

spring 2022

**CELEBRATE EARTH  
DAY EVERYDAY**



**REPURPOSE  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

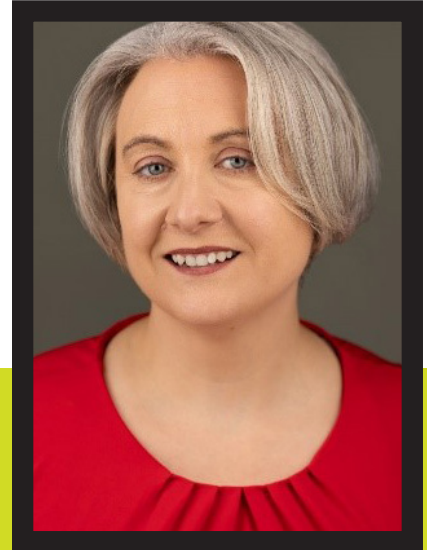
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**GREEN SCENE 2022**  
newsletter

**RAIN CHECK  
REBATE**



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Neighbors,

We are excited that this spring edition showcases “Earth Day Every Day” – a month-long celebration with virtual and in-person activities held in honor of Earth Day on April 22, 2022. Our divisions worked with partners throughout Prince George’s County to offer supplies and resources that demonstrate how the power of helping your local community can impact the broader environment around us all.

We are just getting started! Don’t worry if you missed an opportunity to help your neighborhood; there will be opportunities to get involved during May and beyond. Check out the Calendar of Events for ways to be Part of it, Proud of it throughout April.

Last week, the County recognized its first-ever “Preserve and Beautify our Environment Week.” A collaborative celebration led by our County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks, with shared efforts across sister agencies - the Department of the Environment (DoE), the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT).

PGCLitterTRAK app trainings were held to prepare for individual and group cleanups, including the Growing Green with Pride Day, held on Saturday, April 23. Our annual Mulch Madness source reduction event returned this year, where County residents could pick up mulch made from our own residents’ yard trim and Christmas tree collection for free from our Organics Composting Facility.

No matter how you and your family or friends get involved this month, we want to remind you that no intentional action is too small when it comes to helping protect the only planet we have. If you take away anything from this issue or any of our resources, it is that you can celebrate “Earth Day Every Day” throughout the year!

Happy Earth Month!

Andrea L. Crooms  
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Crooms', written in a cursive style.

# CONTENTS

green scene newsletter | department of the environment | spring 2022

## FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day Everyday 2022

3

Earth Month Calendar.....	4
Earth Month in English & Spanish.....	5
Weekend Scavenger Hunts.....	7
Furry Family “Fotos”.....	8
Getting Rid of Bulky Trash is Easier.....	9
Climate Change on Plants .....	10
Climate Change & You.....	11
Waste Diversion Recipients Receive Awards.....	12
Repurpose Household Items.....	14
PGC Proud Challenge.....	15
Mulch Madness.....	16
PGCLitterTRAK Virtual Trainings.....	17
Rain Check Rebate.....	18
Beautification Awards Applications.....	22

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.

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY FOR EARTH MONTH DURING APRIL!



DoE celebrates “Earth Day Every Day” throughout April, in celebration of Earth Day on April 22!

This edition of the Green Scene Newsletter highlights some of the activities scheduled including the Preserve and Beautify the Environment Week, Mulch Madness, Growing Green With Pride Day, PGCProud PepsiCo Challenge, and the Beautify and Comply Dumpster Drop-off.

In addition, residents can share their favorite “Shelter Pet Fotos” and participate in weekend Scavenger Hunts.

Get social with us by using #PGCEarthDayEveryDay and visit our website for ongoing updates at [bit.ly/PGCEarthDayEveryDay](https://bit.ly/PGCEarthDayEveryDay)!



# EARTH MONTH CALENDAR

Here's a look back at some of the Earth Month activities happening in Prince George's County. There is still time to celebrate Mother Earth and be part of it, proud of it! Please follow safe COVID guidelines for in-person events. View or download a full-size copy of the calendar below at [bit.ly/pgcearthmonth2022](http://bit.ly/pgcearthmonth2022).



