



Lower Gunpowder Falls - Urban

Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP)
Community Meeting #1
June 16, 2015





Welcome/Meeting Purpose

- Awareness about SWAP process
- Overview on SWAP development
- Overview of the study area
- Encourage community participation
- Gather community input
- Address questions

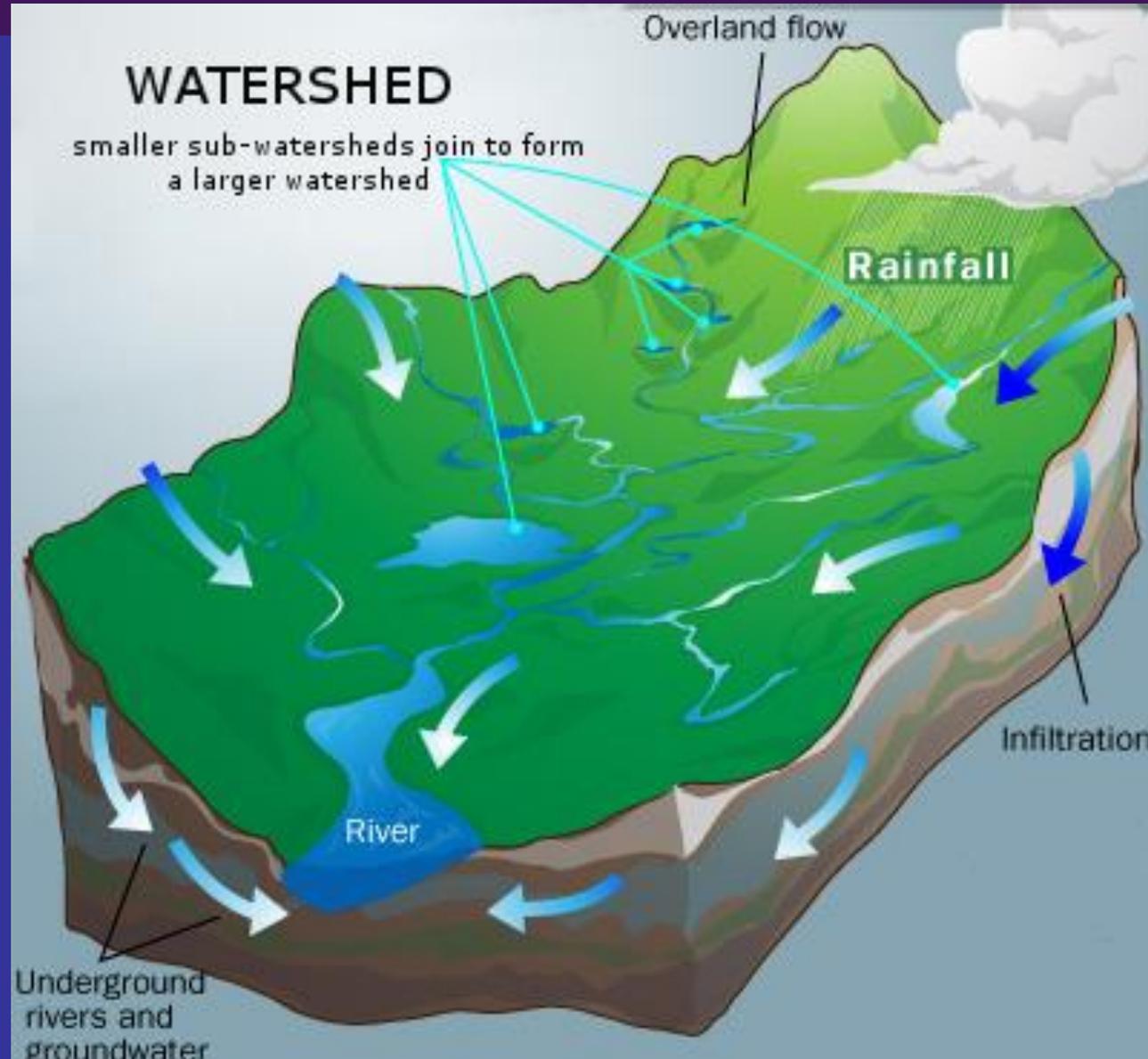


What is a watershed?

