

**KENT COUNTY, MD
Program Enhancement Milestones for 2014 – 2017**

Updated 3/5/18

Below please find a narrative outlining both the County and Municipal efforts to achieve the goals outlined in the 2011 Kent County Phase II Local Watershed Implement Plan. What is reflected below are efforts captured in the County and the 5 incorporated towns covering the programmatic milestone period from 1 July 2014 to December 2017.

1) Stormwater retrofit program enhancements for 2014 - 2017:

Betterton:

- The WWTP retrofit/upgrade was approved and is under construction with hopes to be completed in August 2018.
- A stormwater retrofit was begun from Main Street to the Betterton Beach Park, Parking Lot including a reduction of 10,000 square feet of impervious surface with pervious and adding a bioretention area and landscaping.
- The town continues to seek funding for Greener Wheeler Avenue and has applied for grant funding to stabilize the erosion on the bank of Bayside Avenue.

Chestertown:

- Continues to implement its street sweeping initiative which covers approximately 87.44 acres per year (47.5lbs/acre/year for TN, 10.68lbs/acre/year for TP, and 10lbs/acre/year for TSS).
- Gateway Park (former Nicholson property on Upper High Street) developed as a trail head for the Gilchrest Rail Trail, whereby .831 ac. of impervious area was reduced by .499 ac. (60% reduction) with meadow edge habitat, trees, and grassed areas.
- Phase III of the Gilchrest Rail Trail was completed, consisting of a 0.5-mile spur leading north to Gateway Park. The former impervious rail bed was enhanced with 32 native trees and grassed swales.
- A Step Pool Conveyance was constructed in the LaMotte valley on Rt. 213 consisting of three pools capable of holding 171,000 gals. of stormwater from 52 ac. of drainage area. The pools are connected by riffle weirs, which oxygenate the water, and the surrounding area is landscaped with native grasses, bushes and trees. Chester River Association and Washington College have performed pre- and post-construction water testing.
- Town of Chestertown purchased the Chestertown Marina and during 2017, installed 250 feet of new bulkheading and a concrete boat ramp which have significantly reduced erosion and runoff from the site.

Galena:

- The WWTP retrofit was completed in 2017.
- The WWTP extension to Georgetown has been approved by the Planning, Housing, and Zoning Department. Once connected this will remedy failing systems and allow for treatment at the Galena WWTP. Construction will be completed in 2018.

Millington:

- In 2015, 540 linear feet of stream restoration was constructed in the headwaters of the Chester River.

Rock Hall:

- In 2016, The Working Waterfront Committee completed a Waterfront Master Plan for the Town of Rock Hall. The master plan consists of using permeable pavers for proposed walkways.

Kent County:

- Chester River Association collaborated with the County and Partnership for Ecological Restoration through the Chesapeake Bay Trust Watershed Assistance Grant Program in 2015 on the design and permitting of a 1.27-acre wetland project in Worton Park Recreation Area.
- The County, along with the Chester River Association installed the 1.27-acre wetland project to treat 65-acres of turf, impervious areas, ball fields, and farm land. Including reducing 153 pounds of Nitrogen per year, 11.5 pounds of Phosphorus per year, and 1,345 pounds of sediment per year.
- The County, with St. Paul's Church and the 2010 Trust Fund have begun a stream restoration project along a feeder stream into Mill Pond. Phase 1, including 125 ft of streambank and shoreline protection, has been designed and permitted. Phase II is being designed.
- A Buffer Enhancement Plan was completed in Spring 2017 at the Still Pond Station Park, County owned property, including 2,800 square feet of native vegetation.
- The County, along with the Sassafras River Association, and a Maryland DNR grant have begun a 4,100-foot stream bed restoration project which feeds into Swantown Creek and treats 600 ac of residential and tilled land. It includes ponds, log grade control channels, toe benches, and drop pipes.
- The development of a major Buffer Enhancement Plan consisting of 11,000 square feet of native plantings has begun for the Betterton Beach County Park/Rigbie Bluff Condominium Association. The design and implementation will occur in 2018.

2) Septic system program enhancements 2014 - 2017:

- Outreach and education to properties inside and outside of the Critical Area continues through coordinated efforts between the local health department and watershed organizations.
- Approximately 282 BAT systems have been installed in the Critical Area.

3) Key programmatic actions to enable WWTP Upgrades for 2014 - 2017:

- A pump station which is an extension to Georgetown from the Galena WWTP has been approved and waiting to finalize Buffer Enhancement Plan before installation.

5) Other: The towns and the County are committed to continue implementation of the following ongoing initiatives:

Betterton:

- Urban Canopy and street tree implementation funding to be sought through the CBT Community Greening Grant Program;
- Buffer Management and Enhancement Plans;
- Forest Stewardship Planting Plans;
- Critical Area afforestation; and
- noncritical area afforestation;

Chestertown:

- Urban Canopy and street tree implementation funding to be sought through the CBT Community Greening Grant Program;
- Buffer Management and Enhancement Plans;
- Forest Stewardship Planting Plans;
- Critical Area afforestation; and
- noncritical area afforestation.