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR of EVENTS



4/2 DoE Pet Orientation  
(10am)

4/2 Farmer for a Day  
(9am)

4/3 Fundamental of  
Foraging  
(10am)

[www.pgpc.com/calendar](http://www.pgpc.com/calendar)

[www.pgpc.com/calendar](http://www.pgpc.com/calendar)

### 4/4 - 4/9 NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

4/5 PGCLitter TRAK  
app Training (6pm)

<http://bit.ly/PGCLitterTRAK>

4/6 Green Business  
Spotlight

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/6 Community Partners'  
Meeting (9am)

<http://bit.ly/CommunityPartnersSpring2022>

4/8 DoE Scavenger  
Hunt

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/9 Potomac River  
Cleanup (9am-12pm)

[www.fergusonfoundation.org/events](http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/events)

4/9 EcoLatinos  
Adelphi  
Mill Cleanup  
[www.ecolatinos.org](http://www.ecolatinos.org)

4/9 Patuxent River Park  
Open House  
(11am - 2pm)

[www.pgpc.com/calendar](http://www.pgpc.com/calendar)

4/10 Anacostia River  
Festival  
(1pm - 4pm)

[www.bbdc.org/events](http://www.bbdc.org/events)

4/11 National  
Pet Day

4/12 PGCLitter TRAK  
app Training (6pm)

<http://bit.ly/PGCLitterTRAK>

4/13 Green  
Business  
Spotlight

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/13 Time to Start  
Your Garden  
(7-8pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/14 Container Gardening  
(3:30-4:30pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/14 Rain Check Rebate  
Webinar  
(6pm)

<http://bit.ly/RCRwebinar414>

4/15 DoE Scavenger  
Hunt

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/15 Nature Crafts  
(10-11am and 1-2pm)

[www.pgpc.com/calendar](http://www.pgpc.com/calendar)

4/17 Bat  
Appreciation  
Day

### 4/18 - 4/23 PGC PRESERVE AND BEAUTIFY OUR ENVIRONMENT WEEK

4/18 Film Discussion:  
Intelligent Trees  
(7pm - 8pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/19 PGCLitter TRAK  
app Training (6pm)

<http://bit.ly/PGCLitterTRAK>

4/20 Green Business  
Spotlight

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/20 STEM for Families  
(4:40 - 6pm and 6:30-7:30pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/21 Plant Swap  
(4:30pm - 6pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/22  
EARTH DAY

4/22 DoE Scavenger  
Hunt

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/23 Mulch Madness  
(8am - 1pm or while  
supplies last)

<http://mypgc.us/mulchmadness>

4/23 Growing Green  
with Pride  
(8am-12pm)

<http://mypgc.us/growinggreen>

4/23 Tree Workshop and  
Giveaway  
(10am - 1pm & 1 - 3 pm)

Must register to receive trees  
[www.facebook.com/pgcforestryboard](http://www.facebook.com/pgcforestryboard)

4/23 Anacostia Watershed  
Society's Earth Day  
Cleanup (10am 12pm)

[www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2022](http://www.anacostiaws.org/earthday2022)

4/27 Green  
Business  
Spotlight

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/28 Earth Month Keyote:  
Ben Raines on "Saving  
America's Amazon"  
(7-8pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

4/29 Arbor  
Day

4/29 DoE Scavenger  
Hunt

<http://environment.mypgc.us>

4/30 Adopt a  
Shelter  
Pet Day

4/30 Free Community  
Shredding in Cheverly  
(9am - 1pm)

[www.ecoshredllc.com/shred-events](http://www.ecoshredllc.com/shred-events)

4/30 Prescription Drug  
Take Back Day  
(10am)

[www.dea.gov/takebackday](http://www.dea.gov/takebackday)

4/30 Montpelier Festival  
of Herbs, Tea & the Arts  
(10am - 4pm)

[www.pgpc.com/calendar](http://www.pgpc.com/calendar)

4/30 Christmas in  
April

[www.christmasinaprilpg.org](http://www.christmasinaprilpg.org)

4/30 Creating a Sanctuary  
in Your Yard with  
Native Plants  
(7:30 - 8pm)

[www.pgpc.com/info/events](http://www.pgpc.com/info/events)

# EARTH MONTH

April is more than just the celebration of April Fools; it is also the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) celebration of Earth Month! A celebration born out of the recognition of Earth Day this April 22nd.

Earth Month Celebration spotlights the importance of taking care of our planet through simple sustainable daily actions such as recycling right, not littering, picking up after our pets, avoiding soil contamination, caring for our waterways, and avoiding the misuse of natural resources.

From a young age, we are all attracted to play with earth surrounding us. As we got older, we learned that the earth could provide us with more than just an opportunity to play and get dirty but more importantly the earth around us is full of life. It gives us life-sustaining and life-giving materials on which we all rely daily. Much of our water and foods like vegetables, fruits, grains, and animal protein we consume daily, all have a direct link to our earth.

