



## Event Announcement: Antietam Creek Watershed Report Card Reception & Land Stewardship Drop-In



HAGERSTOWN, MD (May 27, 2025) – The Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA) & the Beaver Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) have announced a reception event to reveal the first Antietam Watershed Report Card to the public. The event will also provide community members an opportunity to meet various organizations and environmental practitioners to learn methods and funding sources to improve their personal land stewardship practices.

Watershed report cards are powerful tools used around the world to describe ecosystem status, increase public awareness, and inform decision makers. The Antietam Watershed Report Card evaluates the Antietam and its drainage area within Washington County, MD using nine indicators in three categories: water quality, biota, and landscape with data collected by ACWA\BCWA's Community Science volunteers, MD DNR, and Potomac Riverkeeper Network. The report card was developed by ACWA, BCWA, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

Attend the event to receive a copy of the report card, learn how the watershed's grade was determined, and hear about projects planned to help improve our report card grade. We will also announce details of new State Whole Watershed Act Funding to assist with Antietam Watershed restoration projects.

Several environmental organizations and stewardship practitioners will be at the event to offer attendees information on sustainable land use practices, discuss potential projects, and explain available funding sources. For instance, property owners can learn how to create sustainable landscaping in their own yards, discuss funding for large- and small-scale tree plantings, and consider healthier agricultural practices to protect soil and water quality.



### **Stewardship Practitioners will include:**

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation-Maryland Grazers Network Representative
- Heart of Maryland/Catoctin Land Trust Representatives
- MD DNR Forest Service Tree Planting Specialists
- Washington County Master Gardener Bay-Wise Coordinators
- Washington County Stormwater & Watershed Services Department
- Washington County Soil Conservation District Representatives

The event will be Thursday June 12, 2025, from 3:00-6:30pm (schedule below) and will be held at the Beaver Creek School Event Center (9702 Beaver Creek Church Rd, Hagerstown)

### **Event Schedule:**

3 pm Doors Open of the Beaver Creek School Event Center

3:30 pm Report Card Presentation & Whole Watershed Funding Announcement

4-6:30 pm Community Reception and Open Stewardship Practitioner Tables

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Come when you can, leave when you must. Event updates and details at:

[www.acwamaryland.org/events/antietamreportcardrelease2025](http://www.acwamaryland.org/events/antietamreportcardrelease2025)

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### **ANTIETAM-CONOCOCHIEAGUE WATERSHED ALLIANCE**

The Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA) is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization passionate about protecting and restoring the Antietam & Conococheague Creeks as a healthy environment for recreation, ecological habitat, and improved water quality.

[www.acwamaryland.org](http://www.acwamaryland.org)

### **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science leads the way toward better management of Maryland's natural resources and the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. From a network of laboratories located across the state, UMCES scientists provide sound evidence and advice to help state and national leaders manage the environment and prepare future scientists to meet the global challenges of the 21st century.

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