

spring 2021

## CELEBRATE EARTH MONTH



## DYLAN TUTTLE WINS AWARD

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

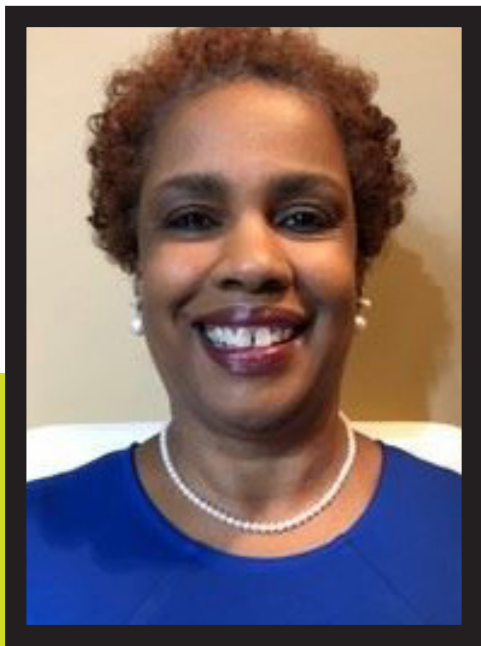
# GREEN SCENE 2021

newsletter

## ADOPTION CENTER HITS ALL-TIME HIGH



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



### Happy Earth Month!

April is designated as Earth Month – a time to focus our energies on our environment and how we can make it better. Of course, the biggest celebration is reserved for every April 22nd when Earth Day is officially commemorated.

In this special edition of the Green Scene Newsletter, dedicated to Earth Month, the focus is on environmental activities, programs, and events making a difference in Prince George’s County. The Department of Environment (DoE) is dedicated to fighting for a clean and healthy environment with educational programs and activities and being leaders in recycling, sustainability, stormwater management, and animal services.

In this issue, you’ll find a calendar listing activities and events to help you celebrate Earth Month. Be sure to check out the staff-recommended list of eco-friendly books, movies, and songs focused on environmental issues.

Read about Hugo, one of the pets in our Animal Services and Adoption Services Facility. Learn about his challenging journey and how his life turned around after being placed in a loving home. Another interesting article is Decoding Natures Calendar which explores how weather affects how things grow.

After a long cold winter, April begins the spring season and the time to commit to new beginnings and growth. This is an exciting time of renewal for us all. Rest assured DoE will continue its commitment of service to Prince George’s County residents during this season.

Let us all continue to be Prince George’s Proud and keeping it green!

Happy Reading!  
*Michelle W. Russell*  
Michelle W. Russell  
Acting 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

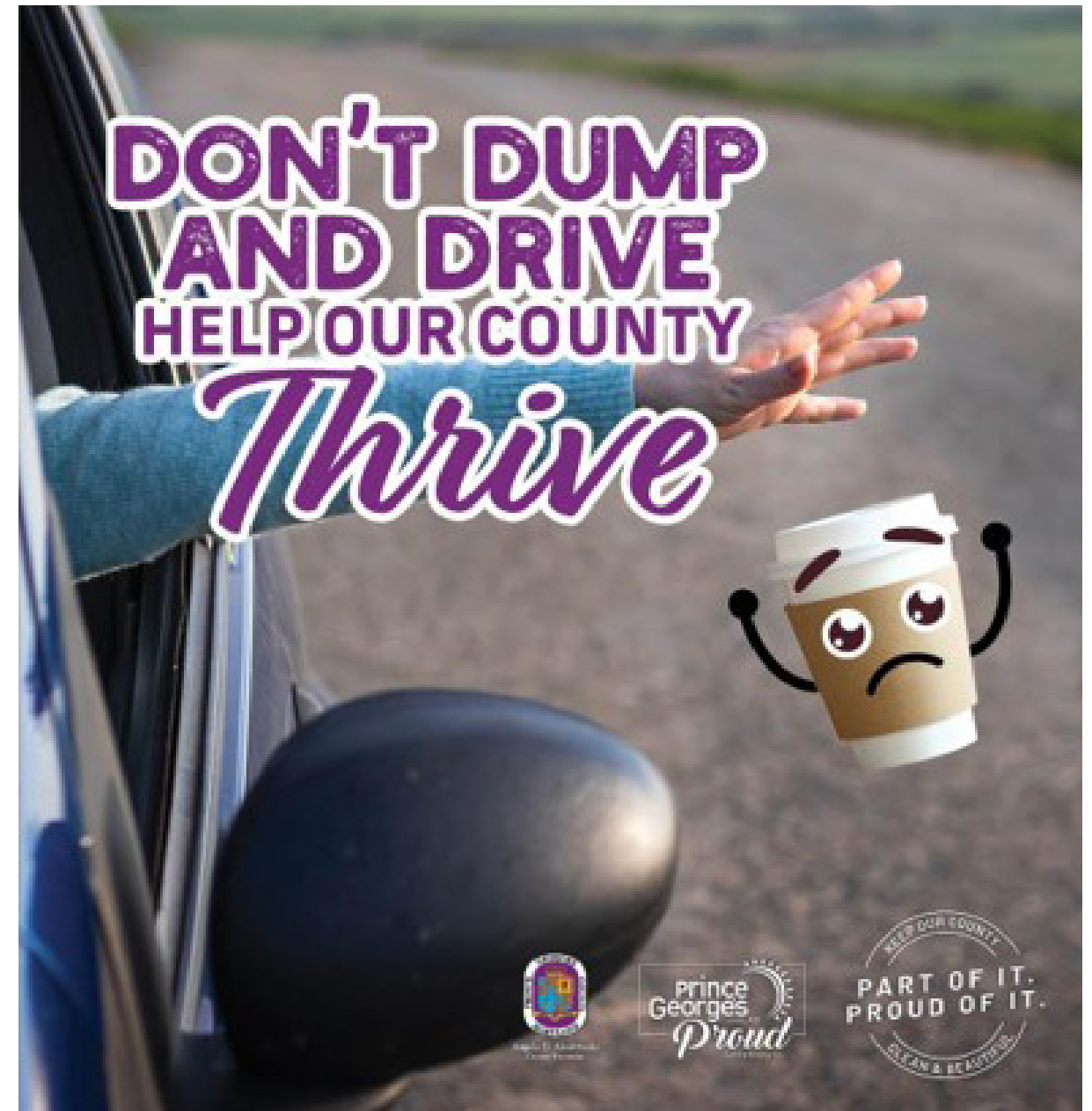
The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.

