

Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP)

Upper Gwynns Falls Watershed

Fact Sheet

What is a SWAP?

A SWAP is a strategy that outlines how we will clean up our streams and rivers, and contribute healthier water to the Chesapeake Bay. It is created through partnerships between community members and Baltimore County DEPRM.



The SWAP will:

- ◆ assess existing surroundings in the drainage area (watershed)
- ◆ identify sources of pollution
- ◆ examine opportunities for environmental restoration and protection to enhance our watershed and clean our streams
- ◆ determine the costs
- ◆ outline a plan for implementation of actions

Who participates in the SWAP?

Residents, businesses, institutions, community organizations, local watershed associations and government agencies are all necessary to build a successful plan. The process is guided by a diverse steering committee, and there will be public meetings to generate input from the community. Upon completion of the plan, there will be many opportunities for residents and community groups to help implement the recommended actions—in your own yard, or on a site nearby.

How will we improve our streams?

Restoration actions may include:

- ◆ Tree plantings in open areas, along streets, and in yards
- ◆ Disconnection of downspouts to keep roof water out of storm drains
- ◆ Expanding forest areas along streams
- ◆ Planting rain gardens and hooking up rain barrels for watering
- ◆ Proper lawn care education (fertilizer reduction, watering techniques)
- ◆ Community awareness about stormwater
- ◆ New or upgraded stormwater management facilities
- ◆ Stream cleanups and stream restoration projects

How can I get involved?

Attend the SWAP stakeholder meetings—dates TBD.

Contact your local watershed association to find out how you can help restore your watershed:

Gwynns Falls Watershed Association

www.gwynnsfalls.net
443-429-3183

Baltimore County
Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management
Watershed Management & Monitoring
410-887-5683

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