

Briers Mill Outfall Restoration

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■ Problem:

Riverdale Park is a densely-populated community in Prince George's County with a high level of impervious cover. Stormwater runoff from the community had severely eroded the stream channel of Brier's Mill Run, a tributary of the Anacostia River. In addition, stormwater carried silt, trash and pollutants to the creek and created unsightly and unsafe conditions at the community's middle school, where a majority of students are minority and low-income.



■ Solution:

A collaborative project led by the Anacostia Watershed Society restored 125 linear feet of the Brier's Mill Run stream channel, using a series of pools and waterfalls to slow stormwater flows and allow pollutant filtration. The restored site is now a teaching and testing site for students at the middle school.



Photo Credit: Anacostia Watershed Society

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Stream Restoration

Scale: 170 linear foot eroded stream channel

Runoff Captured:

- 26.7 acres
- 9 acres of paved surfaces
- over 700,000 gallons per inch of rain
- 3 million gallons a year

Cost: \$302,000 and 157 volunteer hours

Funding Sources: MD Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Alliance Coastal Bays Trust Fund

Partners: Anacostia Watershed Society; Bio-Habitats, Inc.; Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission; Prince George's County Department of Public Works; Prince George's County Public Schools; Underwood Construction

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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!