



Environment

Prince George's County, Maryland

Prince George's County Leads Way with Clean Water Partnership

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Approves first-of-its kind public-private partnership to cut stormwater retrofit costs, create local jobs and spur economic development

LARGO, MD – In the 1990s, Prince George's County was the birthplace of low impact development and its signature development: rain gardens. The County again now leads the nation in stormwater management in announcing a public-private partnership pilot program with Corvias Solutions to manage \$100M of green infrastructure projects to provide cost savings, create thousands of local jobs and boost economic development in the County.

Sealed with a 8-0 County Council vote, this *Clean Water Partnership (CWP)* is a first-of-its-kind program that maximizes the strengths of the public and private sectors to meet the EPA pollution diet goals regulatory requirements (Total Maximum Daily Load) by installing filters to treat polluted runoff from 8,000 acres of existing impervious surfaces by the end of the decade.

"Prince George's County has made significant strides in its efforts to restore our local waterways and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "This partnership puts us in the forefront of creating clean, green and healthy communities and emphasizes the need for collaborative strategies to provide new solutions in the area of stormwater management. I want to thank the Prince George's County [Department of the Environment \(DoE\)](#) and Director Adam Ortiz for their hard work and ingenuity in creating this economic and environmental opportunity for our residents and local and minority businesses."

Adam Ortiz adds, "The government has strengths and weaknesses. By partnering with Corvias we can leverage their strengths to get this work done cheaper, greener and faster than what the government can do alone."

With offices in Ft. Meade and Bowie, MD, [Corvias Solutions](#) is a privately-held company that partners with public sector institutions to solve environmental, energy and infrastructure challenges, with recent contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense constructing and maintaining housing at 13 military bases nationwide. The County will pilot \$100 million in the initial retrofit of 2,000 acres with Corvias to manage the design, construction and long-term maintenance of County property. At the same time, Corvias will "race" the County's conventional project process in retrofitting a different 2,000 acres. If the initial terms are met showing efficiencies in construction and success in local business and jobs development, Corvias will have the option to cover an additional 2,000 acres.

A key component of the agreement requires Corvias to boost local economic development by using local small and minority businesses. To get paid in full, they must meet a 30 percent target for the first year, 35 percent target for the second year and 40 percent target for the third year. In addition, the Partnership will link County businesses with training and education programs with Prince George's Community College, local organizations and existing government programs to build a stormwater management workforce within the County and develop mentor-protégé networks that will enhance skill levels and increase participation in the CWP.

Roland L. Jones, Director of the County's [Office of Central Services](#) states that this business model will help stimulate and expand the County's tax base and increase the number of employment opportunities for residents. "Under this agreement, small business enterprises will be able to compete and secure contracts to build water infrastructure systems."

To meet clean water regulatory requirements, the County must treat 15,000 acres of polluted runoff by 2025, consisting of 46,000 stormwater filtration devices at a price tag of \$1.2 billion. "This will require about 5,000 jobs from engineering to landscaping," says Ortiz. "Few, if any, jurisdictions in the country will be spending as much, as fast, as we are. This fact, coupled with our local hiring preferences, will launch a new clean water industry center here in the County. We will grow our current County-based stormwater businesses, and urge all stormwater-related businesses elsewhere to locate to Prince George's County to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

For more information about the Clean Water Partnership, contact [CountyClick 311](#).

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