Town of Forest Heights
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Jacqueline Goodall
Mayor

August 3, 2013

Attention All Property Owners,

Since 2009 many have wondered what was going on at the Forest Heights Municipal Grounds. Well, I wanted to create a Demonstration Site so that the residents of Forest Heights and surrounding areas could visit to see many of Best Management Practices used to address the stormwater problem.

While visiting the municipal grounds you will see several **Rain Gardens; Rain Barrels; examples of Pervious Pavement; a Living Wall; Conservation Landscaping; a Vegetated Green Roof and a working Cistern, throughout the town we have Urban Tree Planting** .

In 2010, the Federal government required states to meet new standards under the Clean Water Act to address stormwater runoff pollution from impervious areas such as rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, roadways, and parking areas. To meet this mandate, Maryland's governor signed into law House Bill 987. The bill requires nine Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore to collect a fee from property owners to implement a program to address this issue.

In response to this mandate, the Prince George's County Council passed two pieces of legislation. CB-045-2013 is an act that establishes a Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP). CR-59-2013, the Clean Water Act Fee, is a resolution that establishes the schedule of fees to be collected as part of the WPRP. The WPRP will be financed by this fee, and the fee will be paid annually by property owners through their property tax bill.

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Forest Heights is one of the leading communities in addressing this. Information is available in print at our town hall as well as on our website for residents to understand this new fee that will begin to appear on your tax bill. In the next month I will ask representatives from the county to come and speak at the town hall to answer any questions that you have.

Please feel free to address any questions that you may have to your councilmembers, me or you may email DERRebatesandCredits@co.pg.md.us.

As always working towards a Better Forest Heights,

Jacqueline Goodall
Mayor

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Department of Environmental Resources
Adam Ortiz
Director

RAIN CHECK

REBATE PROGRAM

Eligibility Requirements

The following entities are eligible for a rebate: individual residences, individual members of a housing cooperative, commercial businesses, multi-family dwellings, nonprofit organizations and not-for-profit organizations, including housing cooperatives. Individual members of a housing cooperative may apply for rebates under the residential incentives category.

The following chart lists the types of projects that are eligible for rebates and the amount of rebate that is available.

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organization, Housing Cooperative
Urban Tree Canopy	$1,200/lot; $150/tree	$1,800/lot; $150/tree
Rain Barrels	$50 *(must capture 100 gallons)*	$100 *(must capture 200 gallons)*
Cisterns	$500 maximum *($1/gallon stored, 250 gallons minimum)*	$2,000 maximum *($1/gallon stored, 250 gallons minimum)*
Rain Gardens	$1,200/rain garden	$1/square foot impervious area treated or $2,500/rain garden, whichever is greater
Permeable Pavement	$1,200 *(100 square foot minimum)*	$5,000 *(350 square foot minimum)*
Pavement Removal	$600-$1,200 *(100 square foot minimum; $6/square foot)*	$1,800 to $5,000 *(300 square foot minimum; $6/square foot)*
Green Roofs	$10/square foot *(300 square feet or ¼ roof retrofit, minimum)*	$10/square foot if less than 6"of planting material. $20/square foot if over 6"of planting material. *(300 square feet or ¼ roof retrofit, minimum)*

Eligible Rebate Projects

The projects listed above are the only types of stormwater retrofits that are eligible for rebates under the Rain Check Rebate Program. Applicants will not be eligible for a rebate if the project is part of the permit approval requirements for new building construction or renovations, or if the property is located within a municipality that has a similar rebate program for stormwater management projects.

Qualifications

An applicant is eligible for a rebate as long as: 1) the project is established on property located in Prince George's County; 2) the application for the project was approved within 12 months of the completion date; and 3) DER inspected the completed project and found it to be in compliance with its original approved application; and 4) the project follows DERs best practice guidelines and criteria for that type of project. If the property is part of a Homeowners' Association (HOA), the applicant must provide a letter or other documentation showing HOA approval of the project.

