RainScapes

Environmentally Friendly Landscapes for Healthy Watersheds

RainScapes for Schools Environmental 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** *(choose one)***:**
   - _____ 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** *(choose one)***:**
   - _____ 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** *(choose all that apply)***:**
   - _____ Rain Garden *(3 pts)*
   - _____ 10 or more Canopy Trees providing cover to rooftops 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:

_____

(out of 40)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:

Vegetation:

1. Describe the vegetation at your school *(choose one)***:**
_____ 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 pt)*

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 pt)*

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 pt)*

4. Ask your school's maintenance staff how the mowed grass is fertilized *(choose one)***:**
_____ 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 pt)*
_____ Lawn fertilizer is applied randomly *(0 pt)*

5. Describe the vegetation in the <u>lowest lying part</u> of your schoolyard *(choose one)***:**
_____ 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 pt)*

Your Score

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vegetation Total:

_____
(out of 50)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:

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 pt)*

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 pt)*

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 pt)*

4. **Below are examples of habitats for animals. Choose any of the following that 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:

_____
(out of 40)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:

3

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 *(0 pt)*

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 *(0 pt)*

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 it is full of bikes *(5 pts)*

____ There is one bike rack, and it is not very full *(3 pts)*

____ There are no bike racks *(0 pt)*

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 *(0 pt)*

5. Where does most of the rainwater drain after hitting the parking lot? *(choose one)*

____ 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 pt)*

____ Directly into a stream *(0 pts)*

Your Score

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

Transportation Total:

_____

(out of 50)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:

WATER CLARITY   NITROGEN/PHOSPHORUS   DISSOLVED OXYGEN   UNDERWATER GRASSES   OYSTERS

RainScapes for Schools Environmental Report Card

*****Bonus Points*****
(70 points max.)

Awareness:

1. **Does your school have any of the following classes/clubs?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - _____ 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?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - _____ 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?**
   (choose one) **:**
   - _____ 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 installed habitats for animals?** *(choose all that apply)*
   - _____ Bluebird boxes *(5 pts)*
   - _____ Bat Boxes *(5 pts)*
   - _____ Butterfly gardens *(5 pts)*
   - _____ Ponds *(5 pts)*

<u>Your Score</u>

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

Awareness Total:

_____
(out of 70)

Excess runoff will affect these indicators of Bay health:

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Score Total:

Runoff/Erosion _____

Vegetation _____

Biodiversity _____

Transportation _____

Sub Total: _____

Awareness bonus points + _____

Final Score: _____

(Maximum total: 250 pts.)

200-250 (A+): Your school is leading the way in providing healthy habitats for learning!

150-199 (A-B): Your school is an 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!

Want to improve your 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!

For more information, visit *RainScapes.org* and click on *RainScapes for Schools* under *Related Links*.

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Working together for a cleaner, greener county.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
17 76
MARYLAND