



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

Montgomery County MS4 Permit

September 2026



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

- **What is an MS4?**

A publicly owned stormwater-only drainage system (storm drains, pipes, ditches) that discharges to U.S. waters.

- **What is the NPDES MS4 Permit?**

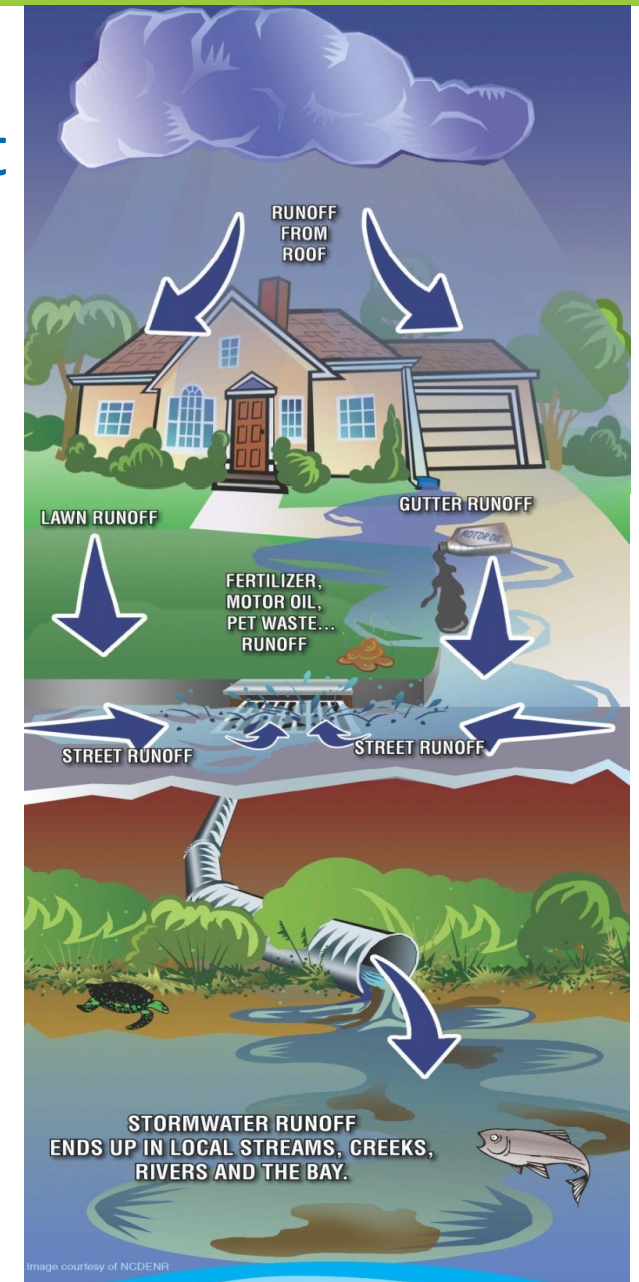
A Clean Water Act permit requires MS4s to implement a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

