



BEST URBAN BMP

in the Bay Award



Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Recognizing innovators in the field & sharing techniques that solve the challenges of urban stormwater management.



Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Program

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The BUBBAs

Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award

*to recognize the best BMPs that have been installed
since 2010 in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*

Presented by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network
<http://chesapeakestormwater.net/the-bubbas/>

1 Objective

The Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award (BUBBA) contest is designed to recognize innovators who have formulated new and innovative techniques for managing stormwater in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This contest offers an avenue through which we can disseminate innovative techniques to communities who can benefit from the lessons learned during the implementation of these techniques. We understand that every urban BMP faces a unique set of challenges. The BUBBAs are not an opportunity to lament about the problems a project has faced, but to *boast* about the creative approaches groups have used to overcome those problems. By showcasing innovative best management practices and low impact design, we hope to promote the application of unique, effective solutions to stormwater management challenges throughout the watershed.

The goal of the BUBBAs is three-fold:

- 1 Recognize innovators in the field who are using new and innovative techniques for facing the challenges of stormwater management;
- 2 Provide an avenue for disseminating these techniques to other communities who could benefit from the lessons learned and innovative approaches; and
- 3 Engage CSN's nearly 7,000 member network of stormwater professionals throughout the Bay watershed to promote interactivity among the members.

2 Steering Committee

The function of the steering committee is to help guide the structure of the contest to ensure feasibility and the achievement of our stated goals. The following four people serve on the BUBBAs steering committee as we believe their professional experience as well as their shared visions and goals uniquely qualify them to guide this contest. The steering committee members are also responsible for serving on a jury that conducts the initial screening of projects for their specific categories, reviews projects, and selects the BUBBA contest winners.

- ❖ Anne Guillette, Arlington County, Virginia
- ❖ Greg Hoffmann, Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.
- ❖ Kelly Lindow, CityScape Engineering
- ❖ Bill Stack, Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.

3 Eligibility

Any project submitted for consideration of a Bubba award must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have been installed in the ground within the last 5 years: beginning January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2014
2. Must be located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed unless the project is being submitted to the “Best Innovative BMP Outside the Watershed” category
3. Must not be a proprietary practice. However, local reproductions of proprietary technology may be submitted
4. Projects that were submitted for the 2014 contest are not eligible for consideration in the 2015 contest unless significant changes in implementation or monitoring have occurred

4 Award Categories

No two urban BMPs are alike! Each one is faced with a unique set of challenges and represents solutions for specific stormwater management goals. In order to recognize those unique solutions, promote their application throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and ensure broad participation entries will be accepted in the following seven categories.

1. *Residential BMPs*

A stormwater BMP or series of practices installed on a residential property. Example projects include: rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, vegetated roofs, conservation landscaping, tree planting, downspout disconnection, soil amendments. Total investment in a BMP entered into this category should generally be less than \$5,000. BMPs installed by homeowners, contractors or watershed groups are all eligible. If you are submitting your application as a homeowner, please be sure to identify the individuals or organizations that designed and installed the project on your property when filling out your application. Residential BMPs will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Effectively treats a substantial portion of runoff from the property
- Provides aesthetic improvements to property
- Involves simple maintenance to upkeep
- Includes design features to promote effective practice function
- Provides additional non-stormwater benefits (i.e. reduced basement flooding, reduced heating and cool costs, attracts wildlife, etc.)

Applications to this category should describe how the residential BMP meets any of the relevant criteria above.

2. *Innovative BMPs*

This category includes nontraditional and creative solutions for the management or mitigation of stormwater. For this category, we are seeking projects that utilize cutting edge management practices or demonstrate creativity through unique and beneficial alterations to traditional BMPs. Innovative BMPs will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Meets or exceeds the minimum stormwater sizing requirements in the jurisdiction in which it was built (for new or redevelopment projects) or demonstrates a unique retrofit solution
- Includes new or multiple design mechanisms to enhance runoff reduction and/or pollutant removal
- Exceeds the standard state design specification for the practice (if there is one) or modifies an existing state design specification for enhanced BMP performance
- Testing, monitoring, or assessment results are available to confirm the effective performance of the practice
- Effectively integrates stormwater management with additional non-stormwater uses or site benefits (i.e. recreational use, pedestrian access, water re-use, multi-space function, etc.)

Applications to this category should describe how the innovative BMP meets any of the relevant criteria above.

