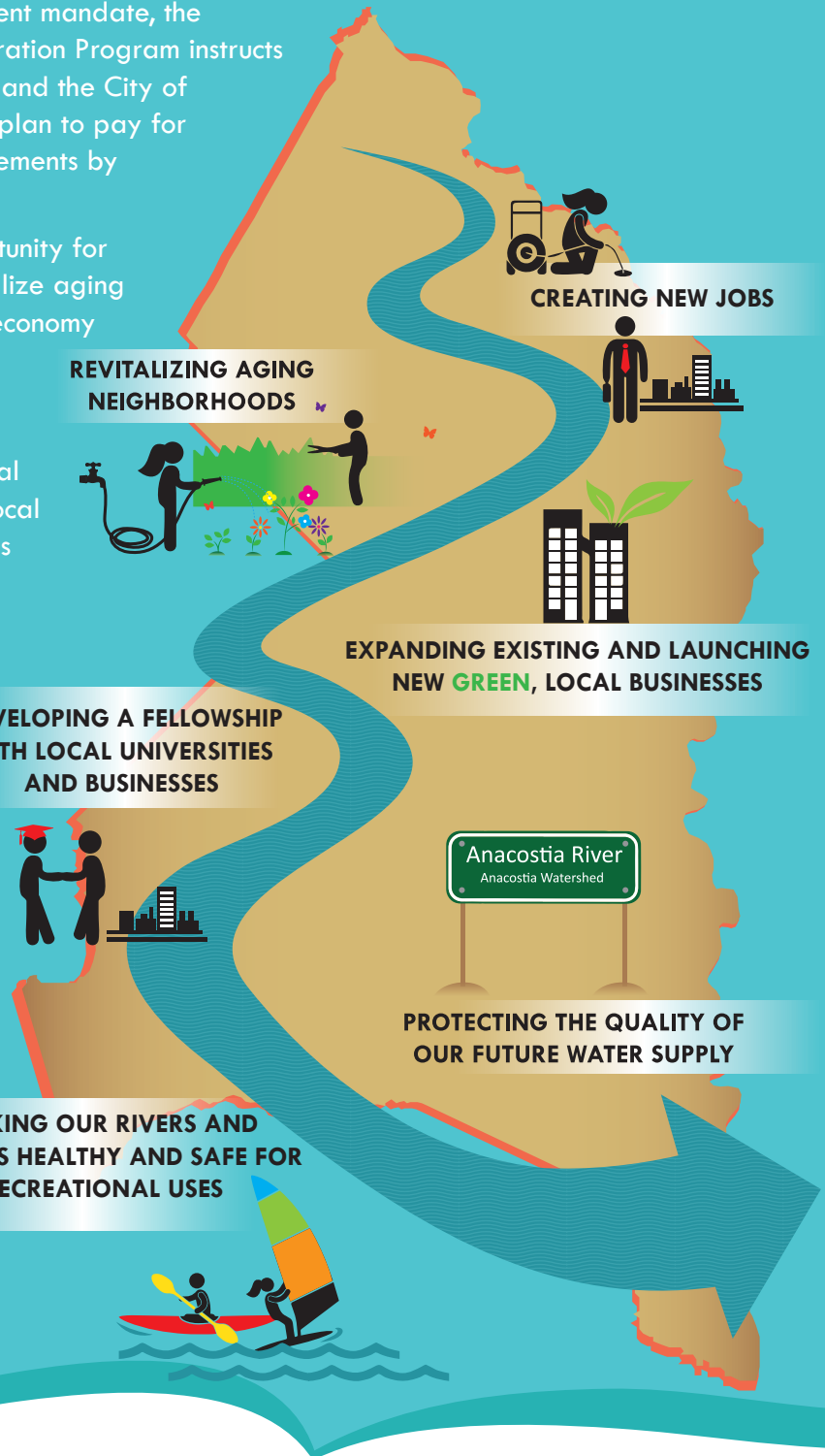


Clean Water Program

Required by a Federal government mandate, the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program instructs Maryland's nine largest counties and the City of Baltimore to establish a funding plan to pay for stormwater management improvements by July 1, 2013.

This program provides an opportunity for Prince George's County to revitalize aging neighborhoods, launch a green economy and put people to work.

It will benefit the County by creating new jobs and green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth jobs programs; beautifying our neighborhoods; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; partnering with nonprofits and faith communities to expand restoration efforts; and cleaning our waters.



For more information on the program, please see the frequently asked questions on the back.

WHAT IS THE WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM?

In 2010, the Federal government required states to meet new standards under the Clean Water Act to address stormwater runoff pollution from impervious areas such as rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, roadways, and parking lots. Two years later, the governor of Maryland signed into law House Bill 987 (the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program) to meet this mandate. The bill required 9 counties and the City of Baltimore to collect a fee from property owners to implement the program and address stormwater runoff pollution. In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly enacted a law – known as SB 863 – that amended House Bill 987 to make the fee program discretionary, but still requiring local jurisdictions to provide financial assurance plans that they had sufficient revenues to meet their stormwater remediation obligations to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION?

Every day, trash, oil, sediment, chemicals and other pollutants collect on our roofs, roads, parking lots and driveways. When it rains, the pollutants travel over these surfaces, flow into the storm drains and in great volume end up in our creeks, rivers, lakes and streams.

WILL THIS FUND CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY?

This fund provides an opportunity for Prince George's county to revitalize aging neighborhood, launch a green economy and put people to work. It will benefit our County by creating new jobs and new green local businesses; expanding existing local businesses and summer youth job programs; developing fellowship programs with local universities and colleges; and improving our waterways.

HOW WILL THESE FUNDS BE SPENT?

To meet the Federal mandate, the County must treat 20% of the untreated impervious surfaces (approximately 6,105 acres) at a cost of approximately \$1.2 billion and complete the program by 2025. The funds will be used to design, build and maintain treatment devices that filter out pollutants from stormwater.

HOW IS THE FEE CALCULATED?

Prince George's County established a fee structure based on the impervious surface to be paid annually by property owners through their property tax bill. (Dollar figures listed are presented for illustration purposes only. For actual fee rates, please refer to County Resolution 59-2013.)



ARE THE FEES FAIR AND EQUITABLE?

Prince George's County is dedicated to meeting our Federal requirements while keeping the fees as low as possible. Our fee structure is equitable, based on the amount of impervious surface, and lower than most Maryland Counties.

CAN THE FEE BE MODIFIED OR REDUCED?

Property owners that retrofit their property with approved runoff treatment practices can receive up to a 100 percent reduction in the impact fee. The County will provide a limited amount of rebate funds each year to property owners to retrofit their properties. A fee can also be appealed to the Department of the Environment (DoE) if there is an error in the way the County calculated the fee.

WILL THERE BE A PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

The County's Office of Finance will identify whether the property owner received a Maryland Homeowners Tax Credit. If the Homeowners Tax Credit has been received, the tax bill will be credited for the full amount of the fee. No application is required.

DO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES PAY THE FEE?

Yes, but the fee is based only on the impervious surfaces of the principal residential property and not the land in agriculture.

DON'T I ALREADY PAY FOR A STORMWATER PROGRAM?

Yes, but that program is designated for flood control, not clean water.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please visit DoE's website at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/CleanWaterActFees/Watershed/Pages/default.aspx or call 3-1-1 for more information.