

winter 2020

# INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR WASTE COLLECTION



# 2019 WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLING AWARDS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# GREEN

# SCENE 2020

newsletter

# CARING FOR TREES AND SHRUBS IN WINTER



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



## The Important Things

“Everything changed the day she figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in her life,” writes Brian Andreas, an American writer and poet.

The important things are the things that really matter. Our County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks, has identified “Proud Priorities” for guiding her Administration – what matters to her, and to the people she serves. Here are three Priorities and how we support them at the Department of Environment (DoE):

**Education.** Teaching protection of nature and the environment to adults and children – including the air we breathe, the land where we live and the waters of our rivers and streams. This newsletter is one resource to help you learn what we do, why we do it, and the roles you can play.

**Healthy Communities.** Taking action by planting trees in schools and communities to improve air quality; reducing litter to beautify the surrounding world; restoring the integrity of county waterways by installing filters to capture pollutants; and alleviating residential flooding from increased, intense storms due to climate change.

**Quality of Life.** Aligning our programs and behavior with nature, where nothing is ever lost. Taking action to recycle plastic and paper for reuse, to upcycle Christmas trees and change them to mulch and transform food waste to compost.

There is enough time for the important things in our lives.

Are you living your priorities?

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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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[environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us)

## 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.



The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County. Here's a quick look at some of our accomplishments in 2019.



## RECYCLING SECTION

The US Composting Council selected Prince George's County as the **recipient of the 2019 Compost Manufacturer of the Year, Large Scale Award** in recognition of the operation of the Prince George's County Organic Composting Facility (PGCOCF) as a successful and well-run facility in the Region.

In honor of America Recycles Day, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB), in partnership with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), **hosted the 2019 Waste Diversion and Recycling Awards** on November 18, 2019 at Prince George's Community College.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) granted Prince George's County an **achievement award for its program entitled "Piloting Food Scrap Collection to Improve Organic Waste Recovery at the County Level"** in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability. The award was announced during the 2019 NACo Annual Conference in Clark County, Nevada.

The Metropolitan Council of Governments (MWCOC) selected Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) as the **Government Sector recipient for the 2019 Climate and Energy Leadership Award** in recognition of the County's aggressive effort to promote food waste recovery as one of the solutions in combating climate change.



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To date, the Stormwater Management Division has **treated 2,529 acres of impervious area and another 3,425 acres were in active planning, design, or construction in FY 2019.**

Through its Rain Check Rebate Program, **180 Best Management Practices were installed in 2019 on private properties, treating 1.4 acres.**

Under its Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program, **the County funded a total of seven projects at a total cost of \$928,087** in 2019. These projects include on-the-ground efforts such as tree planting and water quality retrofit projects, including rain gardens and bio-retention practices.

An integral component of the economic and local impacts of the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) is the **Mentor Protégé Program which generated \$17,963 in economic activity.**

Through a collaborative partnership between the Clean Water Partnership, the Anacostia Watershed Society and Prince Georges County Public Schools, the Treating & Teaching Program promotes stewardship of our local waterways and environmental literacy in County schools. **During this upcoming year 19 schools, throughout the County, will be retrofitted with innovative water quality improvement projects.**



## SUSTAINABILITY

Convened the 2019 Prince George's Environmental Justice Commission as required by House Bill 1362(HB-1362/Ch. 352, 2019) and **prepared the report of the Commission entitled "Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission (HB 1362), PG 421-19, MSAR#12246,"** for delivery to the Chair of the Prince George's House of Delegates in January 2020.

**Planted 980 trees and shrubs in communities, residential lots and on schoolyards** through the Tree ReLeaf and Arbor Day Every Day Programs, of which, 600 of those trees were planted through the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program.

**Installed the County's first two Bandalong™ trash traps** on Arundel Canal and on Guilford Run in College Park, MD.

**Installed 29 Big Belly solar compactor trash and recycling stations at bus stops.** Installation of trash and recycling receptacles in communities positions the County to achieve and sustain the federally mandated litter load reduction of 170, 628 lbs/year for the Anacostia River.



