

fall 2021

51ST ANNUAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



BALD HILL STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN

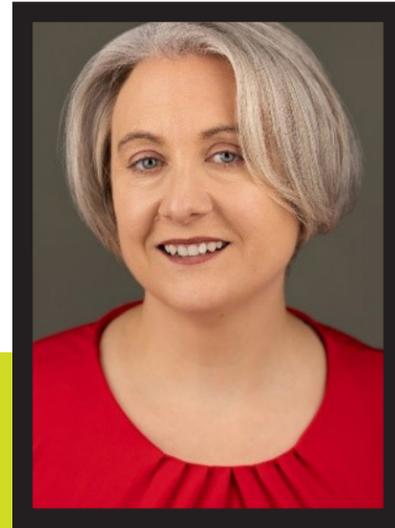
SCENE 2021

newsletter

MOONLIGHT THE KITTEN



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends,

It has been a busy and exciting fall at the Department of Environment. We hosted our 7th annual Green Summit, the 51st Annual Beautification Awards, and the Recycling and Waste Diversion Awards. We held public meetings to seek input on the draft Climate Action Plan, introduced the shed donated for our new Community Cat program and the new Optical Sorter at the Materials Recycling Facility with ribbon cuttings, and celebrated our dedicated employees with an awards ceremony and picnic.

This edition updates you on all of that, shares our progress on the Bald Hill stream restoration project, our organics composting rollout, fall planting, tree tips, and more. Don't miss the heartwarming story of 'Moonlight,' a kitten rescued with the help of two of our DoE teams which is now living a happy, spoiled kitty life.

Until our next edition, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and new year- and look forward to broadening and improving our services to the community in the months to come.

Andrea L. Crooms
Director

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The Green Scene newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

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DoE MISSION

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

7TH ANNUAL GREEN SUMMIT GOES VIRTUAL DURING WEEKLONG SOCIAL MEDIA EVENT

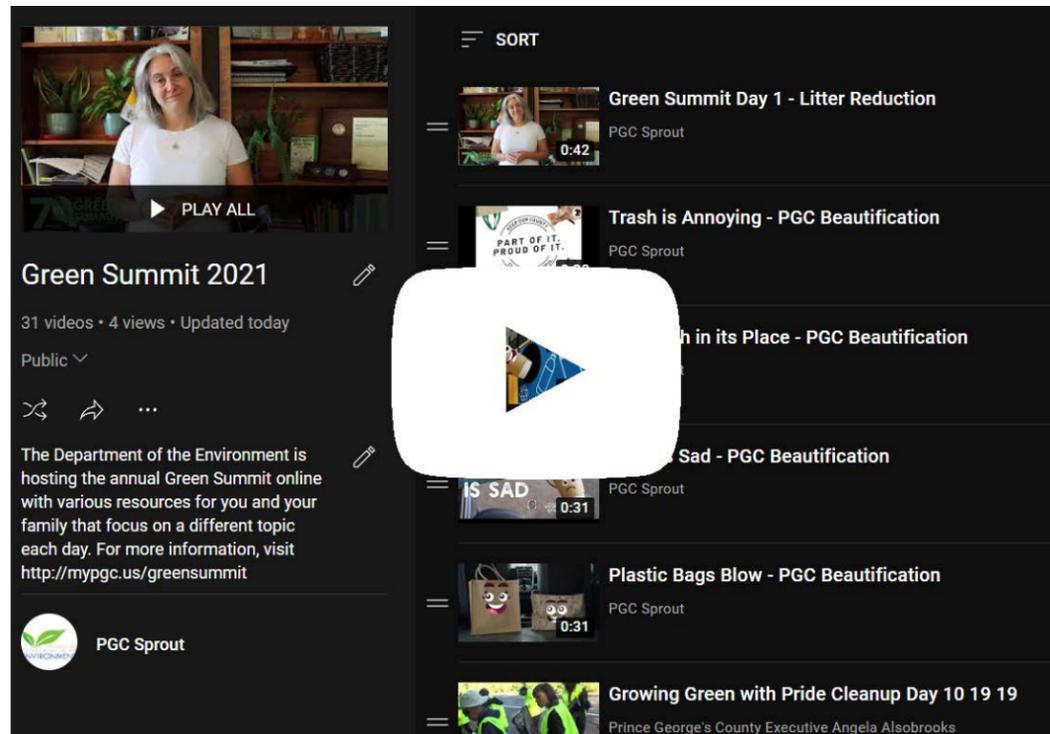
The Department of the Environment (DoE) hosted its 7th annual Green Summit weeklong virtual edition during the first week of October 2021.

Each day our community had the opportunity to learn more about various topics, including - Litter Reduction, Pet Services, Waste Diversion, Clean Waterways, and Sustainability via DoE's social media outlets. Some presentations were interactive, and each day everyone was challenged to commit to becoming environmental ambassadors.

In addition, each day, DoE's Director Andrea L. Crooms welcomed the participants and outlined her vision for DoE.

A special thank you to those who joined us online. And for those who missed out - the information is still posted online at mypgc.us/greensummit. So, enjoy this family-friendly convenient way to learn more about our environment. Click the below link for more information.

