

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Key Facts

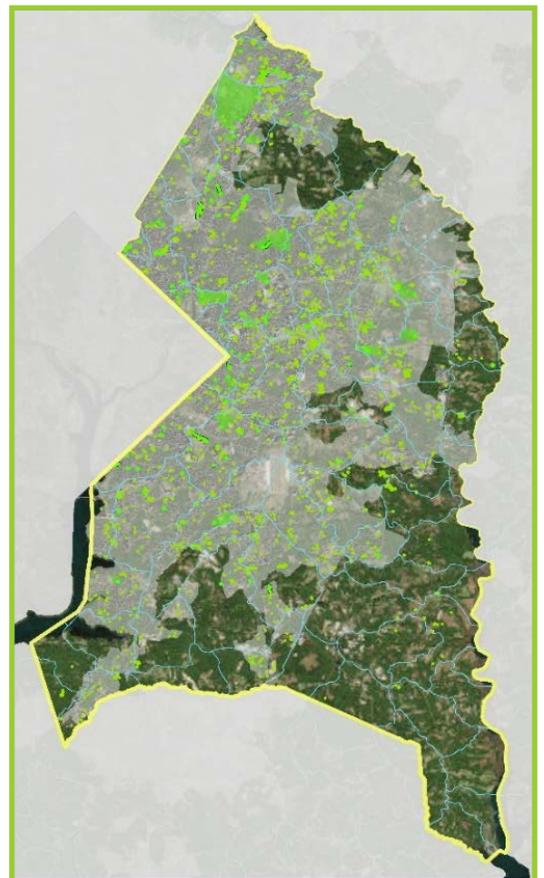
Population¹	904,430	(2 nd of 10)
Impervious Acreage²	30,525	(1 st of 10)
Current Permit		
Date of Issuance/Expiration	Jan 2014 / Jan 2019	
Impervious Acreage Restoration Goal	6,105 acres	
Spending		
Projected Annual Average ³	\$77.4 million	
Spending as a Percentage of County Budget ⁴	1.8%	(3 rd of 10)
Spending as a Percentage of Median Household Income ⁵	0.32%	(1 st of 10)
Average Annual Residential Fee	\$41	

Summary of County Stormwater Plan and Effort

Summary: Prince George's County is arguably one of the birthplaces of modern stormwater management policies, having been among the nation's early leaders in combatting polluted urban runoff through the use of low impact development and "green infrastructure" projects. Despite this history, the county has lagged in meeting its stormwater obligations under state and federal law. Several years ago, the county attempted to regain its place as a national leader in stormwater control by establishing an innovative public-private partnership, fee rebate policy, and alternative compliance program, each of which are designed to accelerate the creation of green infrastructure throughout the county and help Prince George's make up for lost time and meet its legal obligations on time. Given the scope of the private and public capital funds programmed for stormwater management over the next five fiscal years, there is reason for hope that these innovative policies will help the county achieve its mandated pollution control goals on time.

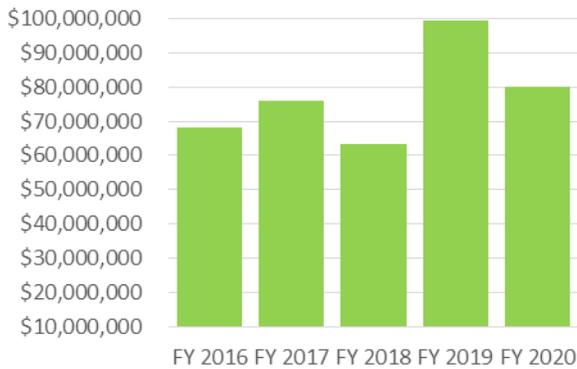
Basics: Prince George's County received its current municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit under the Clean Water Act by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on January 2, 2014. This permit requires the county to restore 20 percent of the untreated impervious surfaces within its MS4 by the end of the five-year permit term. According to the county, its MS4 system contained 30,525 acres of untreated impervious surfaces, of which 6,105 acres (20 percent) must be restored by January 2019. During the current permit, the county had created projects and undertaken other efforts to restore about 140 acres of impervious surfaces through the end of the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015.