## ANIMAL SERVICES

In 2019 the Animal Services Division (ASD) renamed the animal service building the **"Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center."** The new name incorporates the vision and goals of the Animal Services Division (ASD) of bringing pet adoption to the forefront, as well as, placing animals into loving and forever homes.

The renaming marked the 10-year anniversary of the Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center. Over the past 10 years ASD has assisted with:

- **48,938 adoptions**
- **100,183 volunteer hours**
- **34,400 pets spayed/neutered**
- **18,330 cruelty investigations**

Animal Services Division (ASD) also revised the Animal Control Ordinance, Subtitle 3, allowing the facility to become **recognized by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) as one of the national leaders for progressive change in the industry.**

The Animal Services Center's spay/neuter clinic, **"The Spay Spot," spayed/neutered over 4,170 animals in 2019,** reducing the animal population and increasing their overall health.



EASY • ACCESSIBLE • SAFE



# ARE YOU CENSUS READY?

## BEING CENSUS READY MEANS BEING INFORMED!

**B**y law every 10-years the U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States. Your participation determines representation and how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed. If our community is undercounted our friends and families miss out on an estimated \$18,250 per person over a 10- year period in Maryland.

Census Day is April 1, 2020. However, households will receive an invitation to respond online or by phone as early as March 12, 2020.

For more information, please visit the Prince George's County website at [PGCensus2020.org](http://PGCensus2020.org) or the U.S. Census Bureau website at [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).

**BECAUSE YOU COUNT**

Your participation is worth **\$18,250**

# BEING DUMPED SUCKS

## LITTER IS SAD

Litter in Prince George's County lowers property values, pollutes our waterways, and tells the world we don't care. Put trash in its place.



LEARN MORE AT [PGCproud.com](http://PGCproud.com)

**O**n January 6, 2020, Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks launched the next phase of the Beautification Initiative – "Part of It, Proud of It. Keep Our County Clean and Beautiful." Learn more about the County's efforts last year and the next phase of this important campaign by visiting: [www.pgcproud.com](http://www.pgcproud.com) Check out one of our new ads!

## BIGBELLY RECEPTACLES MAKE LITTER REDUCTION EASY

**M**aybe you have seen us around the County. We look like normal trash cans—but we have some cool skills. With our solar-powered compactors, we fit five times as much trash as other trash cans! When we're full, we send a quick message to a local collection crew. This means less trash collection, saving the County money and cutting down on emissions. We bet you didn't know trash cans could be that smart!



A source reduction event

# mulchmadness

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# SATURDAY APRIL 18

Prince George's County  
Organics Composting Facility

6550 S.E. Crain Highway,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

*(From Crain Highway, proceed on  
Maude Savoy Brown Road to Facility)*

8 am to 1 pm

Learn to reduce water usage, prevent soil erosion and reduce the use of herbicides in your home gardens by applying mulch.

A skid loader will be available to load mulch into pickup trucks.



This mulch is primarily derived from the Christmas tree collections. For more information, please call County Click 3-1-1.

## RESTRICTIONS:

- Prince George's County residents only
- Only non-commercial vehicles, 3/4 ton maximum weight
- No business vehicle signage will be permitted, all commercial signs should be covered or removed prior to entering the site



### SOURCE REDUCTION TIPS

- Use mulch to suppress weed growth and provide nutrients.
- Grass cycle: Use a mulching mower to finely shred your mowed grass and leave it on the lawn.
- Start a backyard compost pile.

Citizens and residents transporting mulch by car should bring their own containers and shovels or pitchforks.



# DOE'S TIAA RUTHERFORD RECOGNIZED AS A 2020 #TAKINGNATUREBLACK ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION



The Department of Environment's (DoE) own Tiaa Rutherford was saluted by The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) along with six other African American environmental advocates during the Taking Nature Black Conference 2020 held recently in Chevy Chase, MD.