DER must pre-approve all applications prior to implementation, with the exception of a rain barrel project. However, the rain barrel project must meet eligibility criteria established by the DER to receive a rebate and DER must receive all receipts or invoices within 12 months of application approval. All invoices and receipts for the entire amount of the requested rebate must be submitted to DER for review and approval. Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The amount of a rebate cannot exceed the cost of the project. The maximum rebate is $2,000 for residential projects and $20,000 for commercial, multi-family dwelling, nonprofit entities, or not-for-profit organizations, including housing cooperatives. An applicant may complete multiple projects until the rebate ceiling is met. Nonprofit organizations established pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may annually perform eligible stormwater management projects on public property that benefit the community up to the $20,000 ceiling.

To receive a rebate, the applicant will be required to sign an agreement with the County that will allow for the placement of promotional signage for the Rain Check Rebate Program on their property, photograph the property for possible publication, and do follow-up evaluations. There will also be a voluntary option to agree to participate in any project tours the County holds to promote the Rain Check Rebate Program. Applicants for a commercial or public project will be required to sign an operations and maintenance agreement for the project.

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Rain Gardens Fact Sheet

Department of Environmental Resources
Adam Ortiz
Director

What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a planted shallow depression that uses water-tolerant native plants and landscaping to soak up stormwater flowing from downspouts or hard (impervious) surfaces, such as your driveway, patio, or sidewalk. Rain gardens allow water to slowly seep into the ground, reducing the amount of water that flows directly into the nearest storm drain, creek, or river. Rain gardens typically consist of an absorbent soil mix, a mulch layer, and plants such as shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants. Rain gardens are a beautiful, low-tech, inexpensive way for homeowners, communities, and businesses to help ease stormwater problems and reduce pollution in local streams and rivers.

What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

- Reduces stormwater problems on your property such as ponding or erosion.
- Protects local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Replenishes the groundwater supply.
- Provides habitat for wildlife and increases the diversity of birds and butterflies.
- Provides an attractive alternative to traditional lawns and requires less maintenance.

How can you determine if your property is suitable for rain gardens?

Most properties are suitable for a rain garden—all you need is some sun exposure and enough space in the right place. Consider the following points to help you determine whether a rain garden will work on your property:

- Locate your rain garden at least 10 feet away and downhill from the foundations of any nearby homes.
- Place your rain garden at least 25 feet away from a septic field or a well head.
- Choose a gently sloping place that regularly receives runoff from hard surfaces or where downspouts can direct rainwater into your rain garden.
- Locate your rain garden in full or partial sun and avoid large tree roots.
- Identify low-lying areas that naturally pond as they may be good places to locate rain gardens.
- Evaluate the soil type at the location of the rain garden. Water must be able to seep into the soil quickly enough when the rain garden is full so that it will drain in 24 to 36 hours.
- Ensure that bedrock and groundwater is located at least 2 feet below the rain garden's surface.

Qualifying for a Rebate

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Rain Gardens	$1,200 per rain garden	$1 per square foot impervious area treated or $2,500 per rain garden, whichever is greater

What are the costs?

The cost of completing a rain garden varies considerably, typically ranging range from $4 per square foot to $35 per square foot, depending on the source of the materials, site conditions and who does the work. Use of a professional contractor and landscaper will result in higher costs.

Can you do this project yourself?

Yes. You can do this project yourself under most circumstances. You may need to consider hiring a professional designer and/or a qualified contractor if you are trying to treat off-site drainage, have a steep slope, are considering terracing, or have many trees (and roots) on your property. You may also need a qualified professional or contractor when the existing soils do not drain well, and an underdrain system is needed.

rain check

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Rain Barrels Fact Sheet

Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Adam Ortiz
Director

What are rain barrels?

Rain barrels are containers used to collect a portion of the rainwater that flows from your rooftop and store it for uses such as watering your lawn and garden. Rain barrels are not for storing drinking water or water for use inside your home. By capturing water from downspouts that would otherwise discharge onto a paved surface, rain barrels can reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants reaching local streams. Typical components of a rain barrel include a hose connection at the outlet, a screen trap to filter out downspout debris at the inlet, and an overflow outlet. A range of materials, designs, and colors are available.

