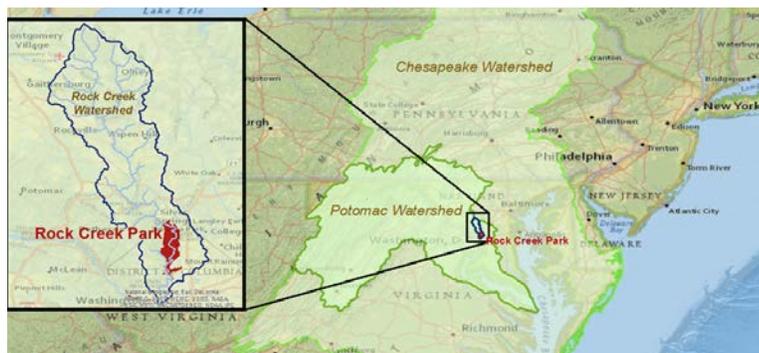




## WE NEED CLEAN WATER AND CLEAN WATER NEEDS US!

Rock Creek Conservancy (RCC) advocates for the protection of Rock Creek's lands waters, and parks at the federal, state, and local level.

**On any level, a win for clean water is a win for Rock Creek.**



*It's all connected. Rock Creek is part of the much larger Chesapeake Bay watershed. Image from ExploreNaturalCommunities.org.*



### URBAN

Rock Creek is primarily surrounded by an urban landscape in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County, MD.

**Some Major Threats:**

- Urban stormwater
- Impervious surfaces
- Combined sewer overflows
- Bacterial contamination
- Human use and impact

**Related 2017 Action Item:**

Local - D.C. and MD MS4 Permit Renewals



### RURAL

Just outside of the city is a rural landscape that affects the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay, both watersheds of which Rock Creek is an important part.

**Some Major Threats:**

- Fertilizer pollution
- Pesticide pollution
- Stream bank erosion

**Related 2017 Action Item:**

Federal - S.2139 - Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act



### FORESTS

When trees are at risk, so is our water. When trees are removed from the landscape, we lose our most effective water filter and erosion prevention mechanism.

**Some Major Threats:**

- Land development
- Invasive species
- Stream bank erosion

**Related 2017 Action Item:**

State - MD SB0365 - Forest Conservation Act

# ALPHABET SOUP

These acronyms will help you get your footing in Rock Creek's advocacy world.

**CCW** - Choose Clean Water Coalition  
**CBP** - Chesapeake Bay Program  
**CBF** - Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
**CWA** - Clean Water Act  
**DCEN** - DC Environmental Network  
**DC WASA** - DC Water & Sewer Authority  
**DEP** - Department of Environmental Protection (Montgomery County)  
**DDOT** - District Department of Transportation  
**DOEE** - District Department of Energy & Environment  
**DPW** - Department of Public Works  
**EA** - Environmental Assessment  
**EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency  
**LTCP** - Long-term control plans  
**M-NCPPC** - The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
**MDE** - Maryland Department of the Environment  
**MS4** - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System  
**NPS** - National Park Service  
**NRDC** - Natural Resources Defense Council  
**PAYT** - Pay As You Trash  
**RCPP** - Regional Conservation Partnership Program  
**ROCR** - Rock Creek Park  
**TMDL** - Total Maximum Daily Load

Start your activism at home and sign up for the Rock Creek Conservancy e-news letter to get our up-to-date action alerts.  
[rockcreekconservancy.org/get-involved/stay-connected](http://rockcreekconservancy.org/get-involved/stay-connected)

## 2017 ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



### The Year of MS4 - Local

**MS4 permits detail how a local jurisdiction will achieve the pollution reductions necessary to meet the waste load allocations set forth in their EPA approved TMDLs.** In 2017, both the Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. MS4 permits were in the process of being renewed. RCC got involved because outcomes of these renewals are vital to restoring Rock Creek.

**Both renewals were reviewed by RCC and the greater clean water community and both were deemed to have inadequate protections for our waters.** In D.C. the new MS4 permit would allow the District to backslide on its previously set stormwater retention goals. In Montgomery County, the MS4 permit does not properly incentivize the installation of green infrastructure practices. Neither MS4 permit was deemed adequate to reduce pollution to meet their respective TMDLs. RCC has signed on to letters to address both, and the renewals are still underway as of January 23, 2018.



### Styrofoam Ban - Maryland

On January 1, 2016, the Montgomery County styrofoam ban went into effect, but we are still pushing for a Maryland wide Styrofoam Ban which would more thoroughly protect Rock Creek and the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River watersheds.

In 2017, RCC sent out an action alert and encouraged the Rock Creek community to support the styrofoam ban, but the Maryland General Assembly did not pass the bill. **In 2018, we will be trying again.**

**ACT NOW:** <https://goo.gl/baPqXX>



### Forest Conservation Act - Maryland

Maryland's forests are at risk due to an ineffective Forest Conservation Act that needs major updating. From 2008 to 2016 developers cut down 14,480 acres of forest in Maryland without replanting them.

**In 2017, the Conservancy signed the CBF testimony in support of strengthening the act to help stop forest losses from development.** Unfortunately, this bill stalled in committee but RCC continues to help push for an updated Forest Conservation Act in 2018.

**ACT NOW:** <https://goo.gl/sjRycs>



### Farm Bill - S.2139 - Federal

Passed in 2008, the Farm Bill aims to assist agricultural producers to minimize excess nutrients and sediments that enter waterways in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**The Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancement Act of 2017 makes changes to the bill (specifically the RCPP) in order to improve and build upon conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay.** It was introduced in November, 2017 and we signed a letter of support along with 67 other organizations. We continue to watch its progress in 2018.



@LoveRockCreek



@RockCreekConservancy