

fall 2020

**IMAGINE A DAY
WITHOUT WATER
CAMPAIGN**



Imagine a Day Without Water



NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

A horizontal banner with a green background on the left and a blue background on the right. A stylized green leaf graphic is at the top center. The text "DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT" is in yellow at the top. "GREEN SCENE" is in large white letters, with "2020" in white and "newsletter" in yellow below it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCENE 2020
newsletter

A horizontal banner with a green background on the left and a blue background on the right. A stylized green leaf graphic is at the top center. The text "DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT" is in yellow at the top. "GREEN SCENE" is in large white letters, with "2020" in white and "newsletter" in yellow below it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

GREEN SCENE 2020
newsletter

**ANIMAL
ADOPTION
CENTER OPEN**

A close-up photograph of a brown dog's face, looking directly at the camera. The dog has light brown fur and dark eyes. A green circular callout with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image. The background is a solid blue color.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



All Things Environment

Air, water, animals and earth - our work at DoE encompasses all.

Start with the air - the extraordinary amount of rain, the beat-down heat. Climate change is real, and Prince George’s County is doing its part to reduce its causes and mitigate its impacts. In the spring of 2020, the Prince George’s County Council unanimously passed a council resolution (CR-007-2020) mandating a Climate Action Commission (CAC) to develop a Climate Action Plan for Prince George’s County by September 30, 2021. The sixteen-member CAC consists of elected officials and members from not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, and County agencies, including the Department of the Environment, which serves as the chair. Turn to page 9 in this newsletter for more information and to learn how you can support and provide feedback to this effort

Moving to water, have you ever considered what a day would be like if you could not get clean drinking water, take a shower or wash your hands? Just one single day without this necessity would be a public health and safety crisis. On page 7, learn why County Executive Angela Alsobrooks decided to issue a proclamation and join the “Imagine A Day Without Water” educational campaign to raise awareness about the value of water and the need to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure. You can also check out how water plays a vital role in the County by watching our video at <https://youtu.be/THtqi4A3v3U>.

Now shifting to animals, see our flyer on the safe reopening of our Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center, and read our article on why pet parents need to do their doody and scoop that poop! And finally, the earth. Take a look at the upcoming holiday waste collection changes and learn how you can compost your fall pumpkin.

All things environment, all the time.

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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.

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at (301) 883-5952.

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environment.mypgc.us

DoE MISSION

The Department of the Environment (DoE) 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
CELEBRATES



National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 to October 15, and we asked staff to share their favorite family celebrations. Here's what they had to say.



Sindy Morales has worked in the Director's Office for DoE for three years. She was born in Guatemala and arrived in the United States when she was eight years old. She earned an Associate in Arts from Prince George's Community College. She is married and has three children. Sindy believes it is important for children from Latino parents to speak Spanish and all three of hers are fluent. Their favorite activities during Hispanic Heritage Month are the Hispanic Festivals because there are lots of folkloric dances and delicious Central America food.

"The name Guatemala, means 'land of forests.' Guatemala is best known for its volcanic landscape, fascinating Mayan culture and the colorful colonial city of Antigua. While Spanish is the official language and the one that's most useful throughout the country, there are many other languages spoken in Guatemala. The 21 indigenous Mayan communities each boast their own language, and many are still widely used today."

Paula Ines Jansen has worked in the Recycling Section of the Resource Recovery Division (RRD) for the past ten months. She was born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. Her family relocated to the city of Maracaibo, where she completed a bachelor's degree in Architecture. Paula moved to the United States 18 years ago, where she also completed a Master's in Architecture and Community Planning.

She has always been passionate about the balance between humans, nature and the environment where we live. Paula dedicated ten years working on projects targeting sustainable growth of emerging cities in undeveloped countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Unfortunately, Paula's large and close-knit family has been separated by the ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis in Venezuela. Despite family members living in different countries around the world, they remain in touch, and actively do their best to see each other as often as possible, including their most recent gathering last year for her wedding!

"Hispanic Heritage Month means so much more than just a celebration of culture, to me, it is celebrating unity through our diversity, and coming together as one family."



Jorhan Santana has been employed with DoE since May 2019 as a Citizen Services Specialist in the Director's Office. He was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the U.S. after completing high school. He obtained his bachelor's degree and worked at a non-profit health care organization before joining County government.