What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

- Provides a free water source for gardens, lawns, and car washing.
- Collected water can be used any time, even during periods of city- or county-imposed water restrictions.
- Since rainwater is soft, oxygenated, devoid of chlorine and other chemicals it can help improve the health of your garden, lawn, and trees.
- Rain barrels can reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, allowing more of the water to soak into the ground, replenishing groundwater.

How can you determine if your property is suitable for rain barrels?

Rain barrels are a good option for homes and buildings with:

- Downspouts that discharge onto driveways, sidewalks, and other paved surfaces, or steep slopes.
- Lawn, garden, or other landscaping that requires frequent watering.

You can install multiple rain barrels, in series, to a single downspout. You can also connect a single rain barrel to several leaders draining different portions of your roof.

Qualifying for a Rebate

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Rain Barrels	$50 (must capture 100 gallons)	$100 (must capture 200 gallons)

Because most rain barrels hold 55 gallons of water at full capacity, in most cases more than one rain barrel will be required to qualify for a rebate.

What are the costs?

Rain barrels are relatively inexpensive, ranging from less than $50 to as much as $250, depending on whether you create your own or buy a commercially made barrel.

Can you do this project yourself?

Yes. You are not required to hire a contractor, and no special skills are involved. You can build your own rain barrel or purchase a pre-assembled rain barrel and install it yourself. Rain barrels are sold at most major hardware stores. Build your own rain barrel instructions are available from many sources, such as *A Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*, published by the Office of Watersheds, Philadelphia Water Department, *How to Build and Install a Rain Barrel*, published by the Center for Watershed Protection, and *Building a Rain Barrel*, published by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

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For more information, call 311 or contact us at DERRebatesandCredits@co.pg.md.us.

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Department of Environmental Resources
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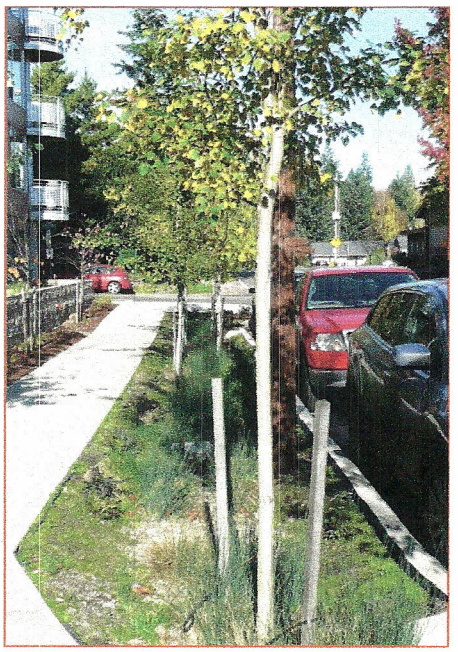
Director

Urban Tree Canopy Fact Sheet

What is an urban tree canopy?

The canopy of a tree or group of trees is the area of leaves and branches that create shade under the tree(s). Like umbrellas, trees reduce the amount of sunlight and rain reaching the ground. Trees in urban environments are particularly important for intercepting rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff. Tree leaves, branches, stems, and roots catch falling rain, filter out pollutants, and absorb stormwater.



What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

- Trees located within 50 feet of a structure can boost property values.
- Buildings shaded by trees have lower air conditioning costs and evergreen trees can act as a wind buffer, protecting buildings from heat loss.
- Trees clean polluted air and make communities quieter by absorbing sound. Tree roots reduce stormwater through evapotranspiration. Water is taken up by the roots and released back into the atmosphere via the leaves as water vapor.

How can you determine if your property is suitable for a tree planting project?

To give your new tree enough room for healthy growth and to avoid interference with utilities and structures, be sure to plant it:

- At least 3 feet from underground utilities, fences, walkways, driveways, decks, and patios.
- At least 7 feet from the stems of small trees and shrubs.
- At least 10 from overhead utilities and trunks of other large trees.
- At least 15 feet from structures.

Qualifying for a Rebate

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Urban Tree Canopy	$1,200 per lot; $150 per tree	$1,800 per lot; $150 per tree

To be eligible for a rebate, the following criteria must be met by all tree planting projects:

- New trees must be planted on private property (not in the public right-of-way).
- Trees must be planted between October 1 and May 1 and be native species.
- Trees must be at least 5 feet tall, at least ½-caliper inch, and planted in a 5-gallon (or larger) container or balled and burlapped.