Prince George's County is fortunate to have such a biodiverse environment and a mild climate that has allowed it to successfully sprout into the environment we know and care about today. Everywhere you look in the County, it is beaming with life. Just look at the wildlife all over our green spaces and waterways; how big trees grow around the County; luscious lawns, and gardens are all perfect examples of a healthy environment.

Having all these great natural amenities in our County, challenges every single one of us to be good stewards of the environment we inhabit. We are all responsible for how our communities meet this challenge. Small and simple steps make a huge difference on how we safeguard our environment and communities against pollution, infestation, depreciation, and squander.

With Spring already here, temperatures are starting to warm up once again, and it's a great time to take the initiative and become more invested in our communities. Follow these simple tips:

- Separate your trash and recycling properly.
- Replace old incandescent light bulbs with low consuming LED bulb.
- Do laundry with cold water.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Don't litter or overflow your trash and/or recycle bins.
- When exercising bring a trash clamp and a trash bag to pick up litter.
- Consider walking to your destination.
- Don't throw litter out on the streets.
- Don't discharge chemicals into the storm drain system.
- Bring reusable bags to the store.
- Say NO to single use plastics.
- Talk to your kids about the importance of a clean and healthy environment.

A clean community is a thriving community. This April let's celebrate Earth Month by celebrating Earth Day Every Day, taking small actions that have a sizeable benefit for all residents of Prince George's County. When we take care of our environment and our communities there is a sense of pride building within because we know our work and effort will have a positive impact on the environment. Always remember its #EarthDayEveryDay and Happy Earth Month!

# MES DE LA TIERRA

¡Abril es más que la celebración del Día de los Inocentes, abril también es la celebración del Mes de la Tierra para el Departamento del Medio Ambiente del Condado de Prince George! Una celebración que nació en reconocimiento al Día de la Tierra este 22 de abril.

La celebración del Mes de la Tierra resalta la importancia de cuidar nuestro planeta mediante simples acciones sostenibles diarias como reciclar correctamente, no tirar basura, recoger las heces de nuestras mascotas, evitar la contaminación del suelo, cuidar de nuestras vías pluviales y evitar el mal uso de nuestros recursos naturales.

Desde una temprana edad, nos atrae jugar en la tierra que nos rodea. De manera que crecemos, aprendemos que la tierra nos puede proveer con más que solo la oportunidad de jugar y ensuciarlos, pero más importante, aprendemos que la tierra está llena de vida. Nos provee con materiales de los cuales dependemos a diario, que dan y sustentan vida. Mucha del agua y comida como vegetales, frutas, granos y proteína animal que consumimos diariamente, tienen un vínculo directo a nuestra tierra.

El Condado de Prince George es afortunado al tener un medio ambiente biodiverso y un clima que le ha permitido crecer exitosamente al medio ambiente que conocemos y queremos el día de hoy. Donde quiera que miremos en el condado, este está radiante con vida. Solo mire la vida silvestre que esta por doquier, en nuestros espacios verdes y vías pluviales; lo grande que crecen los árboles en nuestro condado; los césped y jardines exuberantes, son todos perfectos ejemplos de un medio ambiente saludable.

Tener todas estas estupendas amenidades naturales en nuestro condado, nos desafía a cada uno de nosotros a ser buenos administradores del medio ambiente en cual habitamos. Todos somos responsables de como nuestras comunidades enfrentan este desafío. Pequeños y simples pasos pueden hacer una gran diferencia en como cuidamos nuestro medio ambiente y comunidades en contra de la contaminación, infestación, depreciación y despilfarro.

Con la primavera ya aquí, las temperaturas están comenzando a subir una vez más, es un gran momento para tomar la iniciativa y estar más involucrados en nuestras comunidades. Siga estos simples pasos:

- Separe su basura y reciclaje apropiadamente.
- Reemplace viejos bombillos incandescentes con bombillos de bajo consume LED.
- Lave su ropa con agua fría.
- Recoja las heces de su mascota.
- No desborde sus contenedores de basura y/o reciclaje.
- Cuando haga ejercicio traiga consigo un recogedor y una bolsa para recoger basura.
- Considere caminar a su destino.
- No tire basura en la calle.
- No descargue productos químicos en el sistema de drenaje.
- Traiga bolsas reusables al supermercado.
- Diga NO a los plásticos de un solo uso.
- Hable con sus hijos sobre la importancia de un medio ambiente limpio y saludable.

