Polluted Runoff: Solutions
Anne Arundel County, MD

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Holly Hill Harbor Community Park

🖥 Problem:

Holly Hill Harbor is a waterfront community on the Mayo Peninsula just south of Annapolis. Monitoring at the neighborhood's community park revealed that water in Bear Neck Creek and Edgewater Creek contained high bacteria counts following rain events, threatening the health of residents as well as local watermen. This problem unified a 126 home community to mobilize for a solution.

🖥 Solution:

The Holly Hill Harbor Civic Association – an all-volunteer organization – mobilized to tackle this challenge. Using a Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Association installed a stepped pond with bio cells that strain runoff before it reaches local creeks or the Chesapeake Bay. By increasing the health of these contributing creeks, people, wildlife, and the Chesapeake Bay are also healthier.

Biocells that strain runoff before it reaches the Bay

Riverkeeper Jeff Holland showing off the completed project

Photo credits: Capital Gazette

Key Project Facts

Location: Edgewater, MD

Cost: $30,000

Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, USEPA Region III, and the City of Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Maryland DNR.

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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 filthy 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. It keeps 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!