

## Declaration Run and Riverside Watersheds

### Small Watershed Action Plan

**Project Goal:** To develop a Small Watershed Action Plan (SWAP) for Declaration Run (unofficially named) and Riverside watersheds consistent with Harford County's MS4 permit requirements and with EPA Section 319 criteria. The plan will evaluate current watershed and water quality conditions, identify and prioritize projects and management actions within the watershed, estimate pollutant loadings and reductions resulting from implementing the plan and develop strategies for public outreach and education.

**Project Background:** Declaration Run (420 acres) and Riverside (320 acres) are located in the lower portion of the Bush River Basin (MDE6DIGIT 021307) north of US Route 40 and south of MD Route 7. The Bush Declaration Natural Resources Management Area is located within these watersheds (Figure 1).

The Bush River Basin is centrally located within Harford County. Approximately 30% of the land within the County, or 113 square miles, drains to the Bush River Basin. Twelve additional square miles drain to the watershed from Aberdeen Proving Ground, a federally owned army installation expecting over 10,000 new jobs as part of the US Military Base Realignment and Closure. Aberdeen Proving Ground, or APG, borders Harford County to the south and separates the County from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 6 of the 9 miles of the Bush River are bordered by APG.

Over the past 30 years, the greatest amount of development within Harford County has occurred in the Bush River Basin. Approximately 50% of the current population in Harford County resides within the Bush River Basin. A significant majority of the County's priority funding area or development envelope, established in 1977, is located here, and will continue to increase the concentration of the population in this area.

Small watershed assessments have been completed for Wheel Creek (2008) and Plumtree Run (2011), within the Bush River Basin. Harford County will use the *Wheel Creek Watershed Assessment* and the *Plumtree Run Watershed Assessment* as a model for Declaration Run and Riverside. The focus will be on prioritizing water quality restoration projects within the watersheds in order for Harford County to meet its urban stormwater allocation for TMDLs and to meet the requirements of Harford County's MS4 permit to restore 20% of unmanaged impervious cover.

**SWAP Components:** The SWAP should contain the following components:

1. Table and discussion of how the plan meets EPA Criteria a-i. <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2003/October/Day-23/w26755.htm>

Section D

Additional reference: EPA Guidance for developing a watershed plan

[http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm)

2. Meets requirements of the Watershed Assessment section of the MS4 permit (draft June 2012 or subsequent versions).
3. TMDL implications:
  - a. Bynum Run – Sediment  
[http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/ApprovedFinalTMDLs/Pages/TMDL\\_Final\\_BynumRun\\_Sediment.aspx](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/ApprovedFinalTMDLs/Pages/TMDL_Final_BynumRun_Sediment.aspx)
  - b. Chesapeake Bay WIP  
[http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/FINAL\\_PhaseII\\_WIPDocument\\_Main.aspx](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/FINAL_PhaseII_WIPDocument_Main.aspx)
4. BMP efficiencies/credits according to MDE's Guidance Document  
[http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Documents/NPDES%20Draft%20Guidance%206\\_14.pdf](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Documents/NPDES%20Draft%20Guidance%206_14.pdf)
5. Impervious surface treatment as required by the MS4.
6. Project prioritization
7. Public outreach/education
8. Implementation schedule
9. Long-term monitoring recommendations
10. Cost estimate of implementation

**Provided by Harford County:**

1. All available GIS data
2. Copy of the Plumtree Run and Wheel Creek Small Watershed Action Plans
3. Copy of Harford County's draft MS4 permit
4. Property owner notifications

**Meetings:** One kick-off meeting and one meeting at 75% completion. Two conference calls.

**Deliverable:** The final deliverable will be one hard copy and one electronic copy of the final report plus any appendices.

**Schedule:** The final report must be complete by September 2013.