Una comunidad limpia es una comunidad que prospera. Este mes de abril celebremos el Mes de la Tierra celebrando el Día de La Tierra todos los Días tomando acciones pequeñas que producen grandes beneficios para todos los residentes del Condado de Prince George. Cuando cuidamos de nuestro medio ambiente y de nuestras comunidades crece dentro de nosotros un sentido de orgullo porque sabemos que nuestro trabajo y esfuerzo tendrán un impacto positivo en nuestro medio ambiente. Siempre recuerde que es #ElDíadelatierraTodoslosDías y Feliz Mes de la Tierra!

# DOE'S EARTH MONTH WEEKEND SCAVENGER HUNTS

Join the  
Fun&Win  
Prizes!

Every weekend in April, starting 4/8, DoE hosted a scavenger hunt for Earth Day items! Lists are posted on Friday by 12 pm, and you have until the following Monday to post and earn points for that week. Last post deadline is 12 pm, Monday, May 2. Find the item(s), take a picture, tag DoE with #PGCEarthDayEveryDay, earn points, and you could win!

Top three winners at the end of the month will earn a reusable goods swag bag with a BPA-free plastic bottle, steel straw kit (includes a cleaning brush and carry pouch), and other eco-friendly items!



**EARTH DAY EVERY DAY 2022**

**SCAVENGER HUNTS**

Join your Department of the Environment every weekend in April as we hunt for items in celebration of Earth Month!

Find the item(s), take a picture, tag DoE with **#PGCEarthDayEveryDay**, earn points, and you could win!

 **@pgcdoe**  **@pgcsprout** 

Top three winners will earn a reusable goods swag bag with BPA-free plastic bottle, steel straw kit (includes cleaning brush and carry pouch), and more!

Scavenger hunt lists will be announced on our social channels and website every Friday at 12pm, beginning April 8. Participants will have until the following Monday at 12 pm to post and tag us to earn points. Last post deadline is 12 pm, Monday, May 2. Learn more at [bit.ly/PGCEarthDayEveryDay](https://bit.ly/PGCEarthDayEveryDay) (case sensitive).

  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



# SHARE YOUR FURRY FAMILY “FOTOS” TO CELEBRATE ADOPT A SHELTER PET DAY

In honor of Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, DoE will showcase all the furry, feathery, and scaly pets rescued from a shelter to promote the importance of adopting.

Pet parents can post a cute or funny picture of your four or two-legged family member, with the hashtags #PGEarthDayEveryDay AND #AdoptDontShop.

Emailed photos must be sent by Wednesday, April 27 to [BGarner@co.pg.md.us](mailto:BGarner@co.pg.md.us).

All photos will be posted on April 29 in celebration of Adopt a Shelter Pet Day on April 30!



Let's get social for the  
**Adopt a Shelter Pet Day**  
on April 30th in honor of  
Earth Month!

Take a picture of your furry,  
feathery, or scaly rescued pet(s)  
and share with the hashtags  
**#PGEarthDayEveryDay** and  
**#AdoptDontShop**.



**FURRY  
FAMILY  
“FOTOS”**



All family “fotos” will be posted  
on Friday, April 29.

“Fotos” sent via email must be sent  
by Wednesday, April 27 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.





# GETTING RID OF BULKY TRASH IS EASIER IN PGC

County residents can now put out two (2) bulky items or two (2) tightly secured bags of smaller household items next to their regular trash. No appointment is needed unless it's an appliance or tires! Here are a few bulky trash collection reminders.

Learn more at [mypgc.us/clearthecurb](https://mypgc.us/clearthecurb).



# CLIMATE CHANGE ON PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

Have you noticed some plants are blooming earlier than in past years? Or maybe you notice the wild fluctuation in temperatures—70 degrees one day and 30 the next? All these changes affect every living thing including plants, trees, and pollinators that help supply our food sources.

Flowers blooming early is out of sync with the emergence of pollinators that depend on their nectar and pollen, or pollinators may emerge earlier because of warming temperatures and starve because their plant food is not available yet. This can have an impact on our food source since 85 percent of our food comes from pollination. Pollinators will need to adapt to warmer winters and earlier spring conditions or migrate to regions where the conditions are more preferred for their emergence. This may present problems if the preferred plants are not available in that region. Further migration and loss of habitat may lead to extinction as their range and population become too small to avoid extinction.

