

down to earth

Environmental Restoration Quarterly • Summer 2026

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A Career of Support and Impact

By: Claire Hirt, Watershed Restoration Manager

In June, we celebrated with Glenn Edwards as he stepped into retirement after 15 years with Carroll County Government. As the Environmental Coordinator for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits, Glenn has guided the County and all eight municipalities through evolving stormwater requirements and compliance with our joint Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

Over the years, Glenn has been instrumental in building and running many MS4-related efforts. In particular, he played a major role in developing programs for staff training, storm drain mapping, education and outreach, property management, and illicit discharge detection and elimination.

Glenn placed relationships at the heart of everything he did here at the County and approached his work through a lens of collaboration, humility, and support. As a guiding presence in our MS4 world and friend to so many, we will certainly miss him! Wishing Glenn all the best in retirement, and we thank him for his service to the staff and residents of Carroll County.



Glenn and his wife, Vicki Edwards, celebrating his retirement in June



Glenn facilitating "The Storm Drain Game" while hosting the Water Resource Booth

Resource Management Division (RMD)
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<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/planning-land-management/resource-management/>

Protecting and managing Carroll County's natural resources for the pleasure and enjoyment of its Citizens

Monocacy River Board - Annual River Float

By: Byron Madigan, Water Resource Manager

The Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board spent the 3rd Sunday in May exploring along a section of the Monocacy River, putting in at Mumma Ford Road and taking out at Route 77. In addition to the Scenic Monocacy River, Carroll County also has two designated water trails within the Monocacy River Watershed. The Little Pipe Creek water trail winds 9.5 miles from the launch in Union Bridge at Locust Street before its confluence with Big Pipe Creek just above the take-out at Double Pipe Creek Park in Detour, and the Big Pipe Creek Water Trail, which starts at Hape's Mill Road, winds approximately 7 miles in length before its confluence with Little Pipe Creek.

Additional information about these water trails, including guidance on proper flow conditions and links to local USGS gauges can be found on the Carroll County Government's Recreation and Parks page. [Carroll County Water Trails](#)

If you would be interested in promoting the enhancement of natural resources within the Monocacy River Watershed, the board currently has an opening for a volunteer who is looking to serve and participate. The River Board has an overall goal of serving as advocates for the Monocacy River, its watershed and the varied resources contained within, meeting once per month in the evenings. For additional information contact Byron Madigan at 410-386-2167.



Another Year, Another Drought

By: Zachary Neal, Hydrogeologist

It isn't your imagination; Carroll Countians find themselves facing yet another drought this year. This is the third dry spell that the County has experienced within the last three years that has lasted six months or longer in duration. Put simply, the County has been classified as experiencing drought more often than not since the summer of 2023.

This latest dry spell comes on the heels of our last drought, with only four months separating the two. The drought we experienced in the first half of 2025 actually originated in the Fall of 2024, increasing in intensity through the winter and spring months, until the County received significantly more rainfall than normal in May and June of 2025.

This year's ongoing drought follows an identical pattern, with an origin back to September-to-October of 2025. Precipitation deficits persisting through the fall and into the early winter months led to intensification of the drought and limited the amount of groundwater level recovery we experienced over the winter. While snowmelt and rainfall in February brought minor relief, precipitation remained at or below normal over the winter months, allowing the precipitation deficit that accumulated over the fall months to persist into 2026.

Going into July, the County continues to experience a precipitation deficit for the water year (runs October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026) of approximately 5 to 8.5 inches. County staff maintain a groundwater observation network across the County, in which groundwater levels are measured every other week. As of early July, the majority of groundwater wells in the County's observation network were indicating that groundwater levels were below normal. Available forecasting on the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that drought conditions are anticipated to persist.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) continues to assign to the Central Maryland Region (which includes Carroll County), as well as the Western and Eastern Regions, a Drought Warning status. Under this warning, the state seeks a 10-15% reduction in water use. The MDE and Carroll County continues to ask residents to be cognizant of the current situation and voluntarily reduce water usage. Water conservation measures are the primary and most immediate tool available to combat the effects of drought. Both the County and MDE will continue to track hydrologic conditions and apprise citizens of further changes in conditions.