The Environmental Champions are awarded for engaging in service that improves the quality of life for under-resourced African American communities in ways that are unique, groundbreaking, and pioneering.

Rutherford, the DoE Litter Reduction program manager, was recognized for her tireless efforts to reduce the amount of plastic and other debris in the Anacostia River and around Prince George's County. She is also working to increase the number of "Bigbelly" trash compactors at high-litter locations in order to make it easier for County residents and visitors to dispose of recyclables and trash in separate containers. Currently 29 Bigbelly systems have been installed to date, and it is anticipated 75 will be in use by the end of 2021.

In 2017, Rutherford and other DoE colleagues were recognized with a National Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the litter collection apps LitterTRAK and PGCLitterTRAK. Users are able to use the mobile apps to report data such as the number of bags of litter, types of items collected, and litter pickup locations in order to track progress toward cleaner and healthier waterways.

[Click here to view all 2020 Taking Nature Black Environmental Advocates.](#)



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

**W**hen the weather outside is frightful, residents are advised that bulky trash, trash, recycling, and yard trim collections may be delayed or suspended due to road or weather-related conditions.

If collection services are postponed, every effort will be made to pick up the missed collections on the following day after that day's regular collections. Residents are reminded to leave their collection containers at the curbside and pickups can occur from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. If collections are suspended for two consecutive days, collections for the missed days will resume the following week on the regularly scheduled collection days.

## GET NOTIFIED

Sign up for email alerts, which are sent out if collection services are postponed or canceled, via the Department of the Environment at [bit.ly/doeemailsignup](https://bit.ly/doeemailsignup) and subscribe to "Environmental, Engineering & Permitting."

During a weather event, residents can also find this information on the County's website, where alerts are displayed at the top of the page.

For more information contact CountyClick 3-1-1 or visit [bit.ly/pgccollectionweatherpolicy](https://bit.ly/pgccollectionweatherpolicy).



# CARING FOR TREES & SHRUBS IN WINTER



If you have trees or shrubs planted in the last two years, it is important to keep watering during the winter if the ground is not frozen. This is because roots can continue to grow even when air temperatures are very low, helping to prepare the plant for spring. It is especially important not to let your evergreen trees get too dry, because they continue to make food (photosynthesize) during the winter.



Winter is also a good time to prune deciduous trees. With the leaves down, you can clearly see the branch structure, helping you identify dead, weak or damaged limbs that might break under the weight of snow or ice. If you are not sure whether a branch is dead, shake it. Does it feel springy? Are the twigs pliable? Are there buds? If so, it is probably alive. Winter pruning is less stressful for trees and cuts are less likely to become infected or to attract insects. Evergreens like hollies, boxwoods, and pines can also be moderately pruned during the winter. The trimmings can be used for holiday decorating.



Monitoring for pest eggs is much easier in winter. For example, tent caterpillar eggs can be pruned out now, preventing nests from becoming established in spring.

A new invasive pest of trees, the spotted lanternfly, also overwinters its eggs. The lanternfly has been found in Cecil and Harford Counties, as well as surrounding states, so it's important to look out for it. Get more information here: <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/spotted-lanternfly>.

Lastly, be careful with ice melting products. Look for products containing magnesium chloride or potassium chloride. They are the least harmful chemicals for plants and soil. Never use fertilizer to melt ice. It is against state law and pollutes local waterways. If you are concerned your trees or shrubs have been exposed to road salt, soak the area three to four times in the spring before the buds open. You may also want to hose off the buds and your evergreen's needles, since salts can become airborne in high traffic areas. Salt coating the buds or needles causes them to lose water.

# THE AREA "C" PROJECT PERMIT APPLICATION

Permit Application Submitted to the State of Maryland for the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill Area "C" Infill Project

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) hosted a public information meeting regarding a permit application filed by Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) Resource Recovery Division (RRD) for the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill Area "C" Infill Project. The meeting was held December 17, 2019 at Arrowhead Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, MD.