# BEAUTIFICATION CAMPAIGN RECEIVES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ADDY AWARD

The Office of the County Executive and the Department of the Environment are incredibly proud to announce County Executive Alsobrooks' Beautification/Anti-Littering campaign has won a prestigious Addy Award recognizing excellence in communications and marketing.

Thank you to our residents for all you do to keep our County clean and beautiful. Without your help, this prestigious award would not be possible. Let's continue to show we are part of it and proud of it by properly disposing of our trash, recycling, and calling PGC311 to schedule your bulky trash pickups.

Learn more by visiting [www.pgcproud.com](http://www.pgcproud.com).



Trash belongs in a bin – not on our roadways. Don't toss your litter out the window. Let's keep our County beautiful!

Learn more at [www.pgcproud.com/litter-reductions-efforts](http://www.pgcproud.com/litter-reductions-efforts)



# CELEBRATE





# EARTH MONTH WITH DoE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## CALENDAR of EVENTS



4/1 DoE Trivia Thursday (12pm)	4/2 STEM at Home: The World in 3D (12pm-1pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/3 National Handmade Day	4/3 Parks and Rec Discovery Hike-Wildflowers (1pm - 2pm) Register by 4/1 www.pgiparks.com/calendar		
4/5 - 4/9 ANIMAL SERVICES WEEK					
4/6 Trees, Water, Animals & Humans Wkshp (6pm) tinyurl.com/PGCTrees	4/6 Virtual Homeschool Club Series (multiple sessions) (1 - 2 PM & 2:30 - 4 PM) www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/7 Community Partners' Meeting (9am - 11am) bit.ly/CommunityPartnersMeetingSpring2021	4/7 World Health Day	4/7 Cooking Demo: Grain Salads Two Ways (7pm-8pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/8 DoE Trivia Thursday (12pm)
4/8 Craft & Create: Tile Art (7pm - 8pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/9 STEM at Home: Monster Mouths (12pm - 1pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/9 Park Exploration Program Forest Biodiversity Series (1pm - 3pm) www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/10 Potomac River Watershed Cleanup (various times and events) trashnetwork.fergusonfoundation.org/map	4/10 Free Tree Giveaway (9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm) Must be a resident and pre-register www.pgscd.org/event	
4/12 - 4/16 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WEEK					
4/11 National Pet Day	4/12 Film Discussion: Environmental Films (7pm - 8pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/13 Virtual Homeschool Club Series (multiple sessions) (1 - 2 PM & 2:30 - 4 PM) Register by 4/3 www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/14 PGCLitterTRAK Training (6pm) bit.ly/litterTRAKtraining April14	4/14 National Gardening Day	4/15 DoE Trivia Thursday (12pm)
4/15 STEM at Home: Three Ways to Make Invisible Ink (12pm - 1pm) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/17 Bat Appreciation Day	4/17 Engineering 101: Pollution Protection - Cleaning our Air Challenge (11am - 12pm) www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/18 Free Sunday Boat Tour (2pm - 3pm) www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/20 Virtual Homeschool Club Series (multiple sessions) (1 - 2 PM & 2:30 - 4 PM) Register by 4/1 www.pgiparks.com/calendar	
4/19 - 4/23 RESOURCE RECOVERY WEEK					
4/20 - 4/23 XSTEM All Access series (1pm - 2pm daily) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/22 EARTH DAY		4/22 DoE Trivia Thursday (12pm)	4/22 Community Conversation: Earth Month Virtual Event (3:45pm - 5pm) www.streamyard.com/sdpx5ixae	4/23 Park Exploration Program Forest Biodiversity Series (1pm - 3pm) www.pgiparks.com/calendar
4/24 Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Cleanup (10am 12pm) www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2021	4/24 National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (10am - 12pm) www.deatakeback.com/	4/24 Virtual Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea, and the Arts www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/24 Tree Songs Puppet Show (10:30am - 11:30am) www.pgcmis.info/events	4/25 National Pet Parents Day	
4/26 - 4/30 SUSTAINABILITY WEEK					
4/26 Arbor Day	4/27 Virtual Homeschool Club: Explorer and Rangers Series (Every Tues in April) www.pgiparks.com/calendar	4/29 DoE Trivia Thursday (12pm)			



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



Prince George's County  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



# KEEPIN' IT



# 1



## GREAT MOVIES TO WATCH DURING EARTH MONTH



Let's get social for the **Earth Day 2021** on April 22nd! Join in the celebration by sharing a photo of you wearing green.