As the climate warms in this region, plants that require a longer cold period will eventually disappear from this region or will be struggling to survive under heat-related stress and will be prone to infestation and diseases. There will be more demand for water when we have extended periods of drought. Plants that are used to warmer weather further south will become naturalized in this region as the temperature rises and insects and diseases that were part of a warmer climate will make this region home. Native trees that have evolved in this region will be key to providing shade during the hot summers and help mitigate the flooding conditions that will come with torrential rainfalls during the coming years.

If you hate weeding, get used to it because weeds, especially the invasive kind, will be more prevalent. They will claim more vacant, unattended land, our forests, and eventually creep into your gardens and yards. We cannot change nor control the weather but there are some areas we can control to lessen the impact of climate change on plants and pollinators.

- Buy more plants that are native to Maryland and this area
- Plant more native trees in your yard
- Provide nesting habitat for bees, butterflies, and bats
- Use manual, electric, or battery-operated lawnmowers, trimmers, and blowers
- Reduce your need for large lawns and use more groundcovers
- Enrich your soil with compost and recycle leaves or grass clippings back into the soil, which will make for healthier soil and plants
- Be ever diligent about invasive plants and insects that threaten to push out and destroy native species and their habitat
- Have an open mind about what is happening in this region, the country and the world regarding stormwater, extreme temperature fluctuations, and the frequency of violent storms
- Be more observant and educate yourselves on what is happening in nature as well as climatic changes

## Resources:

*Maryland Grows Blog*

*UMD article on Native Plants and Climate Change*

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU

Climate change describes a change in the average weather pattern in a particular area over a long period of time. Science and data offer compelling evidence that the climate is changing. We are experiencing the impacts of this change now (e.g. heatwaves and frequent intense storm events). These impacts and others will grow exceedingly worse in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience.

Actions great and small will help us to achieve carbon neutrality and prepare us to withstand, as well as recover from extreme weather events. Opting to travel via bus or train; investing in energy-efficient upgrades for your home; walking and biking; planting a large or small tree (yes, small trees have benefits); composting food scraps, and community gardening are just a few practices that you can adopt today to start building towards our climate resilient future.

Prince George's County and the State of Maryland offer programs and services to help you get started. Check out the programs below.

## **TREE RELEAF GRANT PROGRAM**

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/457/Tree-ReLeaf-Grant-Program>

## **RAIN CHECK REBATE PROGRAM**

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/313/Rebates>

## **CURBSIDE FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTIONS (COMPOSTING)**

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2856/Curbside-Organics-Collection-Composting>

## **LOCAL TRANSIT**

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2778/MetroTransportation>

Air temperature has risen 2.50 farenheit in Maryland over the past century with the warmest and second warmest years being 2012 and 2020. Also annual precipitation in the State exceeded the long-term average for observation period 1995 - 2020<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/md/#:~:text=Bay%20area%20ecosystems-,Temperatures%20in%20Maryland%20have%20risen%20about%202.5%C2%B0F%20since,than%20in%20any%20other%20period.>



# ANNUAL WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLE AWARDS RECIPIENTS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

Earth Month is an excellent time to share achievements with our greatest supporters. Late last year DoE's Resource Recovery Division (RRD) hosted virtually the Annual Waste Diversion and Recycle Awards. Because the ceremony was virtual, officials with RRD added a personal touch by delivering the certificates to the worthy recipients. Check out some of the winners!



**Mumtaz Mustafa**  
**Exxon, Mitchellville, Maryland**

Certificate presented by Tony L. Falwell,  
Recycling Section Inspector



**John Lincourt, Coordinator, Green Program**  
**Mt. Rainier Elementary School**

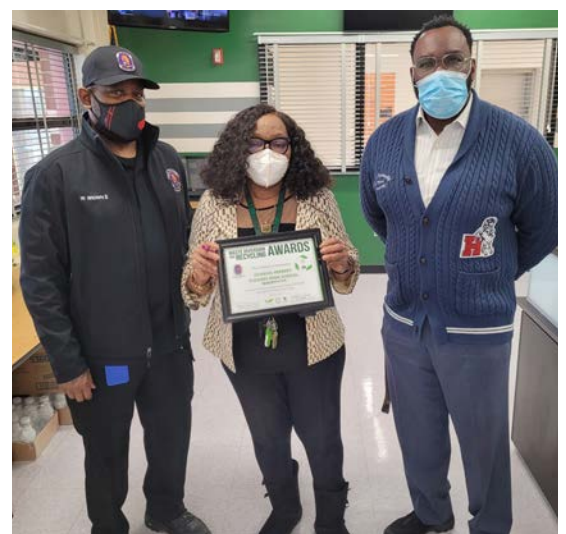
Certificate presented by Walter Brown,  
Recycling Section Inspector