For our purposes:

An area of land in which all water (e.g. rainfall) drains to a common location

In Baltimore County it's usually a stream, reservoir, or tidal waters





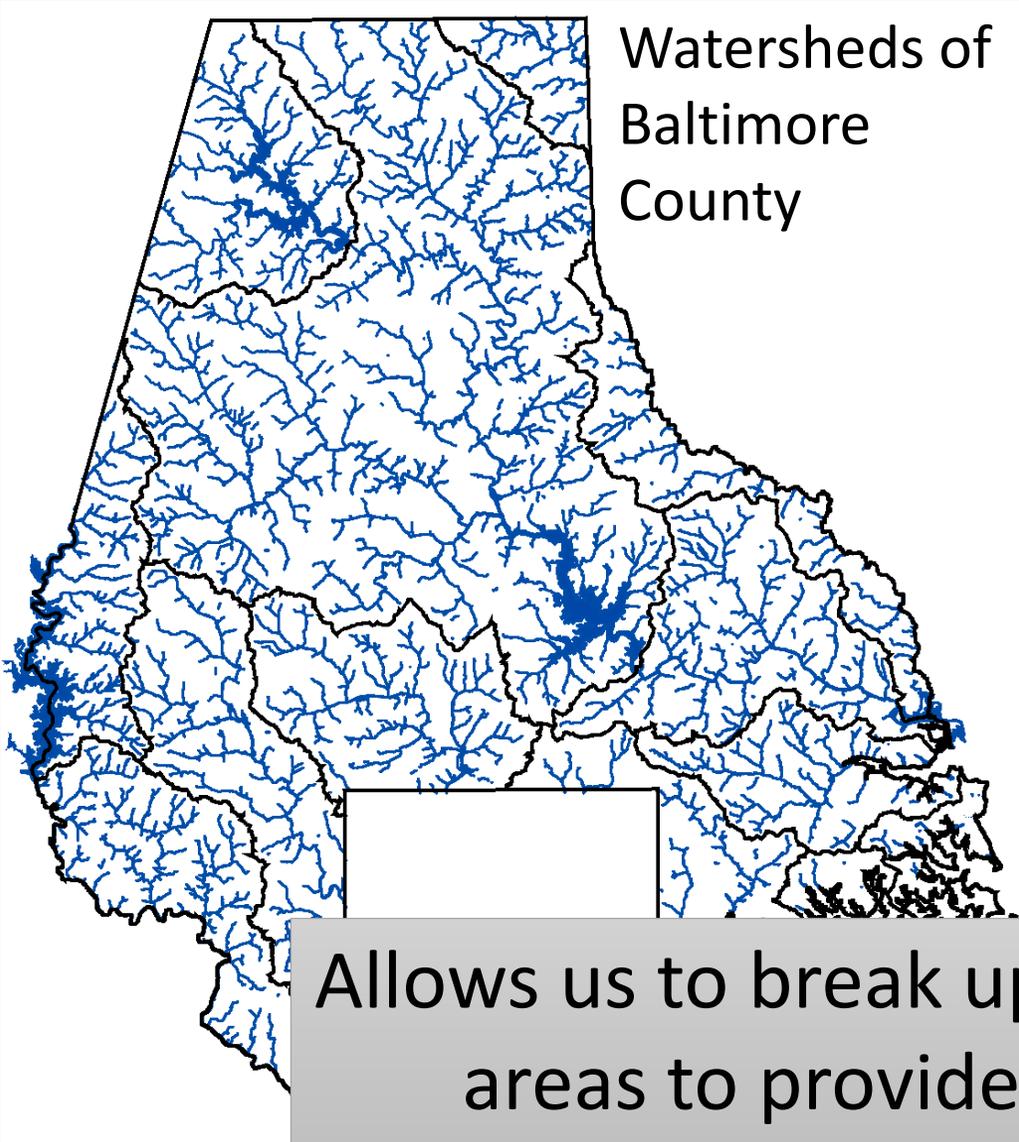
What is a SWAP?

A Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP)
is a strategy

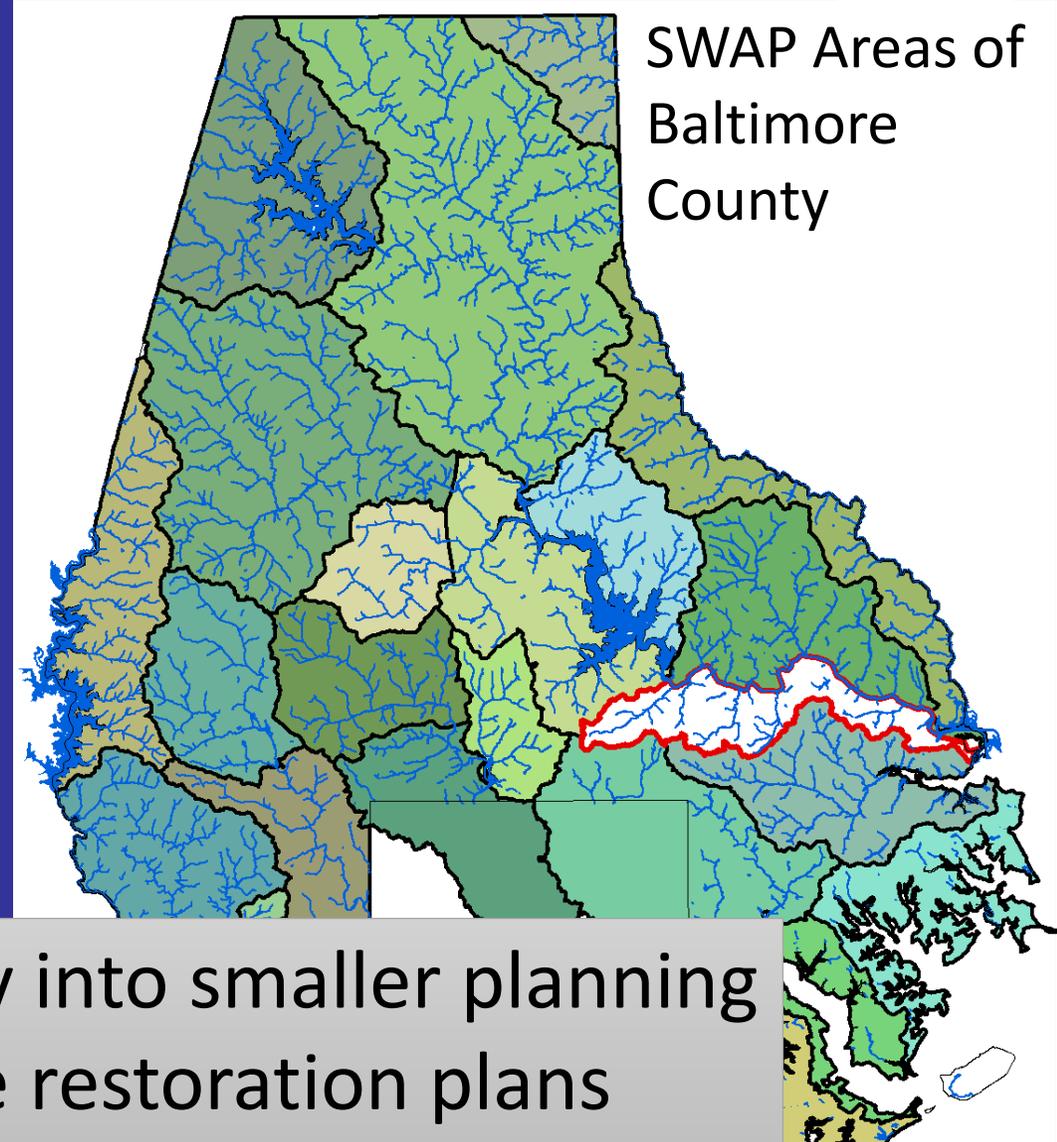
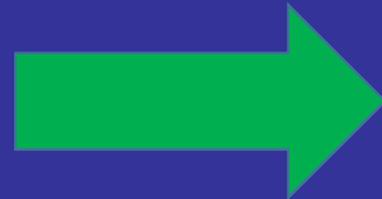
- To improve our streams and rivers within a specific watershed
- To contribute healthier water to the Chesapeake Bay

It also...