Put on your favorite green gear and pose with your favorite outdoor plant/flower or use nature as a backdrop with the hashtag **#PGCEarthDayEveryDay**



Prince George's County  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
**KEEPIN' IT GREEN**



Prince Georges Proud  
We will post all photos on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22nd, for everyone to see we are **Keepin it Green!**  
Photos can also be emailed, but must be sent by Tuesday, April 20th to [BGarner@co.pg.md.us](mailto:BGarner@co.pg.md.us).

\*By submitting your photo, you grant permission for Prince George's County Government to post on its social media platforms, website and other promotional materials.



# GREEN!



### A PLASTIC OCEAN

When he discovers the world's oceans brimming with plastic waste, a documentary filmmaker investigates the pollution's environmental impacts. **Available on Netflix**



### OUR PLANET

Experience our planet's natural beauty and examine how climate change impacts all living creatures in this ambitious documentary of spectacular scope. **Available on Netflix**



### JUST EAT IT: A FOOD WASTE STORY

Filmmakers and food lovers, Jen and Grant dive into the issue of food waste from farm and retail, right to the back of their own fridge. In a deliciously entertaining challenge, they pledge to quit grocery shopping and survive only on discarded food. **Available on Hulu**



### I AM GRETA

The story of teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg is told through compelling, never-before-seen footage in this intimate documentary from Swedish director Nathan Grossman. Starting with her one-person school strike for climate action outside the Swedish Parliament, Grossman follows Greta—a shy student with Asperger's—in her rise to prominence and her galvanizing global impact as she sparks school strikes around the world. **Available on Hulu**



### GARBAGE ISLAND

Vice sails to the North Pacific Gyre, collecting point for all of the ocean's flotsam and home of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch: a mythical, Texas-sized island made entirely of our trash. Come aboard as we take a cruise to the Northern Gyre in the Pacific Ocean, a spot where currents spin and cycle, churning up tons of plastic into a giant pool of chemical soup, flecked with bits and whole chunks of refuse that cannot biodegrade. **Available on Vice Video**



### A BEAUTIFUL PLANET

A Beautiful Planet is a breathtaking portrait of Earth from space. Made in cooperation with NASA, the film features stunning footage of our magnificent blue planet -- and the effects humanity has had on it over time. **Available on Hulu**



### THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER

This documentary spotlights the struggle of minority communities in Nova Scotia as they fight officials over the lethal effects of industrial waste. **Available on Netflix**



### VANISHING OF THE BEES

Narrated by Elliot Page (Juno, Inception), this documentary takes a piercing investigative look at the economic, political and ecological implications of the worldwide disappearance of the honeybee. Vanishing of the Bees unfolds as a dramatic tale of science and mystery, illuminating this extraordinary crisis and its greater meaning about the relationship between humankind and Mother Earth. **Available on Amazon Prime Video**



### COWSPIRACY

Learn how factory farming is decimating the planet's natural resources -- and why this crisis has been largely ignored by major environmental groups. **Available on Netflix**



### TAPPED

The high cost -- to both the environment and our health -- of bottled water is the subject of this documentary that enlists activists, environmentalists, community leaders and others to expose the dark side of the bottled water industry. **Available on Amazon Prime Video**



# 1



## GREAT BOOKS TO READ DURING EARTH MONTH



# 1



## GREAT SONGS TO LISTEN TO DURING EARTH MONTH



**THE LORAX**  
by Dr. Seuss



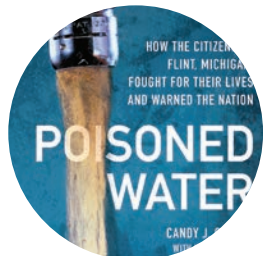
**SILENT SPRING**  
by Rachel Carson



**YOUTH TO POWER: YOUR  
VOICE AND HOW TO USE IT**  
by Jamie Margolin



**HERE AND NOW**  
by Julia Denos



**POISONED WATER: HOW  
THE CITIZENS OF FLINT,  
MICHIGAN, FOUGHT FOR  
THEIR LIVES AND  
WARNED THE NATION**  
by Candy J. Cooper with  
Marc Aronson



**NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
by Greta Thunberg



**THERE'S SOMETHING IN  
THE WATER**  
by Ingrid R. G. Waldron



**CRADLE TO CRADLE:  
REMAKING THE WAY WE  
MAKE THINGS**  
by Michael Braungart  
and William McDonough



**WHY WOMEN WILL SAVE  
THE PLANET**  
by Friends of the Earth  
and C40 Cities



**WHERE THE WATER GOES**  
by David Owen

**CIRCLE OF LIFE**  
Disney's The Lion King

**ORANGE MOON**  
Erykah Badu

**BIG YELLOW TAXI**  
Counting Crows ft. Vanessa Carlton

**EARTH SONG**  
Michael Jackson

**A BEAUTIFUL MORNING**  
The Rascals  
**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**  
Ray Charles

**FIREFLIES**  
Owl City

**MERCY MERCY ME**  
Marvin Gaye

**HOY**  
Gloria Estefan

**WAKE UP EVERYBODY**  
Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes

**CHANGE THE WORLD**  
Eric Clapton

**WHAT A WONDERFUL  
WORLD**  
Louis Armstrong

**COLORS OF THE WIND**  
Vanessa Williams

**LET IT GROW**  
Ester Dean (Dr. Seuss' The Lorax)

**MADRE TIERRA**  
Chayanne

**HERE COMES THE SUN**  
The Beatles





# CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

As the Department of the Environment (DoE) and Resource and Recovery Division (RRD) celebrates Earth Day 2021 it is only fitting to congratulate the residents of Prince George's County for the many contributions made during this past year.