Also, check out our Green Summit 2021 YouTube playlist featuring many of the workshops, presentations, and videos displayed at this year's virtual event.



51ST ANNIVERSARY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS HONOR THE BEST IN GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING

The Prince George's County Beautification Committee hosted the 51st Anniversary Beautification Awards virtually to honor residents who have contributed to the community through excellence in gardening and landscaping. The Committee skipped the event in 2020 due to the pandemic and honored 2021 and 2020 awardees at this year's ceremony.

Every spring, residents and landscape professionals are invited to enter their garden project for a Beautification Award. Each entry is evaluated by accredited judges of the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners of Prince George's County. Criteria used for judging allow the Committee to award individuals or groups who show excellence in their landscaping methods and try to make their projects ecologically sustainable.

First-year winners are awarded a Beautification Award Certificate. Winners are then encouraged to submit their garden projects for the next five years, meriting a Superior Sustained Maintenance Award. If winners continue to maintain their properties for six years, they are awarded the esteemed Golden Trowel Award and have their names entered into the County Horticultural Hall of Excellence. In addition, a Property of the Year Award is presented to the applicant that exhibits the most unique features.

To learn more and to watch a video of the 2021 Beautification Awards virtual ceremony, visit www.pgcbeautification.com.





10 LEAF & PLANT TIPS FOR FALL

1. Rake and Compost Leaves

Fall leaves make the best plant fertilizer, compost, mulch, and soil conditioner there is for your garden! Leaves need to be shredded with a mower or a leaf vacuum and compost them all together to make leaf mold. Leaf compost also makes a beautiful organic mulch for your veggies and your flower beds.

2. Plant Garlic

Now is the time to plant garlic. You just plant it and forget it all winter and most of the spring. Plant each clove of the garlic separately. Each clove has a chance to root in before the cold temperatures of winter set in. In the springtime, each clove sends up a lovely green shoot and grows into a whole bulb of garlic by the summertime.

3. Plant Winter Veggie Crops

Winter crops such as lettuce, kale, and spinach are all wonderful choices for some cool-weather greens. Radishes grow best when planted in cool weather and taste best when harvested young. Read the label to determine the variety you can harvest by Thanksgiving. Winter sowing can be done for certain seeds that need a cold period before blooming. Overwintering onion sets (and even some hardy peas and broad beans) are also an excellent addition.

4. Schedule Your Last Lawn Mowing

Grass stops growing in the fall. Cut the lawn for a final time before snow covers it for the winter. This is a good time to clean and sharpen your powered yard equipment and empty any unused gasoline equipment. Stop using fertilizer on your lawn.

5. Take Care of the 4 D's

Fall is a prime time to remove any branches that are dead, damaged, diseased, or deranged (the 4 D's) from your trees and shrubs. "Deranged" refers to branches growing into the center of the tree or crossing and rubbing other branches.

6. Plant Spring-Blooming Bulbs

The fall is the perfect time to plant spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, allium, daffodils, hyacinth, and

crocus. Plant them now, and you'll be glad you did when you see them blooming after a chilly winter.

7. Plant Cover Crops on Bare Soil

Bare soil will attract weeds, so cover that bare soil. You can use cover crops such as crimson clover or winter rye and let them take up the space. In spring, turn the cover crop back into the soil to nourish and improve the ground and help feed your spring and summer crops and flowers.

8. Cut Back Some Herbaceous Perennials

The fall is time to cut back some herbaceous perennials that do not provide much winter interest or other benefits in the upcoming colder months. Leaves that can become soggy should be cut back. If you have native grasses like switchgrass or little bluestem, leave them standing to provide food and habitat over the cold months. You can cut the old growth in spring when the new growth begins to come up. Leafcutter bees, mason bees, and yellow-faced bees will nest in the hollow stems of many native plants. Leave your native plants standing over winter, and in the spring, instead of cutting them down. Leave 12 - 15 inches of stalk stubble standing for pollinator nesting sites.

9. Clear Up the Garden

The fall is the time to compost, cover, and clean the vegetable gardens, flower beds, and patios. Cover outdoor furniture and bring terra cotta pots undercover. Compost and clear out dead plants from the vegetable and ornamental garden. Yard waste composts most quickly if it is shredded or mulched before composting. Leaves with signs of disease should be otherwise discarded (do not add them to the compost pile).

10. Apply Winter Mulch

Mulch empty vegetable and ornamental beds with shredded leaves or mulch to insulate the soil from extreme temperature swings. You can use shredded leaves to keep the planting ground stable against too many freeze/thaw cycles. Apply mulch after the ground has frozen.

FOUR TREES TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Fall is the best time to plant trees. Cool weather, ample rainfall, and warm soil combine to make ideal conditions for root growth. This allows the tree to become well-established before the cold of winter and the heat of summer.

If you are planting a tree, consider planting one (or all) of four “ecosystem all-stars.” These are trees that support pollinators, butterflies, beneficial insects, and birds. They support birds with more than fruit, seeds, and nesting sites. By hosting caterpillars, they enable birds to raise their young. Baby birds need a lot of protein, and even tiny chickadees need between 7,000 and 9,000 caterpillars to raise a set of nestlings! At the same time, these trees will enhance your landscape.