- **History & Regulatory Phases:**

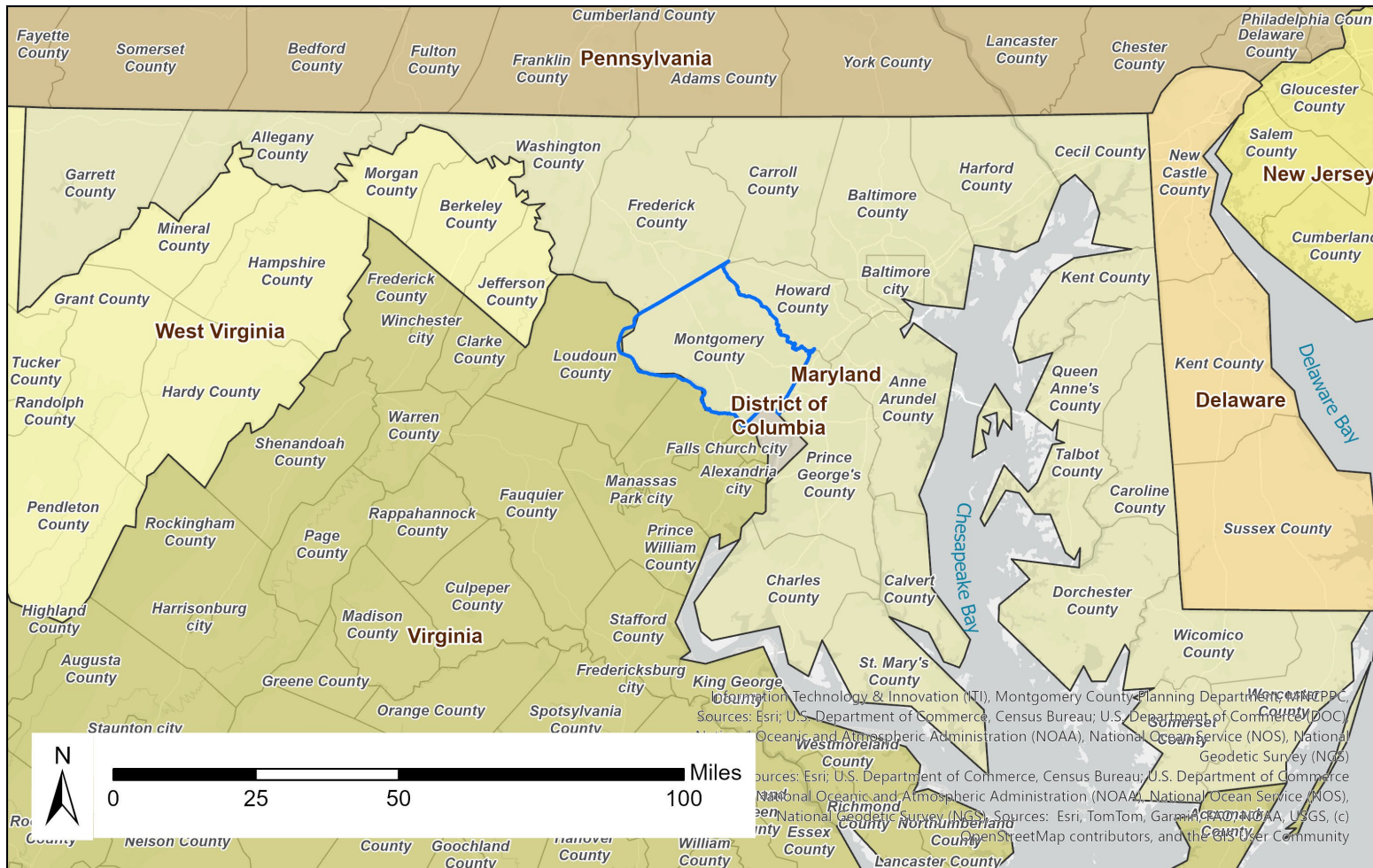
- **1972:** Clean Water Act establishes NPDES permitting.
- **1987:** Section 402(p) adds stormwater regulation.
- **1990 – Phase I:** Permits required for medium & large MS4s (population $\geq 100,000$).
- **1999/2003 – Phase II:** Permits expanded to small MS4s in urbanized areas (population $< 100,000$).

- **Purpose:**

Reduce stormwater pollution and protect streams, rivers, and lakes.