Jorhan is the proud father of an 8-year-old girl, who is truly his best friend and the sunshine that lights his day every day.

"Our family celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month by displaying the flag of our native Dominican Republic. In addition, we watch movies from the island, prepare traditional meals, and recount stories of when previous generations were growing up."

Eddie Lopez (not pictured) has worked for DoE in the Resource and Recovery Division (RRD) for the past six years. He is a descendant of the United States Commonwealth Island of Puerto Rico, and his heritage is that of Spaniard, native Puerto Rico, Latino, Indian and African. He was born and educated in New York City and his first language is American English.

Eddie has been married for 16 years to a native New Yorker. They have three daughters. His oldest daughter is a police officer in Broward County, Fla.; middle daughter is currently earning her degree in science; and his youngest daughter is in high school and is interested in joining the Navy as an officer in the medical field.

His family celebrates every holiday and then some. According to Eddie, when they get together it is lots of food, laughter, dancing and loud talking (because they don't know how to talk normally). He loves his tight knit family.

"Music is in our soul. Puerto Rican music has evolved as a heterogenous and dynamic product of diverse culture. Salsa is our most popular music and is heard around the world."



Marilyn Perez has worked for the Animal Services Division (ASD) for three years and is the Foster Coordinator for the Animal Services and Adoption Center.

She was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala and has lived in Prince George's County for over 25 years. Marilyn and her family love to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by attending festivals and church events. Unfortunately, not so much this year because of COVID-19.

She has two sons who are five and four years old; two mixed rescue dogs, Hershey and Taylor; and their unruly cat Mr. Blue.

"We are proud to be Hispanic. It is important to teach our children our heritage and our roots. I am very proud to not only live but to also work in Prince George's County. I love its diversity!"

Rosemary Vozobule has worked for DoE since June 2006, working first in the Animal Services Division (ASD), until 2017, when she began in the Resource and Recovery Division (RRD). Rosemary was born in Chicavasco, a mountainous region located north of Mexico City.

After graduating high school, Rosemary attended the Universidad de las Americas in Puebla, Mexico. Puebla is known for being at the foot of an active volcano called Popocatepetl – or Popo. It is also known for having the most religious festivities and nearly 200 churches. Rosemary said it was an amazing city to live in and a wonderful experience as students attended from all over the world.

Rosemary is married with two children. Her daughter is on the Women's US Olympic weightlifting team, and her son works for an IT company. She has no grandchildren yet, and they both live in Philadelphia. Rosemary hopes to return to Mexico someday to live, even if it's just for part of the year.



"Each summer for the first 18 years of my life, my family would travel to Mexico and live with my abuelita, abuelito, cousins and large extended family. I remember very well the colorful festivals held in the small town we lived in, the food, the fireworks and the crowds."



Joanna Smith has worked for Prince George's County government for nearly nine years. She currently leads a staff of Engineers and Contract Project Coordinators through the administration and operation of the Division's Capital Construction program of the Stormwater Management Division (SMD). Joanna was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Mrs. Smith moved back to the U.S. at the age of 13. She was the recipient of the Vanguard Scholarship Award, J.P. Morgan Chase Scholarship, and New York State Department of Education Scholarship in 2002. Joanna holds a degree in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering from Drexel University. She brings to DoE a unique background of civil engineering and contract management.

Joanna is a first-generation college graduate and military spouse ("GO NAVY!"). She has been married 14 years and has an amazing 9-year-old son. She is also the DoE Wellness Group Fitness Instructor and County representative of the Patuxent River Commission (PRC).

"We like to attend the Hispanic Festivals in Prince George's County or back in New York to enjoy a day full of Latin music and our Latin dishes."



Everyday Environmental Words

As we go about our day-to-day work activities, we use environmental words quite frequently. Attached is a list of common environmental words and a brief definition of each to help refresh our vocabulary.

Acid Rain

Rain which contains large amounts of harmful chemicals as a result of burning substances such as coal and oil.

Biodegradable

Able to decay naturally and harmlessly.

Carbon Monoxide

The poisonous gas formed by the burning of carbon, especially in the form of car fuel.

Carbon Dioxide

The gas formed when carbon is burned, or when people or animals breathe out.

