

The Watershed Study Process



STEP 1 — IDENTIFY WATERSHED

A watershed is selected for analysis.



STEP 2 — DATA COLLECTION

- Stormwater Practices Opportunities – areas where stormwater practices can be provided or upgraded are identified. There are three major types of stormwater practices being evaluated:
 - Larger stormwater practices (ie. Stormwater Ponds)
 - Green Streets Practices – small stormwater practices are installed in the right-of-way to control and filter stormwater pollution during storm events
 - Government Facilities – smaller, site specific stormwater practices are installed to capture stormwater from existing buildings and parking lots on County properties
- Stream Assessments – field evaluation of the stream is based on its physical condition, aquatic habitat, and identification of exposed/threaten infrastructure (i.e. sewer line) to determine restoration potential
- Neighborhood Stormwater Assessment – neighborhoods with inadequate stormwater control are evaluated for opportunities within the RainScapes Incentive Program
- Reforestation Opportunities – areas are identified for potential forest enhancement or expansion



STEP 3 — DATA ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIZE PROJECTS

Data collected from Step 2 is analyzed and drafts of potential restoration projects are compiled, which are then prioritized based on water quality, aquatic habitat quality, and site condition.



STEP 4 — DRAFT WATERSHED STUDY

A watershed study is drafted based on the result of the data analysis and project prioritization in Step 3.

STEP 5 — PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held to present the draft watershed study to the public for comments

STEP 6 — FINALIZE AND PUBLISH WATERSHED STUDY

Comments from the public meeting is used to finalize and publish the watershed study.



STEP 7 — IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

An Implementation Plan is created and is a comprehensive roadmap the County uses for watershed restoration. The plan includes the individual Watershed Studies developed in Steps 1-6 and strategies to reduce stormwater pollution, bacteria, and trash and litter.