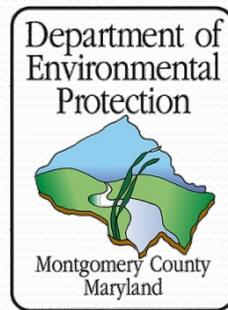


# Stream Stewards Volunteer Program



Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Watershed Management Division

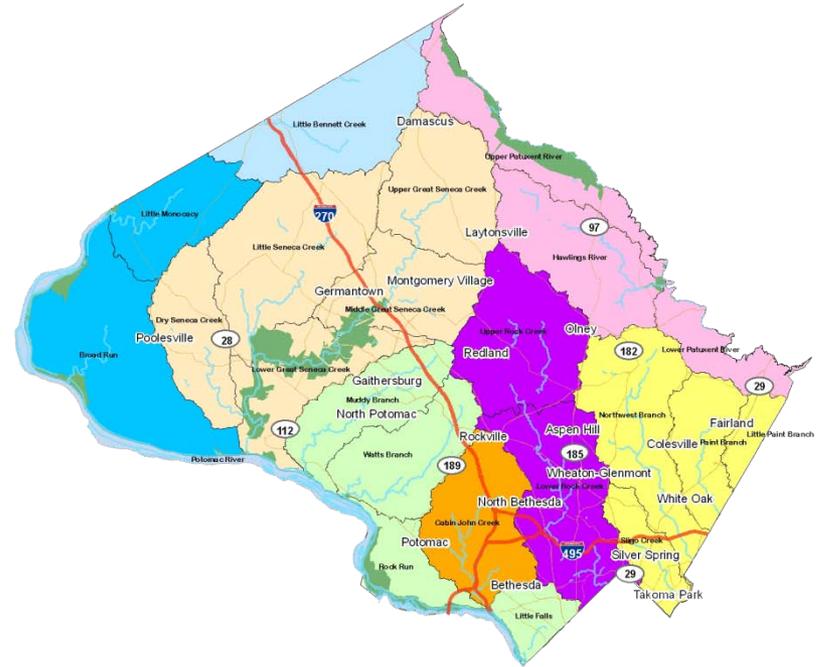
# Today's Agenda

- Stream Stewards Volunteer program
  - Why
  - How
  - 2012 Numbers

# Montgomery County, MD

A reminder:

- 500 sq. miles
- 970,000 people
- Second only to Baltimore City in average number of people per square mile
- About 12% impervious overall
  - About size of Washington DC
- Two major basins:  
Potomac and Patuxent Rivers
- At least 184 languages spoken, top 5 non-English are:
  - Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Vietnamese, Amharic (Ethiopia)



DEP outreach staff cannot be everywhere, although we try...

# Stream Stewards Volunteer Program

- Volunteers help with
  - Educating the community
  - Outreach events
  - Letting us know about potential outreach opportunities

**Each Volunteer Hour is worth \$22.77!**



# Stream Stewards Orientation

- Includes
  - Overview
    - What are watersheds?
    - How do we affect them?
    - How are we affected by them?
  - What is the County doing to protect them?
    - Brief overview of regulatory requirements
    - DEP Watershed Management Division
  - Volunteer program overview
    - Opportunities
    - Age requirements
    - Benefits
    - Responsibilities
    - SSL hours
    - Resources

# Specializing

- Additional training provided
  - Watershed Speakers
  - Watershed Keepers

# Volunteer Opportunities

- Watershed Ambassadors
  - Fairs –help staff during events such as MC agricultural fair
  - Trainings- ex: registration desk
  - Clean Water Summit – ex: registration desk and food set-up
- Watershed Speakers
  - When speakers required and staff not available
- Watershed Keepers
  - Adopt a practice such as a right-of-way “garden”
  - Storm drain marking projects
  - Tree plantings
  - Invasive plant removal
  - Clean-ups

# Example of Volunteer Activities

- **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair**

- Friday, August 10, 2012

Shifts available

- 3pm to 6pm and
- 6pm to 9pm

- Saturday, August 11, 2012 through Saturday, August 18, 2012

Shifts available

- 12pm to 3pm
- 3pm to 6pm and
- 6pm to 9pm

- **Poolesville Day**

Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 10am to 4:30pm (you don't have to be there the entire time)

- **Burtonsville Day**

Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 10am to 3pm (you don't have to be there the entire time)

# Age Requirements

- We accept volunteers of all ages!
- Anyone younger than 13 years old needs to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Parent or guardian can be a volunteer or stand by and watch.



# Resources

- Volunteer handbook
- DEP website [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep)
- Ana Arriaza, Watershed Volunteer Coordinator  
240-777-7778  
[ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov)

# Volunteers in 2012

- # of Active volunteers
  - 40
- # of Hours donated
  - 177
- # of events with volunteers
  - 10
- Monetary impact
  - \$4,030 (donated hours)
- One test orientation
- Two orientations
- One BMP Keeper training

# Things You Can Do To Help!

- Dispose of pet waste properly
- Eliminate unnecessary lawn fertilizers
- Compost and grasscycle
- Reduce trash and litter
- Plant native trees and stream buffers
- Encourage people to use RainScapes techniques
- Install storm drain markers
- Volunteer

## Did You Know?

A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria!