Climate

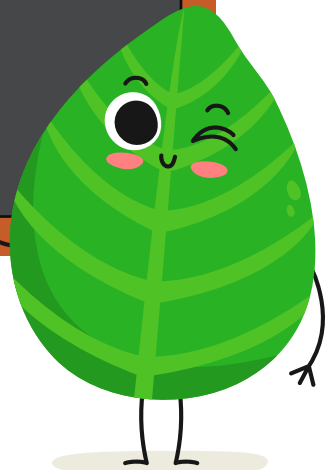
The general weather conditions usually found in a particular place.

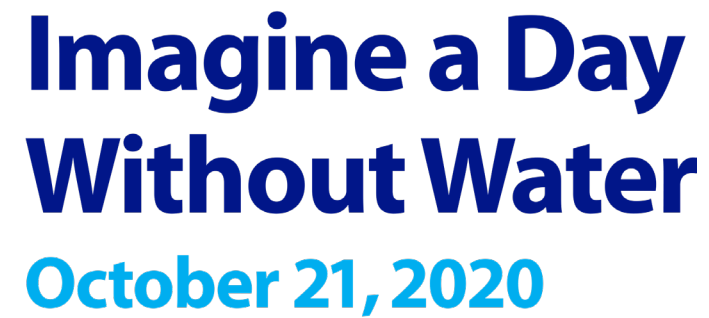
Global Warming

A gradual increase in world temperatures caused by polluting gases such as carbon dioxide which are collecting in the air around the Earth and preventing heat escaping into space.

Greenhouse Effect

An increase in the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere which is believed to be the cause of a gradual warming of the surface of the Earth.





For more information about the initiative, visit imagineadaywithoutwater.org/.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 2020 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION VOTING CENTERS INFORMATION

11 EARLY VOTING CENTERS WILL BE OPEN FOR VOTING

Monday, October 26, 2020 through Monday, November 2, 2020, 7AM – 8PM
Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020, 7AM – 8PM

41 ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS OPEN FOR VOTING ON ELECTION DAY ONLY

Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 7AM – 8PM

Voters can vote in-person at the early voting center of their choice during early voting dates or the election day vote center of their choice on election day.

Check out the website for the locations for Early Voting Centers and Election Day Vote Centers:
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31909/EV-and-EDVC-for-WEB—with-FedExField-REV-9-10-2020





In the spring of 2020, the Prince George's County Council unanimously passed a Council Resolution (CR-007-2020) mandating a Climate Action Commission (CAC) to develop a Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County by September 30, 2021.

Joseph P. Gill, Director of the Department of the Environment (DoE), will Chair the CAC. The County's Climate Action Plan will occur as a collaborative and inclusive community engagement process with an opportunity for public feedback and participation.

In addition, CAC is charged with developing a climate action plan to prepare for and build resilience to regional climate change impacts and to set and achieve climate stabilization goals. It will address the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and recommend strategies to reduce vulnerabilities for a more resilient County.

If it felt like this summer was the hottest summer you can remember in Prince George's County, it is because it was the hottest summer in Prince George's County on record. On July 28, 2020, the Washington D.C. area experienced the 26th straight day of 90 degrees or greater, surpassing the previous record from July 2011, when there were 25, 90-degree days. Our region's impacts will only worsen with climbing temperatures as heatwaves, drought, extreme storm events, and rising water levels become everyday issues. Climate change is not a future problem which the next generation can handle. Climate change is happening now and has no geographical boundaries.

How can residents participate?

Check out the DoE website (www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/179/Environment) for updates and information about the upcoming Prince George's County Climate Action Plan meetings. We need both your feedback and support. For more information, email Mary Abe, Natural Resource Manager, Sustainability Division at MAbe@co.pg.md.us.



I HAVE A SINKHOLE!!! WHAT DO I DO?

You wake up one morning and while admiring your vegetable garden you notice an unusual depression in your backyard. You get very worried. What does this mean? How much will this cost? What caused it? Who do I call to fix this? It is very important for you to understand what to do if you are faced with this situation.

Sinkholes can be caused by several things. Some sinkholes form because a storm drain on your property has failed. If a storm drain on your property fails and creates a sinkhole, call 3-1-1 and inform them of your situation. A county inspector will visit the site and evaluate the situation. If it is a failed public storm drain, the 3-1-1 Call Center will direct your service request to the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) to fix it.