What are the costs?

Tree planting is a relatively inexpensive stormwater reduction method. The cost of the tree itself depends on the species and size of tree chosen—an 8–12 foot tree can range in cost from $75 to $200, including mulch.

Can you do this project yourself?

Yes. Native tree planting and basic tree care practices like watering and mulching can be done by the property owner. However, some tree care is best left up to trained professionals, such as work that cannot be performed from the ground; work that cannot be performed with hand tools like pruners, loppers, and pole saws; and any work within 10 feet of any kind of overhead utility line.

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Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Permeable Pavement Fact Sheet

Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Adam Ortiz
Director

What is permeable pavement?

When rainwater falls on conventional pavement, such as concrete, it accumulates and then flows across and off of this impervious surface as stormwater runoff. Permeable pavement allows stormwater to slowly seep through (infiltrate), reaching the soil and replenishing the groundwater below the surface. A variety of permeable pavement materials are available, such as interlocking pavers, porous asphalt, pervious concrete, and manufactured grass pavers. Interlocking pavers consist of precast blocks (primarily brick or concrete) that are aligned in such a way that water is able to pass between the voids between successive blocks. Grass pavers are a type of open-cell paver made of concrete or plastic, in which the cells are filled with soil and planted with turf, as shown in the photo.

What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

- Reduces stormwater runoff, localized flooding, and erosion.
- Replenishes groundwater and improves water quality through natural filtration processes.
- Grass pavers can improve site appearance by providing vegetation instead of pavement.
- Permeable pavement reduces the amount of land needed for stormwater management.
- May satisfy requirements for green space, allowing more development on a site.

How can you determine if your property is suitable for permeable pavement?

Permeable paving is most appropriate for pedestrian-only areas and for very low-volume, low-speed vehicle areas such as overflow parking areas, residential driveways, alleyways, and parking stalls. To determine the suitability of areas on your property:

- Identify existing impervious surfaces or areas that you intend to pave.
- Exclude surfaces that accumulate sediment and debris which would reduce the effectiveness of the system.
- Only include areas that have a slope away from the foundation of your home or other nearby structures and include only those areas with a slope of less than 5%. Determine if there is adequate space to meet the minimum eligible project size.
- Consult a professional designer or contractor to determine the infiltration capacity of your soil; sand and loam allow rapid infiltration. Clay soils can be impermeable and require an underdrain to prevent ponding.

Qualifying for a Rebate

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Permeable Pavement	$1,200 (100 square foot minimum)	$5,000 (350 square foot minimum)

What are the costs?

For pervious concrete or porous asphalt, construction costs may be 50% more than the conventional counterparts. Paving stone and manufactured grass paver costs vary considerably but generally cost about 20% more than traditional concrete pavers. Annual maintenance generally costs about 1% to 2% of the construction cost.

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Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Pavement Removal Fact Sheet

Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Adam Ortiz
Director

What is pavement removal?

Pavement removal is the replacement of impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete, with grass or native plants or with permeable pavement. Instead of seeping through the soil (infiltrating) and replenishing groundwater, rainfall that falls on driveways, sidewalks, and other impervious surfaces rapidly accumulates in the form of runoff, which often contains pollutants (sediment, chemicals, animal waste, trash, etc.). Large expanses of impervious area are associated with increased stream bank erosion and decreased water quality.

What are the benefits to property owners and communities?

Reducing pavement on individual properties can:

- Improve downstream water quality, reduce downstream erosion, reduce stormwater runoff.
- Enhance property aesthetics with landscape vegetation and promote native plant species and habitat.
- Increase potential green space within the community.
- Cool parking lots and improve air quality.
- Reduce pavement maintenance costs and potentially increase home values.

How can you determine if your property is suitable for pavement removal?

- Identify the types and locations of impervious pavements, e.g. driveways and sidewalks.
- While it is raining, observe where the rainwater flows on your property and identify areas that could benefit from reduced runoff through pavement removal.
- Measure the pavement area to be removed and compare it with the minimum area needed to qualify for a rebate.

Qualifying for a Rebate

Project	Individual Residence OR Individual Members of a Housing Cooperative	Commercial, Multi-Family Dwelling, Nonprofit, Not-for-Profit Organizations, Housing Cooperatives
Pavement Removal	$600-$1,200 (100 square foot minimum; $6 per square foot)	$1,800 to $5,000 (300 square foot minimum; $6 per square foot)

What are the costs?

The cost of pavement removal varies considerably and is dependent on the scale of the project.

Costs include:

- Rental equipment (excavators, jackhammers, walk-behind pavement saws, and pick axes).
- Contractor, if work not done by property owner.
- Landscaping, debris haul away and disposal.

Can you do this project yourself?

- Yes, under most circumstances.
- Pavement removal can be labor intensive and requires specialized tools and equipment.
- May want to consider hiring a professional designer and a qualified contractor.

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For more information, call 311 or contact us at DERRebatesandCredits@co.pg.md.us.

Stormwater Management

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rain Check Rebate Program?

The Rain Check Rebate Program allows property owners to receive rebates for installing stormwater management practices to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. Homeowners, businesses, and non-profit entities (including housing cooperatives) can recoup some of the cost for installing practices covered by the program. This rebate program was established in 2012 through County Bill 40-2012 and is administered by DER.

Who is eligible for a rebate under this program?

An applicant is eligible for a rebate as long as: 1) the project is established on property located in Prince George's County; 2) the application for the project was approved within 12 months of the completion date; and 3) DER inspected the completed project and found it to be in compliance with its original approved application; and 4) the project follows DERs best practice guidelines and criteria for that type of project.

What stormwater management practices are eligible for rebates?

Urban Tree Canopy, Rain Barrels, Cisterns, Rain Gardens, Permeable Pavement, Pavement Removal, and Green Roofs are all eligible for a rebate from Prince George's County. To qualify for a rebate, the project must be successfully implemented on property located within Prince George's County. All practices except for rain barrels must be approved by the County prior to installation and must follow County installation and design guidelines. Every practice must meet general eligibility criteria established by DER. The projects listed above are the only types of stormwater retrofits that are eligible for rebates under the Rain Check Program. Applicants will not be eligible for a rebate if the project is part of the permit approval requirements for new building construction or renovations, or if the property is located within a municipality that has a similar rebate program for stormwater management projects.

How much money can I expect from a rebate?

The rebate amounts are determined by the Rebate-Eligible practices used and cannot exceed the total cost of the project. Rebate ceilings are set at $2,000 for residential properties and $20,000 for commercial, multi-family dwellings, nonprofit entities and not-for-profit organizations.

News

Headline	Date
Prince George's County Passes Stormwater Bill with Broad Support	7/31/2013 5:30:00 PM

More News

Top Links

Clean Water Act Fee
Rain Check Rebates
Applications and Forms
Best Management Practices
Frequently Asked Questions

Prince George's CountyClick 311
Allows Users to:
• Browse Through Questions And Answers In Various Categories
• Enter Requests For Service
• Track Status of Service Requests

NOTIFY ME PRINCE GEORGE'S

I'm concerned about maintenance of the practice once it is installed.

The County has developed maintenance guidelines that will be given to each applicant and are available on the Program's website. There are also a variety of technical resources available on the Program's website. Does the County have a list of vetted contractors that I can use to install one of these projects? Yes, DER is developing a list of qualified private and non-profit contractors that property owners may utilize to implement a stormwater retrofit project, including Prince George's based businesses.

Am I still subject to the Clean Water Act Fee if I have stormwater management practices on my property?

Yes, however you may be able to reduce your fee significantly by implementing best management practices that treat all or a portion of the impervious surfaces on your property. Practices eligible under this rebate program will help reduce the amount of impervious cover on a particular property, which in turn may keep your Clean Water Act Fee lower.

How do I submit an application?

Applications can be submitted online or via paper forms downloaded from the program website http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/ or by contacting us at DERrebatesandcredits@co.pg.md.us

Where can I find more information on the program?

