

# Patty McGrath



February 5, 2024



Dear Recipient Name,

I am extremely concerned that our County and State have made terrible decisions to destroy mature forests and streams. And there are proposals to continue this destruction in the name of ecological improvement. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Past projects have such a dismal track record that it is time to curtail abuse of MS4 permits. Most have been a huge MISTAKE.

1. Stream “restorations” destroy natural areas. Direct evidence of washed-out projects and the science show that they don’t work to either stabilize streams or improve the ecology. Even DEP admits that none of their past projects improved stream ecology.

2. Budget dollars in the FY25 Capital Budget’s Conservation of Natural Resources category should instead be spent on out-of-stream stormwater control practices that, unlike stream “restorations,” address a whole range of residents’ concerns such as reducing urban flooding, reducing heat islands, increasing property values, providing urban green spaces, and protecting natural areas.

3. There are 20 out-of-stream stormwater control practices that are less expensive than stream “restorations” according to Maryland Department of the Environment. DEP uses misleading data to claim that stream “restoration” are cheaper (details in presentation link below).

4. The way to stop stream erosion is to address the problem at its source - to control stormwater outside of streams by non-destructive practices such as raingardens, bioswales, tree planting, etc. in already disturbed areas.

I urge you to view this short video of the destruction done by a typical stream restoration, use this link: [video](#).

Use this link to see a presentation on the benefits of out-of-stream stormwater control and the problems with stream “restorations”: [Stormwater Control & Stream Restoration: What Works and What Does Not](#). You will be able to view catastrophic failures from severe storms. And no one thinks our climate extremes are going to magically moderate. They are likely to get worse.

We can protect our streams and save money by meeting stormwater control regulations with upland, out-of-stream practices. Our County Council must remove funding for stream “restoration” projects and repairs which will get washed out yet again. I completely reject the assertions of MD DEP that other methods of protecting the environment and managing storm water are unrealistic. The SCIENCE says otherwise! A view of the many before and after photos in these documents, as well as the long list of “Restoration” failures should be enough for us to finally make the right decision.

It is time to apply common sense to stop destroying mature forest stands. Stream disturbance must be limited to critical infrastructure restoration.

Sincerely yours,

Patty McGrath