Montgomery County, Maryland



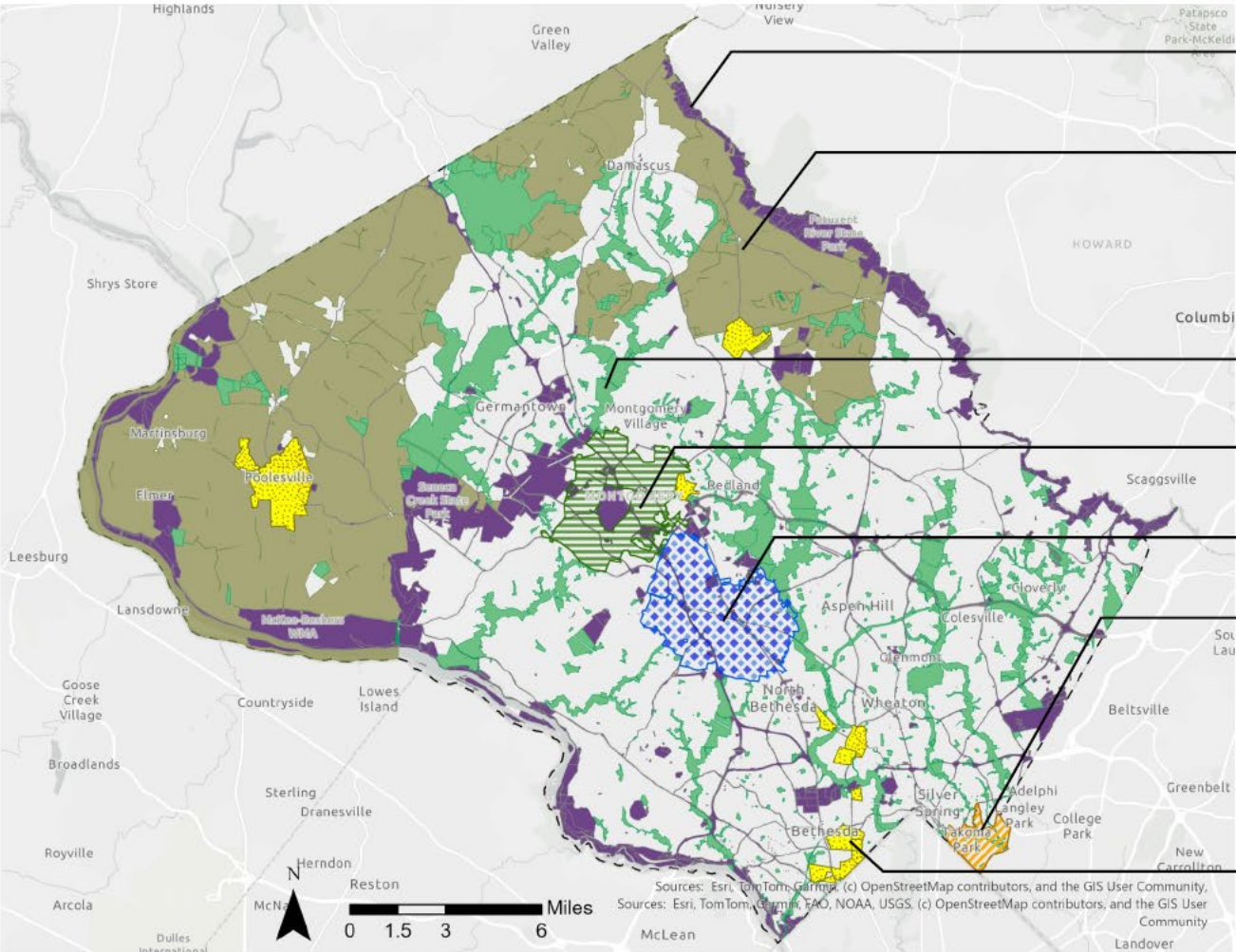
Population: 1,062,061 (2020 census)

Area: 507 square miles
491 square miles of land
16 square miles of water

Impervious: Roughly 79 square miles
of land is impervious
(15.66%) – 2023

Storm Drain: Roughly 1,250 miles
*Excludes State Highway, City of
Gaithersburg, City of Rockville,
and City of Takoma Park*

Phase I Permit & Co Permittees, Phase II Permittees, Industrial Permits



Federal, State, and Industrial Permits

Agricultural Reserve

Montgomery Parks

City of Gaithersburg

City of Rockville

City of Takoma Park

Phase II MS4
Permittees

Co-Permittees (e.g., Chevy Chase)

