

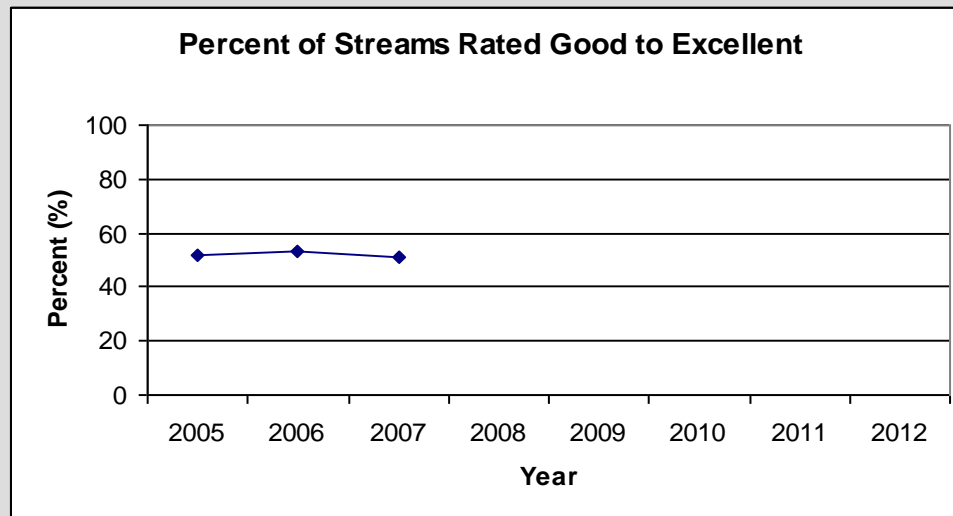
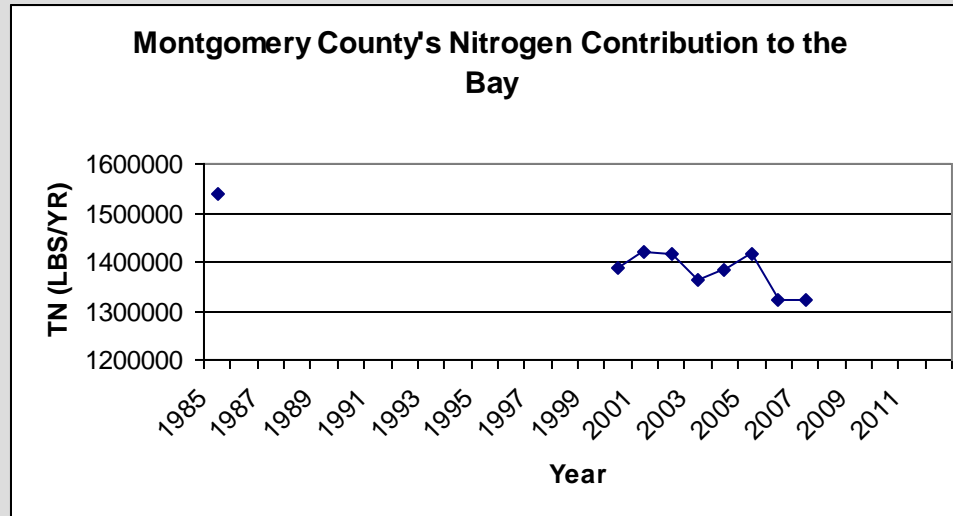
Goal: Clean Water

Protect and improve local stream quality and reduce pollution of the Chesapeake Bay. Minimize flooding, pollution, sedimentation and damage to ecology by conserving waterways, wetlands and sensitive parts of stream valleys.

Draft Revision of Goal:

Protect and improve county water resources, ecological health, human health and sustainable drinking water by managing the quantity and quality of runoff and recharge and reducing pollutants to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Potential Indicators



Highlights from the Indicators Discussion

- ❖ Nitrogen as an indicator is questionable: Nitrogen is not the only problem in our waterways. Phosphorus and other pollutants matter as well.
- ❖ Overall best indicators are Stream Quality Conditions (as measured by the Countywide Stream Protection Strategy (CSPS))
- ❖ We need to think about the change we want in a system that is operating on a decade to decade scale
- ❖ Identify sustainable landscapes and their indicators

Highlights from the Indicators Discussion, (cont.)