Despite the pandemic, your diligence and attention to diverting waste from the landfill, continuing to Recycle Right, providing encouragement to our youth and strengthening your position as environmental stewards have added tremendous value to Prince George's County's position as an environmental leader in the region and has supported the County's aggressive Zero Waste Initiative.



As you look to celebrate Earth Day 2021 please consider one of these environmentally sustainable activities:

- Plant a garden in your backyard or start a plant collection. No space for a garden? A small herb garden is an easy (and space-saving) way to grow your own herbs that may be used when preparing meals.
- Take a walk. This is already probably built into your social distancing schedule, so take some time to appreciate Prince George's County and the beauty around you. There are walking trails in the County that allow you to enjoy the outdoor splendor.
- Take a virtual adventure. Take a Google Earth tour to check out areas of interest.
- Educate yourself. We all know and practice reducing, reusing and recycling, and Earth Day is a perfect day to really do your research and pledge to do better for our planet. Please take time to learn more about the Prince George's County Department of Environment and its programs by visiting [environment.mypgc.us](https://environment.mypgc.us) and visit Keep America Beautiful [KAB.org](https://KAB.org) and gain tips from a national leader known for programs that beautify and protect the environment. Also for a recap of the America's Recycles' Day (ARD) awards program, check out [youtu.be/APqoM001phY](https://youtu.be/APqoM001phY).
- Start a compost. If you've always liked the idea of reducing your waste and starting to compost, please visit [mypgc.us/compost](https://mypgc.us/compost).
- Donate. Pick a charity of your choice that protects the planet and promotes conservation — and donate either your gently used items or your time!
- Post on social media. Share with your network what you most love about the planet and ask them to join you in an activity that protects the environment and promotes environmental awareness as part of your Earth Day celebration.

Thank you for your continued support and for your part in being Prince George's Proud!



# YOUNG DYLAN TUTTLE WINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD



Congratulation to six-year-old Dylan Tuttle who was recognized and awarded for his stewardship of the environment and community leadership during the Annual Waste Diversion and Recycling Awards Ceremony held virtually in December 2020.

The award ceremony is a focal part of the Prince George's County's Beautification Initiative, the Department of the Environment's Resource Recovery Division's Recycling Section in partnership with Keep Prince George's County Beautiful. Nominations were accepted from the public for those individuals or groups who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in recycling, waste diversion and overall beautification of the County.

Dylan has been obsessed with watching environmental PBS programming. He listens to podcasts about animals and associated habitats while learning the importance of their protection. He has become passionate about the environment, recycling, and reusing things to reduce the amount of waste that ends up being thrown away while teaching his neighbors, peers and family to recycle and to reduce waste.

One of his first converts to recycling was his own grandmother who is now an avid recycler. With the help of his mom, Dylan has organized several neighborhood clean-ups. He encouraged his family and other members of his community to get together and pick up trash and recyclables discarded on the ground.

Projects he organized included the clean-up of Captains Cove Park and Piscataway Park. Among several lifestyle changes, Dylan insisted his family use paper straws, and replace paper towels with cloth towels. Dylan has also influenced his family to compost food scraps and yard trim in order to help promote the growth of native plants he cultivates.

Through his dedication and passion for the environment and beautification of Prince George's County, for a recent school project identifying "Essential Heroes," Dylan chose to honor Prince George's County's recycling collection crews, under the name, "The Recycling Man."

The Resource Recovery Division thanks Dylan, not only for his efforts in cleaning, beautifying, and advancing recycling in Prince George's County, but also for his recognition of the men and women who serve in the recycling industry.





# RECYCLING YARD TRIM & ORGANICS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S



Get your lawn and garden prepped for when the last frost of winter is gone! Clean up leaves, branches, grass clippings and other yard debris that has accumulated. For those receiving County-provided services, curbside yard trim collection occurs every Monday, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Grass clippings, leaves and other yard trim should be placed in heavy-duty yard paper bags or collection cans with handles and secure lids. Cans should be clearly marked with “yard waste” or “yard trim” to ensure they will be collected. Yard trim in plastic bags will NOT be collected. Branches must be bundled and cannot be larger than 4 feet long, 3 inches in diameter or weigh more than 60 pounds.

Watch our instructional video on how to prepare all your yard trim needs, and where it goes once it's been collected by clicking [here](#).

# FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL HOMEGROWN HEROES

Students at Fairmont Heights High School (FHHS), located in a food desert, found a way to combat the lack of fresh and healthy food in their community by growing food locally.

FHHS, has a greenhouse and hydroponics unit, but in the fall of 2020, with school being online due to COVID-19, a new approach was needed. Students were taught virtually to grow some of their own food at home. Students were surveyed and the results showed 68% of the students had a yard, 14% had a patio to grow vegetables and 68% were interested in planting a fruit or nut tree in their yard.

FHHS science teacher, Dr. Ashok Sookdeo, and Esther Mitchell, Community Developer with the Sustainability Division in the Department of the Environment (DoE) and the University of Maryland Extension (UME) Master Gardener Coordinator, teamed up to help 30 FHHS students grow some vegetables at home as part of their science project.

Master Gardeners and Steam Onward.org donated the seeds, some seedlings, and plant sticks. Donations of soil came from the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and compost came from the Prince George's County Soil Conservation District. Master Gardeners helped bag the compost and group the seeds in envelopes.

Each student received five (5) packets of cool season vegetable seeds including, two root (onion, radish, carrots, or beets); two leaf (lettuce, Swiss Chard, Kale, or Collards); one legume (bean or pea); donated bags of 2.5 cubic feet of soil; two cubic feet of compost; three seedlings, and four grow bags to grow the veggie seeds in. An instructional video was created by Ms. Mitchell, Dr. Sookdeo and a team of students. Click [here](#) to see the video.