Galena:

- Urban Canopy and street tree implementation funding to be sought through the CBT Community Greening Grant Program.

Millington:

- Urban Canopy and street tree implementation funding to be sought through the CBT Community Greening Grant Program;
- Buffer Management and Enhancement Plans;
- Forest Stewardship Planting Plans;
- Critical Area afforestation; and
- noncritical area afforestation.

Rock Hall:

- Urban Canopy and street tree implementation funding to be sought through the CBT Community Greening Grant Program;
- Buffer Management and Enhancement Plans;
- Forest Stewardship Planting Plans;
- Critical Area afforestation; and
- noncritical area afforestation.

Kent County:

- **Public Engagement:** The County and Municipalities continue to engage the TMDL Committee every other month and continue to partner with a wide variety of organizations such as the Chester River Association, the Sassafras River Association, and the Center for Watershed Protection as they apply for grants to both implement BMPs and to develop our local tracking system. The County would consider the TMDL Committees' engagement rate as HIGH, as the Committee serves as a conduit for not only dialogue but BMP implementation.
- **BMP Implementation:** Implementation progress is occurring in both the county and municipalities through streambed and wetland restoration projects, tree plantings at Betterton Beach County, stormwater BMPs, and septic upgrades.
- **Resource Enhancements/New Staff Assigned:** While local staff is shrinking, the County Commissioners have approved a staff person in the FY15 budget who would be assigned to develop a tracking system for the County and the Towns. This GIS Specialist will begin work on I July 2014.
- **Resource Enhancements/Tracking/Reporting:** The County has staff members that are part of the Healthy Waters Roundtable Initiative. In collaboration with the supporting partners of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, University of Maryland Sea Grant, and consultant services from Earth Data, Eastern

Shore local leaders and representatives completed an action plan: Making Healthy Waters a Reality: Eastern Shore Priority Actions 2016. The round table continued to meet in 2016 to begin the implementation of those Priority Actions through work groups formed to address the following topics: sewer extension, best management practices, and grant writing. Other priorities include funding, BMP tracking, circuit rider, and clearinghouse for information and procurement.

- **Resource Enhancements:**

- In 2016, the “Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report, Kent County, Maryland” was completed. This report was completed using the Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning (VCAPS) process. This process helps communities combine scientific knowledge and local experiences. A cause-and-effect of climate change risks and impacts on assets and resource were created by the collaboration of County Government departments, municipal representatives, environmental and community organizations, and farmers. Actions were then identified to reduce vulnerability and prepare for impacts of climate change. Actions include to “Encourage homeowners to clean, mow, and maintain swales and ditches on their property”, “Develop a homeowners education program for shoreline stabilization and maintenance of Critical Area Buffer”, “Encourage and prioritize natural and nature-based erosion control options like living shorelines and native plantings”. Not only will these actions help alleviate climate change they also pertain to treatment of stormwater management.
- The Kent County Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being updated and will be finalized in 2018. New strategies include:
 - Monitor and update the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and achieve local and Baywide Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) through the most cost-effective strategies and techniques.
 - To serve projected growth, the County and its municipalities are encouraged through the Watershed Implementation Plan’s (WIP) load reduction targets to plan upgrades to existing public wastewater treatment facilities, and also to plan for cost-effective operational and maintenance practices to meet projected community needs, as well as the nutrient caps.
 - The County is currently investigating ways to address failing septic systems in several areas.
 - Prepare the Phase III Local Watershed Implementation Plan.
 - Enforce current stormwater management regulations with their environmental site design requirements.
 - Implement the results of the Country’s Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Analysis and the County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Work with the State and Federal governments, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations to develop programs and techniques to procure sufficient financial and staff resources to fully achieve the TMDL targets.

- **Planning and Studies/Public Engagement:** The original milestone for outreach and education to property owners has been met. County and municipal staff are truly tied in to public engagement and continue to partner to implement as many practices as possible. Staff coordinates very closely with Environmental Health and watershed organizations in order to promote septic upgrades and other BMPs. As a matter of fact, the County level of engagement is so high, that community members often start with the County when making inquiries and staff puts residents in touch with the best agency to meet their needs.

- **Comprehensiveness/ Septic Systems:** Programmatic milestones are modest, but it is noted that upgrades and connections are being implemented. Staff coordinates very closely with Environmental Health and watershed organizations in order to promote septic upgrades. We have also been directly engaged in several grants (several original BRF grants, as well as a LIP/2010 Trust Fund grant) which focused directly on this initiative. As a result, again, the County is often the “go to” spot for residents with questions.