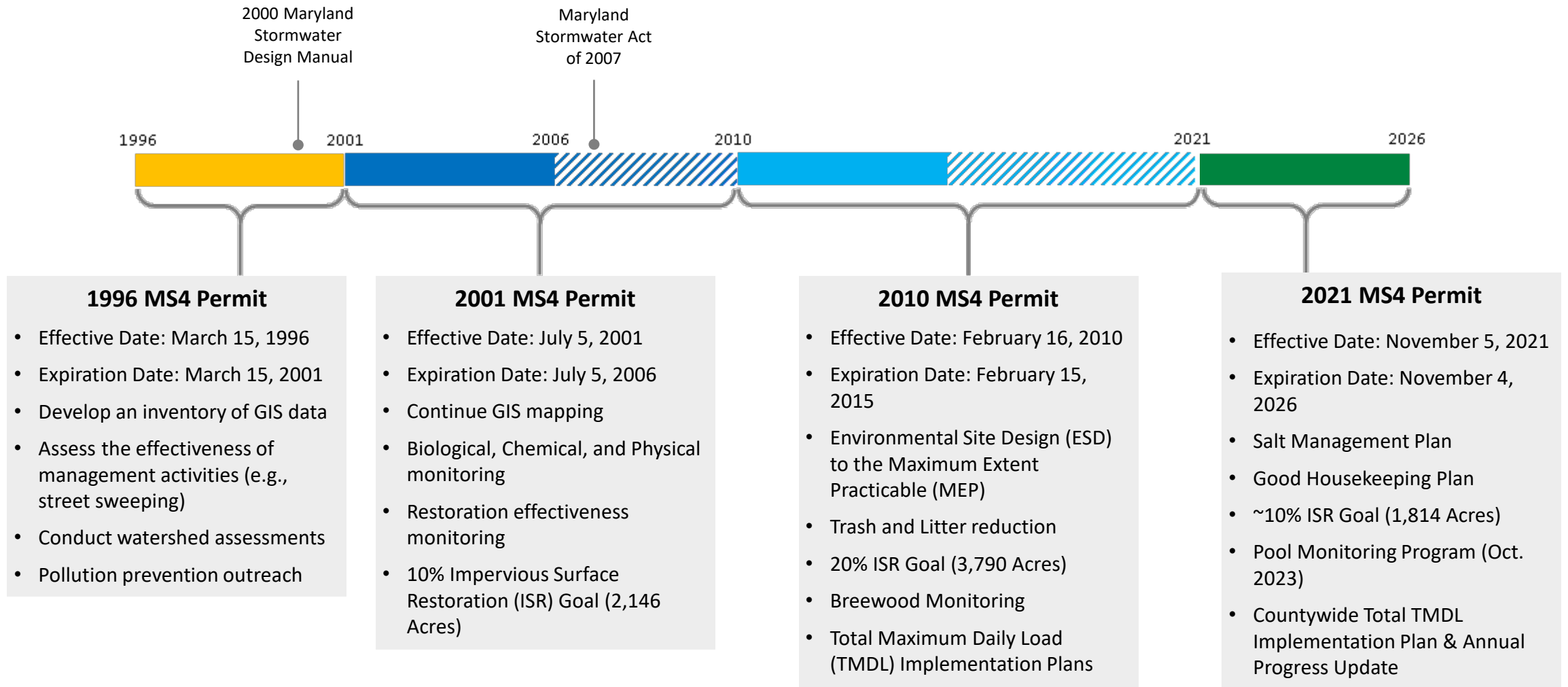


**WSSC Water is not part of
Montgomery County's MS4 Permit*

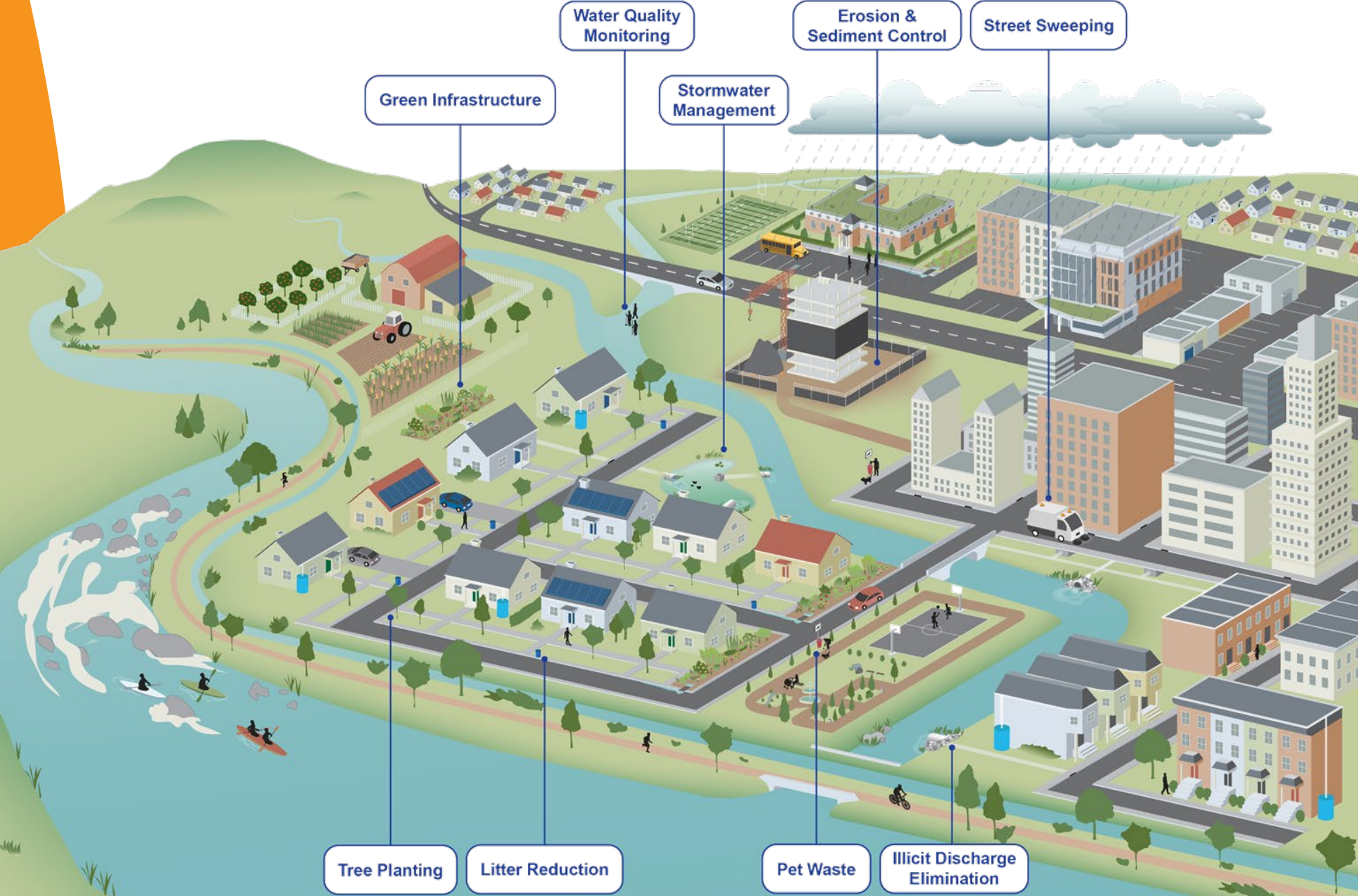


***MCPS is a co-permittee*

Montgomery County's MS4 Permit



Montgomery County's MS4 Permit



Standard Permit Conditions

- A. Permit Administration
- B. Legal Authority
- C. Source Identification
- D. Management Programs**
 - A. Stormwater Management**
 - B. Erosion Sediment Control**
 - C. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
 - D. Property Management**
 - E. Public Education**
- E. Stormwater Restoration**
- F. Countywide Total Maximum Daily Load**
- Stormwater Implementation Plan**
- G. Assessment of Controls**
- H. Program Funding
- I. Reapplication



Standard Permit Conditions

Management Programs



Stormwater Management

- Stormwater Permitting
- Stormwater management inspection & maintenance



Erosion & Sediment Control

- Ensure construction site operators have received training and hold valid certification



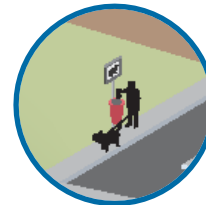
Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

- Annual screening of at least 150 outfalls
- Annual visual survey of commercial and industrial areas



Property Management & Maintenance

- Annually remove/prevent 225 tons of litter from entering the storm drain system.
- Develop and implement a Good Housekeeping Plan
- Develop and implement a Countywide Salt Management Plan



Public Education & Outreach

- Maintain a website and compliance hotline.
- Conduct a minimum of 130 outreach efforts annually.

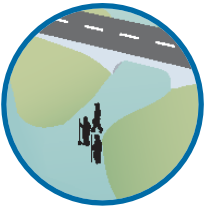
Standard Permit Conditions

Stormwater Restoration



Complete restoration of 1,814 impervious acres by November 4, 2026

Assessment of Controls



- Best management practices effectiveness monitoring
- Watershed assessment monitoring
- Chloride monitoring
- Bacteria monitoring



Standard Permit Conditions



Countywide Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan

Lower Monocacy River

Phosphorus [2013]
Sediment [2009]
Bacteria [2009]

Seneca Creek

Sediment [2011]

Potomac River MoCo

Sediment [2012]