The students were excited to grow vegetables and one student worked with his dad to build a raised bed to grow their plants. Students reported on the vegetable garden's growth progress and as part of their science classes. The project was featured in the school news broadcast as well.

While they had varying amount of success, the students were still excited and will try growing vegetables again this 2021 spring semester using warm season vegetable seeds and seedlings. Plans are underway to help other schools interested in generating a similar project.

As there are other food deserts in Prince George's County, there are many more Homegrown Heroes who could benefit from this program. DoE looks forward to supporting this program and other similar initiatives to make a difference.





# DECODING NATURE’S CALENDAR

What makes you feel like spring “has sprung”? Is it a tuneful early morning bird chorus? Is it the first bulbs poking up out of the cold earth? Or is it fresh local asparagus at the farmer’s market?

While the date for each of these events may change from year to year, there is an order to their timing. Plants and animals respond to the yearly cycles of changing daylength and temperature. By learning which organisms grow as the days grow longer, and which require a certain number of days above a particular temperature for growth, it is possible to roughly predict these milestones. The study of the timing of these natural cycles is phenology.

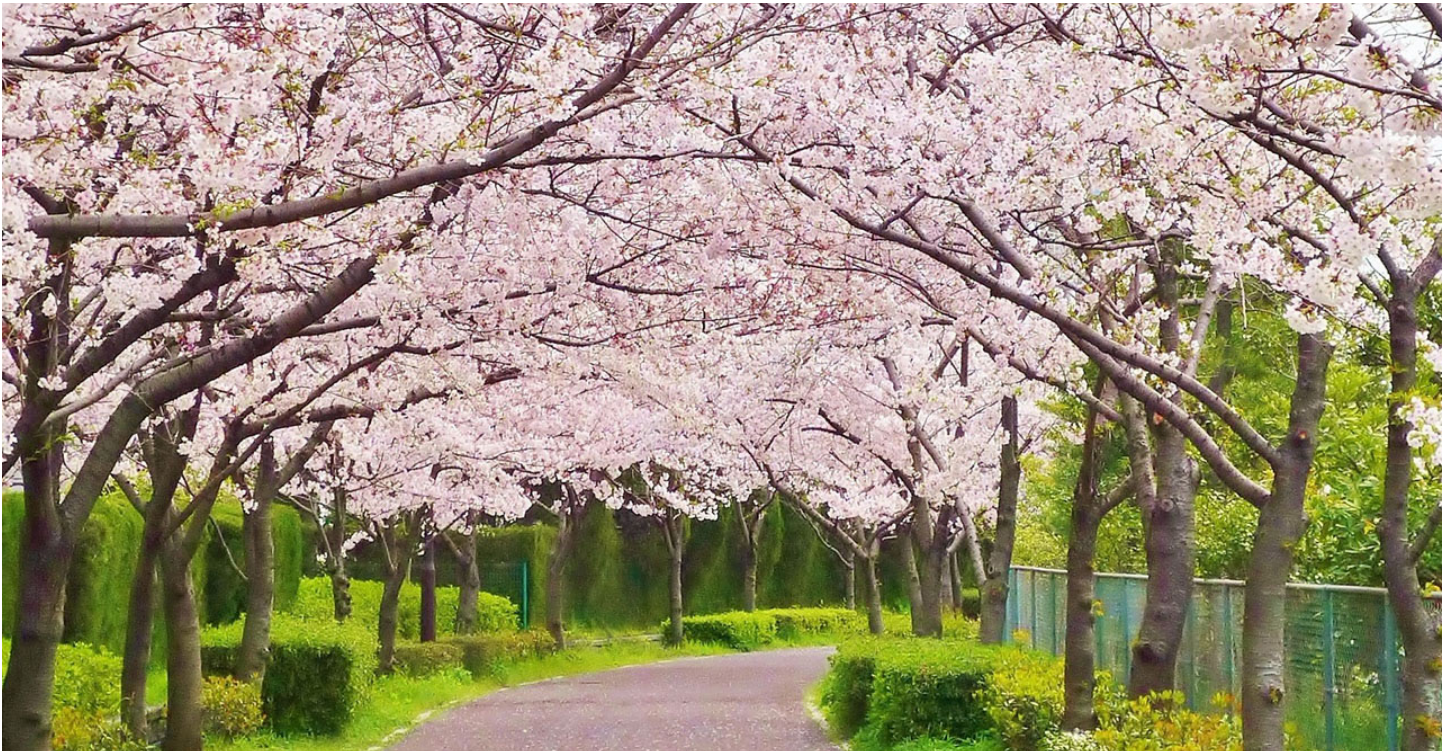
Phenology is nothing new. People have been living by nature’s calendar for ages. Throughout history, people noticed that some seasonal events would coincide from year to year and learned to take advantage of these cues. That’s why we have a native tree named after a fish! The shadbush blooms just as the shad are spawning, cueing watermen to set their nets. Farmers learned to plant corn when dogwood leaves are the size of a squirrel’s ears.

We still use phenology to predict when pests will hatch out, allowing farmers to efficiently monitor for pests before they become a problem.

Now, with climate change occurring, phenology has become even more critically important. By tracking how seasonal events are shifting, scientists can document the impacts of climate change and test their predictive models.

The Sustainability Division in the Department of the Environment (DoE) will soon launch its own Citizen Science Phenology program. The pilot program will be introduced with Hyattsville residents who will be asked to observe and record changes in the native trees that are being planted this spring.

For more information about the Phenology pilot and tree planting programs, contact Carole Ann Barth, Manager Tree Conservation Programs at [cabarth@co.pg.md.us](mailto:cabarth@co.pg.md.us).