The Area "C" Project permit application will provide utilization of available valleys and depressions within the existing landfill as essential disposal area. This design concept will not require expansions beyond the existing landfill's permitted footprint. This public information meeting was an early introduction to the project's intentions and follows a prescribed permitting process defined and enforced by MDE.

The Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill may achieve capacity within the calendar year 2024, and the Area "C" Project will provide for the most cost-effective utilization of the County's existing assets while providing essential disposal capacity beyond the year 2024. A companion effort will be the County's continued focus on waste diversion and recycling, which may include a Re-Use Center paired with improved Recycling and Disposal Drop-Off Centers.

For further information, email your questions to Darryl L. Flick at [DLFlick@co.pg.md.us](mailto:DLFlick@co.pg.md.us).



Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill Area "C"



Illicit discharge from storm drain outfall caused by someone dumping paint into inlet structure upstream.

# THE ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION (IDDE) PROGRAM

## A SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

The Department of the Environment's Stormwater Management Division, Inspection and Compliance Section (ICS), develops, implements and maintains a program to help reduce the amount of pollutants entering the County's storm drain systems which lead to our streams, rivers and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program (IDDE) allows us to investigate and respond to illicit discharges, illegal dumping, and spills by using the appropriate enforcement procedures to eliminate these types of issues throughout Prince George's County.



Sediment laden stormwater being discharged into an inlet.

## WHY DOES PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEED AN IDDE PROGRAM?

The Clean Water Act is a U.S. federal law that regulates the discharge of pollutants into the nation's surface waters including lakes, rivers and streams. Administered by the EPA, the Clean Water Act sets national water quality criteria and specifies allowable levels for various pollutants. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulates the discharge of pollutants and requires polluters to obtain federal permits.

Prince George's County's NPDES permit covers all stormwater discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) owned or operated by Prince George's County, Maryland, and all incorporated municipalities within the County. The permit contains limits on what can be discharged, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements. This includes the implementation of an inspection and enforcement program to ensure that all discharges to and from the MS4, that are not composed entirely of stormwater, are either permitted by MDE or eliminated.



Sewage overflow found in stream. Sewer was unclogged by WSSC.



Heating oil leak.

## WHAT ARE SOME TYPES OF POLLUTANTS THAT AFFECT STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Common pollutants found in stormwater runoff or water from rain and melting snow that washes off roads, parking lots and other hard surfaces include trash and litter, automotive fluids such as engine oil and antifreeze, commercial vehicle washing wastewater, sediments, fertilizers and pesticides, and other hazardous chemicals.

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

County inspectors work hard to ensure that all stormwater runoff to and from Prince George's County storm drain systems are free of pollutants. By working together, you can help us minimize pollutants from entering our storm drains, local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

## WHAT IS THE IDDE PROGRAM?

The IDDE program consists of three parts, enabling the ICS team to locate, document, and eliminate sources of stormwater pollution:

- Perform inspections on storm drain outfalls
- Conduct visual surveys of commercial and industrial complexes
- Investigate and respond to illicit discharge or water quality complaints

In fiscal year 2019, the ICS team performed 150 outfall screenings, 58 surveys of commercial and industrial complexes and responded to numerous water quality complaints.



County HAZMAT team puts down absorbents to clean up heating oil.



# 2019 WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLING AWARDS



In honor of America Recycles Day on November 15, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) and the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) hosted the first 2019 Waste Diversion and Recycling Awards Ceremony on November 18, 2019 at Prince George's Community College. The ceremony recognized Prince George's County commercial businesses, schools and other entities who demonstrated exceptional achievements in recycling and waste diversion to advance the mission of KPGCB and DoE.

"We were excited to host this inaugural event to showcase businesses, schools and individuals who are committed to finding innovative ways to educate, as well as, promote and activate recycling and waste management programs in our Prince George's County community," said Joseph P. Gill, Director of DoE.

"It was an amazing event", said John Neville, Chairman of the Board of Director's for KPGCB. "We were able to feature many of our outstanding businesses and volunteers who are committed and passionate about keeping Prince George's County beautiful," he added.