The majestic red oak is named for its lovely fall color. Oaks tend to hold onto their leaves through the fall, so you can enjoy the show for a long time.



Tulip poplars bring elegance with their straight, gray trunks and “tuning fork” branches. The flashy summer yellow and orange flowers are among the best at providing nectar. A bee can fill up on a single poplar flower instead of having to visit a hundred other flowers. In fall, the leaves are a sunny, clear yellow.



Redbud is a beautiful understory tree. In spring, its rose-purple flowers sprout directly from the trunk and stems. Redbud leaves are heart-shaped and a deep red/purple color when new. When mature, the large leaves bring an interesting texture to the garden.



The shadbush is so-called because it blooms when the shad fish run upstream to spawn. It is very adaptable and can grow in a variety of situations. Most people plant it for the spring flowers, but the fruit is tasty in muffins, jams, wine, syrup, and pies.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS’ MEETING KICKS OFF FALL

The Fall Community Partners’ Meeting was held virtually on Thursday, September 23rd. It was hosted by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) with presentations from the Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). Presentations included information and updates to services that continue to be impacted by the pandemic and programs that have migrated online or offer virtual assistance to help continue providing for Prince George’s County residents.

DPIE covered which house projects required a permit, how to apply for one online, and provided a clear chart on who handles what services, from parked vehicle complaints to drainage complaints and much more. DoE provided updates on recent upgrades to the Materials Recycling Facility, the expansion of the curbside food scrap composting program, and improvements to trash collection services. DPW&T presented traffic safety awareness, Snow Summit preparations (November 18th), and the bi-annual Growing Green with Pride Day. The Office of Community Relations (OCR) also gave an exciting update on the newly revamped PGC311 app and how it’s more accessible now than ever. To view all the presentations in their entirety, visit environment.mypgc.us.

The Winter Community Partners’ virtual meeting, hosted by DPW&T was held on Thursday, December 9th at 9 am. Check environment.mypgc.us for a copy of the complete presentation.



CWP BALD HILL STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT MEETS SIGNIFICANT METRICS

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP), a community-based partnership between Prince George’s County and Corvias, has begun its third phase of stormwater management projects. Kicking off phase three, the CWP project list for year one includes a mix of stream restoration, pond retrofit, outfall, and school projects across the County.

CWP PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE – BALD HILL STREAM

ACTIVITY	START	END	DURATION
PLANNING	November 2019	March 2020	4 Months
DESIGN	December 2019	July 2021	7 Months
CONSTRUCTION	July 2021	April 2022	8.5 Months

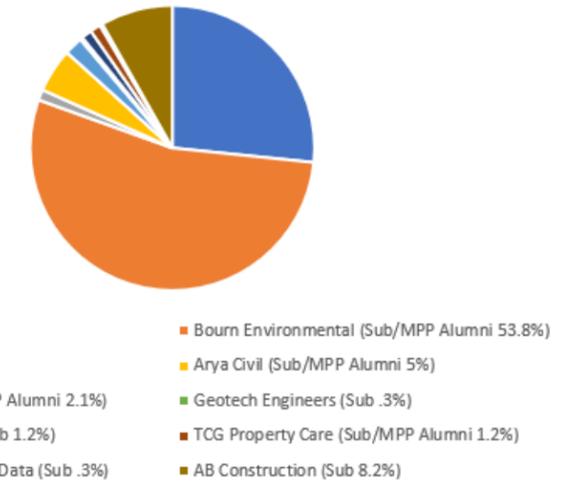


The Bald Hill Branch Stream Restoration project, located in Lanham, MD (Council District 5), will provide 1,081 linear feet of restoration, receiving 224 impervious restoration area credits and nearly 400,000 lbs./year of sediment reduction for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL is a comprehensive measure to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and the region’s streams, creeks, and rivers.

The Bald Hill Branch Stream Project will include a multi-staged stream channel providing a low-flow natural channel that will deliver the base flow and accommodate bankfull storm events. A bankfull stage occurs when the water level of a stream, river, or lake is at the top of its banks, and any additional rise results in water moving into the flood plain. The stream will also prevent further mass erosion of sediment, which will alleviate some downstream flooding issues.

Through additional benefit and alignment with the CWP’s community-based partnership model, this project will also offer significant social and economic impact to the Lanham community. Part of the CWP’s strategic planning, preparation of its Phase 3, Year 1 annual plan included determining methods to divide stream restoration packages for procurement to ensure opportunities for firms (local, small, disadvantaged) that typically would not be involved in stream restoration projects. As a result of this planning and coordination effort, the Bald Hill Stream Restoration project achieved a significant milestone of utilizing 100% target class and 95% county-based firms for the project.

Target Class Participation Percent of Award Value



The construction delivery team includes general contractor D&F Construction Co. Inc., one of the program’s original general contractors completing CWP projects since the start of Phase 1 back in 2016. Subcontractors working on the project include Bourn Environmental, Dirt Worx, LLC, Arya Civil, Clinton Sewer, Geotech Engineers, Century Engineers, TCG Property Care, A.I. Data, and AB Construction, Inc. - four of which have previously completed the CWP’s Mentor Protégé Program.