Triadelphia Reservoir

Phosphorus [2008] | Sediment [2008]
*Patuxent River Tidal Fresh—
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) [2017]*

Rocky Gorge Reservoir

Phosphorus [2008]
*Patuxent River Tidal Fresh—
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) [2017]*

Rock Creek

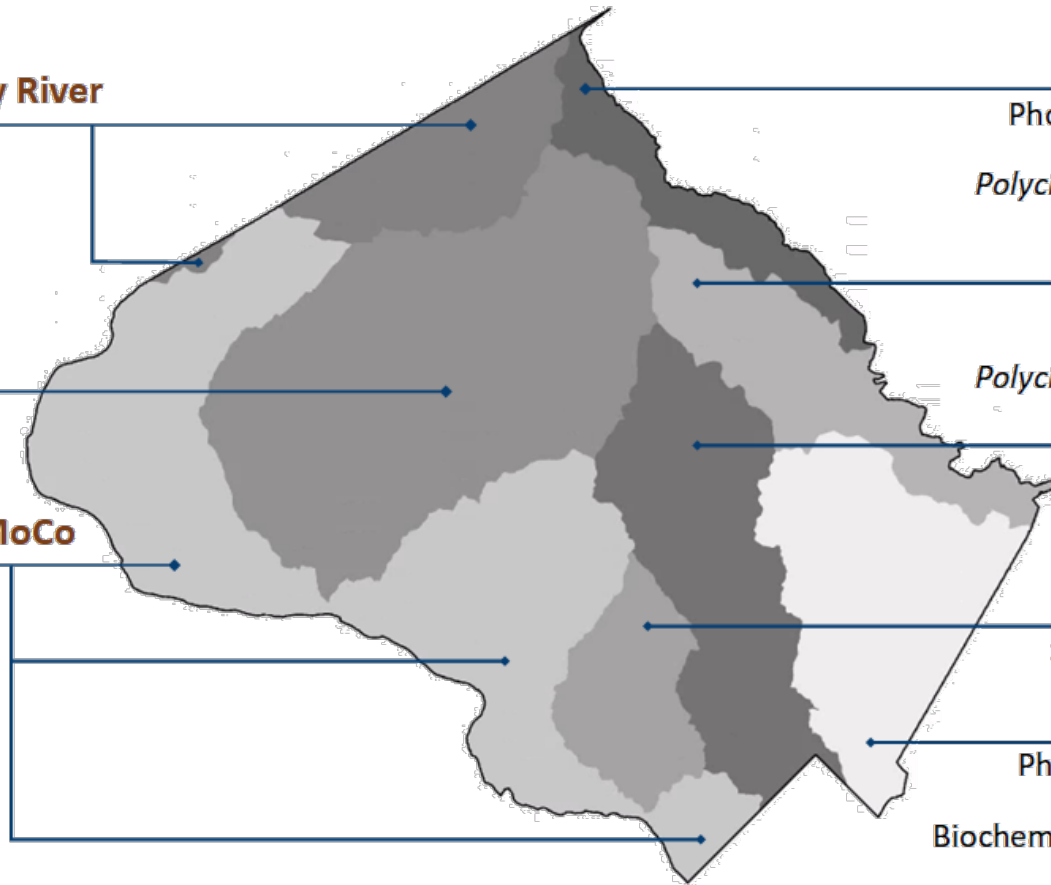
Phosphorus [2013]
Sediment [2011] | Bacteria [2007]

Cabin John Creek

Sediment [2011] | Bacteria [2007]

Anacostia River

Phosphorus [2008] | Nitrogen [2008]
Sediment [2012] | Bacteria [2007]
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) [2008]
PCBs [2011] | Trash [2010]



Key Accomplishments



Accomplishments by the Numbers as of FY25



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Approved over
2,500
final plans

Conducted over
45,000
Best Management
Practices
inspections



EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Conducted over
84,000
Erosion
Sediment
Control
Inspections



ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION

Conducted
over
600
outfall
screenings



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Prevented over
2,300
tons of materials
from entering the
storm drain system

Established
a Countywide **Salt
Management Plan**

Published a **Good
Housekeeping Plan**



PUBLIC EDUCATION

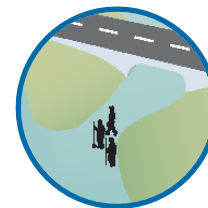
Conducted
over
2,200
outreach
efforts



STORMWATER RESTORATION

Achieved over
1,300
acres of impervious
surface restoration
since Fiscal Year
2019