**Kieshauna Thompson,**  
**Green Team Leader**  
**Potomac High School**



**Abimbola Akinmolayan,**  
**Science Coordinator Surratsville**  
**High School**

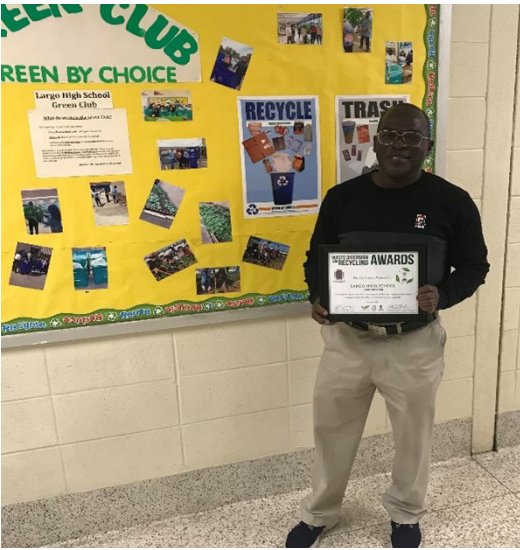


**Gloria Ojunta Ph.D. - Green Team Leader**  
**Dr. Gorman Brown Ph.D. - Principal**  
**Charles Herbert Flowers High School**  
Certificate presented by Walter Brown, Recycling  
Section Inspector





**Peter Brigham, Operations Director  
Tanger Outlets National Harbor**



**Paul Johnson, Green Team Sponsor  
Largo High School**



**Gwynn Park High School  
Leasa Gudderra Teacher, and the students of the Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Program.**



**Marquilla Coles -  
Representing Team Leaders  
Student Youth Enrichment Program 2021**



**Erica Alexander - Team Member  
Sunoco Oxon Hill, Maryland**



# FIND NEW WAYS TO REPURPOSE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



Since the County launched the improved bulky trash collection program for residential curbside service, residents are encouraged to donate their used furniture and other large household items before placing their materials out at the curb. Re-creating something from an unwanted item, also known as upcycling, is a fun and cost-effective alternative to the landfill.

Reuse means to find new ways to use things that would be thrown out. Many non-profit organizations within the County accept donations, such as Community Forklift, Goodwill, and Purple Heart. To find a list of other donation centers, check out [bit.ly/reuseinpgc](https://bit.ly/reuseinpgc).

You can also check with local churches and daycare centers to see if you can donate an item you no longer need, or something you might think is not "good" anymore. It's always a great feeling knowing you donated something that could help another person or family. Also, what you might think is "old" might be the perfect "something" or "retro" item for someone else.

Upcycling, a type of recycling, means turning something old and useless into something new and valuable. Upcycle an old or unwanted piece of furniture, and it could save you lots of money! When re-decorating a room or your house, focus on the color pallet of the look you wish to achieve. Many things can be painted to create an entire "new" look to fit perfectly into your new décor scheme.

If you are good at arts and crafts, buy fabric or use old drapes or bedspreads and dive into a project of reupholstering chairs, sofas, and ottomans. If you are a newbie, do not be afraid of embarking on doing something you have never tried before. After all, if you "mess up," you plan to discard the item anyway.

Instead, try again, "phone a friend," or look up one of the many video tutorials on the web today. Accomplishing a project like this - creating something new out of something old - is very satisfying and provides a sense of accomplishment.

Consider moving old tables and chairs to an outdoor patio area instead of purchasing new furniture. Exterior paint can be used to coat tables or chairs to help withstand the weather elements. These are just a few ideas to take something old and make it new and useful again. Remember, one person's trash is another person's treasure, and it could very well be your treasure!



# PGCPROUD CHALLENGE SUPPORTED BY PEPSICO



Angela D. Abudrooska  
County Executive

RAIN  
or  
SHINE!

**GROWING GREEN**

**Prince  
George's  
county** MARYLAND



**WITH PRIDE**

Help beautify our county by joining neighbors in your community  
for a day of cleaning, weed removal and mulching.

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 23  
8AM-12PM**

Registration is required for participation.  
Please register at  
<http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen>  
by April 15, 2022.

You may e-mail your application to  
[GrowingGreenwithPride@co.pg.md.us](mailto:GrowingGreenwithPride@co.pg.md.us).  
You will receive an e-mail notification to confirm  
the receipt of your application.