Another reason why one might have a sinkhole on their property is because a Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission (WSSC) pipe has failed. If the sinkhole you are observing is around your WSSC utilities, you should call WSSC. The number for WSSC's Customer Service Center is 301-206-4002. A WSSC inspector will come and analyze the situation.

Sometimes a sinkhole is caused by an improperly abandoned private well or septic tank (system). In this case, you will have to contact the Prince George's County Health Department at 301-883-7879.







A sinkhole can be caused by a failed pipe or a failed well or septic system. However, sometimes a natural depression just forms in the soil. In this case call 3-1-1. The inspector will check and see if there are any pipes on the property that might have failed. If there are none, then they will advise the homeowner how to properly fill in the sinkhole and compact the soil, so it does not easily erode again.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 9 MON LUNES 	NOVEMBER 10 TUE MARTES 	NOVEMBER 11 WED MIÉRCOLES 	NOVEMBER 12 THU JUEVES 	NOVEMBER 13 FRI VIERNES 
ORGANICS COLLECTIONS WILL OCCUR (includes food scraps and yard trim) MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 <small>Las colecciones de materiales orgánicos (incluye restos de comida y recortes de jardín) ocurrirán el lunes 9 de noviembre 2020.</small>	NO CHANGE TO RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION <small>ningún cambio para reciclaje y recolección de basura</small>			

THANKS GIVING DAY

NOVEMBER 23 MON LUNES 	NOVEMBER 24 TUE MARTES 	NOVEMBER 25 WED MIÉRCOLES 	NOVEMBER 26 THU → FRI → SAT JUEVES VIERNES SÁBADO 		
NO CHANGE TO ORGANICS, RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION <small>ningún cambio para reciclaje y recolección de basura</small>					

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 21 MON LUNES 	DECEMBER 22 TUE MARTES 	DECEMBER 23 WED MIÉRCOLES 	DECEMBER 24 THU JUEVES 	DECEMBER 25 FRI → SAT VIERNES SÁBADO 	
NO CHANGE TO ORGANICS, RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION <small>ningún cambio para reciclaje y recolección de basura</small>					

For more information on the holiday schedule changes, please contact CountyClick 3-1-1
Para obtener más información sobre los cambios por el día festivo, comuníquese con County Click 3-1-1

2020 AMERICA RECYCLES DAY CAMPAIGN



The Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Resource and Recovery Division (RRD) join the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and Keep American Beautiful (KAB) in the 2020 America Recycles Day Campaign. America Recycles Day, a KAB initiative, is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Every year on or around November 15, America Recycles Day event organizers educate neighbors, friends and colleagues through thousands of events.

COG is the “state” coordinator for America Recycles Day 2020 for the metropolitan Washington area and is hosting an online pledge form to encourage Prince George’s County residents to continue to be leaders in waste diversion and source reduction. Our County has made tremendous progress and your pledge reinforces our commitment to be the best! To submit your pledge, go to www.mwccog.org/recyclesday.

In addition, COG is offering regional prizes in support of the America Recycles Day campaign.

PRIZES

- Local: \$300 gift certificate from REI retail store (all ages).
- Local: K-12 Prize - \$300 gift certificate from REI retail store AND \$500 grant to the local K-12 environmental program/ club of choice (must be K-12 school student).

The prize drawing will be a part of the December 3 COG Recycling Committee virtual meeting. Visit www.mwccog.org/recyclesday for a check box for K-12 students.



Thank you to the Sustainability Division team, including drainage investigators who have continued to investigate, assess and advise residents on the source of drainage problems and means to cure such problems. Our investigators have been consistently responding to requests for assistance with yard and house flooding during the pandemic. Despite an exceptionally rainy summer in 2020, staff have maintained timely responses to residents request for help with determining the source of drainage problems and for advice on how to protect their homes and yards from flooding.

OPEN BY
APPOINTMENT
ONLY

Prince George's County
Animal Services Facility and
Adoption Center is

OPEN


 animal
 services
 DIVISION

To schedule a 30-minute appointment on a first-come, first-served basis, call **301-780-7201**.

The Facility will follow current County COVID-19 guidance
 For more information, visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com

DO YOUR DOODY. SCOOP THAT POOP!