- ❖ Think beyond just what is 100% impervious (it's not the only issue—e.g. grading/soil compaction effects are also important).
- ❖ Indicators must be understandable/observable, measurable, not expensive, and clearly connect to objective.
- ❖ Indicators should address three aspects:
 - Physical (i.e. run-off, stream stability, sediment)
 - Biological (i.e. stream biota, decomposing matter)
 - Chemical (i.e. Nutrients, Dissolved Oxygen, other pollutants)



Highlights from the Indicators Discussion, (cont.)

- ❖ We should focus on primary indicators, but keep secondary ones in view:

Primary indicators = “what is in the water?”

Second indicators = “nature of the environment”

- ❖ Need a land-related indicator of health
- ❖ County will be establishing stations at County boundaries to monitor what is leaving the County (Continuous Stream Discharge Volume, Nutrients, Sediment, Bacteria)

Highlights from the Indicators Discussion, (cont.)

Other Potential Indicators Discussed:

- ❖ **Runoff Volume**
- ❖ **Actual IBI Scores**
- ❖ **Water Body Impairments/TMDLs as designated by the State**

Outcome of Indicators Discussion So Far:

- 1. Working Indicator: Percent of Streams rated “Good to Excellent “ in Montgomery County**
- 2. Issues are Complex and More Discussion on both Indicators and Action Strategies is needed**



The Story Behind the Trends

Key Factors That Positively Influence the Trends

1. Effective storm water management practices/Environmental Site Design/Retrofits
2. Putting Development in the Right Places (Smart Growth, Redevelopment, Limiting Sprawl)
3. Protection and Enhancement of Natural Resources
4. More Rigorous National/State/Local Standards
5. Increasing Public Awareness/Education/Behavior Modification

The Story Behind the Trends

Key Factors That Negatively Influence the Trends

1. Imperviousness and other development-altered surfaces that result in lost or decreased infiltration and treatment capacity
2. Development Patterns: Policies and Practices
3. Forest and Wetland Loss
4. Agricultural Practices

What Will Work to Make a Measurable Difference

Priority Factor #1: Reduce, and better manage the effects of, imperviousness and other development-altered surfaces that result in lost or decreased water infiltration and treatment capacity

Potential Strategies/Actions:

- Create clear county policies and guidelines to achieve clean water goals through continued interagency coordination
- Create better development practices, standards, and regulations, and streamline the development review process to better protect the environment and achieve clean water goals
- Provide support, resources, and education for citizens, the media, and the agricultural and development communities



What Will Work to Make a Measurable Difference

Priority Factor #2: Improve Development Patterns: Policies and Practices

Potential Strategies/Actions:

- Create clear county policies and guidelines to achieve clean water goals through continued interagency coordination
- Put development in the right places (Smart Growth, Redevelopment, Limiting Sprawl)
- Create better development practices, standards, and regulations, and streamline the development review process to better protect the environment and achieve clean water goals
- Provide support, resources, and education for citizens, the media, and the agricultural and development communities

What Will Work to Make a Measurable Difference

Priority Factor #3: Increase Forest and Wetland Area

Potential Strategies/Actions:

- Increase forest area, forested stream buffers, and urban tree canopy cover
- Reduce wetland loss due to altered hydrology, increase wetland buffers, and increase wetland area
- Create clear county policies and guidelines to achieve clean water goals through continued interagency coordination
- Put development in the right places (Smart Growth, Redevelopment, Limiting Sprawl)
- Create better development practices, standards, and regulations, and streamline the development review process to better protect the environment and achieve clean water goals

What Will Work to Make a Measurable Difference

Priority Factor #4: Facilitate Good Agricultural Practices

Potential Strategies/Actions:

- Create clear county policies and guidelines to achieve clean water goals through continued interagency coordination
- Provide support, resources, and education for citizens, the media, and the agricultural and development communities

Key Partners with a Role to Play

- Government Officials – elected, policy makers, planners
- Governmental Agencies – local, regional, state, federal
- Stakeholders – Citizens, Community/Civic Groups, Agricultural Community, Developers, Development Consultants, Non-Profit Organizations
- Academic/Research
- Faith-based Organizations
- Development/ Small builders (large and small)
- Financial Community, Chambers of Commerce
- NGOs

Draft “Three Best Policy/Strategy Options”

- ❖ Create Clear County Policies and Guidelines to Achieve Clean Water Goals through Continued Interagency Coordination
- ❖ Create Better Development Practices, Standards, and Regulations, and Streamline the Development Review Process to Better Manage the Environment and Achieve Clean Water Goals
- ❖ Provide Support, Resources, and Education for Citizens, the Media, and the Agricultural and Development Communities