

Cabin Branch Stream Restoration

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■ Problem:

The watershed of Cabin Branch Stream contains the Annapolis Mall and associated commercial areas. Due to a high concentration of impervious surfaces in this area, water quality in the stream has been deteriorating.

■ Solution:

The nonprofit Severn Riverkeeper and its partners installed various green infrastructure practices in and around Cabin Branch Stream, including graded cascades, cobbled riffles and vegetated pools. These practices slow the flow of stormwater into the stream, reducing erosion and allowing pollutants to filter out. This project raised and reconnected the stream bed to its original network of wetlands, significantly reducing sediment and toxic pollution in Cabin Branch Stream and its receiving waterbody, the Severn River.



Before, a sediment plume can be seen in Saltwork Creek. The creek leads to the Severn River.



The project kickoff with proposed RSC renderings.

Photo Credit: Severn Riverkeeper

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Regenerative Stream Channel

Scale: 1,700 linear feet treating runoff from 144 acres.

Funding Sources: MD Department of the Environment; MD Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; Watershed Assistance Collaborative (grants totaling \$900,000); plus corporate grants totaling \$50,000.

Community Benefits: Many groups including Boy Scouts, DNR Coastal Resources & Restoration, and ERM Environmental Consultants have toured and monitored site.

Contact: Fred Kelly, Severn Riverkeeper, 410-279-3586 for tours and to visit the site.

More information:

www.severnriverkeeper.org/photo-gallery/

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.

Storm water 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!