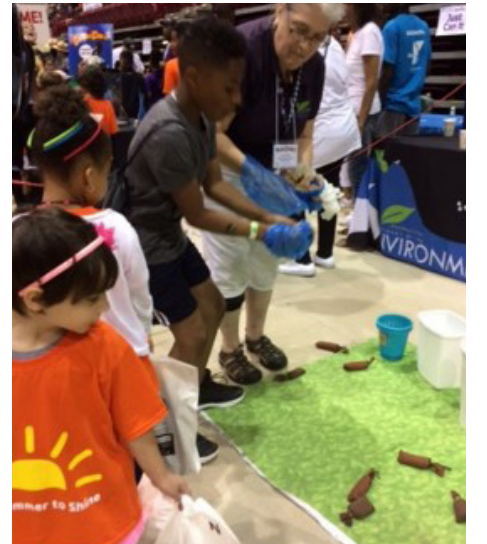
Sooner or later, pet waste left on the ground will find its way to our storm drains, streams and rivers. This “poo-llution” contains disease-causing germs and parasites that can make our local waterways unsafe. Children, gardeners and other pets that come in contact with pet waste also are at risk of infection. Watch the recently released “Scoop that Poop” video on how simple and important it is for us to do our “doody” at bit.ly/pgcscoopthatpoop.

Picking up after your dog uses the bathroom is no one’s favorite job, but it has become easier to be a responsible dog owner in Prince George’s County. As part of the Pet Waste Management (PWM) Initiative, more than 200 pet waste stations have been installed in municipalities and neighborhoods across the County. The Initiative, launched in 2016, educates residents about the dangers of pet waste containing certain bacteria, viruses, and parasites. These infectious agents can cause disease in humans and pets when left on the ground. The campaign is designed to affect behavior change and implement best pet waste management practices.

The partnership includes the Sustainable Maryland program at University of Maryland’s Environmental Finance Center (EFC) and Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE), funded by the Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program through the Chesapeake Bay Trust with more than 40 collaborating municipalities, and homeowners and civic associations.

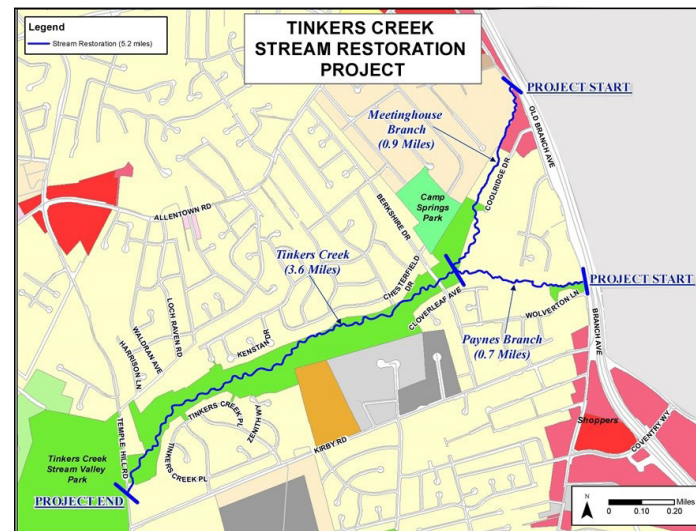
Collaborating partners have established pet waste management programs where they have committed to installing, maintaining, and monitoring pet waste stations. Partners have also helped educate residents on the benefits of pet waste management with customized materials, in English and Spanish.

No one likes to smell, look at or step in pet waste. Leaving pet waste in our parks, on sidewalks, or even our backyards is unattractive and can degrade the quality of life for residents. We are Prince George’s Proud, so remember to scoop that poop! To watch the “Scoop that Poop” video and learn more about the Initiative, such as launching a pet waste program in your community, visit bit.ly/pgcscoopthatpoop.



TINKERS CREEK

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION LAUNCHES MAJOR STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT in TINKERS CREEK



Project Background. On April 18, 2018, DoE Stormwater Management Division (SMD) partnered with GreenVest - Petro JV on Tinkers Creek Stream Restoration Project. The project is located in Prince George's County (Temple Hills and Clinton) on both private and public land (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission). The project is the largest stream project in Prince George's County, and one of the largest in the State. This exciting and beneficial project will restore 5.35 miles of stream in three stream corridors of the Piscataway Watershed (Tinkers Creek, Meetinghouse Branch and Paynes Branch). The project will use natural stream channel design techniques to improve bank stability.