“We landed with five different contractors onsite that have expertise in various areas that are unique to the scope of work involved in stream restoration projects. Collectively this brings forth a wealth of knowledge and varied skillsets that aid in shared learning and implementation,” said Pete Littleton, Corvias Director, Partnerships and Production Management. “This is an exceptional model we intend to carry forward should the opportunity arise for more bundled stream restoration projects.”

Jeff DeHan, DoE’s Associate Director, Stormwater Management Division, shared his approval of the project. “Treatment adoption, small business application, economic and environmental uplift, and regulatory compliance combined create the perfect combination of design solution, community engagement, and water quality improvements,” said DeHan.

Stay tuned for additional insights from the voice of the contractors following the successful completion of the project via the CWP’s The Drop Newsletter.

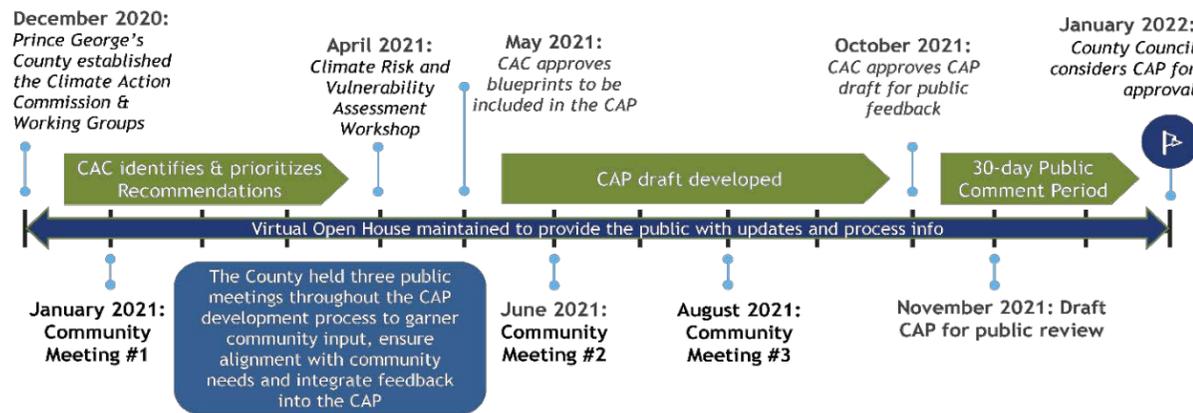


PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Prince George's County is one step closer to creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP) that will help our communities become more resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change. The draft Climate Action Plan aims to help the County reach its carbon emissions goal of 50% reduction by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. It provides recommendations on how Prince George's County can invest in green infrastructure and programs, such as renewable energy, smart growth communities, low-carbon transportation, and resilient water systems.

The draft CAP was released for public comment from Monday, November 1, 2021, through Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Residents, organizations, businesses, and County-based entities were asked to submit responses to the plan to help create climate change resilient communities throughout Prince George's County.

A Supplemental Public Comments Report will capture and summarize all public comments received as part of the public comment period. In January of 2022, DoE, in the capacity of Climate Action Commission (CAC) support staff, will submit the official CAP with the Supplemental Public Comments Report to the County Council and County Executive. To view the plan, visit mypgc.us/climateactionplan. Contact Mary Abe, Section Head, Natural Resource Protection & Stewardship Programs, Sustainability Division, for questions on the next steps at MAbe@co.pg.md.us.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EARNS GIS SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognized for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer GIS Enterprise System



The Department of Environment (DoE) Stormwater Management Division (SMD) received a 2021 Special Achievement Award in Geographic Information System (GIS) from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) during its Annual Virtual User Conference held this summer.

DoE was awarded the prestigious award in GIS (a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data) for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater GIS

Enterprise System. The system maintains information (in a workflow system) that streamlines data collection and reports generation from multiple agencies and various regulatory and non-regulatory programs. In addition, the system was created to enhance the Maryland Department of Environment's (MDE) geodatabase and build applications to create the MS4 report and to meet other County needs.

"We are thrilled to receive a Special Recognition Award for our efforts in GIS," said DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms. "SMD continues to be a leader in efforts to effectively develop and implement programs that improve the water quality in our County."

The award recognizes County employees Charles Braese and Patrick Callahan for their innovative efforts in GIS. Braese, a GIS Project Lead in SMD, is responsible for creating and submitting data for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) report, designing web mapping applications, providing support to SMD, and managing the County's Enterprise Stormwater Management Geodatabase.



Charles Braese



Patrick Callahan

Callahan is a GIS Manager in the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and has more than 30 years working in GIS, with the past 18 years as the GIS Manager for OIT. He is the Project lead for all multi-agency GIS County initiatives, and his office supports all GIS activities.

Esri is an international supplier of GIS software and a leader in web GIS and geodatabase management applications. The Esri User Conference is one of the largest of its kind. It recognizes organizations and government agencies throughout the world for ground-breaking and cutting-edge applications of GIS systems.

For more information about DoE's Stormwater Management Division, visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/261/Stormwater-Management>.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY UNVEILS EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AT MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY

New equipment will help process recyclables more cleanly and efficiently

After a six-month overhaul, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to officially unveil the completion of equipment upgrades at the Facility. The event included County officials, representatives from Maryland Environmental Service (MES), operators of the Facility, and other key County officials.

