

The Watershed Resources Registry (WRR)



The (WRR), a Green Highways Partnership project, is a partnership of agencies who developed a framework for integrated watershed management. A GIS based targeting tool was developed to analyze watersheds and identify the best opportunities for the protection of high quality resources, restoration of impaired resources, resource conservation and environmental resource planning, and improvement of stormwater management. The WRR is intended to integrate the Clean Water Act (CWA) authorities by facilitating implementation of CWA Sections 319, 401, 402, and 404, TMDL implementation practices, and multiple state programs.

Partnering Agencies

EPA Region 3; US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE); MD State Highway Administration (SHA); US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); Federal Highways Administration (FHWA); Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR); Maryland Environmental Service (MES); and Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB)

Prioritizing opportunities based on the ecological needs of the watershed

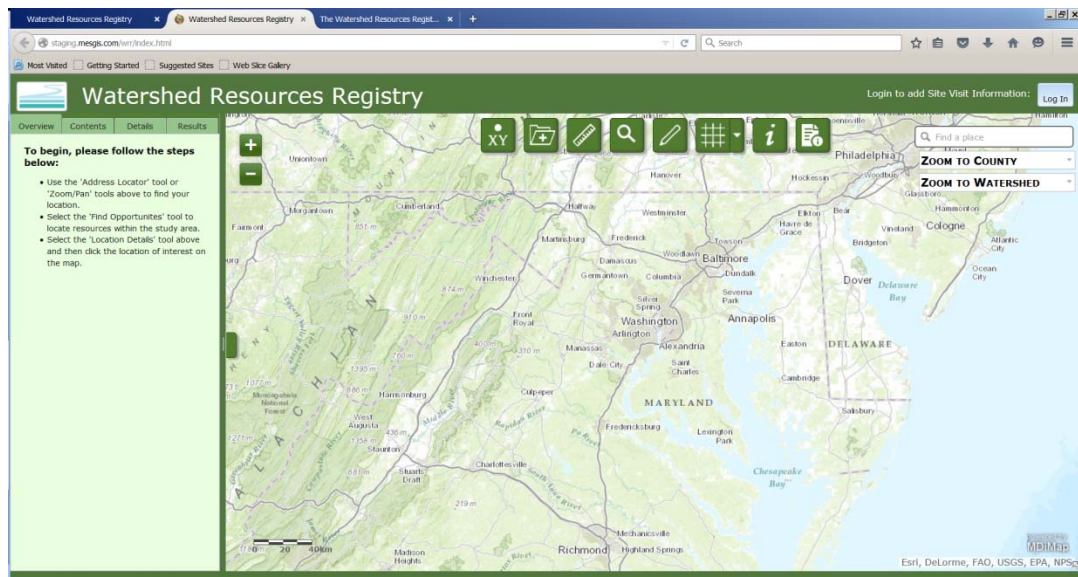
Eight (8) suitability analyses were developed through the interagency partnership workgroup to identify the best opportunities for the following practices. Priorities were based on ecological needs as defined by water quality, habitat, and biological assessments.

- Upland Preservation
- Upland Restoration
- Wetland Preservation
- Wetland Restoration
- Riparian Zone Preservation
- Riparian Zone Restoration
- Preserve Natural Stormwater Infrastructure
- Restore Compromised Stormwater Infrastructure

Status

Under development for three years, the WRR initially focused on a pilot region within Southern Maryland but is now available statewide. The tool is available through a web-based application developed by MES and funded by SHA. Field verification studies are being performed. EPA, ACE, FHWA and FWS are promoting the tool as a national model. Reviewers are asked to evaluate the models and tools at: <http://www.watershedresourcesregistry.org/>

Applications



- Focus federal funding and improve federal/state integration among CWA (319, 401,402,404, 303(d)) programs
- CWA activities include Non-Point Source management, watershed planning,
 - permit review, mitigation assessments and banking
 - TMDL Implementation and Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay WIP development
 - NEPA and State environmental review
- Integrated transportation, energy and land use planning

Benefits

- Reduces costs through more efficient administration of regulatory and non-regulatory Programs and less review/site assessment/coordination time
- Improves environmental outcomes

- More informed and integrated decision making among multiple users
- Uses a common watershed-based platform
- Provides access to updated, consistent, and defensible data
- Enhanced protection and targeted restoration of resources
- Achieves multiple environmental objectives
- Model approach for addressing potential new stormwater requirements (offsite mitigation, credits, offsets) on a watershed basis
- Is transparent, predictable, and reliable
- Promotes stakeholder and public involvement
- Provides transferability to other states nationwide

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