3. *Ultra-Urban BMPs*

Stormwater practices built in infill or redevelopment projects in urban areas with more than 75% site impervious cover should be submitted to this category. Example projects include: infill and redevelopment projects, green street retrofits, green roofs, etc. Ultra-urban BMPs will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Achieves a high runoff reduction/pollutant removal rate for the site
- Utilizes unique combinations of innovative LID practices to achieve goals
- Creates an attractive site, neighborhood, or street amenity
- Effectively overcomes the infrastructure, utility, traffic, or other challenges of the ultra-urban environment
- Other innovative approaches

Applications to this category should describe how the ultra-urban project meets any of the relevant criteria above.

4. *Best Combination of BMPs in a Series*

These projects utilize two or more BMPs in a series for the best possible treatment of stormwater. Example projects include: larger residential or commercial development projects and/or small watershed restoration projects that involve multiple practices working together. Combination BMPs will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Meets or exceeds the minimum stormwater sizing requirements in the jurisdiction in which it was built (for new or redevelopment projects) or demonstrates a unique retrofit solution
- Utilizes distributed LID practices effectively in a series
- Reduces or eliminates the need for centralized detention ponds for control of large storm events
- Effectively links the built environment to the natural landscape
- Provides evidence that the system of practices can effectively function during the expected range of storm events
- Shows evidence of effective use of better site design, natural resource protection and other nonstructural practices

Applications submitted to this category should describe how the BMPs in series meet any of the relevant criteria above.

5. *Best Habitat Creation in a BMP*

BMPs that provide a unique blend of aquatic or upland wildlife habitat while still providing effective stormwater function are eligible for this category. Projects will receive extra points if the created habitat connects with existing habitat or waterways, to support enhanced function along a wildlife corridor. Projects should result in a minimum of 20,000 square feet of habitat, either through the creation of new habitat on a project site or by connecting with existing habitat. Example projects include constructed wetlands. Projects built for mitigation are **not** eligible. Stream restoration projects are also **not** eligible under this category (see next category). Habitat BMPs will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Meets or exceeds the water quality requirements for the site if applicable
- Utilizes native plantings that provide multiple habitat zones
- Results in at least 20,000 square feet of habitat
- Attracts wildlife that were not present at the site before implementation of the project, including pollinators, songbirds, waterfowl and other wildlife
- Provides enhanced habitat function without excessive inputs of irrigation water, fertilizer or pesticides

Applications submitted to this category should describe how the habitat creation meets any of the relevant criteria above.

6. *Best Stream Restoration*

This category applies to any project in the stream corridor (including zero order streams) that is explicitly designed to enhance the function, stability, and

ecosystem services of an urban stream. Example projects include: legacy sediment removal, floodplain reconnection, and natural channel design. Stream restoration projects will be evaluated on their ability to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Project was part of an integrated watershed-based approach
- Meets or exceeds clearly stated goals and objectives that were based on an assessment of critical stream functions
- Has successfully withstood significant flood events without damage
- Utilizes innovative stream restoration techniques including (but not limited to) floodplain reconnection, legacy sediment removal, and/or natural channel design
- Maximizes biological uplift within the stream reach
- Minimizes the intrusion or damage to the stream corridor or floodplain
- Improvements resulting from the project are substantiated by post-construction monitoring and/or assessment

Applications submitted to this category should describe how the stream restoration project meets any of the relevant criteria above.

7. *Best Innovative BMP Outside the Watershed (BIBOW)*

Nontraditional solutions for the management or mitigation of stormwater at a site. Innovative BMPs outside of the watershed will be evaluated on their ability to meet the following criteria:

- Utilizes a novel technology or treatment mechanism pollutants that is not commonly applied in the Chesapeake Bay region to reduce runoff and remove
- Contains unique design elements or specifications that may be transferrable to the Chesapeake Bay region
- Meets or exceeds the minimum stormwater sizing requirements in the jurisdiction in which it was built (for new or redevelopment project) or demonstrates a unique retrofit solution (for existing development)
- Includes some effort to track its performance over time. This can involve testing, monitoring, and/or visual assessment to confirm that the performance of the BMP over time (water quality monitoring, photo documentation, etc.)
- Effectively integrates stormwater management function with the other non-stormwater uses or site benefits (e.g. recreational use, pedestrian access, water re-use, multi-space function)

Applications submitted to this category should describe how the project outside of the Chesapeake Bay region meets any of the relevant criteria above.

5 Process for Submissions

To make things easy, there will be only a one-stage submission process that takes place entirely online. An application should take a maximum of 15-20 minutes to complete and will involve filling out a single page online form and uploading a minimum of four photos (including one photo depicting the site before the BMP was installed). Participants have the option to submit additional photos and design plans that show practice design plans if they believe these materials will help our jurors understand more detailed of the project.