Detailed program information can be found by visiting our website at http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/. Here you can find useful information on the Rain Check Program, applications, rebates, best management practices fact sheets, and operation guidelines for maintaining your water quality improvement project.

CWA FR-SFR-2013

Fee Reduction Request Form

For Detached Single Family Residential Property Owners

Date:_____

PROPERTY OWNER ACCOUNT INFORMATION:

Property Owner Name:

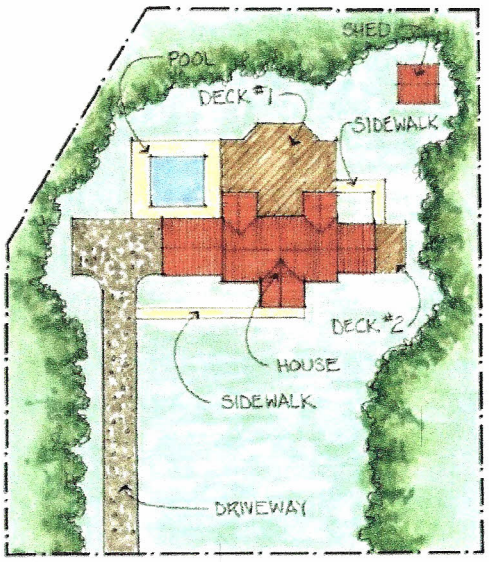
Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Daytime Phone with Area Code:

Tax Account No.:

Email Address:



Reason for Fee Reduction Request (choose one or more):

☐ Existing stormwater Best Management Practices on property

No. of existing BMPs: _____

☐ Planning to implement new stormwater Best Management Practices on property

No. of new BMPs planned: _____

☐ Error in parcel, impervious area, or zoning classification (if so, please fill out and submit Fee Appeal Request Form, CWA FA-2013)

Please fill out the table below to the extent possible with the amount of impervious area on the property. If BMP(s) exist on-site or new BMP(s) are being proposed, fill in the impervious area treated or expected to be treated.

Structure Type	Impervious Area (sq. ft)	Impervious Area Treated by Existing BMP(s) (sq. ft)	Impervious Area to be Treated by Proposed New BMP(s) (sq. ft)
Buildings			
Parking Lot			
Sidewalk			
Driveway			
Roadway			
Other, describe:_____			
TOTAL:			

CWA FR-SFR-2013

Fee Reduction Request Form Date:_____

For Detached Single Family Residential Property Owners

Prince George's County will process the above information and determine the amount of fee reduction for eligible properties. Reductions in the Clean Water Act Fee will appear in the following year's annual tax bill.

Please email completed forms to DERRebatesandCredits@co.pg.md.us or mail to
Attention: Clean Water Act Fee Program
Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY USE ONLY

Have BMPs Been Field Verified and Passed Inspection? ☐ Yes ☐ No Inspector Name:
If no, do not adjust fee until BMPs have been verified by inspector with BMP Field Verification Form, BMP FV-2013)

1	*Enter number of ESUs of Impervious Area as Designated Below* *(ESU = Equivalent Service Unit = 2,465 sq. ft)* ☐ *Tier 1: Impervious Area < 1,500 sq.ft. (0.6 ESUs)* ☐ *Tier 2: Impervious Area Between 1,500 and 3,500 sq.ft. (1.0 ESUs)* ☐ *Tier 3: Impervious Area > 3,500 sq.ft. (2.0 ESUs)*	ESUs
2	*No. Tax Accounts.....*	accounts
3	*Administration Fee ($20.58 x Line 2).....*	$
4	*Impact Fee ($20.90 x Line 1).....*	$
5	*Total Untreated Fee (Add Lines 3 and 4).....*	$
6	*Impervious Area Treated (sq.ft) (as verified by field inspector).....*	sq. ft.
7	*Untreated Impervious Remaining (ESUs) (Line 1 – [Line 6 / 2465]).....*	ESUs
8	*Coefficient of Efficiency.....*	
9	*Adjusted Impact Fee ($20.90 x Line 7 x Line 8).....*	$
10	*Enter Line 3 + Line 9. This is your total treated fee.....*	$