Achieved over
7,200
acres of impervious
surface restoration
since Fiscal Year
2002



ASSESSMENT OF CONTROLS

Entered into the
**Chesapeake
Bay Trust's
Pooled
Monitoring
Program** in
October 2023

Began Bacteria
monitoring
in four
watersheds
in 2025



FINANCIAL

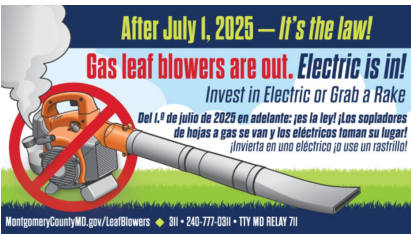
Expanded over
\$269
million in
operating fund
and
\$57
million in
capital fund

Policy & Program Highlights



Bag Ban

Effective January 1, 2026



Gas Leaf Blower Ban

Effective July 1, 2025

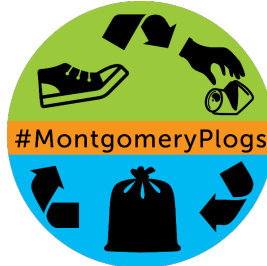


Skip the Straw

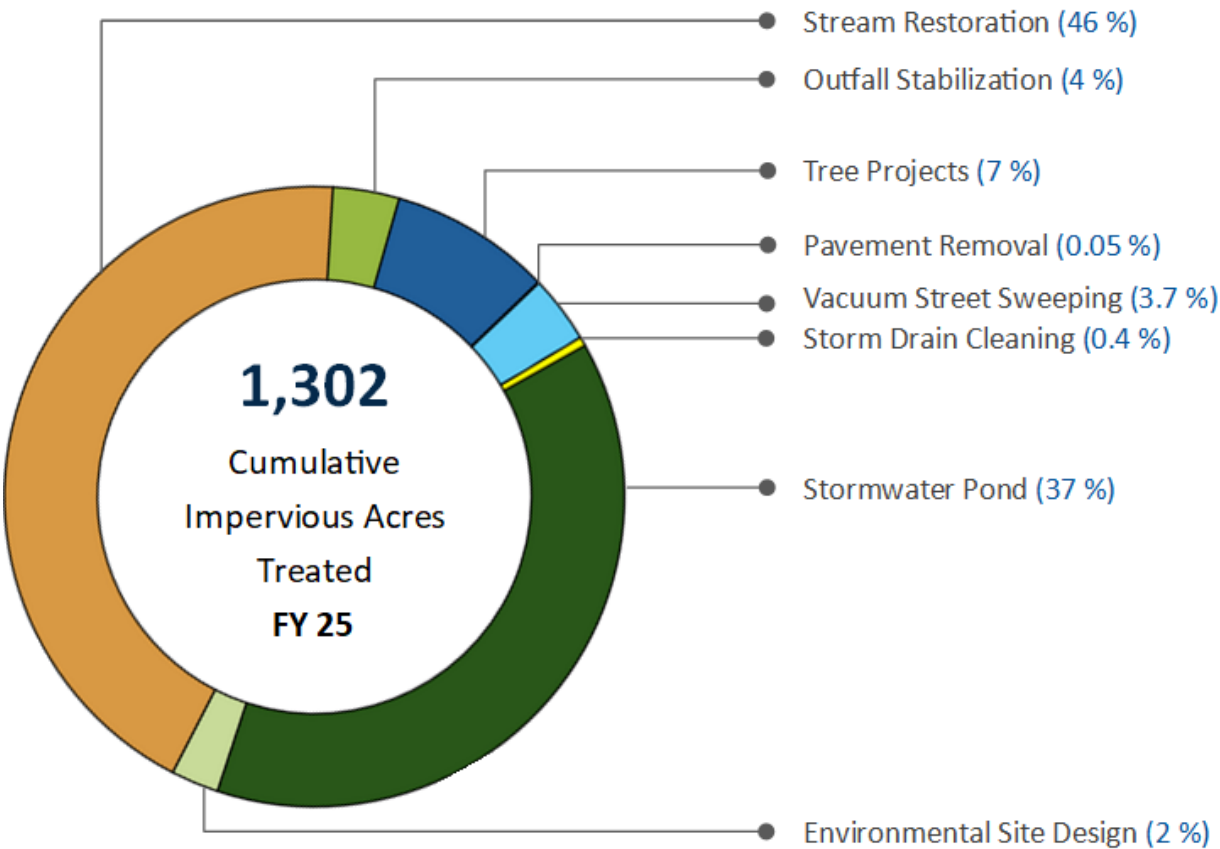
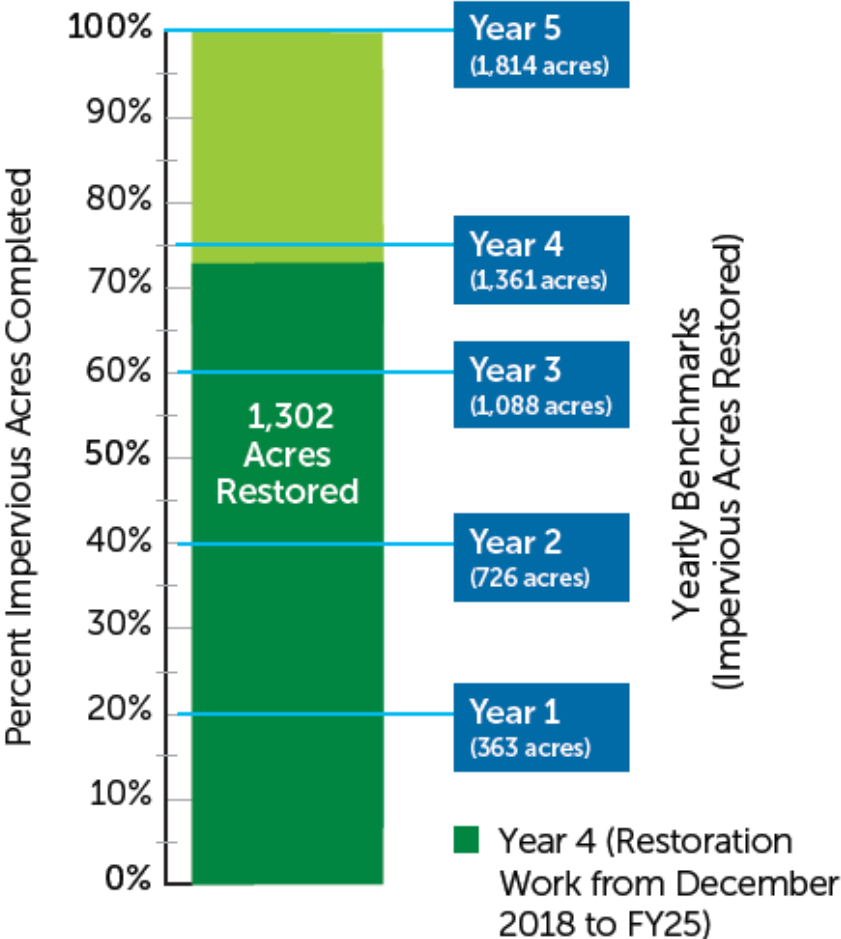
Effective May 1, 2021



Salt application outreach video on DEP's Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/193CjqkDTp/>



Impervious Surface Restoration Progress as of Fiscal Year 2025



Impervious Surface Restoration Progress



Clearspring
Manor
Stream
Restoration



University Towers
Environmental Site
Design



Watkins Mill
Stormwater Pond
Retrofit



Sandy Spring
Meeting House
Conservation
Landscaping

Thank You!



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments



CITY OF
GAITHERSBURG



SIERRA CLUB
MARYLAND CHAPTER



ANACOSTIA
RIVERKEEPER®



Maryland
Department of
the Environment



Delivering Great Service!



MCDOT
Montgomery County
Department of Transportation



ROCK CREEK
CONSERVANCY



LITTLE FALLS
WATERSHED
ALLIANCE
EDUCATION - ACTION - STEWARDSHIP



Chesapeake
Bay Trust

Empowering people. Restoring nature.



DPS | Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services
YOUR PROJECT PARTNER



STORMWATER PARTNERS NETWORK



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION



Seneca
Creek
Watershed
Partners



Muddy Branch
Alliance



POTOMAC
RIVERKEEPER®
NETWORK

Questions?

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