- Focuses county and community resources
- Promotes citizen input on priorities for restoration



Watersheds of Baltimore County



SWAP Areas of Baltimore County

Allows us to break up the county into smaller planning areas to provide tailor made restoration plans



Why a SWAP?

- SWAPs help Baltimore County reach water quality obligations under the (Federal) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- Part of the Clean Water Act!



Why a SWAP?

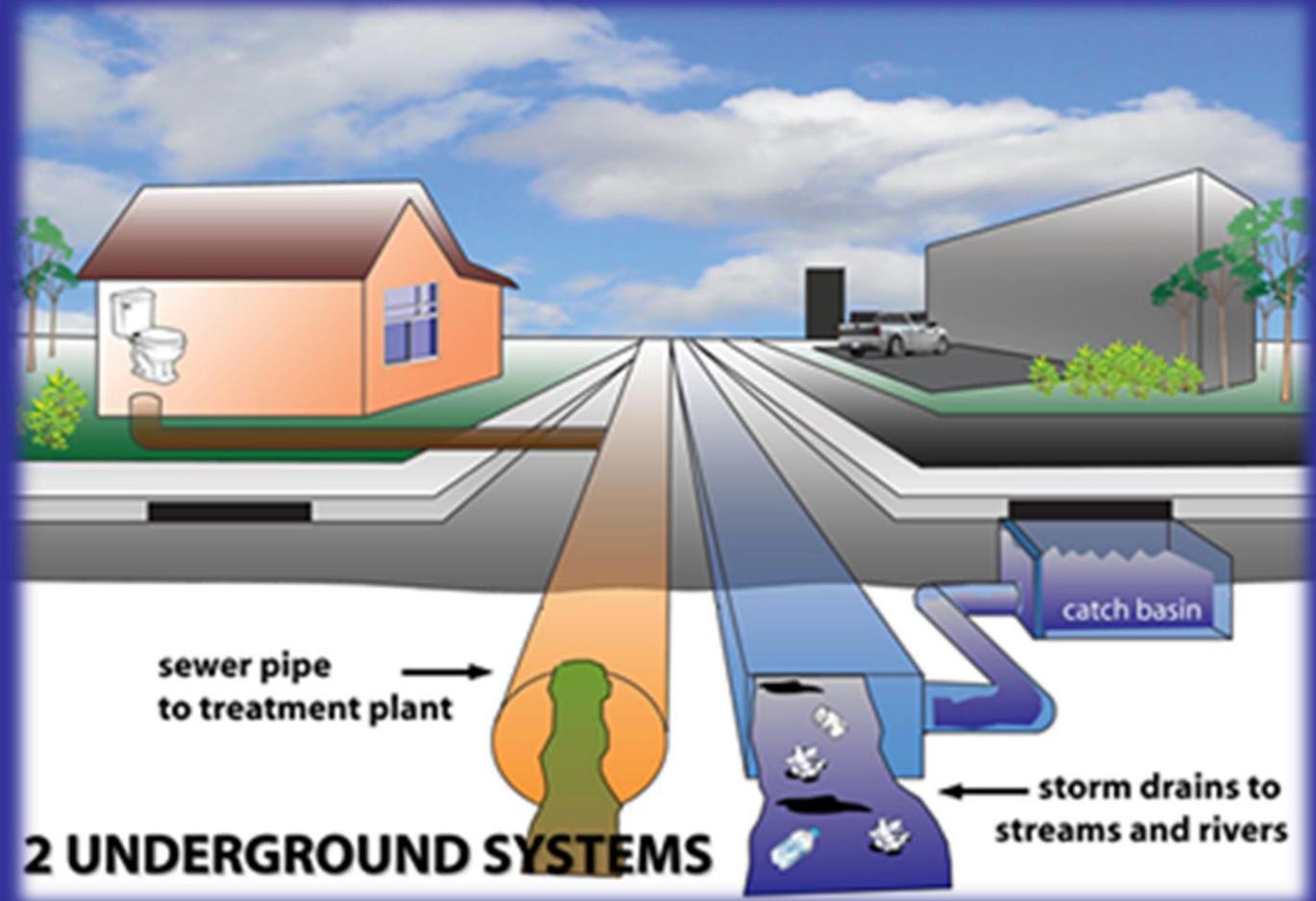
- NPDES program regulates stormwater discharges from three potential sources:
 - construction activities
 - industrial activities
 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) = county's storm drain system



