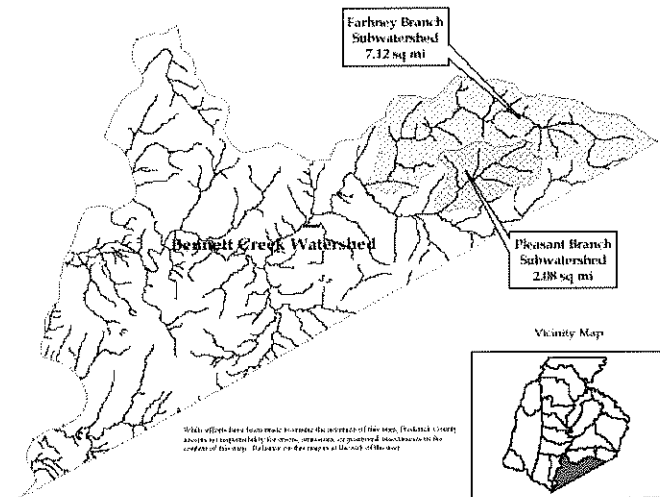


Bennett Creek Restoration Initiative

Phase I: *Restoration of the Headwaters in the Fahrney Branch and Pleasant Branch Watersheds*

Phase I will focus on two critical headwater streams, Pleasant Branch and Fahrney Branch, and will address the most pressing nonpoint source pollution and habitat issues, mainly inadequate riparian buffers and streambank erosion. This collaborative project, involving public and private partners at the state and local levels, will implement a multiple-solution, community-based approach, based on the recommendations set forth in existing planning and assessment efforts, such as the Lower Monocacy Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS).



The Need:

- ✓ The Lower Monocacy Watershed is identified under *Maryland's Clean Water Action Plan* as a "Priority Category 1" and "Select Category 3" watershed.
- ✓ *Maryland's 303(d) list* identifies a Total Maximum Daily Load listing for biological impairment in the Bennett Creek subwatershed.
- ✓ The *Lower Monocacy WRAS* highlighted Bennett Creek watershed as a priority area because of nutrient pollution, stream degradation, and its location in the path of rapid growth and development.
- ✓ Specifically, the WRAS identified *inadequate stream buffers, lack of fencing, and eroding streambanks* as key factors contributing to the pollution problem.

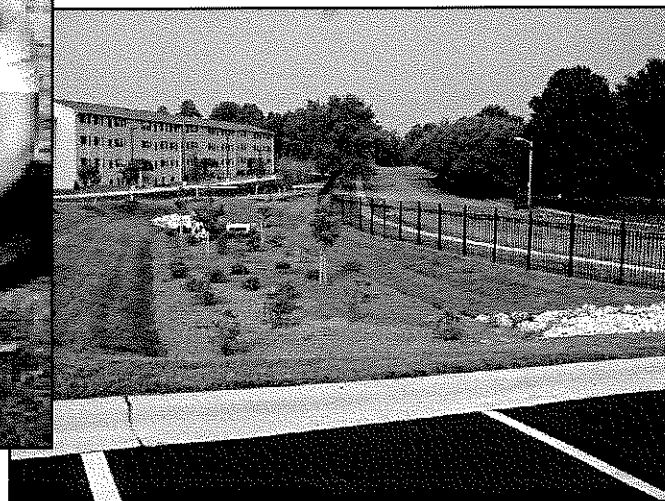
Our Solution:

- ✓ ***Holistic approach*** engaging suburban and rural landowners in *a full range of tools* that will lead to better landscape-scale management of natural resources, thereby benefiting water quality and wildlife habitat.
- ✓ ***On-the ground water quality improvements*** will take place as a result of this initiative through the installation of riparian forest buffers and fencing, rain gardens, and streambank restoration.
- ✓ ***Sustainable solutions*** will be promoted, including management agreements with landowners, voluntary permanent land protection, and establishment of a self-sustaining landowner network to allow watershed neighbors to discuss issues, share information, and management lessons learned.

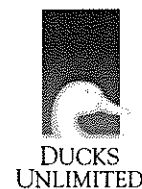


Key Elements:

<i>Element</i>	<i>Significant Activities</i>
Community outreach & landowner engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Watershed Workshop • “Greener Lifestyles” Workshops • <i>Growing Native</i> outreach, collection, & grow-out stations in schools • Conduct individual landowner site visits
On-the ground water quality improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and installation of rain gardens, backyard buffers, riparian forest buffers, fencing, stream bank restoration, and other Best Management Practices. • Development and implementation of natural resource management plans, such as Forest Management Plans
Sustainability for the long-haul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate perpetual conservation agreements • Enroll and recognize landowners in a “Water Steward Registry” an incentive-based reward for good land and water stewards through signage and print media. • Water quality monitoring sites in strategic locations to measure impacts over the short and long term.



Partners:



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