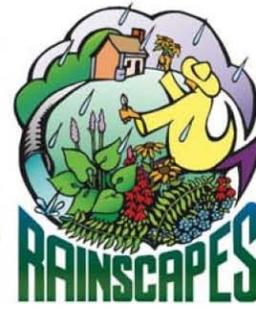


# RainScapes

Environmentally Friendly Landscapes  
for Healthy Watersheds



## RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

How is your schoolyard doing? Is it helping the Chesapeake Bay or is it contributing to the Bay's current impaired condition? Follow this Report Card and find out...

### Runoff/Erosion

1. Your school **roof** drains rainwater into mostly:

- Well vegetated trees and shrubs or un-mowed grass (10 pts)
- Mowed grass (5 pts)
- Bare soil or impervious surface (3 pts)
- Directly into storm drain (0 pts)
- An even mix of all of the above(6 pts)

2. Look for patches of bare soil and signs of erosion such as areas where rainwater has carved out ditches or washed out vegetation. The schoolyard has:

- Very little erosion and few patches of bare soil (10 pts)
- Several patches of bare soil or areas where soil is eroding (7 pts)
- Mostly bare, exposed soil or impervious surfaces (0 pts)

3. Does your school have any of these run-off control systems:

- Rain Garden (3 pts)
- 10 or more Canopy Trees providing cover to roof tops or roadways (2 pts)
- Conservation Landscape (2 pts)
- 50 feet or more of a forested buffer zone (3 pts)

4. After looking at your schoolyard map describe where in this range it falls.

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

(1= Entirely made of pavement)

(10= Totally forested)

Your Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Runoff/  
Erosion  
Total**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:*



Department of Environmental Protection  
Montgomery County, MD

Modified from CBF's Schoolyard Report card  
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# RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

## Vegetation:

1. Describe the vegetation at your school:

- Full sized mature trees and bushes cover a significant part of the schoolyard(10 pts)
- Small immature trees and bushes cover a significant part of the school yard (8 pts)
- Full sized mature trees and bushes dot the landscape of the schoolyard (5 pts)
- Small immature trees and bushes dot the landscape of the schoolyard (3 pts)
- There are few to no trees and bushes on the schoolyard (1 pts)

2. Describe the invasive plant infestation at your school:

- There are no invasive plants present on the schoolyard(10 pts)
- There are minimal invasive plants present on the schoolyard (8 pts)
- There are a significant amount of invasives present but only on the ground, not climbing the trees. (3 pts)
- There are a significant amount of invasives present on the ground and climbing trees (1 pts)

3. How much of the grass and vegetated areas in your schoolyard are being mowed?:

- Less than 50 % (10 pts)
- Between 50 % and 80 % (6 pts)
- Over 80% (1 pts)

4. Ask your school's maintenance staff how the mowed grass is fertilized:

- Grass clippings are left on the ground as natural mulch (10 pts)
- Lawn fertilizer is used according to recommendations from a soil test (6 pts)
- Lawn fertilizer is used according to instructions on the bag (1 pts)
- Lawn fertilizer is applied randomly (1 pts)

5. Describe the vegetation in the lowest lying part of your schoolyard:

- Well vegetated with native trees and shrubs (10 pts)
- Well vegetated with un-mowed grass (6 pts)
- Well vegetated with invasive plants (4 pts)
- Mowed Grass(3 pts)
- Bare soil, pavement, or concrete(1 pts)

Your Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetation  
Total

\_\_\_\_\_

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# RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

## Biodiversity:

1. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of canopy trees are there on your schoolyard:

- 10 or more(10 pts)
- 7-9 (8 pts)
- 4-6 (5 pts)
- 2-4 (3 pts)
- 1 (1 pts)

2. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of shrubs are there on your schoolyard:

- 10 or more(10 pts)
- 7-9 (8 pts)
- 4-6 (5 pts)
- 2-4 (3 pts)
- 1 (1 pts)

3. By counting the different types of leaves, how many different types of flowering plants and grasses are in the gardens on your schoolyard:

- 20 or more(10 pts)
- 15-19 (8 pts)
- 10-14 (5 pts)
- 5-9 (3 pts)
- 1-4 (1 pts)

4. Below are examples of habitats for animals. Which of the following apply to your schoolyard?

- Woodlands with many different layers of plants and trees(2 pts)
- Tall grassy fields and meadows (2 pts)
- Thick brush and brambles or a brush pile (2 pts)
- Dead standing trees or rotting logs on the ground (2 pts)
- Gardens with native plants(2 pts)

Your Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Biodiversity  
Total**

\_\_\_\_\_

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# RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

