



THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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No Cleanup On Horizon for Severn River Headwaters

Anne Arundel County has no immediate plans in 2014 to address the serious damages to the Severn River headwaters.

Instead, the county will concentrate on other areas that are well away from the Jabez and Severn Run streams that are overwhelmed with pollution and sediment from the confluence of Rts. 97/3/32 near Benfield Rd. and Strayer University. That's the disappointing news Department of Natural Resources Planning Administrator Ginger Ellis outlined during SRA's monthly meeting Dec. 17.

Reason: AAC priorities were selected based on consultant assessments of natural streams. This assessment work in 2002 did not look at the damages caused by failing highway stormwater controls during actual storm events. Yet it's these intermittent storm events that cause the destruction of the Severn River headwaters.

However, there is good news for the rest of the county. AAC plans to spend roughly \$900 million through 2025 to address a variety of stormwater problems – assuming the county's stormwater tax remains in place. Over the next five years, AAC plans to target 91 stormwater projects to remediate 314 failing stormwater retention ponds and 873 stormwater outfalls along 23.5 miles of streams.

For the Severn River, the grand plan is to spend up to \$82 million over five years on 14 stormwater remediation projects. During 2014, AAC's priorities will be to fix:
1). 28 public stormwater ponds near Odenton and Picture Spring Branch, and
2). 2 stormwater pipes (five outfalls) that discharge into Lake Ogleton.

There is one ray of hope for the Severn River headwaters: Ms. Ellis noted that the county's cleanup priorities do and can shift as new information develops.

AAC's top priority areas for stormwater repairs through 2025 are:

- Odenton (Picture Spring Branch, threatened by 175 townhouse developments)
- Benfield Rd. and Rt. 97 (near Bear Creek)
- Cox Creek
- Whitehall Creek near Mill Creek
- David Taylor basin across from the U.S. Naval Academy
- Lake Ogleton, and
- Weams Creek (damages from Hospital, highway and Mall developments).

For full details of the county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan, go here:

<http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/Stormwater/WPRF.cfm#.UrMQOCdiyo0>



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The Severn River Association is the oldest river association in the U.S. and Anne Arundel County's only

river group in continuous operation since 1911.