Meeting House Branch before



Meeting House Branch after

Environmental and Watershed Uplift. The Tinkers Creek stream restoration project will result in a more natural, stable stream network with a functioning, connected floodplain and property loss protection. A primary goal is to improve pollutant removal efficiencies and provide impervious area treatment. Additional co-benefits and outcomes include improved water quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and property loss protection. Various in-stream habitat enhancements will be incorporated. These include the placement of 106 riffles, 73 toe woods, 64 rock toes, 109-grade control structures, 4 rock vanes, 34 log vanes, and supplemental native planting. This, coupled with floodplain reconnection, will uplift wildlife habitat functionality. The project will also result in increased wetland acreages and wetland function due to hydrology stabilization and floodplain reconnection. All of this will remove pollutants from runoff and improve the quality of County waterways, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Regulatory NPDES Permit Compliance. The water quality improvements this project will provide will help the County meet its NPDES MS4 permit impervious area treatment goals and local watershed TMDL and Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollutant reduction targets. The proposed project will result in a total of 448.47 Impervious Acres Treated (IAT) NPDES MS4 credits.

Support County Small Business. The project also supports County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' initiatives promoting County-based small businesses and our workforce. The Tinkers Creek project will utilize professional local businesses and contractor services to support design and construction of the project and return an estimated \$11.5 million of budget expenditures to County-based small businesses.

Project Schedule. The project will be constructed over four (4) fiscal years (FY 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023). Project stakeholders include GV-Petro Joint Venture LLC (GV-Petro) and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

Leadership in Project Management. Joanna Smith, Engineer V, Section Head CIP Construction Section was recently promoted to Manager of the CIP Construction Section. As a Principal Engineer, Joanna has been instrumental in the design and transition to the construction phase of the project. Joanna's professionalism and expertise with stream restoration protocols, and construction management experience and leadership with her team has helped forge this project, bringing intelligent solutions and resources to keep the project on schedule and cost at the same time maximizing design value and impervious surface restoration credits to the County.



Paynes Branch before



Paynes Branch after



Go green this Halloween and compost your pumpkin.

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is pleased to announce that it will collect pumpkins for composting on **Monday, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2020**. In addition to pumpkins, dried corn, hay and straw will also be picked-up for composting along with yard trim.

Residents may also drop off pumpkins and other yard trim at the County's Public Convenience Centers

Brown Station Road Public Container Pad and Recycling Area

3501 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Monday - Saturday and holidays: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Missouri Avenue Solid Waste Acceptance and Recycling Center

12701 Missouri Avenue
Brandywine, Maryland
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday and holidays: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

For more information, contact County Click at 3-1-1.

TO PARTICIPATE:

Items should be placed curbside for pickup. Pumpkins are not required to be bagged, but paper lawn/leaf bags must be used if residents choose to bag their items for collection. Pumpkins should be free of inorganic materials such as candles, wax, artificial lighting, loose decorations, etc.

Please celebrate National Recycling Day on November 15, 2020 by visiting the Keep America Beautiful website (kab.org/programs/ard/) and taking the pledge to reduce, reuse and recycle.



Plastic straws and stirrers are currently the seventh most common item collected during coastal cleanups.

*Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup 2018 Report

Single-use plastic straws pollute the water and cause harm to seabirds, marine animals and fish.

*Wildlife Conservation Society website

The average American uses 1.6 straws a day. In the US alone, that's enough to circle the equator two and a half times.

*Trash Free Seas Alliance

Plastic waste is flooding our oceans. It's now more important than ever to reduce our plastic footprint worldwide.

*World Wildlife Fund



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As of July 1, 2020, new Prince George's County legislation (CB-52-2019) bans straws and stirrers that are not reusable or meet the home-compostable standard.

*Food service businesses are prohibited from selling, distributing, or otherwise providing a straw or stirrer with food or beverage unless they are reusable or compostable.

*Retail businesses are prohibited from selling, distributing, or otherwise providing a straw or stirrer directly to consumers unless they also have for sale a straw or stirrer meeting the home-compostable standard.

To review a copy of the legislation, go to bit.ly/pgcplasticstrawban

For more information contact the Department of the Environment, Recycling Section, Inspection Unit at (301) 883-3635

ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES

REUSABLE STRAWS

HOME-COMPOSTABLE STRAWS

