



# Natural Filters on Public Lands

## Accelerating Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay

### Maryland's "Pollution Diet" and the Two Year Milestones

In December 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL. The TMDL requires the coordination of six states and the District of Columbia to meet a significant reduction in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment from entering the Bay from various pollution sources by 2025.

Maryland took the initiative and decided to have this goal accomplished by 2020. Using a series of short-term, two-year goals-or milestones-Maryland is on track to achieve the TMDL at an accelerated rate.

### Natural Filters on Public Lands

Trees planted along riversides, building wetlands, reforesting open fields (all referred to as natural filters)are projects that are eligible for funding under the Public Lands Two-Year Milestone that is being administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Funding is being provided for those who are able to implement on-the-ground restoration in the form of Natural Filters.

### Who is Eligible?

Meeting the Two-Year Milestones on Public Lands is an effort that will require all public land owners to participate. Assistance from the DNR is available to help achieve restoration acres locally.

**Update on 1st Two-Year Milestone**

Maryland's first Two-Year Milestone of Natural Filters on Public Lands spanned from 2009-2011 and required the reduction of 125,000 lbs. of nitrogen and 8,500 lbs. of phosphorus through Best Management Practices on State and Public lands. Through the effort of the DNR and other local partners, the State is on track to meet this first milestone. To see current progress for all Two-Year Milestones, visit: <http://www.baystat.maryland.gov/milestones.html>

### Potential partners include:

- County and Municipal Governments
- Schools
- Community Associations
- Watershed and Conservation Organizations

### How to Get Involved

- Begin by contacting your Watershed Restoration Specialist and let them know you are interested
- Discuss your project with your Specialist to make sure it qualifies as Natural Filters
- Work with your Specialist to draft a Scope of Work and budget
- Complete the Trust Fund Grant Form-funding is provided through Atlantic and Coastal Bays Trust Fund and is awarded on a "first come, first served" basis.

Balancing human demands with conservation of the resources that make Maryland such a unique place to live, work and play

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*  
*John R. Griffin, Secretary*



# Impact by the Numbers

2,760

Acres of trees  
planted with  
Natural Filter  
projects

14

Local land Natural  
Filters projects  
funded

489.1

Acres of riparian  
buffer created  
with Natural Filters  
projects

428

Acres of wetland  
created with  
Natural  
Filters projects

20

Counties that have  
done Natural  
Filters projects

Additional photo credits:  
Jack Diamond, Chuck PrahI,  
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## Who Are My Watershed Conservation Specialists?

In partnership with the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, the Watershed Assistance Collaborative is providing “on the ground” personnel to local and county governments and their partners to accelerate nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts. The Specialists also work with communities to foster outreach, capacity building and ensure project evaluation and success. See [http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/healthy\\_waters/wac.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/healthy_waters/wac.asp) for more information on the Collaborative.



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## For More Information

If you have questions or want to learn more about Natural Filters and how they are being used to accelerate Chesapeake Bay restoration, contact Kristen Fleming with DNR's Ecosystem Restoration Services at the contact information below:

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