"The reason the County promotes recycling is that it reduces pollution, reduces greenhouse gases, and reduces the amount of waste that ends up in our landfills," said Floyd Holt, Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Infrastructure, Technology and Environmental Services.

"The upgraded system will allow recyclable materials to be processed more efficiently," said DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms. "These updates will save the County time and money, as well as reinforce our mission to recycle as many uncontaminated materials in our waste stream as possible."

The new MRF equipment includes a substantial upgrade to its sorting system. This consists of the installation of three new TITECH (TOMRA) Optical Sorting Units, an additional Elliptical Separator, a new plastics sorting line with (four) new 75-cubic yard storage buns for PET, HDPE-Natural and Color and Poly Propylene (PP), a new permanent magnet, an Eddy Current and a Control Panel (MCC).

These new recycling upgrades will allow the sorting equipment to separate the plastics into more valuable products. The last updates to the sorting equipment at the MRF were made in 2007 when the County transitioned to a single stream system to collect recyclable materials.

As a leader in waste diversion, the County's goal is to recycle as many components from the waste stream as feasible, minimize dependency on the landfill, and make recycling easy and convenient with less contamination. Residents are encouraged to maintain good recycling habits, including placing the right items in the collection bins and keeping recyclables clean and unbagged. Plastics bags are not accepted in recycling collection carts.

Residents are reminded to only recycle plastics with resin identification numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 as listed on the bottom or back of the material. To see a list of acceptable items collected in the County's recycling program, visit bit.ly/wastetoolkit.

The MRF opened its doors in October 1993 as a 65,000-square foot facility. The Facility processes more than 70,000 tons of recyclable materials last year.

For more information about the MRF, call 301-324-4762. For additional information about MES, visit menv.com/service/recycling.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IMPLEMENTS COMPOSTING PILOT WITH PLANS TO EXPAND PROGRAM



With the successful implementation of the Curbside Food Scraps Composting Pilot, Prince George's County has launched an expansion to service other targeted communities. The County is offering this program to help keep valuable materials out of the landfill, reduce excessive greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment, and help Prince George's County achieve its zero waste goals.

All compostable materials are processed at the County-owned Organics Composting Facility (OCF) located at 6550 Maude Savoy Brown Road in Upper Marlboro. The facility processes the materials and produces a nutrient-rich amendment product called Leafgro Gold® that improves soil health and function and is excellent for flower gardens, vegetable gardens, perennials, bulbs, planting trees, and shrubs.

There are a variety of materials that can be composted, including yard trim, leaves, grass, brush, and food. A few examples of food items include fruits, vegetables, cooked meats, leftovers, bones, eggs, eggshells, dairy (no liquids), seafood, shellfish, baked goods, coffee filters and grounds, tea bags and loose tea leaves, soiled paper napkins, and pizza boxes.

Materials may be composted by setting out at the curb by 6 a.m. for Monday collection. Residents are asked to include only food, food-related items, and yard waste (optional) in the exterior cart for collection. If yard waste is not stored in the cart, residents may continue to place yard trim beside the cart in paper yard trim bags or another container with a tight-fitting lid marked "Yard Trim" or "Yard Waste." However, all food and food-soiled items must be placed in the organics cart for pick-up.

Some of the steps to make composting easy are:

1. Collect your food scraps: Keep your interior food scrap collection container conveniently in your kitchen, such as on your countertop, under the sink, or in your refrigerator/freezer. While cooking or cleaning up, place your leftover food scraps in your container.
2. Store compostables in the kitchen container: On Monday morning or the night before collection, put your compostables in your exterior organics cart with yard trim, and place it curbside by 6 a.m. Depending upon the amount of food scraps you have, your kitchen bin may need to be emptied more than once per week.
3. Place wet compostables on top of dry ones: Put food scraps on top of newspaper, crumpled brown paper bags, and paper towels help to soak up any liquids, reducing the chance that the liner will leak or break. Do not put hot liquids or plastic bags in your bins.
4. Store wet and smelly scraps in the refrigerator or freezer until collection day: Store meat scraps, bones, and fishy items in the freezer until collection day to reduce the chance of unpleasant odors in your kitchen. Place these items in your exterior cart on collection day.

If you would like to participate, please contact PGC311 to inquire about the program. After opting in, participants will receive a starter kit that includes a 2-gallon kitchen countertop pail, an exterior 32-gallon wheeled cart, and educational materials. For more information, visit mypgc.us/compost.

RECYCLE MORE, TRASH LESS



With the holiday season fast approaching, it is a great opportunity to get involved and to recognize we are all in this together when it comes to the wellbeing of our communities and County. When we all work together towards keeping our communities clean by not littering, calling in our bulky trash, placing our trash and recycling carts on the curbside on time and making sure we do not mix recyclables with trash, we are making Prince George's County a cleaner and healthier community.

Prince George's County is at the forefront of the waste diversion fight. We are always looking for ways to reduce the amount of trash generated. We are home to the largest municipal composting facility on the East Coast and are in the process of expanding our curbside organics collection program. Prince George's has a state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which has recently been upgraded to process recyclables more efficiently. Convenience drop-off centers are available to residents to dispose of their refuse for free and we are actively engaging in extending the life of the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL).

