



Community Development and Code Compliance Department Community Outreach: The Prince George County Department of Community Development and Code Compliance was recently awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee providing funds to install markers on storm drains. Storm drains selected for marking will be in residential and commercial areas of the county that drain to either the Appomattox River or the James River.

The colorful markers say “NO DUMPING...DRAINS TO BAY”. The markers are intended to inform and educate the public about the importance of, and vulnerability of storm drains. Storm drains carry water directly to nearby waterways. Stormwater can carry trash and pollutants (sediment, nutrients, dog feces, oil, toxic chemicals) straight into our streams and rivers.

Pollutants like these interfere with the life of fish, bottom-dwelling creatures and plants, and pose a threat to human health: that means us! In particular, nutrients and sediment are a principal cause of the loss of oysters and underwater grasses which normally grow in the Chesapeake Bay.

The only thing that should be going into the storm drain is rain. Remember this useful slogan:

“Only Rain Down the Drain!”

Storm Drain Marking is an important community service intended to remind everyone to help prevent water pollution. Residents can use the markers as an educational tool for their children and visitors to the area. The Prince George markers feature two colors in order to get noticed and are made of metal to last a long time.

Funding for this grant was made possible by the sale of “Friend of the Chesapeake Bay” license plates. Proceeds from the sale of these plates help citizens keep the Bay healthy by restoring wetlands, planting buffers around waterways, promoting marine life restoration, decreasing pollution, and providing educational projects.

If you or your civic-minded group are interested in volunteering to help place markers in selected areas around Prince George County, please contact Diane Cook at dcook@princegeorgecountyva.gov . Diane will provide you with a safety vest to wear and training for installation of the markers. This will just require 2 hours of your time. She can schedule your group for a weekday or on a Saturday morning (minimum is 2 persons per group for safety reasons, everyone installing a marker needs a lookout buddy). She especially needs volunteers from the following subdivisions to help install markers: Stratford Woods, Branchester Lakes, Birchett, The Meadows, Jordan on the James, Moncol, and the apartments at Independence Place, Bailey’s Ridge, and Jefferson Pointe.