QR Code — Access to GGWP  
Fillable Application



Students may earn service learning hours!  
Contact Tonya Hairston at [tyhairston@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tyhairston@co.pg.md.us) or  
301-499-8641 for more information.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) hosted its annual spring Growing Green with Pride community cleanup day on Saturday, April 23. Gather your family, friends, and neighbors to do your part in beautifying the County and you could win up to \$500 by completing one or all of the PGCProud challenges:

- 1. Collect the largest amount of litter registered through the PGCLitterTRAK app.**
- 2. Gather the most volunteers participating in your cleanup (students encouraged to participate to earn community service hours).**
- 3. Best photo of a community gateway or entrance that has been beautified or created.**

Learn more and register at  
[www.pgcproud.com](http://www.pgcproud.com).  
#PrinceGeorgesProud



# MULCH MADNESS



If you weren't able to participate in collecting your FREE mulch from the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility on Saturday, April 23, save the date for next year and be sure to visit. Remember, all of the free mulch is derived from the County's Christmas tree collection. For more details, visit [mypgc.us/mulchmadness](http://mypgc.us/mulchmadness).



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



SATURDAY  
**APRIL 23**

\*Public restrooms are not available.

## Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility

6550 Maude Savoy Brown Rd.,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

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

**8 am to 1 pm**  
or while supplies last



### Source Reduction Tip:

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

*This mulch is primarily derived from the Christmas tree collections.*

- The event is for County residents only, proof of residency may be required.
- All attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Self-loaders must bring their own shovels, pitch forks, bags, containers and/or tarps to secure/transport the material.
- Only non-commercial vehicles, 3/4-ton maximum weight are permitted. No business vehicle signage will be permitted, all commercial signs should be covered or removed prior to entering the site.

For more information, visit [mypgc.us/mulchmadness](http://mypgc.us/mulchmadness)



# PGCLITTERTRAK VIRTUAL TRAININGS

PGCLitterTRAK app assists County residents, community organizations, and businesses in reporting trash and debris collected during individual and group cleanup events. A series of virtual trainings were held in April, but residents can learn when future sessions may be held by visiting [bit.ly/PGCLitterTRAK](http://bit.ly/PGCLitterTRAK).



## How do I use PGCLitterTRAK?

PGCLitterTRAK is a smartphone application (app) that can be used by community groups and individual citizens that are interested in reporting their efforts to reduce litter in their communities.



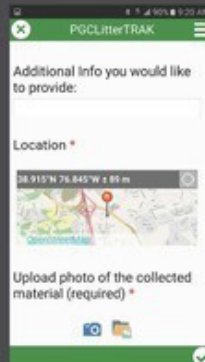
*This is the  
PGCLitterTRAK app*

This easy smartphone app will take you through a series of questions that will allow us to collect data on your contribution towards a cleaner, greener Prince George's County.

Go to [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2607/PGCLitterTRAK](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2607/PGCLitterTRAK) to sign up



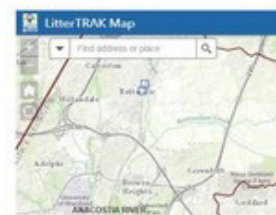
PGCLitterTRAK uses your phone to pinpoint the location of your litter cleanup.



Before you submit your PGCLitterTRAK information, you must upload a picture of your collected material.

### Finally...

Data collected from PGCLitterTRAK goes into an online map for reporting and analysis. The County then gets an accurate snapshot of all the work we're doing removing litter from our neighborhoods!





# RAIN CHECK REBATE AND STEWARDSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM

DoE is committed to improving the quality of life for its communities by promoting green solutions to stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain (or snowmelt) flows over impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, sediment, and nutrients that make their way into local streams and rivers. As part of that commitment, DoE developed innovative programs to provide opportunities and incentives to property owners, nonprofit organizations, and others to participate in local water quality improvements. Two of these programs are the Rain Check Rebate Program and the Stormwater Stewardship Grant program.

## Rain Check Rebate Program

The Rain Check Rebate Program allows property owners to receive rebates for installing 'Rain Check' approved practices. Homeowners, businesses, and nonprofit entities (including housing cooperatives and churches) can recoup some of the costs of installing practices covered by the program.

Seven stormwater practices are eligible for rebates: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, and green roofs. The total maximum rebate amount for the property's lifetime is \$6,000 for residential properties and \$20,000 for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. An applicant may complete multiple projects until the total maximum rebate amount is met. Projects whose costs exceed the rebate allowance per practice or maximum rebate amount for the property must have separate funding to pay for the difference.