# BEAUTIFYING HYATTSVILLE THROUGH TREES



The City of Hyattsville has partnered with the Department of the Environment (DoE) to plant lots of trees on public and private land in Hyattsville. Last fall, the City planted 76 native street trees around the city. This spring, even more native trees will be planted in homeowners’ yards.

These trees will provide beauty for years to come. In fall, the tupelo trees will blaze bright red, the redbuds will be a pale yellow, the shadbush will be red-orange and the scarlet oaks will be a deep, rich red. In winter, the elegant blue-gray fluted bark of muscledwoods will be revealed, and the twigs and buds of the lindens will be tinged red.

Spring will bring white shadbush, pink redbud and perfumed sweetbay blossoms. Just to be different, the witch hazel’s fragrant yellow flowers open in fall. All summer long the willow oaks, hackberries and swamp white oaks will offer delicious,

green-tinted shade.

Of course, trees do much more than bring beauty. Being around trees has been shown to reduce blood pressure and muscle tension - helping us to feel less stressed. Planting trees also helps to make our communities more climate resilient by cooling urban heat islands, sequestering carbon and soaking up rainwater.

If you are interested in planting trees in your community, contact Carole Ann Barth, Manager Tree Conservation Programs at [cabarth@co.pg.md.us](mailto:cabarth@co.pg.md.us).



# COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES FACILITY AND ADOPTION CENTER HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

Achieves a 100 percent live release rate for animals housed at Center

For the first time in history, the Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) has reached a 100 percent live release rate for animals housed in the County shelter.

“This is an amazing accomplishment under these Covid restrictions,” said Associate Director and Chief of Animal Services Rodney Taylor. “Anytime we can place animals in a permanent loving home, it is a win for everyone.”

When the pandemic closed the Center’s doors last March, County officials and ASFAC staff had to alter their building access and visitation policies. Instead of having open access, visitors must now schedule an appointment if they are considering adoption or pet fostering.

According to Chief Taylor, because customers now have an exclusive appointment, the staff can devote more time to the pet adopters to help prepare them for fostering or adopting. It also allows adopters to have crucial one-on-one time, enabling them to connect with the pet and make a more educated decision.

ASFAC staff and rescue organizations, mostly run by volunteers, also played a pivotal role in helping ASFAC reach its goal because they are responsible for the animals’ daily care until a loving and forever home is found. While animals are with rescue organizations, their member volunteers train, provide medical attention, and help resolve pet behavioral problems to prepare them for adoption.

Taylor adds that the 100 percent release rate is attributed to more people being at home during the pandemic and spending time with newly fostered or adopted animals. “Spending quality time with a pet is important in their training, building a relationship, and earning trust,” says Taylor. “In most cases, the result is permanent adoption,” said Taylor.

For more information about pet fostering and adoption or to schedule a pet adoption appointment, contact ASFAC at (301) 780-7201.



Meet Hugo! Hugo arrived at the Prince George’s Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) for the first time in July of 2020. He was brought in as a result of a cruelty complaint. Hugo was untrained, unruly and in desperate need of manners.

After several months of being caged in the shelter, he was finally adopted in October 2020 but 10 days later the adopter returned him to the shelter due to his high energy. Again, he quickly became a shelter favorite and although the staff could see his sweet, loving disposition, most adopters were put off by his size and lack of training.

Finally, one day another family walked in and fell in love with him. They cautiously fostered him to make sure that he would be a good fit for their family and within a month, the decision was final – they adopted him.

We are so grateful to families who adopt the “less than perfect” pets because with patience, consistency and love these difficult animals can become wonderful furry additions to the family. Like Hugo, ASFAC has many large dogs with minor behavioral issues looking for experienced fosters or adopters. If you are interested please reach out to our foster coordinator Marilyn at 301-780-7202 or mpperez@co.pg.md.us, or contact our Adoption Staff at 301 780-7201.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING ANIMALS

Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) recommends microchipping animals who have strayed from their homes. This process helps them return to their homes quickly, often without even processing them through intake into a shelter.