Submission Instructions

All submissions will need to include the following information:

1. Basic Project Data
2. Narrative
3. Photographs (4)
4. Supporting Materials *optional*

Basic Project Data

This data will be provided by filling out an online form that will be identical across all categories. It will include:

1. Type of practice
2. Category applying for
3. Applicant contact information
4. Practice design team (Designer, Contractor, Installer, Architect, etc.)
5. Runoff volume treated by the BMP (in cubic feet)
6. Drainage area (in acres)
7. % impervious surface in drainage area
8. Approximate cost
9. Geographic location information (latitudinal/longitudinal info or physical address)
10. A 3-sentence description of the project to be displayed on our website if the project is chosen as one of our finalists

Narrative

Applicants are required to submit a brief narrative (2 pages, 1,300 words **maximum**). To read an exemplary project narrative from last year's contest, please visit the "register your project" page on our website.

Your narrative should explain:

1. Why the project is being submitted for a specific award category **and**
2. How their project meets one or more of the category design criteria

In addition contestants will be asked to respond to the following in their narrative:

- Intent of the project and key objectives accomplished
- Major site, design, or construction challenges you had to overcome or why the project is unique
- Any education & outreach or community involvement that occurred as part of the project

Narratives that specifically spell out how the project meets the above criteria will have a better chance in the contest. To see an example of an exemplary narrative from last year's competition, click [here](#).

Photographs

All photographs will become property of CSN who has the right to use them as long the authors are attributed with a correct citation.

1. A minimum of 4 photographs are required for consideration of an award.
2. This includes one of the site before the BMP was installed.
3. All photograph submittals should be in jpg/png format
4. Each photograph should be labeled with a descriptive file name to explain what they are trying to portray or participants should include an additional document that provides this information

Supporting Materials

Participants have the option to submit additional photos and design plans that show practice design details that will be helpful for reviewing more detailed elements of the project.

All supporting materials will become property of CSN and will not be returned.

Submit Your Project Here: <http://chesapeakestormwater.net/the-bubbas/>

6 Distinguished Jury

The jury reviews the project submissions and select projects which are on the cutting edge of innovation in an attempt to nominate distinguished innovators. Our jury represents diverse perspectives in the field of stormwater management and can evaluate the project submissions according to the many objectives of a stormwater BMP. Each category review committee will consist of one steering committee members and at least two specialists from the list below. (*Denotes steering committee member)

- ❖ Anne Guillette, [Arlington County, VA](#)*
- ❖ Greg Hoffmann, [Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.](#)*
- ❖ Kelly Lindow, [CityScape Engineering](#)*
- ❖ Tom Schueler, Chesapeake Stormwater Network*
- ❖ Bill Stack, [Center for Watershed Protection, Inc.](#)*
- ❖ Ted Brown, [Biohabitats, Inc.](#)
- ❖ Scott Crafton, [Louis Berger Group](#)
- ❖ Jennifer Dowdell, [Biohabitats, Inc.](#)
- ❖ Sadie Drescher, [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)
- ❖ Suzanne Etgen, [Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy](#)
- ❖ Norm Goulet, [Northern Virginia Regional Commission](#)
- ❖ Laura Grape, [Northern Virginia Regional Commission](#)
- ❖ Chris Heyn, [Carroll County, MD](#)
- ❖ Sarah Lane, [University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#)
- ❖ Scott Lowe, [McCormick Taylor](#)
- ❖ Erik Michelsen, [Anne Arundel County, MD](#)
- ❖ Dana Puzey, [Blue Water Baltimore](#)
- ❖ Steve Saari, [District Department of the Environment](#)
- ❖ Rebecca Stack, [District Department of the Environment](#)
- ❖ JoAnn Trach Tongson, [Mahan Rykiel Associates](#)
- ❖ Ashley Traut, [Blue Water Baltimore](#)
- ❖ Jenny Tribo, [Hampton Roads Planning District Commission](#)

7 Cash Awards and Winner Recognition

Winners will be announced to CSN's network of 7,000 stormwater professionals within the Bay watershed.

- ❖ The top three finalists in each award category will receive certificates of recognition for placing as a finalists in the award category and be featured on the CSN website
- ❖ Category winners will receive a free registration to the 2015 Bay-wide Partners Stormwater Retreat where they will be recognized at a BUBBAs awards ceremony.
- ❖ Grand prize winner (the people's choice award) will receive a cash award of \$5,000

8 Timeline/Competition Calendar:

December 11, 2014	Contest opens
February 15, 2015	Deadline for submissions
February 2015	Preliminary screening by category leads
March 2015	Convene Jury for final review
April 7-9, 2015	Awards Ceremony at Bay-wide Retreat