

## Breewood Stream Restoration

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### ■ Problem:

Breewood Stream receives most of its flow from four storm drains that convey stormwater runoff from surrounding neighborhoods. Flowing unmitigated into the creek, stormwater was eroding the streambanks and carrying pollutants such as pesticides and fertilizers. In addition, Breewood Stream suffered from exposed sewer lines and fish passage blockages along its length. Breewood residents noticed severe erosion at stream banks, exposed sewer lines, and highly sedimented water flows.

### ■ Solution:

Montgomery County stormwater fee proceeds enabled this stream to be restored. The stream channel was reconstructed to slow water flows. Shrubs and meadow grasses were planted to absorb water and sediments and improve stream health.

Since the restoration was part of the Montgomery County “Green Streets” initiative, many surrounding residential projects also installed bioretention and water conservation strategies. The project also employed community outreach to educate and encourage community support of the program.



Evidence of erosion prior to restoration



The stream repaired and restored

Photo Credit: Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

## Key Project Facts

**Type of Project:** Stream Restoration

**Scale:** 4,470 linear foot stream

**Overall Cost:** \$800,000

**Cost Effectiveness:** \$0.40 per gallon

**Funding Sources:** Montgomery County Stormwater Fees

**Monitoring:** Ongoing monitoring for several years to provide statistics for other similar projects.

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**More Info:** <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/breewood.html>

## What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Stormwater projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

**When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!**