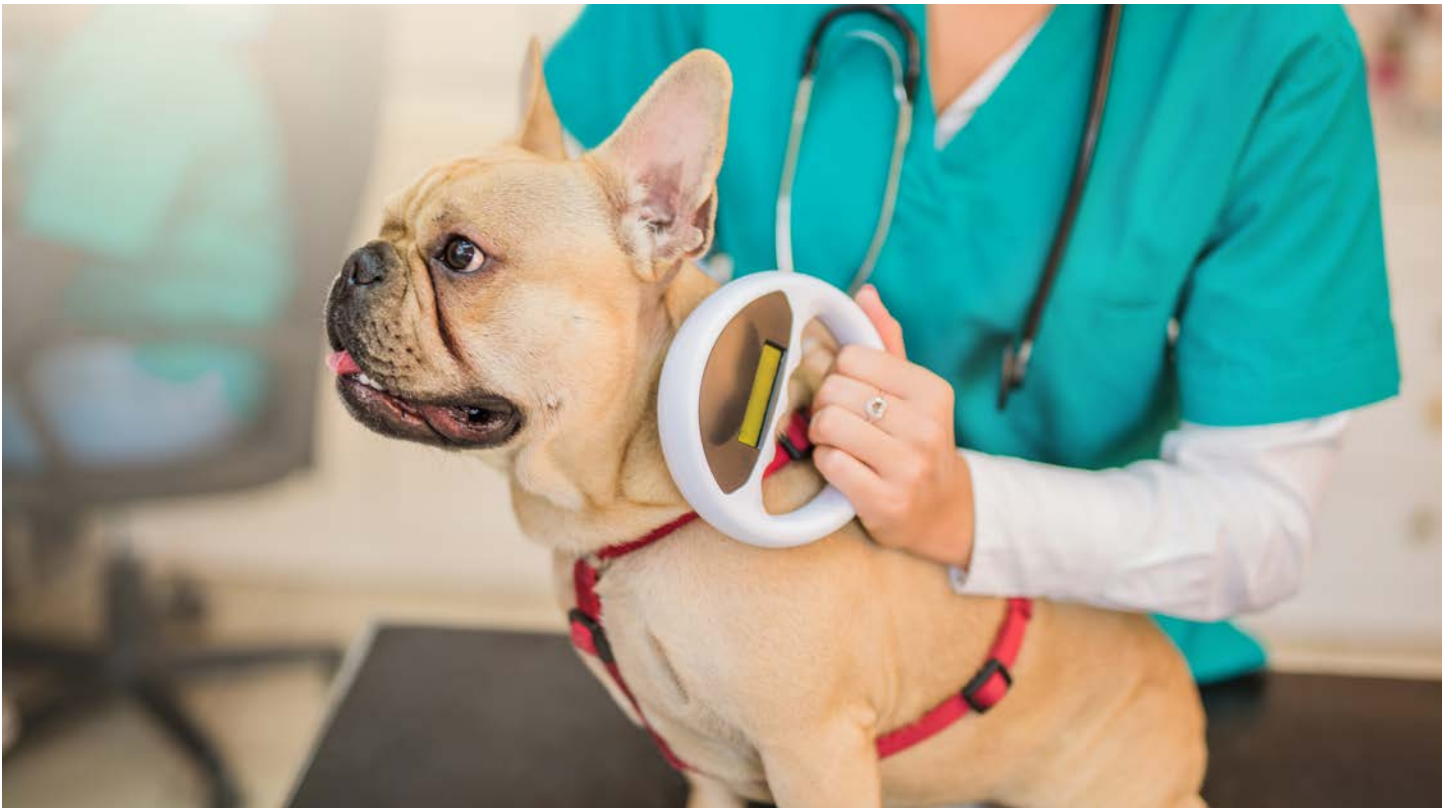
Most shelters, animal hospitals and clinics, and many veterinarians are now using Universal Scanners to determine ownership of an animal that comes into their facilities. Also, Animal Control Officers also use scanners in the field to be able to return an animal to a neighborhood without even transporting them to the facility.

Associate Director and Chief of Animal Services Division Rodney Taylor said, “during this pandemic, our animal control officers have found it even more helpful to have pets microchipped. The process is easy and an inexpensive and effective tool to bring our pets back home.”

There are numerous microchip companies, and most veterinarians will inject the microchip into your pet for under \$30. The key is not just to get them chipped - you must also register with the Microchip company and keep your registration with that company UP TO DATE.

When a pet is scanned and a chip is located, the facility contacts the chip company and gets your information from that company so they can easily locate you to retrieve your pet. If your address or phone number has changed, and you did not notify your chip company, the chip is virtually useless.

For more information about microchipping your pets contact Animal Services Division at (301) 780-7201 or visit our website - <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/204/Animal-Services> .



# FROM CONCEPTION TO COMPLETION

## DOE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION DEVELOPS GIS SMART TOOLS

### ESM TIES GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TO USER-FRIENDLY INTERFACE



*Simultaneously managing hundreds of projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars from strategic planning to design, construction and maintenance requires the exceptional visual and data management tools available in our ArcGIS BMP System Map Application and Enterprise Stormwater Management database, that instantaneously provide the intelligence necessary to drive decisions that meet regulatory compliance, cost effectiveness and community progress*

**Jim Lyons**  
Senior Program Administrator | Prince George’s County Government Department of the Environment

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the nation, and restoring watershed health is vital. Healthy and cleaner watersheds provide habitats for wildlife, clean drinking water, resilient coastal fisheries and communities, and recreational activities.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requires local jurisdictions to restore impervious

surface areas that have little or no stormwater treatment with green infrastructure and other techniques at a pace and scale that they can achieve through continued commitment, collaboration, and innovation.

As a Phase I NPDES MS4 permit holder, Prince George’s County is required to treat urban runoff and restore impervious surface areas with green infrastructure and other techniques. This involves collaboration with multiple agencies within the County, non-profit organizations, state and other local jurisdictions, municipalities, and other stakeholders. In partnership with all stakeholders, the County installed stormwater management facilities to restore and track improvement within the watershed.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a tool that can be used throughout the watershed restoration process. GIS is used to determine and document the watershed’s mapping characteristics, such as watershed boundaries, hydrology, and monitoring locations. It helps track and analyze the progress of watershed, watershed strengths, weaknesses, and potential restoration areas. It also effectively communicates this information to and educates stakeholders and decision-makers.

The Prince George’s County Office of Information Technology GIS (OIT) team and the Stormwater Management Division of the Department of the Environment (DoE) envisioned a solution that incorporated an enterprise geodatabase and various GIS technology-based applications.

OIT and DoE worked with stakeholders and the County administration to push the project forward with Esri as the consultant. The result was the Enterprise Stormwater Management (ESM) geodatabase, where all stakeholders can enter data and see the other stakeholders’ data. This eliminated the need to reconcile data differences between agencies, consultants, and the annual MS4 report. The data was also used in four different operations dashboards designed for decision-makers to visualize watershed restoration summaries. The tool was created with Data Reviewer checks to ensure data accuracy and expedite the QC process.