At times, we might think small actions do not make a difference, but they do! It is the small actions taken by a majority that makes all the difference. Small actions like refusing to use plastic bags offered at grocery stores and rather using your own reusable bags can drastically decrease the amount of litter we see in our streets and green spaces. It is the small actions being made by residents like you that help make our communities a better place to live.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not made our waste diversion fight easy as we are spending more time at home and more refuse is being generated. However, it's not all bad. Spending more time at home can provide us with the opportunity to better understand our trash and recycling habits, and we might even realize we can do better.

Performing a quick analysis of your trash and recyclables, can let you know if you are recycling right, just check out our Recycling Toolkit at bit.ly/wastetoolkit for a comprehensive list of what can and can't be recycled in Prince George's County, available in both English and Spanish.

So be part of the change! Prince George's County is your home and we need every resident to get involved to keep Prince George's beautiful. Take this opportunity to learn more on what simple actions you can take to keep our county clean and beautiful by just visiting pgcproud.com/pledge-campaign.

PERMITTING SEASON HAS BEGUN - VEHICLES AND COLLECTOR'S/BUSINESS LICENSE MUST BE RENEWED

As mandated by CR-116-1991, "No Recyclable Material or Solid Waste generated in Prince George's County shall be transported by any person over any public highway or street within Prince George's County, unless it is contained in a vehicle for which there is a valid registration issued by the Department of the Environment. The registration card shall state the name of the vehicle owner, the description and serial number of the vehicle, Maryland vehicle license or state apportioned tag number and the county refuse collection vehicle registration number."

The current Solid Waste and/or Recycling Collection Vehicle Temporary Permit expired on September 30, 2021. All collection vehicles must pass a Health Department Inspection and provide documentation prior to obtaining permit. All collection/hauler businesses must be licensed or re-licensed.

Before reporting to the Recycling Section to renew your license(s), you must first have your collection vehicle(s) inspected by the Health Department. All applications for a Collector's License and individual vehicle registration cards to be used for the collection and hauling of Solid Waste or Recyclable Material, shall be submitted on forms available through the Department of the Environment (DoE) - Recycling Section. License(s) will be issued by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (no exceptions). Appointments must be made in advance, by calling 301-883-3635 or by emailing VehiclePermits@co.pg.md.us.

These licenses may not be sold or reassigned to any other party. A separate license is required for each vehicle. As part of the annual renewal of a Collector's License, a vehicle inspection through the Health Department is required for all Class II, III and IV vehicles. Applications for a Collector's License must be made annually by September 30.

For more information, description, cost of collector's license & vehicle registration, access to the fillable application form, and list of documentation required, please visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/626/Collection-Licensing.



SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) STUDENTS SHINE AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

This past summer, the Department of Environment (DoE) provided Prince George's County students with an environmental career and educational experience as part of the County's Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP).

DoE sponsored 100 student interns, and 15 Cadet Team leaders split into 10 groups, who performed various duties associated with the County's Beautification Initiative, an anti-littering campaign focused on improving the environment. Using the theme "Community Proud Environmental Stewardship/Environmental Justice," DoE staff volunteers provided guidance and assisted the students with various activities and projects throughout the summer.

The students were tasked with becoming Environmental Stewards by learning about waste and litter's impact on our community, rivers, and health. The students toured our local streams and rivers and got to see the County's first installed Bandalong in-stream trash trap located in Hyattsville. The trash trap is designed to collect litter and other debris in waterways before it floats further downstream. Students also visited the Resource Recovery operational facilities operated by DoE, including the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL), Organics Composting Recycling Facility (OCF) in Upper Marlboro and the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Capitol Heights.

"It was an amazing experience for our staff because the students were enthusiastic, adventurous, and creative, and by the end of the program, they understood the importance of the work performed at DoE," said Director of DoE Andrea L. Crooms. "We look forward to next year's SYEP." The SYEP students met in person from July through August at Fairmont Heights High School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On Mondays and Fridays, virtual workshops were conducted by team leaders. The student's presented a final project highlighting an array of environmental topic such as:

Marquilla Coles - The Benefits of Recycling

Shayonna Banks - Importance of Composting

Joshua Hawkins - The Benefits of Green Roofs

Zillay Saleem - Centuries to Form Only Seconds to Use

Gracie Guerrero-Osorio - Make Your Own Filter

Iyanna Dorn - Neo Recycle

Akinniyi Dale - Importance of Recycling Tetracycline

Shadawn Fleming and Kourtney Harding - Growth of DoE

James Barber - DoE Newest Star

Congratulations to all of the DoE SYEP 2021 Environmental Stewards on a job well done!

MOONLIGHT THE KITTEN

A STORY FOR SURVIVAL

Somehow, one day, a tiny kitten found himself in a yard waste bag. Unknowingly the residential curbside collection crew serviced their route, and the yard trim was placed into the packer truck and delivered to the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility.

Two Maryland Environmental Service (MES) staff members, Jay Miller and Fany Contreras found the kitten within the heap of yard trim ready for placement into the grinder. They got the kitten to the office, where they placed him into a box with some towels for comfort.