So far through the third quarter the FY22 fiscal year, the County's Rain Check Rebate Program Performance stands at:

- BMPs installed: 81
- Rebates awarded: \$41,885

Join others in your community who are installing 'Rain Check' approved practices that improve water quality and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, which supports the health of our local waterways.

Learn more about the eligible practices and how to apply at [bit.ly/pgcraincheckrebates](https://bit.ly/pgcraincheckrebates).



### Nicholson Street in Hyattsville (Councilmanic District 2)

Homeowner replaced 286 sq. ft. of impervious concrete driveway with permeable pavers.





**Somerset Road in Riverdale Park (Councilmanic District 3)**

Homeowner installed one (55 gal.) rain barrel treating 25% (280 sq. ft.) of the roof runoff.



**Maryland Park Drive in Capitol Heights (Councilmanic District 7)**

Homeowner removed 891 sq. ft. of impervious asphalt driveway.



**Leonard Calvert Drive in Accokeek (Councilmanic District 9)**

Homeowner installed a 213 sq. ft. rain garden, treating runoff from the impervious roadway.



### Rain Check Rebate Contractor Training

DoE offers a 2-day contractor training course twice a year (spring and fall). It's geared towards landscape professionals wanting to know more about how to plan, design, construct, and maintain the seven Rain Check Rebate practices. The course is offered through the nonprofit Low Impact Development Center.

Contact [info@lidcenter.org](mailto:info@lidcenter.org) to learn more.

### Stewardship Grants Program

The Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program (PGCSSGP) funds on-the-ground restoration and program activities that improve communities and water quality and engages County residents in the restoration and protection of local waterways. Funding is made available to all qualified tax-exempt or other 501(c) nonprofit organizations, municipalities, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, community associations, civic groups, homeowners, and businesses.

Eligible activities include water quality improvement, citizen awareness and engagement, technical assistance to churches, tree planting, environmental education, and trash reduction in the Anacostia. Programs must be implemented in the County.

The PGCSSGP process is competitive. Funding partners and an external Technical Review Committee evaluate all applications. The application process typically has a deadline in the late Fall.

DoE has a Cooperative Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust ("CBT" or "Trust") to develop and implement the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship and Rain Check Rebate Programs. The Trust is a state agency established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1985 to promote public awareness and participation in the restoration and protection of water quality, aquatic and land resources of the Chesapeake Bay, and its tributaries. The Trust is authorized to provide grants to nonprofit organizations, community associations, civic groups, schools, or public agencies for citizen involvement projects.

For more information on how to apply for grants and grant cycle availability, please visit [www.cbtrust.org/grants](http://www.cbtrust.org/grants) or the County's website at [bit.ly/stormstewardshipgrants](http://bit.ly/stormstewardshipgrants).

### FY21 Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship Grant Project Examples

#### Mount Rainier Elementary School - Impervious Surface Removal (Grant #18986)

Mount Rainier Elementary School received a \$5,000 grant to remove 480 square feet of asphalt at the school. The school no longer used the asphalt area, and the asphalt had become damaged and broken over time. In addition, during rain events, the asphalt contributed to standing water on the adjacent sidewalks and next to the school building. With the asphalt removed, the rainwater can soak into the ground and no longer accumulates on the sidewalks. The school plans to transform the site into an outdoor learning space with benches and native plants.



**Defensores de la Cuenca - Academia de Defensores de Cuencas (Watershed Defenders Academy) (Grant #18994)**

Defensores de la Cuenca received a \$15,000 grant to develop a curriculum and recruitment strategy for the creation of La Academia de Defensores de la Cuenca (La Academia), a program based on the Watershed Stewards Academy model for Spanish-speaking participants. The development of this program is in partnership with Anacostia Watershed Society, which manages the Watershed Stewards Academy for Prince George's County. La Academia will equip participants with knowledge, tools, and resources to serve as a community leader on watershed issues and solutions. Defensores de la Cuenca held multiple environmentally-focused events to engage the Spanish-speaking community and gain interest in La Academia.



# BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS PROGRAM ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Celebrating its 52nd year, the Prince George's County Beautification Committee will host its annual Beautification Awards Program later this spring. The awards program honors those who have contributed to the community through excellence in gardening and landscaping. All landscaping efforts are considered eligible, including community efforts, school garden projects, government landscaping, commercial and industrial sites, and residential efforts, both maintained by the owner or professionally designed and maintained.

To apply, submit your application online via email or direct mail by May 1, 2022. Learn more and download the application at [www.pgcb beautification.com](http://www.pgcb beautification.com).