### Operation Dashboard:

Operations Dashboards provide summary data related to watershed health for users via a web link that can be opened on a computer or phone. The Operations Dashboards automatically analyze and display results directly from the ESM Geodatabase. This gives the decision-makers access to data without needing software.

Operations Dashboard tracks progress for key watershed health metrics. The Operations Dashboard allows for the data to be tracked throughout the year.

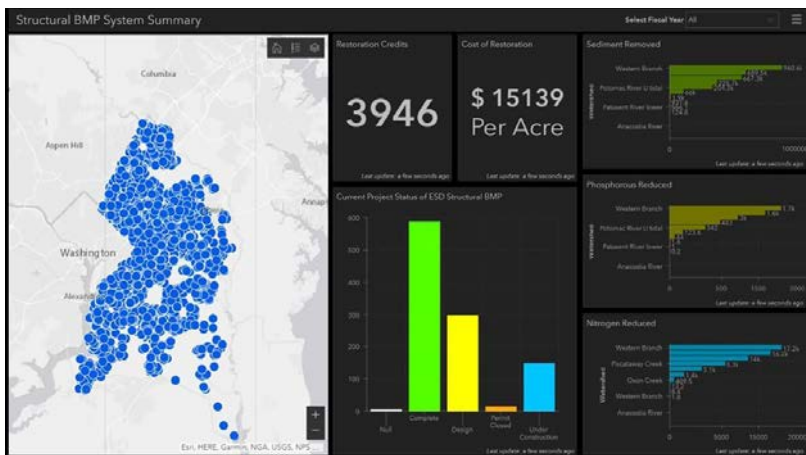


Fig. 1 Operation Dashboard Display

## BMP System Map:

The BMP System Map web app was developed specifically to support stormwater management engineering design and program management staff. The app enables users to view and access all information and understand the existing conditions of a site.

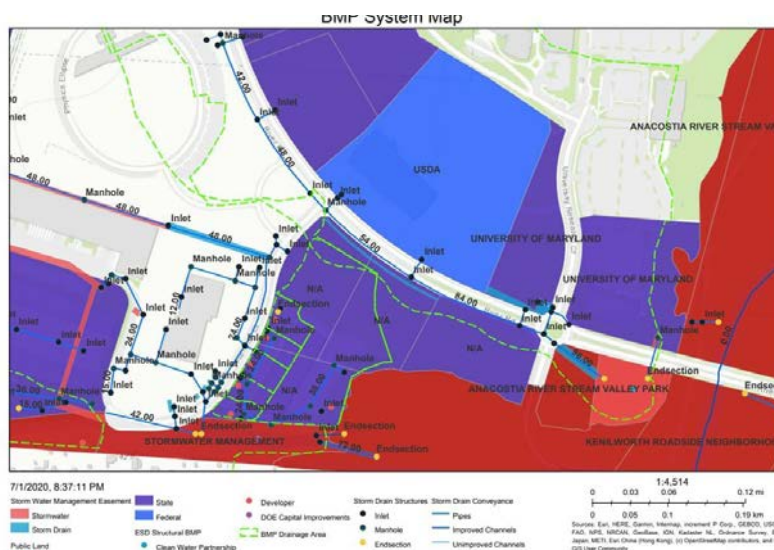


Fig. 2 BMP System Map Display

## Field Collection Web Applications

The collector app was developed to do inspections in the field with a mobile device using ESRI web applications. This streamlined the workflow, from performing an inspection to generating a report. Key features:

- Operates without Wi-Fi where necessary.
- Voice to text inspection notes.
- Take pictures with the device camera.
- Direct upload to Survey 123 cloud database, access for analysis on operation dashboard.

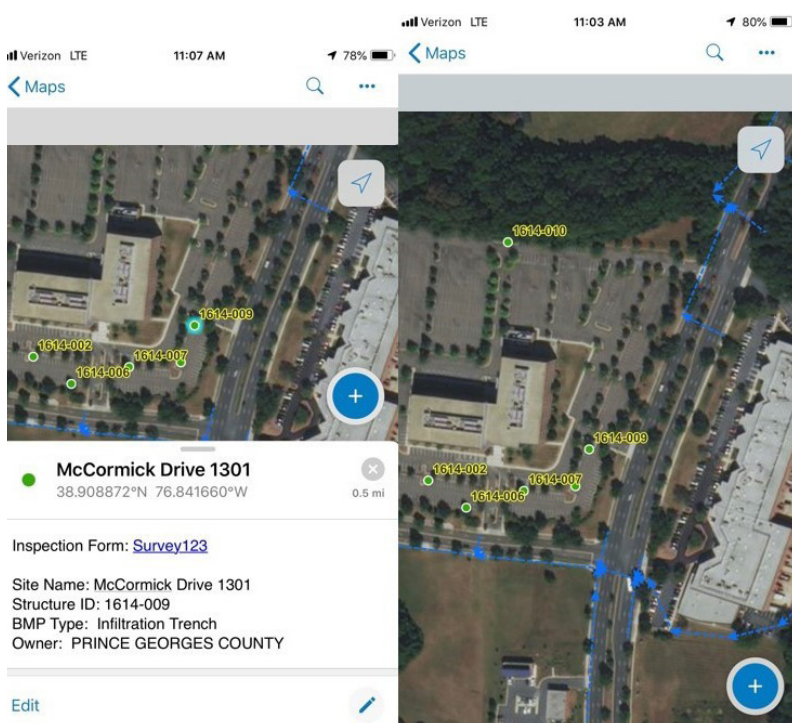


Fig. 3 Display of Collector app during a field inspection