# Anne Arundel County Environmental Protection & Resource Conservation

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works Citizens' Advisory Commission, November 7, 2018





#### **Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation**

Background Report



Table 1: Anne Arundel County Watersheds

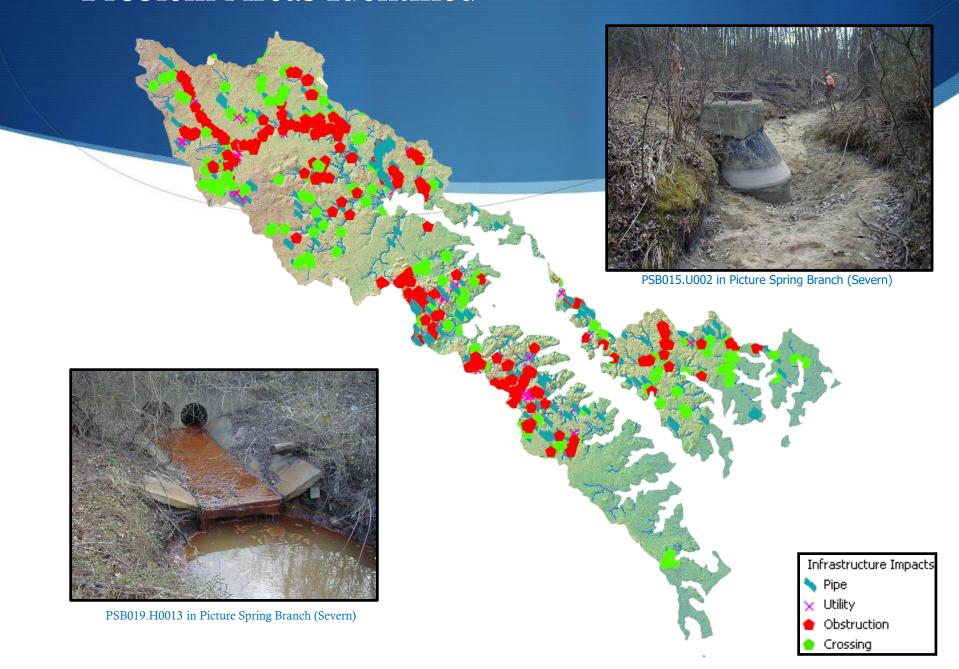
County Watershed Name	Watershed Area (acres)	Estimated Stream Miles
Bodkin Creek Watershed	5,036	14
Herring Bay Watershed	14,662	108
Little Patuxent River Watershed	27,750	165
Magothy River Watershed	22,845	62
Middle Patuxent River Watershed	29,632	463
Patapsco Nontidal River Watershed	15,275	124
Patapsco Tidal River Watershed	30,841	95
Rhode River Watershed	8,764	65
Severn River Watershed	44,248	152
South River Watershed	36,167	207
Upper Patuxent River Watershed	22,551	304
West River Watershed	7,297	25
Totals:	265,067	1,784

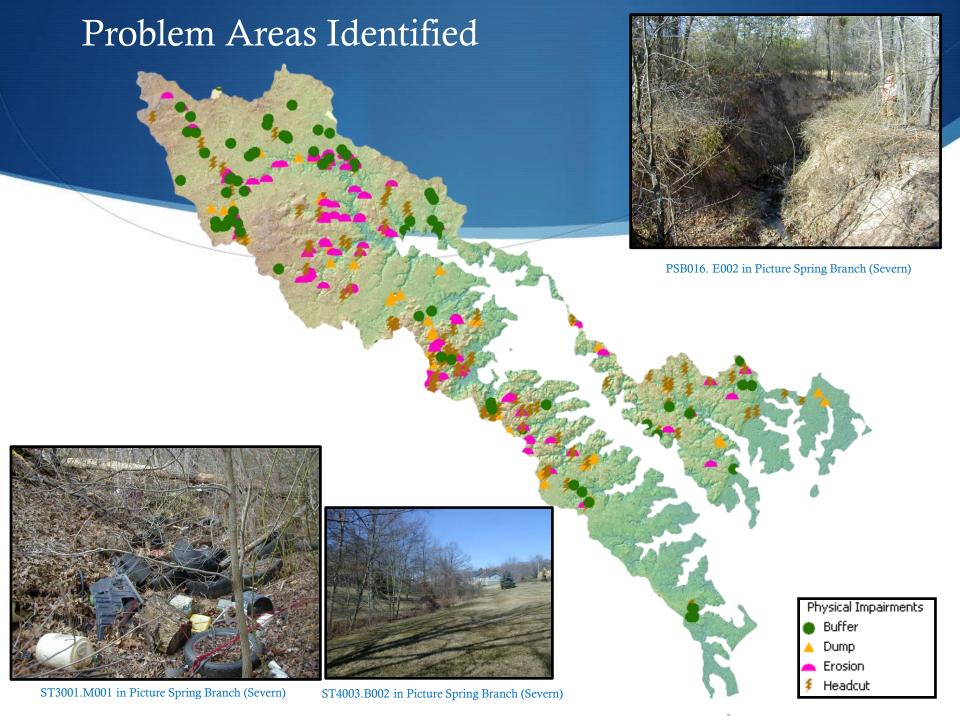
Figure 1: Watersheds and Streams Patapsco Non-Tidal Patapsco Tidal Bodkin Creek Magothy River Little Patuxent Upper Severn River Streams South River WATERSHED Bodkin Creek Herring Bay Upper Patuxent \* Little Patuxent Lower Patuxent Rhode River Magothy River Middle Patuxent West Middle Patapsco Non-Tidal River Patapsco Tidal Rhode River Severn River Herring Bay South River Upper Patuxent Patuxent 261 West River