Another staff member, Cathy Cusins, went to the local grocery store during her lunch break to buy some kitten food, and she was able to feed him and get him to drink some water. It was apparent he had been starving. A family member of one of the employees picked up the kitten and took him to the Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC). They also took a photo of the kitten and provided an account of what happened to the Resource Recovery Division (RRD).

Seeing the tiny malnutrition kitten's desperate situation, an RRD team member immediately decided to foster and then adopt the kitten and named him Moonlight. After an animal emergency hospital visit for emergency hydration treatment, Moonlight made it through the night. The RRD employee asked if they thought the kitten would live, and a staff member at the ASFAC said, "yes." And she was correct!

The ASFAC staff demonstrated how to get the little kitten to eat and explained all the unique yet simple things to do to care for an animal in such grave condition. With care and love, Moonlight is living a normal, healthy, and happy life. He now lives with two older sister cats and a brother kitten his same age. He eats so much now; he is bigger than his brother! His fur, which was dirty and matted, went from barely being recognizable as a kitten to being beautiful.

The story of Moonlight should help to remind people when doing their yard work, especially as the leaves start to cover the ground, to be watchful to make sure no little stray animals get tangled up or entrapped somehow within collection containers.

And, finally, hopefully, such a heartfelt story will help promote the adoption of pets. The Prince George's County Animal Services and Adoption Center has just the perfect pet for you! Please contact 301-780-7201 or 7202 if you are interested in fostering or adopting a new family member!

Moonlight Rescued



Moonlight Today



ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT!

Shed donated to House Humane Traps and Equipment



'Tis the season for giving! In keeping with that tradition, a generous donation of a shed to house humane traps and equipment was donated to the Department of Environment's (DoE) Animal Services Division (ASD) by Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) and Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return (TNVR) organizations.

The official unveiling of the shed took place earlier in November with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by ASD at the Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. The director of DoE Andrea L. Crooms said, "the donation of the shed allows our ASD and its TNVR partners to house

additional humane traps and equipment to allow us to be more proactive and effective. We are so grateful for the partnerships and the shed donation."

Through TNVR cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. In addition, the tip of one ear is painlessly removed to indicate the cats are part of a TNVR program. The cats are then returned to the communities where they live, ending the cycle of producing kittens.

Marsha Dabolt, a spokesperson for ACR is excited about the importance of the community cat partnership. "We are successful because of Prince George's County support and we are thrilled we were able to donate the shed."

In addition, Cynthia Sharpley founder of Last Chance Rescue said, "The donation of the shed is significant because it allows for growth and stronger partnerships. The donation of the shed is the start of an epic effort that puts Prince George's County as one of the most progressive counties in the United States concerning animal welfare."

Other groups supporting ASD Community Cats programs include:

Alley Cat Rescue: <http://www.saveacat.org>

Laurel Cats: <https://laurelcats.org>

Outlaw Kitties: <https://www.facebook.com/OutlawKittiesTNR>

Beltsville Cats: <https://www.beltsvillecats.net>

A Cat's Life Rescue: <https://www.acatsliferescue.org>

Bowie Claw: <https://www.bowieclaw.org>

Puddy Cat Rescue: <https://www.facebook.com/puddycatsrescue>

Last Chance Animal Rescue: <https://www.lastchanceanimalrescue.org>

PG County SPCA: <https://www.pgferals.org>

LOCAL VOLUNTEER HONORED FOR HIS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND DONATIONS TO ANIMAL FACILITY

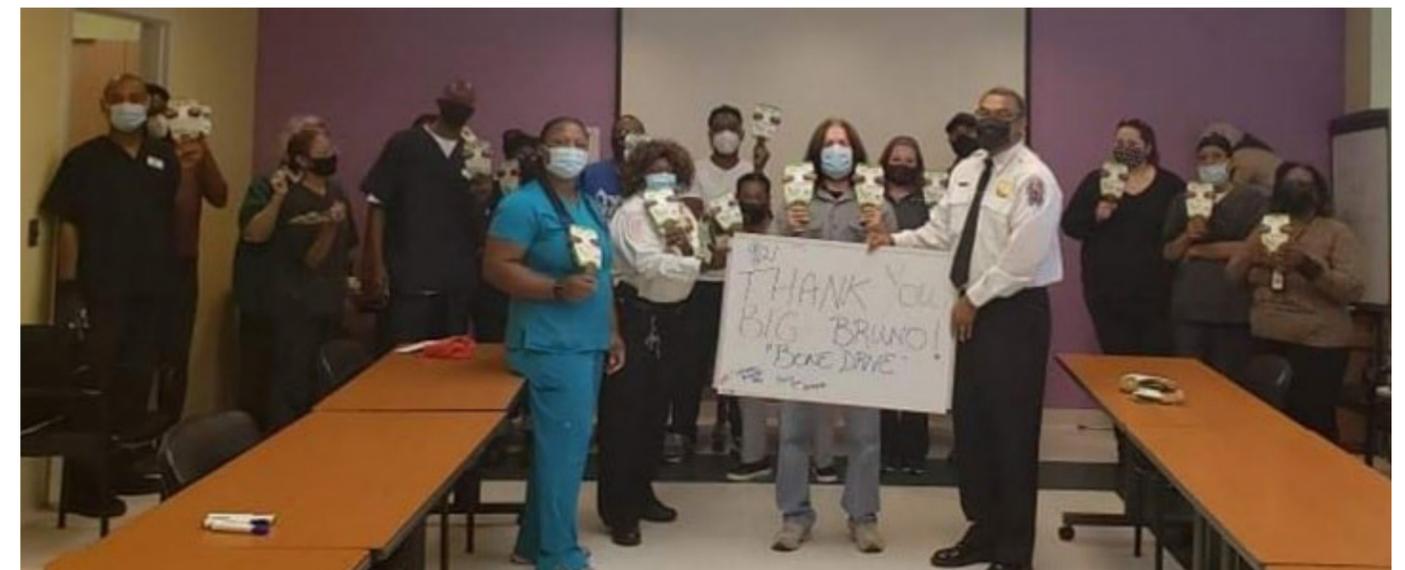


The Prince George's County Animal Services Division (ASD) recently honored an amazing volunteer named Bruce Cohen, affectionately referred to as "Big Bruno," for his outstanding service and generous donations to the facility.

"Big Bruno," along with his friend and another shelter volunteer, Melissa King, sponsored a Benebone Drive - a flavored durable chew toy designed for a paw-friendly grip for dogs to enjoy. Through this drive, they were able to purchase 248 Nyla bones, which were promptly delivered to the homeless animals at the shelter.

"Big Bruno" has been a wonderful and loyal partner of the shelter, both before and during the pandemic. He has donated two brand new refrigerators needed for saving specimens and storing vaccines and medications. He has delivered boxes and bags full of blankets, treats, toys, leashes, collars, and other animal-related items necessary to maintain the shelter's operations.

We salute "Big Bruno" for the outpouring of love he has for the less fortunate four-legged members of our community.



DoE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES DURING ANNUAL EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION

DoE recently hosted a social distance celebration to acknowledge outstanding employees and present awards to employees who have performed exemplary service throughout the year.

Held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge's outdoor pavilion in Upper Marlboro, DoE Senior Leadership thanked employees for their commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done this past year. In addition, employees with 5, 15, and 30 years of service were recognized.

"This past year has been a test of endurance for all of us," said DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms. "Our employees have been creative in finding ways to communicate virtually, maintaining relationships despite not having face-to-face meetings, and working in extreme weather conditions. We have continued to take care of business and get things done professionally and efficiently."



Director's Award
Paul DeSousa



Above and Beyond
Chicquita Smith
Kevin R. Serrona
Reno Brown



Bright Idea
Carole Barth
Latonya Adams



Best Team
RRD Disposal Section - Maintenance
William Dove
Herbert Young
Herbert Hyde
Richard Brooks
Hosea Peterson
Vincent Smith



Sunshine
Joseph Correia



Unsung Hero
Alfred Titus-Glover



Above and Beyond- Honorable Mention
Timothy Richards
Marilyn Naumann



Director's Award
SYEP Team
Tiaa Rutherford, Vanessa Lee, Reginald B. Ford, Kenneth Krantz, Michael Bashore, Kacie Smith, Tonia Morris, Shannon Thornton, Gadisa A. Yami, Alicia Swann, Jeffrey Bond, Helen Register, Henry J. Hargove III, Udomah Ohir, Alfred Titus-Glover

Service Awards

5 YEARS

Deont'A L. Jones
 Allen Williams
 Ebonie Ford
 Jennifer Lynn Cooper
 Stephen D. Gorden
 Cierra M. Baker
 Tiaa B. Rutherford
 Michael Gebreyesus Gidey
 Simone Parks

15 YEARS

Antionette Peterson
 Shellon A. Holloway
 Darnaye Hines
 Stanley D. Johnson
 Clarence E. Woodrow, Jr.
 Vincent G. Gayles
 Shirley D. Johnson
 Kalik A. Housen
 Linda M. Lowe
 Eric Jackson

30 YEARS

Eunice Smith
 Geronimo S. Simms, Sr.
 James M. Lyons
 Vincent L. Smith, Sr.
 Christopher Akinbobola
 Moses O. Fadiran



HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
 Condado de Prince George

CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE
 Cambio de fecha de recolección de residuos por el día festivo

DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 22	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 24
MON LUNES	TUE MARTES	WED MIÉRCOLES	THU JUEVES	FRI VIERNES

NO CHANGE TO ORGANICS, RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION
 ningún cambio para reciclaje y recolección de basura

For more information on the holiday schedule changes, please contact PGC311
 Para obtener más información sobre los cambios por el día festivo, comuníquese con PGC311

Prince Georges Proud ENVIRONMENT

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
 Condado de Prince George

NEW YEAR'S DAY

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE
 Cambio de fecha de recolección de residuos por el día festivo

DECEMBER 27	DECEMBER 28	DECEMBER 29	DECEMBER 30	DECEMBER 31
MON LUNES	TUE MARTES	WED MIÉRCOLES	THU JUEVES	FRI VIERNES

NO CHANGE TO ORGANICS, RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION
 ningún cambio para reciclaje y recolección de basura

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