Why a SWAP?

MS4s (storm drain systems) drain stormwater

- from roads, parking lots, and roofs
- separate from sanitary sewer systems





The SWAP Will...

- ✓ Involve stakeholders
 - Like you!
- ✓ Set measurable goals
 - Especially pollution reduction goals
- ✓ Identify monitoring requirements
 - Data collection validates pollution reduction predictions
- ✓ Identify restoration projects
 - Citizen-based + county projects



Calculating stream flow



The SWAP Will...

- ✓ Prioritize restoration opportunities
 - Builds strategies and assigns responsibilities
- ✓ Conduct cost/benefit analysis
 - Financial responsibility is key
- ✓ Meet EPA requirements for future funding of local environmental projects





Action Strategy

Citizen-based actions



- Installing rain barrels at home
- Participating in trash cleanups
- Volunteering with local environmental groups

Photo credit: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy



Action Strategy

County actions

- Stream restorations
- Educational outreach
- Monitoring

Spring Branch stream restoration project





Action Strategy

Business partnerships

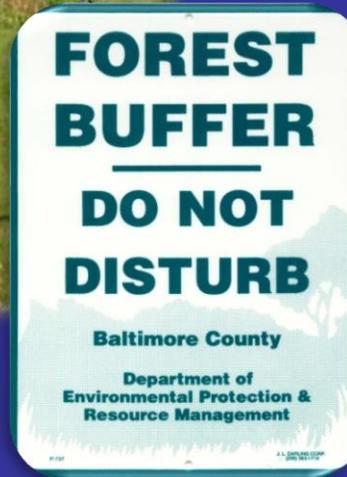
- Encourage good housekeeping
- Explore “clean business” recognition programs



Shopping center on the
East side of Baltimore
County



Action Strategy



Institutional partnerships

- Help large landowners improve stewardship
- Promote establishment of forest buffers and tree planting spaces



Who's leading this project?

The SWAP Steering Committee; who are...

- Members of the public
- Local not-for-profit watershed/environmental organizations
- Other local experts
- Consultants working with County staff



What do they do?

- Identify stakeholders
 - (citizens, businesses, institutions, etc.)
- Guide development of SWAP through:
 - Review
 - Input of local and technical expertise!



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Lower Gunpowder Falls

The Lower Gunpowder Falls Watershed is located in the central eastern portion of Baltimore County, Maryland. The Loch Raven Dam divides the Loch Raven watershed from the Lower Gunpowder Falls. The watershed begins at the Loch Raven Reservoir and flows generally towards the east. Where it meets the tidal portions of Gunpowder River, it becomes the Gunpowder River watershed. Major tributaries in the watershed include Minebank Run, Long Green Creek, Sweathouse Run, Haystack Branch, Jennifer Branch, and Bean Run.



The Gunpowder River forms a unique geographic divide in this watershed with very rural countryside to the north and a very urbanized area on the southern side. The land to the north is primarily agricultural in nature and includes the communities of Long Green, Hydes, Glen Arm, Fork, Kingsville, and Upper Falls. Land south of the river consists of older developed areas such as Towson, Carney, and Parkville, the commercial corridor along Joppa Road, and newer, rapidly developing areas such as Perry Hall. The valley forming the

Check our website for updates!

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/lowergunpowder>