Mapping our watersheds

#### Problem Areas Identified





## The County's Regulatory Mandates

TMDLS

MS4s

**NPDES** 

# TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads)

- Think of it as a "recommended annual intake" of pollution required by the Clean Water Act.
- Based on models created by EPA.
- Reductions required in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads by 2025 as part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.



INGREDIENTS: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, & Sediment

### MS4 Permit



- ♦ Issued to each county (and Baltimore City in the state) with a population over 100,000.
- 5-year cycle, newest permit issued in February 2014.
- Requires treatment of 20% of the untreated impervious area in the county during the permit cycle. (5,862 acres)
- ♦ Anne Arundel County has committed over \$250 million to stormwater restoration efforts.

# Upgrade of the County's 7 Water Reclamation Facilities to ENR





At a cost of approximately \$252 million, Anne Arundel County completed the upgrade of all its wastewater treatment plants to enhanced nutrient removal in mid-2017.

#### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

#### SEPTIC TASK FORCE

#### FINAL REPORT

#### **JUNE 2018**



Anne Arundel County has approximately 42,000 privately-owned septic systems throughout the County, and has worked for a number of years to devise a strategy to transition them to less polluting alternatives.

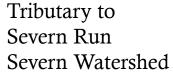
Initial estimates to convert 20,000 septics were approximately \$1.5 billion.

## Streams & Stream Buffers



# Current stream projects











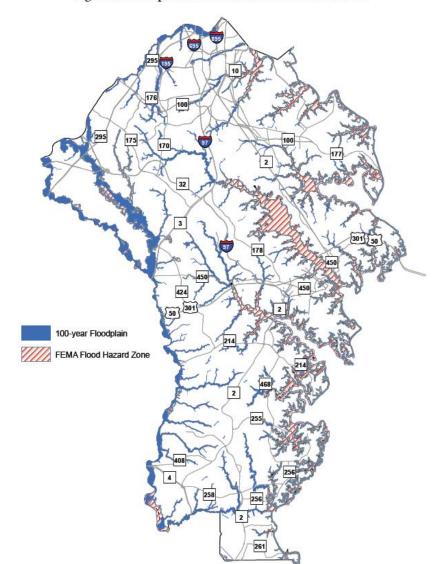
Cat Branch Magothy Watershed



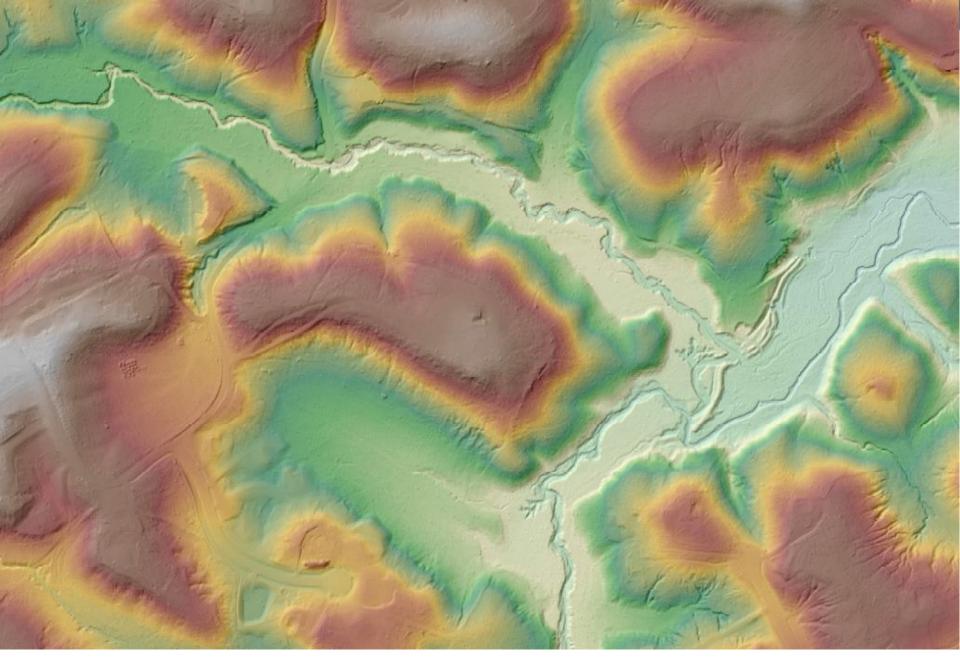


# Floodplains

Figure 4: Floodplains and FEMA Flood Hazard Zones



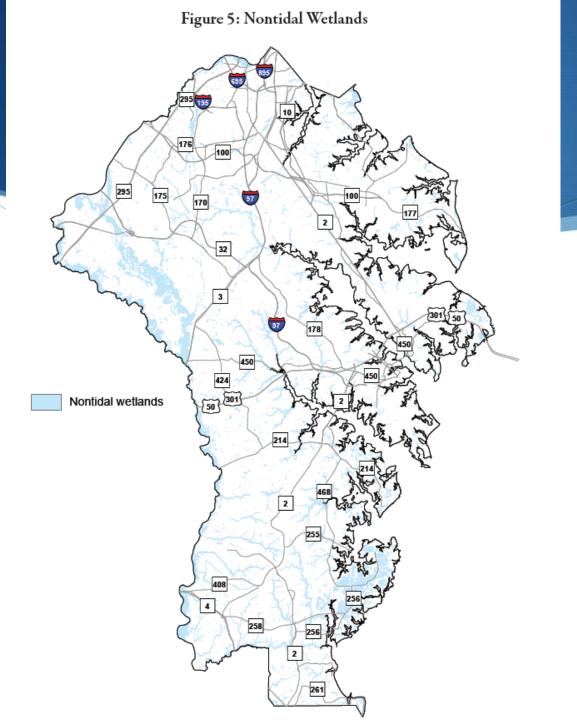
- Anne Arundel County requires floodplains identified as part of the subdivision process to either be deeded to the County or permanently eased as open space.
- 100' stream buffer requirements also provide protection for these floodplain areas.
- All structures must be elevated above the 100-year flood level.



Flat Creek, South River watershed

# Wetlands Non-Tidal Wetlands

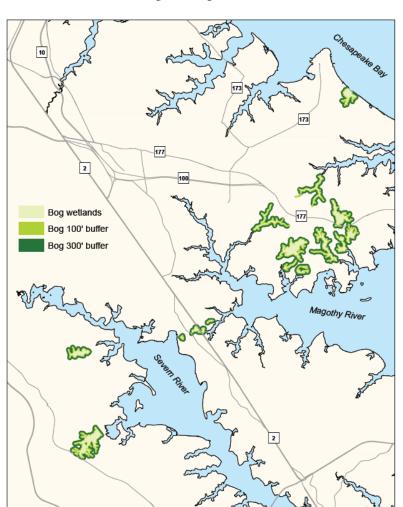




• Generally have a 25' buffer protection against development

# Bogs

Figure 6: Bog Wetlands



• Have an enhanced 100' and 300' buffer protection against development. Similar to critical area protections.



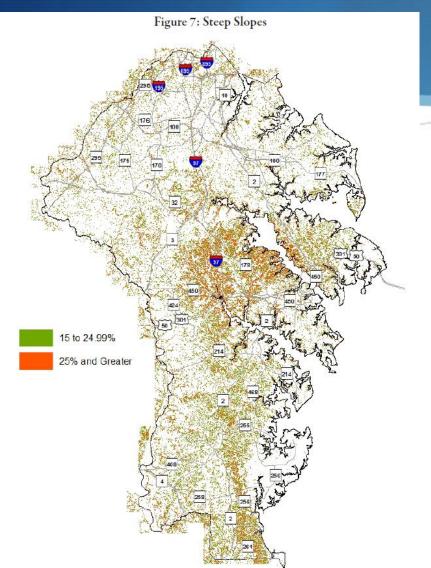
## Tidal Wetlands



• Have a 100' buffer protection via critical area protections.



# Steep Slopes



- Steep slopes (those with a 25% or greater slope, with greater protections (15%) in the critical area) have protections within the County Code.
- Development should not occur on steep slopes or within 25' feet of the top of steep slopes.



# Questions?

Erik Michelsen
Administrator
Anne Arundel County Watershed
Protection & Restoration Program
<a href="mailto:pwmich20@aacounty.org">pwmich20@aacounty.org</a>
aarivers.org