# Local Watershed Groups

- Eyes of Paint Branch  
[www.eopb.org](http://www.eopb.org)
- Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed  
[www.cabinjohn.org/focjcw](http://www.cabinjohn.org/focjcw)
- Friends of Sligo Creek  
[www.fosc.org](http://www.fosc.org)
- Little Falls Watershed Alliance, Inc.  
[www.lfwa.org](http://www.lfwa.org)
- Muddy Branch Alliance  
[www.muddybranch.org](http://www.muddybranch.org)
- Neighbors of Northwest Branch  
[www.neighborsnwb.org](http://www.neighborsnwb.org)
- Rock Creek Conservancy  
[www.rockcreekconservancy.org](http://www.rockcreekconservancy.org)
- Seneca Creek Partners  
[www.senecacreekwatershedpartners.wildapricot.org](http://www.senecacreekwatershedpartners.wildapricot.org)

# Reporting Issues to DEP

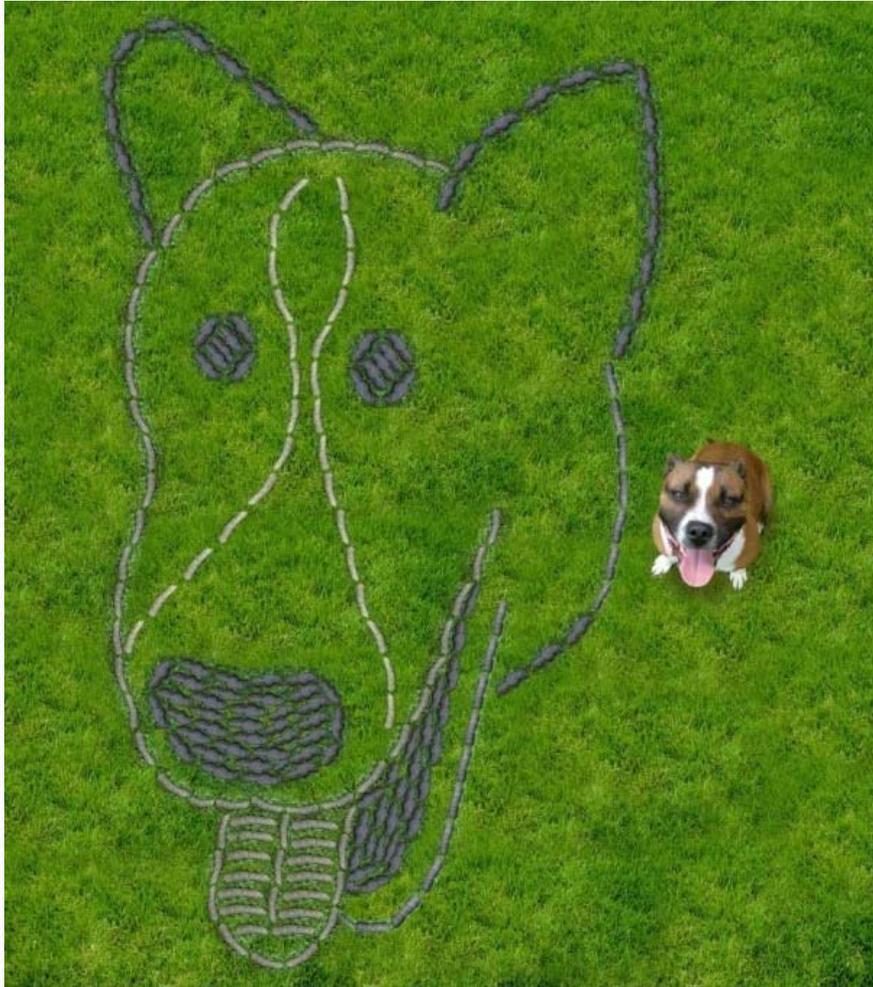
- Illegal dumping
- Illicit discharge-something mysterious coming out of a pipe
- Construction discharge
- Oil & grease in water
- Stream erosion
- Fish kills
- Montgomery County Customer Service Center at 3-1-1



# Easy Things You Can Do To Help!

- Share information with your family, friends, and coworkers.
  - Next family, friend, work gathering
  - Via Facebook, post a tidbit or talk about your volunteer efforts
  - Via Twitter
  - Blog about your experience (personal blog or at [www.mygreenmontgomery.org](http://www.mygreenmontgomery.org))
  - Show off your RainScapes practice!
  - Brown bag lunch at work/club/congregation

# Cleanups include pets too



## FUN FACTS:

“3.6 billion pounds of dog waste/year is produced in the United States alone, equaling 800 football fields, one foot high. This is a hidden health issue that no one wants to "touch" as approximately 50 million registered dogs in the United States produces more than 5,000 tons of waste daily.”

“A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria”

62% of Maryland Dog Owners always clean up after their dog , 23% sometimes, 15% never

## Within the Chesapeake Bay :

Dog ownership 41%

44% of dog owners do not walk dogs

Dog walkers who clean up most/all of the time 59%

Dog walkers who never or rarely cleanup 41%

Of those who never or rarely clean up, 44% would not cleanup even with fine, complaints, or improved sanitary collection or disposal methods

63% agreed that pet wastes contribute to water quality problems

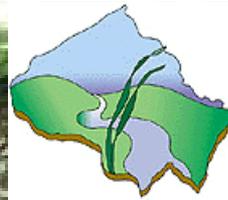
# More Things You Can Do To Help

- Challenge yourself/friends/family
  - Volunteer “x” hours with DEP or a local group, double it next year!
  - Plant “x” number of native trees and native plants at home or with a group, next year increase your number.
  - Pick up “x” pounds of trash in your community per year!
  - ... what else can you think of?

# Questions?

Save our  
Streams!

Ana Arriaza  
[ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
240-777-7778



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND - DEPARTMENT OF

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION