

summer 2022

# SUMMER CAR SAFETY FOR PETS



# ARBOR DAY AT MATTAPONI ELEMENTARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# GREEN SCENE 2022 newsletter

# IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEW CARROLLTON COMMUNITY



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Neighbors,

The Prince George's County Fiscal Year 2023 (FY'23) budget, titled "A Time of Rising Opportunity," kicked off July 1, 2022. With this new budget comes new opportunities and a renewed focus on our core mission and outreach to each of you about how to be part of it. Our primary focus will be environmental education across our community-focused Divisions: Stormwater Management, Sustainability, Resource Recovery, and Animal Services.

In FY'23, we will roll out our County-wide food scraps composting program to nearly half our residential households across the County. We will increase our education and enforcement programs to combat littering and illegal dumping and work with our residents to divert more waste. We will also develop County-wide watershed studies to understand better how to protect our water's health and reduce flooding across the County, create the implementation strategy for our recently approved Climate Action Plan, and complete the reorganization and partnership-focused strategic plan for our Animal Services Division.

DoE recently welcomed the Sustainable Energy experts, formerly in the Office of Central Services, to our Sustainability Division. This reorganization will allow us to approach the issues of climate and decarbonization holistically. We are hosting Student Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) interns for the summer, who will learn about our agency and give us insights on how to communicate with young people in our communities about our mission.

In this summer Green Scene issue, you will find an article on how DoE will guide the County's efforts on the Climate Action Plan, welcome a new pet into your home as a foster-pet-parent or forever as an adopter, and learn about our work in the community to manage stormwater and beautify our streams. You will be reminded of the new programs we've rolled out to make waste collection more environmentally friendly and efficient and gain insight into our work with Prince George's County Public Schools on tree planting and with their Green Teams, and a lot more.

I invite you to read and learn more about some of these exciting initiatives and to stay connected to us by visiting our web page at <http://environment.mypgc.us>.

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.

# COUNTY ADOPTS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Prince George's County Council has unanimously approved the County's first Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Report submitted by the Climate Action Commission. The plan calls for an emissions reduction of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and a Countywide goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Earlier this year, County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks signed executive order No. 5-2022, calling for these reductions across County government and County-funded operations.

The Department of the Environment (DoE) Director Andrea Crooms adds that the time to act on climate change is now. "Climate change is already impacting our infrastructure and the local community. We must act now to adapt to these impacts and build resilience to these changes." The plan will also address efforts to advance environmental justice, centering on the idea that all people shall have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their environment and health.

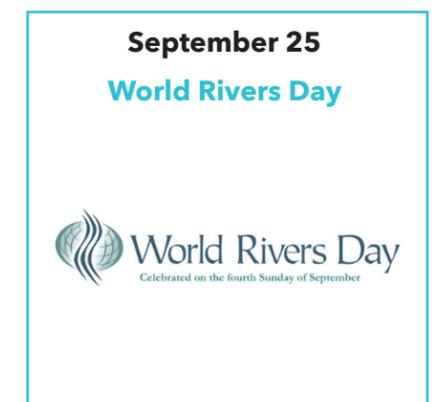
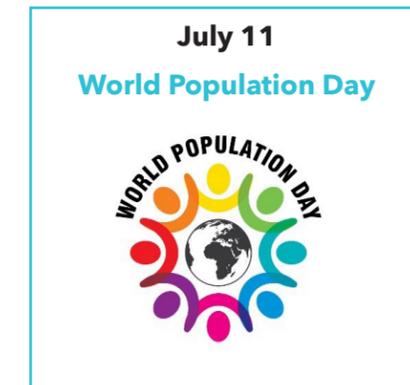
The Prince George's County Council established the Climate Action Commission to develop a community-wide Draft Climate Action Plan. That draft plan was completed and delivered to the Prince George's County Council in January 2022 and includes public input. The plan consists of 26 priority recommendations that guide the County towards investments in infrastructure such as renewable energy systems, low-carbon transportation, smart growth communities, and resilient water, energy, and transportation systems.

Executive Order No. 5 - 2022 establishes the County shall commit to prioritizing Residential and Community resilience to unprecedented weather events caused by Climate Change, including flooding, extreme heat, and drought. It also calls for DoE to lead a Climate Action Implementation Task Force and Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice to develop Climate Solutions strategies and actions to achieve the emissions and resilience goals established in the Draft Climate Action Plan and Supplemental Public Comments.

The Climate Action Implementation Task Force will be comprised of representatives from various County agencies and County-funded Operations. The Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice will consist of at least twelve but no more than fifty residents and a cross-section of County community members selected to represent the geographic, age, economic, gender, and racial diversity of the County. Both groups will collaborate and deliver a preliminary report with climate action strategy recommendations, costs, and proposed funding before developing the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

To view a full copy of the plan, learn how you can participate in the Resident Advisory Group, or for more general information, visit <http://mypgc.us/climateactionplan>.

# SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDAR 2022



# SUMMER IS HERE!

Hot, humid, and, at times, uncomfortable temperatures are starting to settle in. Summer is usually when households run higher energy costs due to hot temperatures, travel plans, and hosting celebrations. We must also take into consideration the effect of heat on our family, neighbors, and furry or feathery family members. It begs the question: What's the best way for us to enjoy summer while keeping cool, our energy costs down, and stay safe, all while being sustainable? We can admit it's a challenge, but one that is easily possible if we plan appropriately.

Cookouts and summer go hand in hand! While these festivities create great memories of family and friends coming together, they can also become messy and wasteful. Be smart - if you are having a small gathering, skip disposable dishware and utensils. Instead use your regular dishware and wash them immediately after use. If you plan to have a large gathering, buy compostable or biodegradable dishware and utensils - avoid the plastic versions of these items. You will avoid having to clean a big mess and it's a perfect way to use your new compost bins.

Did you know trees and plants help reduce urban heat islands and are a proven to help mitigate floods? Trees help absorb and deflect heat from the sun providing a cooling effect in urban areas, plus the shade provided is a big bonus. The best way to take advantage of all the benefits trees provide is to plant native trees. Plant trees like the American Elm, River Birch, Southern Magnolia or Redbud, as they are local and are naturally adapted to the weather and conditions here in Maryland.

After grilling outside and enjoying some nice shade from our native trees, it's only natural to want to come inside and enjoy our air conditioners (AC). According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 78 degrees is the best indoor temperature during the summer months. This setting will help you feel comfortable indoors without straining your AC and draining your wallet with high utility bills. Make sure your AC is checked for top efficiency by hiring a professional to make sure your AC is ready for the demanding season. The service professional should ensure proper refrigerant levels, electrical components and controls, clean evaporator and condenser coils, oil levels, and ensure filters are properly cleaned or replaced.

Always remember to check on the wellbeing of those close to us like friends and family, but especially our elderly and disabled. Check on your neighbors to ensure their safety, make sure they feel comfortable, that their AC is working and that they have all the supplies they need (food, water, and medications) to get through, and if not, be a good neighbor and volunteer to go get these supplies for them if needed.

If you have pets at home, remember they can feel the heat just as much as we do! Know that it is unlawful to have pets outside when temperatures are 90 degrees or higher, so make sure to bring them inside during hot weather, ensure they have plenty of fresh water available, and never leave them in the car. You can also take them for walks at dusk or dawn when pavement and sidewalk temperatures are cooler.

Enjoy summer - after all it's a beautiful season in Prince Georges County! Just be prepared for the weather when you go out, enjoy the trails and parks in the county. Don't forget its hot and as always, remember to bring your reusable water bottle.

# ¡EL VERANO ESTÁ AQUÍ!

Las temperaturas calurosas, húmedas y a veces incómodas están comenzando a establecerse. El verano es usualmente cuando los hogares comienzan a incurrir en altos costos de energía, esto se debe a las altas temperaturas, planes de viajes, y celebraciones. Al igual debemos de tomar en consideración los efectos de las altas temperaturas en nuestros familiares, vecinos y nuestros familiares peludos y plumosos. Por ende, debemos de preguntarnos: ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de disfrutar el verano mientras nos mantenemos frescos, reduciendo nuestros costos de energía y manteniéndonos a salvo, todo mientras siendo sostenibles? Podemos admitir que es un desafío, pero uno que es posible sencillamente si planeamos de manera apropiada.

¡Las parrilladas y el verano van mano a mano! Mientras que estas festividades crean bonitos recuerdos entre familia y amigos compartiendo juntos, también pueden ser eventos con mucho desorden y basura. Sea sabio - si va a tener una pequeña reunión, no utilice platos y utensilios desechables. En su lugar utilice su vajilla regular y lávelas inmediatamente luego de utilizarlas. Si planea una reunión grande, compre platos y utensilios compostable o biodegradable - evite las versiones de plásticos de estas. De esta manera evitara tener que limpiar un gran desorden y es una perfecta oportunidad de utilizar su nuevo contenedor para compostaje.

¿Sabía usted que los árboles y plantas reducen las islas de calor urbanas y han demostrado ayudar a mitigar inundaciones? Los árboles absorben y ayudan a reflejar el calor proveniente del sol mientras proveen un efecto refrescante en áreas urbanas, además la sombra proveída es una gran ventaja. La mejor manera de tomar ventaja de todos los beneficios que proveen los árboles es plantar árboles nativos. Plante arboles como el Olmo Americano, el Abedul del Rio, el Magnolia del Sur o el Ciclamor Rojo ya que estos son locales y se han adaptado naturalmente al clima y condiciones del Estado de Maryland.

Después de la parrillada y de disfrutar de la rica sombra de su árbol nativo, es solo natural querer entrar a nuestra casa y disfrutar de nuestro aire acondicionado. Según el Departamento de Energía de los Estados Unidos, la mejor temperatura para la casa durante los meses de verano es de 78 grados. Esta temperatura le hará sentirse cómodo en casa sin estresar su aire acondicionado o drenar su cartera con altas facturas de utilidades. Asegúrese que su aire acondicionado sea inspeccionado para máxima eficiencia contratando a un profesional que se asegure que su aire acondicionado esté listo para la exigente temporada. El profesional de servicio debe asegurar; los niveles debidos de refrigerantes y aceites, los componente y controles eléctricos, limpieza de los condensadores y evaporadores, y limpiar o reemplazar los filtros.

Siempre recuerde chequear por el bienestar de aquellos cercanos a nosotros como amigos y familia, en especial a aquellos que son ancianos o discapacitados. Visite a sus vecinos para asegurar su bienestar, asegúrese que estén cómodos, que su aire acondicionado esté funcionando y que tengan los suministros necesarios (comida, agua y medicamentos) y si no, sea un buen vecino y voluntariamente vaya y obtenga los suministros necesarios.

¡Si tiene una mascota en casa, recuerde que ellos sienten el calor tanto como nosotros! Sepa que es ilegal tener mascotas afuera en temperaturas de 90 grados o más, así que asegúrese de; entrarlos durante climas calientes, que tengan suficiente agua fresca disponible y nunca los deje en el auto. Así también puede llevarlos a caminatas al amanecer y al anochecer cuando las temperaturas del pavimento y las aceras están más frescas.

Disfrute del verano - después de todo es una temporada hermosa en el Condado de Prince George. Solo este preparado para el clima cuando vaya de salida, disfrute de los senderos y parques del condado. No olvide que está caliente y como siempre, recuerde traer su botella reusable con agua.

# SUMMER CAR SAFETY FOR PETS

The Prince George's County Animal Control Ordinance Section 3-180 titled "Animal Cruelty and Neglect" says all domestic animals except livestock are prohibited from being kept outdoors when the heat index is 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, as determined by the National Weather Service. Any person who inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon the animal; may be charged in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (b). For more information or to view a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance, visit <http://bit.ly/pgcanimalcontrolcode>.

## IF YOU SEE A PET IN A HOT CAR:

- Write down the car's make, model and license plate number.
- Ask nearby businesses to make an announcement to find the car's owner.
- If the owner can't be found, call your local police or animal control and wait by the car for them to arrive.

## WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Ask local store managers, shopping malls, restaurants, and other businesses to post signs asking customers not to leave their pets in cars while shopping or dining. You can download a flyer at [www.humanesociety.org/hotcar](http://www.humanesociety.org/hotcar).
- Be prepared to help. Keep phone numbers for your local animal control agency, police department, and emergency veterinary clinic in your wallet or phone.

To report an animal experiencing neglect or cruelty in Prince George's County, contact the Animal Services Division at 301-780-7200, and select "0" after the emergency message.



# FOSTERING: A WIN FOR EVERYONE

The Prince George's Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) animal fostering program allow persons who are unable to commit to a long-term adoption the opportunity to care for an animal on a short-term basis. This program helps save an animal's life!

The process to become a foster parent is just three easy steps. Complete, sign and return the Foster Care application and agreement; attend a foster orientation and schedule a home visit.

The dates for the summer fostering orientations are:

**Saturday, August 20th at 10 am**

If you are interested, please reach out to our foster coordinator Marilyn at 301-780-7202 or [mpperez@co.pg.md.us](mailto:mpperez@co.pg.md.us).

**FOSTERING**

The Animal Services Division Foster Program helps meet the needs of animals that are too young or immature for adoption, injured or recovering from surgery, require special care due to illness or pregnancy, or just in need of a second chance! For anyone who may not be able to commit to owning a pet for 10-15 years, fostering allows you to care for an animal on a short-term basis.

**REASONS TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT:**

- Provide companionship, a sense of purpose and fulfillment, and fun!
- Create space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals.
- Help save an animal's life!

Contact:  
Marilyn Perez  
Foster Coordinator  
[MPPEREZ@co.pg.md.us](mailto:MPPEREZ@co.pg.md.us)  
301-780-7202

**FOSTERING SAVES LIVES**

Animal Services Division

# \$5 FRIDAY CAT ADOPTION THROUGH OCTOBER

The ASFAC will host \$5 cat adoptions every Friday now through October. Each adoption includes spay/neutering, current, and age-appropriate vaccinations, and microchips. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give a loving home to a cat. For more information, visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).

## \$5 FRIDAY CAT ADOPTIONS

### MAY - OCTOBER

All cats/kittens adopted on Fridays from May through October are \$5. Each adoption includes spay/neuter, current and age-appropriate vaccinations and microchip.

ALL cats/kittens adopted on \$5 Fridays are for EACH feline adopted. There is no special pricing for a second pet. Adoption applications must be received on the event date to qualify for the reduced adoption fee.

[www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com)

# ADOPT DON'T SHOP

# CURBSIDE BULKY TRASH SERVICE IN EFFECT!

Prince George's County rolled out a faster and improved curbside bulky trash collection pickup to allow residents to set out two (2) items per week with their regular trash for pickup from your County provided trash hauler. This enhanced service allows residents to dispose of unwanted items in a timely manner, cutting down on wait times, and eliminates the temptation to illegally dump.

Residents with County-provided trash and recycling can place UP TO two (2) regular bulky items OR two (2) bags for collection next to their trash cart for collection on their regularly scheduled curbside trash and recycling collection day. **Bulky items not placed next to trash cart will not be collected.**

Residents will still need to schedule appointments for all white goods (appliances) and scrap tires via PGC311. Residents who only pay for bulky trash collection services or subscribe to private trash collection services will continue to schedule bulky trash pickup via PGC311.

To learn more about the faster and improved curbside bulky trash collection pickup, visit <http://mypgc.us/clearthecurb>.

## REMEMBER!

### PLACE YOUR TWO (2) BULKY ITEMS DIRECTLY NEXT TO YOUR TRASH TOTE TO ENSURE PICK UP

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TRASH

### Residents will still need to schedule appointments for all white goods (appliances) and scrap tires online or via PGC311.

#### WHITE GOODS (APPLIANCES) & SCRAP TIRES

#### SCHEDULED PICKUP

# GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION FOR THE COUNTY FOOD SCRAPS PROGRAM

For residents who opted in to the curbside food scraps composting, learn how to properly prepare items for pickup and access information such as acceptable compostable liners, a How-To guide (video and flyer), other resources, as well as ongoing updates, on our website at <http://mypgc.us/compost>. Collecting food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings at the curb will help keep valuable materials that are not waste out of our landfill, reduce excessive methane greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment and help Prince George’s County get closer to our zero waste goals.

While the most sustainable option is not to use a liner, you can use a compostable bag or liner in your kitchen pail (3-gallon-sized bag) or green wheeled organics cart (33-gallon-sized bag). Bags must be compostable – labeled as either “home compostable” or “commercially/industrially compostable.” Bags that are labeled only as plant-based or biodegradable are not accepted. In no case are traditional plastic bags of any kind accepted.

Paper lunch, grocery and yard trim bags are acceptable liners. Consider lining the green wheeled cart and kitchen pail with a compostable liner, a paper yard trim bag, or another absorbent material such as paper towels, paper napkins, pizza boxes, or leaves to help soak up the moisture created when food begins to break down.

Facial or toilet tissue, plastic bags, Styrofoam™, grease or liquids of any kind, and pet waste are NOT accepted in the composting program.

Prince George’s County accepts items that can be composted in your backyard, such as yard trim (grass clippings, leaves, small branches and brush), fruits and vegetables, leftovers, coffee grounds, and tea, as well as items accepted for industrial composting, such as food-soiled paper, dairy products, and meats and bones. All of these items can be combined in your green “organics” curbside cart.

To properly use your compost mini bin, keep your mini bin in a convenient location in your kitchen, such as on the countertop, under the sink or in the refrigerator/freezer. Use it to collect and store food scraps inside your home then empty all food and food-soiled items into the green cart. Do not place your mini bin at the curb OR in the green cart for collection.

For missed collections, issues with the kitchen counter pail or green wheeled “organics” cart, contact PGC311. Call 3-1-1 (inside County) or 301-883-4748 (outside County) from 7 am to 7 pm or online 24/7 through the app or website at <http://ocr.mypgc.us/pgc311>.



# COUNTY EARNS 38TH TREE CITY AWARD CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY AT MATTAPONI

DoE and the Prince George’s County Beautification Committee celebrated its first in-school Arbor Day since before the pandemic at Mattaponi Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, MD on April 29.

During the ceremony, the County received its 38th Tree City Award. This prestigious award recognizes communities throughout the United States who promote a greener and healthier environment and who understand the importance and the significant role trees have in achieving our goals.

The day began with a ceremony featuring student performances and then students, staff, and volunteers helped to plant 18 native trees around the campus, where each class pledged to care for “their” tree.

Planting trees in schoolyards can be transformative. Trees can provide much needed shade as well as a host of ecosystem services. Studies have even shown that students with a view of trees (versus lawn or playing fields) perform better. Students also learned about the trees they planted. For example, they learned that the bald cypress tree is a favorite nesting tree for bald eagles and that tupelo (black gum) trees are important honey trees.

Thanks to Beautification Committee members, DoE volunteers, Master Gardener volunteers, Mattaponi Elementary, and the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) crew for a great Arbor Day.



Council Member Jolene Ivey, Council Member Sydney Harrison, DoE Director Andrea Crooms, MD DNR Forester Horace Henry, MD Delegate Rachel Jones, and Sheriff Melvin High.

# DROUGHT TOLERANT NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Are you tired of watering the garden all summer long? Many common garden plants need at least one inch of water per week. During prolonged heat spells, plants need to be watered more often. As our summers get hotter and drier, watering the garden will also get more expensive.

Imagine spending more time enjoying your garden instead of watering! Planting drought tolerant native plants can make that dream come true while adding beauty to the garden. Any of these plants will make an impressive statement in groupings of five or more. The list below are common native plants that are perennials; can take the heat and sun; drought conditions and are deer resistant. These plants also thrive on neglect, and can be found at nurseries, big box stores and at garden club plant sales.

Keep in mind you will need to water new plants until they become established. You will know they are settled in when they put on significant new growth.



**Black-Eyed Susans** - *Rudbeckia hirta* -- has been the official Maryland flower since 1918 when it was designated the "Floral Emblem" of Maryland by the General Assembly (Chapter 458, Acts of 1918; Code General Provisions Article, sec. 7-306). Maryland's state flower loves the sun and can tolerate drought. This plant can easily be started from seed. Blooms in summer with yellow rays of petals and a dark brown center. Will rebloom if deadheaded. It's a short-lived perennial but it freely re-seeds.



**Butterfly Weed** - *Asclepias tuberosa* - Don't let the name fool you, this plant is not a weed. It is in the milkweed family and one of the host plants for the Monarch Butterfly. It produces clusters of vivid orange flowers in late spring and early summer. It can be started from seed or bought as a transplant.



**Yarrow** - *Achillea millefolium* -- is a perennial herb that is normally planted as an ornamental perennial flower. The wild plant is white, and yellow, pink, red, and mixed color cultivars are available. This is a plant that loves the heat and the drought and thrives on neglect. Blooms in late spring and summer.



**Coreopsis** - is a perennial pollinator magnet, the wild native comes in yellow or gold, cultivars come in many colors. Commonly called tickseed because its seed resemble ticks. There are many varieties and cultivars of this plant. Blooms most of the summer. Even when not in bloom, its lacy foliage brings an ethereal texture to the garden.



**Purple Coneflower** - *Echinacea purpurea* - This daisy like flower can be classified as an herb or perennial ornamental. Once established it can tolerate drought. Will self-seed and is amenable to most soil conditions. There are other varieties of coneflowers that come in a multitude of colors. Blooms from mid to late summer, butterflies and bumblebees visit often. Let the seed heads stand and watch the brilliant goldfinches flock to it.



**Gayfeather** - *Liatris spicata* -- This perennial flowers in succession from top to bottom. Tolerates a variety of soil and weather conditions. Very hardy. Blooms in lilac, white, and purple spikes from midsummer to fall, and attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. The seed heads are another favorite of the goldfinches.

Taken together, these plants will make an eye-popping summer garden. You can have a beautiful yard without worrying about your plants. Your neighbors will be amazed and think you have a green thumb!

# HURRICANE SEASON IS NOW BE PREPARED!

Summer brings trips to the beach, outdoor grilling, long days, and unfortunately, also the risk of hurricanes. The month of June officially started the hurricane season for our region which runs through October. These five months, from June to October, are usually when there is a higher likelihood of hurricanes or tropical storms forming in the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico that could threaten our region.

The summer months are known for producing intense thunderstorms that can overwhelm storm drain systems and stream channels creating localized flooding. Properties in or near the 1-percent annual chance floodplain (also known as the 100-year floodplain) as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are especially at risk of being affected by flood waters. Still, others who may well be outside of these established floodplains carry some risk during these severe storm events.

Below is information which may be used to lower your risks for property damage and personal injury in a major flood event:

1. If you are experiencing drainage problems or other concerns, DoE may be able to assist. Call 3-1-1 to request a site investigation or make an online request via PGC311. You can download the PGC311 mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play.
2. Try to minimize the potential for property damage which could result from a flood. In some instances, reducing flood risk can translate to lower flood insurance costs. Consider elevating utilities, installing flood openings, or elevating your property. For more information on how you might minimize flood damages, talk with your insurance agent, and visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
3. Sign up to receive notifications of potential flood events from the County's public communications system - Alert Prince George's. The office of Homeland Security (OHS) makes Alert Prince George's available to all County residents. This secure and reliable communications system notifies registered residents of critical flood information and instruction via phone, email, or text message. Visit the OHS webpage at: <http://alert.mypgc.us> to sign up.
4. Stay abreast of developing conditions before and during a storm by tuning to local radio and television news stations or visiting the National Weather Service (NWS) website at <https://water.weather.gov> to obtain real-time weather data. To view rainfall amounts, stream levels and other weather data on the NOAA website, simply zoom to Prince George's County on the interactive map and click on gauge points. Data is continuously collected at gauge stations in the Anacostia, Patuxent, and Western Branch Watersheds in Prince George's County.

# Be FloodSmart

## Floods

are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and they can happen anytime...anywhere. Floods occur in all 50 states and you can be a victim of flooding, even if you live miles away from water. During Flood Awareness Month in Prince George's County, learn more on what causes flooding and how to protect your home.

## What causes flooding?

In just a few hours, hurricanes and summer thunderstorms can bring heavy rain, which can lead to severe flooding.



# How do you protect your home?

### 1 Alert Prince George's

Whether you live in a high, moderate or low risk area, everyone is at risk for flooding. The County offers a notification service that sends you a text or email in the event of a major flood. To sign up, visit [alert.mypgc.us](http://alert.mypgc.us). For additional floodplain information, contact Salman Babar at (301) 636-2060.



### 3 Make a flood plan

Know evacuation routes and keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place.



It's important to understand the risk to life and property associated with residing behind levees located in the Anacostia Watershed. Residents who live behind levees are encouraged to understand their risks and prepare accordingly. To learn more, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

\* Source: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

\*\* Source: "NFIP, A Real Estate Professional's Guide to Discussing Flood Insurance," FEMA P-2092, March 2020

### 2 Purchase flood insurance

Remember, most homeowners insurance does not cover floods. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers Prince George's County residents up to a **25% discount**.



Buy insurance before the water starts to rise! It takes 30 days after purchasing flood insurance for the policy to go into effect.

**CLAIMS** Over 20% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low risk areas. \*

### 4 Help prevent local flooding

Keep trash and debris away from storm grates and inlets.



# NATIONAL NELSON MANDELA DAY

A Champion Of Our Environment



National Nelson Mandela Day is observed on his birthday, every July 18th to celebrate his legacy of service and love. Mandela was a strong advocate for the environment and his words continue to encourage us to protect our planet.

Mandela believed the right to a healthy environment is a critical human right because it directly impacts our quality of life. He urged everyone to not wait for others to protect our environment and that the realities of climate change will force us to take an immediate stand.

Here are some of Mandela's powerful environmental quotes:

- "We cannot afford to wait for others to stand up for our environment - as nobody stands to lose more than we do."
- "The poverty of the people and the devastation of the natural environment painfully strike me."
- "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."
- "It is in our hands to create a better world for all that live in it."
- "I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wilderness. We must never forget that it is our duty to protect this environment."

# CELEBRATE NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY ON JULY 17TH



with Homemade Ice Cream for Your Dog

Are you looking for a special summer treat for your dog? How about making some homemade ice cream to cool them off? It only takes a few simple steps to create a dessert that will be sure to please. Of course, you can also purchase dog ice cream at your favorite pet store. Below are two easy recipes for those hot hazy dog days. As with all recipes make sure your pet is not allergic to any of the ingredients. Enjoy!

## Strawberry & Banana Dog Ice Cream

Author Gemma Stafford

Ingredients (makes 4 tubs)

- 10 fresh strawberries, chopped
- 1 medium, ripe banana
- 1 cup (10oz/280g) natural plain yogurt (low fat, nonfat)

Instructions

1. Mash the strawberries using a potato masher. You want very small pieces of fruit so your dog can swallow it easily.
2. Add in the banana and continue to mash, almost to a puree
3. Stir in the yogurt and mix all ingredients until well combined.
4. Pour the mixture into freezer-safe air-tight containers and then freeze for a minimum of 4 hours but preferably overnight. Ice cube trays are good to make small portions.
5. Take treating your dog a step further by turning it into an ice cream sundae party!
6. Keep the Ice Cream in the freezer for 8 weeks.
7. \* If you want the ice cream to be scoopable use Greek/Strained yogurt.

## Pumpkin Peanut Dog Ice Cream

Courtesy of the Farmers' Almanac

Ingredients

- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 cup plain low-fat yogurt
- ½ cup organic peanut butter

Instructions

1. Combine all ingredients in blender then pour into ice cube trays.
2. Freeze and serve frozen.

# LOCAL STORMWATER AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT PROVIDES IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEW CARROLLTON COMMUNITY

On Monday, May 23, 2022, Prince George's County Director of DoE, Andrea Crooms, joined Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) Floyd Holt, Council Member Dannielle Glaros, New Carrollton Mayor Phelicia Nembhard, the Clean Water Partnership (CWP), community leaders, and New Carrollton residents to celebrate the completion of the Briers Mill Run Stream project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the newly installed ADA compliant bridge.

The Briers Mill Run Stream Project restored 3100 linear feet of stream that runs through the median of New Carrollton Parkway from Jodie Street to 85th Place and discharges into the Anacostia River. Design on this project began in 2019 and sought to repair the steeply incised banks of the Briers Mill Run Stream.

Upon its completion, in June 2021 this project was certified to treat 201 impervious acres in Prince George's County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit area. The community has gained so much more than treated impervious acres - they now have a stable stream channel containing native plantings that beautify the neighborhood, a 30-year maintenance commitment from the CWP, and revitalized walkability through the neighborhood.

With the design phase starting in 2019, to its final completion in 2022, the CWP Outreach Team remained in communication with the local community and officials at various public meetings. Through community input, the CWP team modified designs to preserve existing trees and minimize impact on the community during the construction process.

"The Briers Mill Run Stream and Bridge project directly aligns with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' Beautification Initiative in beautifying and greening our public spaces," said Floyd Holt, DCAO. "The County looks forward to creating more stormwater community improvement projects through this partnership."

Through the CWP, Corvias, and Prince George's County, DoE has expanded opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses. For Briers Mill Run Stream, approximately 96% of the project was completed by locally based small businesses, with 77% of the work being completed by County residents.

As with the over 235 sites and 4,000 acres completed through the CWP, Briers Mill Run Stream is under a 30-year maintenance commitment so that the stream and its nearby walking paths remain in pristine condition for the community.



From left to right: New Carrollton Mayor Phelicia Nembhard; DCAO Floyd Holt; DoE Director Andrea Crooms; and Council Member Dannielle Glaros



# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION COMPLETES STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT IN BEAR BRANCH

On November 9, 2021, the DoE Stormwater Management Division (SMD) completed the construction of the Bear Branch Stream Restoration project. The project site extends just west of Van Dusen Road to the Upper Laurel Lakes in the City of Laurel. The project restored approximately 3,438 linear feet (LF) of stream in the Bear Branch main stem and two tributaries using natural stream channel design techniques to improve bank stability. The project construction started on July 21, 2020, and was completed on November 9, 2021. Stakeholders included the City of Laurel, Villages at Wellington Homeowners Association (HOA) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washing Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

The completed Bear Branch Stream Restoration project is a more natural, environmentally sound, aesthetically pleasing, and structurally stable stream network with a functioning, connected floodplain. The project includes a series of pools and riffles that dissipate the flow velocity to reduce erosion and enhance infiltration. In addition, wetland creations and floodplain reconnection enhance aquatic habitat. The primary goal was to improve pollutant removal efficiencies and provide impervious area treatment. Additional co-benefits and outcomes include improved water quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, a natural trail amenity for the adjacent communities, and property loss and utility asset protection.

The water quality improvements from this project will help the County meet its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System MS4 permit impervious area treatment goals and local watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollutant reduction targets. The completed project has resulted in a total of 341.80 Impervious Acres Treated (IAT) NPDES MS4 credits. Additionally, this project will yield in 605,623 lbs/yr in sediment to Laurel Lakes and the Patuxent Watershed.

The project also supports County Executive Angela Alsobrooks initiatives promoting County based small businesses and the workforce. The Bear Branch project will utilize professional local businesses and contractor services to support the design and construction of the project and return an estimated \$3.8 million of budget expenditures to County based small and located business enterprises. Additionally, the project also received a Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund in the amount of \$1,750,000 from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

A special shout out to Mr. Mark McKibben, CPC III and Mr. Gabriel Redding, CPC IV in the Stormwater Management Division. As a Contract Project Coordinators, Mr. McKibben and Mr. Redding have been instrumental in the design and construction phase of this project. Their professionalism and expertise with stream restoration, construction management experience, community outreach, and leadership have helped forge this project, bringing intelligent solutions and resources to keep the project on schedule and cost while at the same time maximizing design value and impervious surface restoration credits to the County.



BEFORE



AFTER

# DOE EMBARKS ON AREA C INFILL PROJECT



Area C Under Construction

Prince George's County owns and manages the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL), a disposal facility located at 3500 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro. The County is one of the few local governments in the State of Maryland which operates its own waste management facilities including a material recovery facility and an organic compost facility.

Operating these facilities benefit the County substantially in terms of reduced hauling, processing, treatment, and disposal costs. The BSRSL commenced operation in 1968 and sits on a 1250-acre property in Upper Marlboro. The facility receives over 1100 tons of waste materials daily and average monthly diversion tonnage is about 236 tons (this includes materials delivered to the landfill that are not landfilled but diverted for recycling/recovery) and diverted materials consist of scrap tires, scrap metal, carpet pad/foam, rigid plastics and used electronics.

Construction of the facility involved multi-phases. First to be constructed was “Area A” where residual materials were disposed of, reached full capacity and was closed in mid 1990s. Area B came into being and is projected to be full by the first quarter of 2025. With this impending situation of running out of “air space” (i.e., area available to landfill trash), the Resource Recovery Division (RRD) came up with alternative solutions such as having a transfer station, waste-to-energy and expanding the landfill to cater to the future requirements of the County. After studying the scenarios, environmental impacts, and the associated costs, the Division came up with an innovative solution by maximizing available airspace between Areas A and B, without expanding BSRSL’s current footprint. The future site is called Area C which is projected to prolong the lifespan of the landfill for at least 50 years through the year 2080, with the option of adding an additional 50 more years. RRD is progressing with the planning, design, and permitting requirements mandated by State and County regulatory requirements.

To date, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has approved the conceptual plan and site location (Phase 1) and the hydrogeology details and preliminary designs (Phase 2). Phase III which covers the entire design of the site, operations and maintenance management, and site plans for cell-by-cell construction is anticipated to be approved in the 2nd quarter of this year. A public informational meeting was conducted on December 17, 2019, where impacted residents were informed of the project and the associated permitting process. The second public hearing will be conducted either in July or August 2022 upon Phase III approval.

Area C infill project is just part of the significant improvements at the BSRSL. A reuse center is being proposed as a companion project to increase waste diversion at the landfill. While the landfill’s new gas pipeline, which supplies power to the Prince George’s County Correctional Facility, design phase is near 100%, the renewable source of the landfill’s generated methane gas is also under review to determine maximum cost and environmental benefits, and effectiveness. The scale house and landfill access roads will be vastly improved to reduce customer wait times and safety. There will be an additional fully automated in-bound lane added to the existing operation which will be like an “E-ZPass®” one experiences while driving on a toll road. The scale house, scales, and access road construction will commence later this year.

The expanded food scraps curbside collection program commenced in May 2022 to channel organic waste to the Organics Composting Facility (OCF) and away from the landfill. On an equally important front, RRD continues to intensify its education and outreach to residents and relevant stakeholders across different platforms on the value of waste prevention, reuse, donation, and recycling to prolong the life of the landfill so that future Prince Georgians benefit from it. RRD envisions a future where waste is designed out of every product so that less and less residual materials end up in landfills.

# DOE CONTINUES WORK WITH PGCPS “GREEN TEAM”

DoE’s Resource Recovery Division (RRD) and Keep Prince George’s County Beautiful (KPGCB) have worked diligently with the Prince George’s Public Schools’ (PGCPS) Green Team, providing workshops and quarterly full-day meeting/work sessions to advance recycling and many other environmental programs.

This year brings five new Maryland Green Schools and 26 schools that have successfully recertified representing Prince George’s County. There are 146 PGCPS in the Maryland Green Schools Program, more than any other district in the state. The students in the program have opportunities to learn about the environment, participate in environmental actions, and prepare for jobs that support a sustainable future.

The 2021-22 Maryland Green Schools have achieved remarkable environmental accomplishments, including: saving 900,898 gallons of water; reducing energy use by 2,018,335 Kwh; preventing waste from going to a landfill by recycling 1,102,854 lbs. of material; 217,847 square feet of natural habitat; planting 7,989 native plants, including shrubs and trees; and cleaning 17,625 feet of streambanks to protect water quality.

In addition, the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center and the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) continue their support of this program by strengthening environmental literacy by being a great role model for our youth, and for supporting the county’s waste diversion goals.

The next environmental program that RRD and KPGCB will embark upon, in partnership with the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center and the PGCPS, is the development and implementation of a waste/recycling/composting curriculum for all 4th-grade students. The three-part learning lesson sessions will include piloting 10 to 12 elementary schools for food scrap diversion. Leftover food and or food spoils may be collected during the pilot and delivered to Prince George’s County’s Organics Composting Facility.

Additionally, plans are being considered to hopefully develop small-scale on-site “back-yard” composting using the food scraps mixed with some of the landscaping/yard trim to use the compost within a school vegetable garden. Children will learn not only how to make compost and the importance of compost but will also learn about eating healthy and natural foods. This is especially important in or around the areas of the County that have been identified as “food deserts.” Stay tuned for more information as the planning and work progress!