



## We need you!

Do you want to take a more active role in preserving your local watershed?



Become a Master Watershed Steward

Visit <https://go.umd.edu/3qnpCgl> to learn how you can join!

## You can make a difference.

Here are a few simple ways you can help maintain the health of your local stream and the Chesapeake Bay.



Install a rain barrel to collect rain from downspouts.  
Mow your lawn high and leave the clippings.



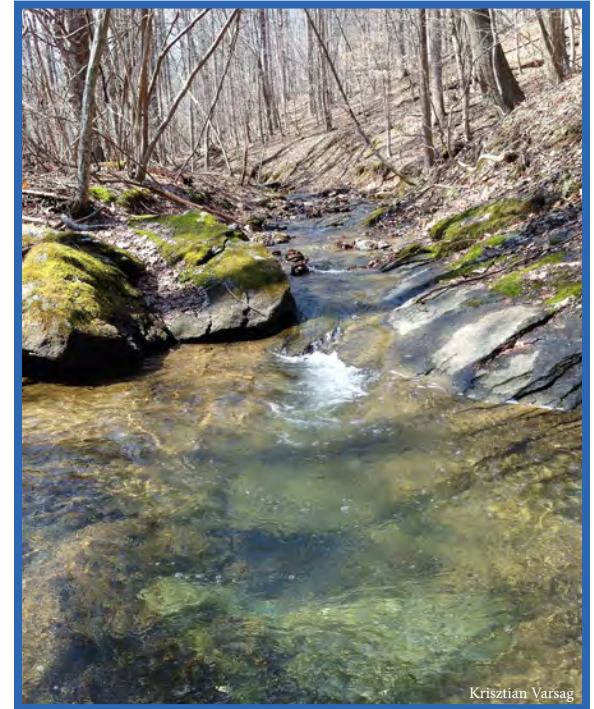
Diversify your yard by removing hard surfaces and turf grass, and planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers.  
Direct water from your rooftop or driveway to gardens or woodlands using swales and berms.



Plant a rain garden to help absorb stormwater.  
Install permeable pavers to allow stormwater to soak through rather than flow off the surface.

You can also help reduce pollution by decreasing or eliminating fertilizer use, picking up pet waste, maintaining your septic system, using nontoxic household products, and immediately repairing leaks in your car or boat.

Watershed Stewards Academy is a program of:



Watershed Stewards Academy  
*Empowering residents to improve the quality of local waterways*

[hcwsa.org](http://hcwsa.org)

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## What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common body of water such as a stream. Everyone lives in a watershed, and in Maryland almost all feed into rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

## What is the problem?

Water from storms is collected in drains that go directly into streams instead of soaking slowly into the ground.

- This stormwater picks pollutants as it flows across roads and rooftops, and carries them into the streams.
- Fast-moving stormwater coming from drains causes erosion of the streams.
- Both pollutants and eroded soil cause algae blooms and dead zones in the Bay.



## What is the solution?

**Slow it down. Spread it out. Soak it in.**

To improve water quality in the Bay, we must all work together to slow the flow of stormwater, redirect where it flows, and give the water more time to soak into the ground. The Watershed Stewards Academy is a local program where you can learn how to take action.

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## What is the Watershed Stewards Academy?

The Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) is a Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program that works with local partners to raise community awareness and citizens to take action to improve the quality of local waterways.



To reach more people, WSA trains and supports Master Watershed Stewards, who in turn serve as ambassadors to the community through outreach, hands-on projects, and other volunteer efforts.

Stewards participate in events and activities to promote the health of local watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. These include educating and advising property owners on how to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and the amount of pollution it causes.

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The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

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## What is a Master Watershed Steward?

The Watershed Stewards Academy trains and supports people like you to serve as Master Watershed Stewards in the protection, restoration and conservation of our watersheds.

Master Stewards work together to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Master Watershed Stewards:

- Assess watersheds
- Educate your community
- Take action to reduce pollutants