Level of Effort: The average residential stormwater remediation fee collected by Prince George's County is slightly below average on a nominal basis and also as a percentage of median household income compared to the stormwater remediation fees in Maryland. However, the county fee is only one relatively minor source of funding to support county stormwater projects and MS4 permit compliance. In fact, the



Urban areas are shown in light gray shading. Sub-watersheds are delineated in light blue. Completed impervious surface and watershed restoration projects and associated catchments are shown in bright green.

Restoration Spending



county's projected impervious surface spending from all sources of funds documented in its recently submitted financial assurance plan (FAP) ranks first (out of 10 jurisdictions) as a percentage of median household income, and ranks third in spending per capita, third as a percentage of the county's overall budget, and third in terms of dollars spent per acre. Moreover, the county's current and programmed average annual capital spending on stormwater projects reflected in the latest six-year Capital Improvement Program ranks third out of the 10 counties on a per capita basis. In other words, by just about any measure, Prince George's County is planning to devote relatively significant resources to addressing polluted urban runoff in its communities.

Restoration Strategy: Although Prince George's County is off

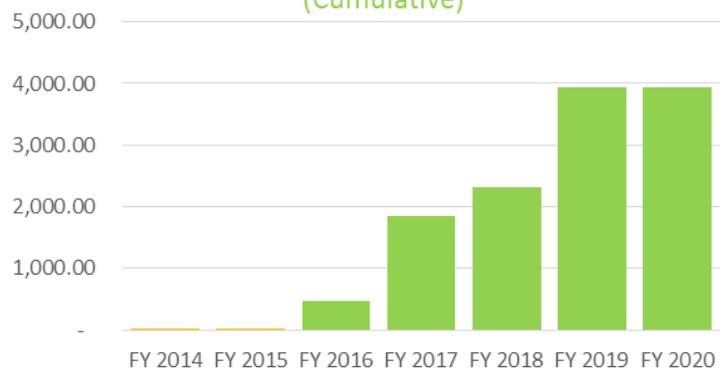
to a slow start and has constructed relatively few stormwater or other water quality improvement projects under its current permit to date, the county is gearing up to install enough of these projects to treat an average of more than 675 acres per year for the four years between fiscal 2016 and 2019. At this pace, the county's planned projects, as detailed in its FAP, would be enough to treat 2,700 acres of impervious surfaces, comparable to the number of capital stormwater projects planned by neighboring Montgomery County, which would be quite an accomplishment given how many more projects Montgomery County has installed to date.

Perhaps due to the County's slow start and the large number of impervious acres it must restore over the next two years, Prince George's County is planning to rely significantly on lower value permit compliance practices like street sweeping to help close the current compliance gap. According to the plan submitted in July, the county is planning to sweep enough miles of county roadways to restore the equivalent of 2,000 impervious acres per year, a level of street sweeping surpassed only by Baltimore City.

Ideally, county stormwater management plans should include a diverse mix of the types of water quality restoration projects authorized by the state for MS4 permit compliance, but with a significant emphasis on carefully designed and site-specific projects that allow rainwater and snow melt to infiltrate into the ground and filter out harmful nutrients, sediment, and toxic substances before they end up as polluted runoff to neighborhood creeks and the Anacostia. Building this "green infrastructure" into the urban landscape has proven to be one of the most beneficial and high impact environmental policies that local governments can undertake. By contrast, many of the other types of projects, practices, and crediting methods recognized by the state for permit compliance purposes provide little or no water quality benefit or any of the many other environmental and economic benefits of green infrastructure.

While Prince George's County's plans for investing in green infrastructure are significant, the county should consider amending its current strategy to invest greater resources toward green infrastructure and away from lower value practices like street sweeping. An investment in green infrastructure will immediately help restore local waters, create greener and more beautiful neighborhoods, build greater resilience from flooding and future climate threats, and stimulate the local economy with high paying jobs.

Acres Restored by Projects (Cumulative)



Notes

- ¹July 2014 Estimate, Maryland Department of Planning
- ²MS4 Annual Report and Financial Assurance Plan (FAP)
- ³FAP
- ⁴Uniform Financial Reporting for Fiscal 2013 and FAP
- ⁵U.S. Census and FAP

For More Information
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