Responding to Drought

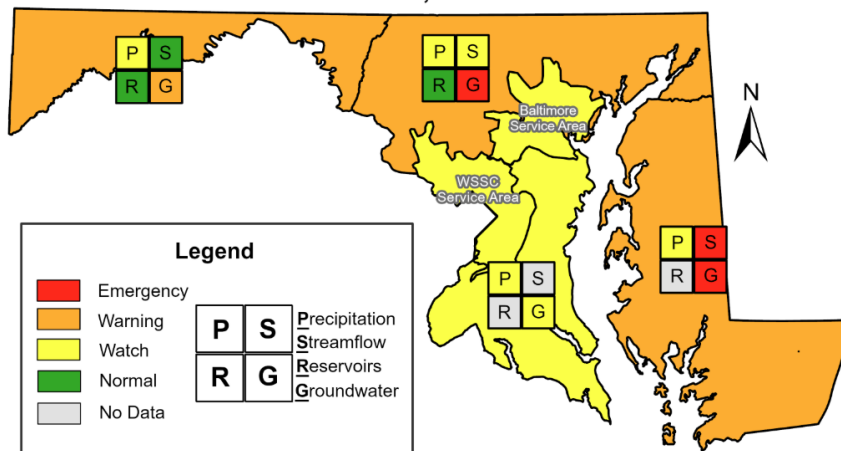
(Tips from MDE's website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/droughtinformation/pages/responding.aspx>)

- Be aware of how much water you use!
- Repair all leaks.
- Refrigerate a pitcher of drinking water instead of letting a faucet flow until the water is cold enough to drink.
- Use a dishpan or plug the sink for washing dishes.
- Do not pre-rinse dishes prior to loading in a dishwasher.
- Operate the washing machine and dishwasher only when they are fully loaded.
- Use the proper water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways, steps and sidewalks.
- Water your garden during the coolest part of the day.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.

Drought Status in Maryland

June 30, 2026



Note: Drought Monitoring for Eastern MD does not include Reservoir data, Southern MD does not include Stream or Reservoir Data. The Groundwater Status for Southern Maryland is based on confined and unconfined wells, please refer to the full report.

Restoration News

By: Claire Hirt, Watershed Restoration Manager

Construction will be kicking off in the near future on a new surface sand filter at the Hampstead Valley 4 restoration site in Hampstead. We will be working with Kinsley Construction to build a much-needed stormwater facility to manage flashy urban flows and establish a more stable stream channel. This has been a collaborative project with the Town of Hampstead, The Fields Homeowners Association, and local residents who have all

provided input on the design. The design engineer for the project is CLSI, and the project is funded in part by Maryland's Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. For more information on this grant program, please visit <https://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/pages/funding/trust-fund.aspx>.

We have two upcoming projects that are nearing the end of the design process, and we look

forward to moving into the construction phase later this year. The Windemere project, located on the east side of Westminster, and the Meadow Ridge project, located on the west side of Westminster, will each be converting existing older stormwater facilities into upgraded surface sand filters.

Upcoming Events

By: Claire Hirt, Watershed Restoration Manager

Summer brings numerous engaging opportunities for the community at County parks, nature centers, and with local organizations. Did you know that our Facebook page, *Carroll Environment*, posts about many of these opportunities? You can also peruse the Carroll County Recreation & Parks Summer

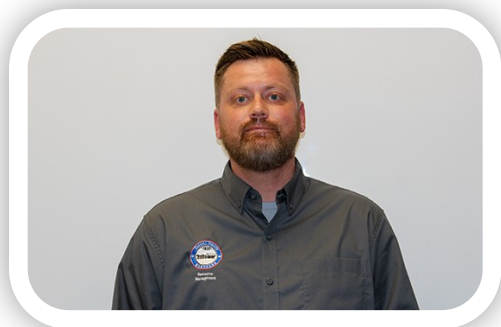
Guide at https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/media/k04fxgxv/ccrp_program-guide_summer_2026.pdf for a full list of County programs.

On **Tuesday, August 4th** the **Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair** will be once again hosting **Children's Day** from **9am to 2pm**.

The Water Resource Booth will be attending with a stormwater-focused craft, the watershed model, maps to explore, and some buggy conversation starters. The day is always well attended, and we are looking forward to connecting with so many families and nature-curious kids once again!

Meet the Staff - Promotion

**Timothy Matt, Environmental Coordinator
for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits**



This summer Timothy Matt was promoted from Environmental Inspector to Environmental Coordinator, NPDES. Tim grew up in Middletown, which is in Frederick County, Maryland. He graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Tim was hired by the County right before the COVID Pandemic in December 2019. His family owns and operates a small oyster farm in the Northern Neck region of Virginia. In his free time, Tim enjoys paddleboarding, disc golf and making weekend trips to local farmers markets. He is excited for his new role and making an impact on the overall environmental health of Carroll County.