## Transportation:

1. Determine the number of people employed at your school (teachers, maintenance staff, food service staff, administrators, etc.) by asking the office staff. Look at the school parking lot and determine the number of vehicles relative to the number of employees:

- 50 % fewer cars than employees(10 pts)
- 25 % fewer cars than employees (5 pts)
- There is about one car per employee (1 pts)

2. Determine the number of students at your school by asking the office staff. Then determine the number of students who arrive at school in a car and not a bus. Compare the two numbers:

- 25 % or less of the students arrive in a car(10 pts)
- 50 % of the students arrive in a car(7 pts)
- 75 % of the students arrive in a car(3 pts)
- 100 % of the students arrive in a car(1 pts)

3. Are there bicycle racks at your school and do people use them?:

- There are more than 4 bike racks and they are full of bikes(10 pts)
- There are between 2 and 4 bike racks and they are full of bikes(8 pts)
- There is one bike rack and its full of bikes (5 pts)
- There is one bike rack that's not very full (3 pts)
- There are no bike racks(1 pts)

4. Is there any reward or encouragement for teachers or students who walk to school, ride their bikes, carpool, or take public transit?

- Yes (10 pts)
- No (1 pts)

5. Where does rain water drain after hitting the parking lot?

- Highly vegetated area (10 pts)
- Mowed area or slightly vegetated drainage ditch (5 pts)
- Storm drain marked "Chesapeake Bay Drainage" (2 pts)
- Unmarked storm drain (1 pts)
- Directly into a stream (0 pts)

Your Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation  
Total

\_\_\_\_\_

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# RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

## \*\*\*\*\*Bonus Points\*\*\*\*\*

### Awareness:

1. Does your school have any of the following classes/clubs?

- An environmental club (5 pts)
- An environmental science class(5 pts)
- A Chesapeake Bay unit in science class(5 pts)

2. Does your school have any of the following energy saving techniques?

- CFL bulbs (5 pts)
- Sky lights(5 pts)
- Green roof(5 pts)
- Signs reminding you to turn off lights(5 pts)

3. Does your school recycle?

- Yes (5 pts)
- No (0 pts)

4. Does your school have an outdoor garden classroom? If so what condition is it in?

- There is a well maintained outdoor classroom that is full of native plants and is heavily used. (10 pts)
- There is a well maintained outdoor classroom that is full of native plants and is used occasionally. (5 pts)
- There is an outdoor classroom that is full of invasive plants and not used (3 pts)
- There is no outdoor classroom (0 pts)

5. Does your school have any student installed habitats for animals?

- Bluebird boxes. (5 pts)
- Bat Boxes (5 pts)
- Butterfly gardens (5 pts)
- Ponds (5 pts)

Your Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Awareness  
Total**

\_\_\_\_\_

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# RainScapes for Schools Schoolyard Report Card

## Score Total:

<b>Runoff/Erosion</b>	_____
<b>Vegetation</b>	_____
<b>Biodiversity</b>	_____
<b>Transportation</b>	_____
	<b>Sub Total:</b> _____
<b>Awareness bonus points</b>	+ _____
	<b>Final Score:</b> _____

**150-180 A-B:** Your school is excellent habitat for many plants and animals and is a very healthy part of the watershed!

**110-149 C-D:** You are on the right track but there is more work to do if we want to Save the Bay!

**109 or less F:** Poor habitat. Many schools fall into this category so please help us in making your schoolyard a better place by installing a RainScape!

## Low Score? Try these solutions!

### Runoff/erosion:

- ◆ Build a RainScapes Rain Garden
- ◆ Plant a Canopy Tree near pavement
- ◆ Convert grassy areas into a RainScapes Conservation Landscape

### Vegetation:

- ◆ Plant a pollinator friendly educational RainScapes conservation landscape.
- ◆ Build a RainScapes rain garden
- ◆ Begin your own micro-nursery for tree plantings
- ◆ Allow an area to become a no-mow
- ◆ Remove invasive plants and replace with natives

### Biodiversity:

- ◆ Plant native shrubs and flowers that attract wildlife
- ◆ Identify what local animals may need and restore their habitat

### Transportation:

- ◆ Encourage your school to incentivize carpooling, public transportation, and bicycle riding to school
- ◆ Install and use bike racks
- ◆ Storm drain stenciling
- ◆ Install RainScapes for run-off control next to parking lots and roads

### Awareness:

- ◆ Study the Chesapeake Bay
- ◆ Go on a Chesapeake Bay Foundation field experience
- ◆ Read about the Chesapeake Bay
- ◆ Ask your teacher about your local watershed
- ◆ Get involved with your local watershed group

*And most importantly.... Install some RainScapes!*

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