During the ceremony over 40 businesses, schools, volunteers and professional organizations were honored for their work. The winners are:

## WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLING AWARDS

### VOLUNTEER

Martha Ainsworth, *Chair, Prince George's Sierra Club*

Leonard Lee Eismann, *Upper Marlboro*

Angela Bowldes, *President, Dresden Green Citizens Association*

Kirk Kramer, *Town of Cottage City, MD*

Lora Katz, *Riverdale Park, MD*

Alexandre and Daneth Mascrier, *Ft. Washington, MD*

Antoine Lanier, *Clinton, MD*

Mamie Small, *President, Radiant Valley Civic Association*

Nancy Meyer, *CEO, Community Forklift*

### COMMERCIAL

Bob Hall, *LLC*

Maryland Environmental Service

Pepco Forestville Service Center

Pepco Holdings, *Inc.*

Royal Farms Prince George's County

Wegmans

### MUNICIPALITY

City of District Heights

### MULTI-FAMILY

The Towers in Westchester Park

Y & B Associates

Heather Hill Apartments

### NON-PROFIT

Sierra Club, *Prince George's County*

Alice Ferguson Foundation

Community Forklift

Keep Maryland Beautiful

Laurel Historical Society

Anacostia Watershed Society

### CIVIC ORGANIZATION

Boy Scouts Pack #257, *Cheverly*

Girl Scout Troop #5401, *Mitchellville*

Girl Scout Troop #4618, *Mitchellville*

Girl Scout Troop #4508, *Mitchellville*

Palmer Park Citizen's Association

### SCHOOL

Berwyn Heights Elementary School

Central High School

Dora Kennedy French Immersion School

Howard B. Owens Science Center

Laurel Elementary School

Robert Goddard Montessori

Tall Oaks High School Green Team

William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center

### GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Prince George's County Government DoE  
Resource Recovery Division

Prince George's County Government DoE  
Sustainability Division

Prince George's County Government  
Department of Public Works and Transportation

Prince George's County Government Materials  
Recycling Facility

Prince George's County Government Organics  
Composting Facility

Prince George's County Government Brown  
Station Road Sanitary Landfill

Prince George's County Government  
Department of Permitting, Inspections and  
Enforcement

M -NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation,  
Prince George's County

# REVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE



Revision of Animal Control Ordinance, Subtitle 3, will allow the Animal Services Division (ASD) to become recognized by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) as one of the national leaders for progressive change in the industry. Changes to the ordinance include:

- Potentially dangerous animal - provides standards of care for ownership of potentially dangerous dogs. Failure to abide by these standards shall result in immediate impoundment of the animal.
- Criminal sentences for owners who violate the dangerous dog law. It imposes a criminal penalty of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000 and/or imprisonment up to 180 days for violations of the dangerous dog law.
- Unlawful restraint of dogs – a dog may not be attached to a rope, tether or other restraint for more than one hour unless the dog is participating in a lawful animal event, e.g., walking on a leash, veterinary treatment, or the dog’s owner remains with the dog throughout the period of restraint.
- Impoundment – an impounded animal may be redeemed by its owner only after the animal is spayed or neutered and micro-chipped. The costs of same shall be included as part of the redemption fee. Fee may be waived for financial hardship.
- Permanent cat/dog/ferret pet license tags will be available, giving the option to extend the license term.

# APPLY FOR FREE SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES

The Animal Services Division (ASD) is offering qualifying residents of Prince George’s County the opportunity to receive FREE spay and neuter services. Spaying and neutering will help your pet live a healthier and longer life and “Keeps the Litter Away.” For more information about the program and to find out if you qualify, contact Catherine Hernandez at (301) 780-7252 or visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).

# SPAY-A-DAY



\*funded by a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture

For more information and to find out whether you qualify, contact: Catherine Hernandez at (301) 780-7252

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

# KEEPS THE LITTER AWAY