



## Maryland Coastal Bays Program

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

# BAY FRIENDLY PROGRAM

### 20 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR:

- ◆ WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROTECTION
- ◆ WATER QUALITY PROTECTION
- ◆ WATER CONSERVATION
- ◆ EDUCATION & OUTREACH



**PARTICIPATING GARDEN CENTERS**  
**VILLAGE GREENS, OCEAN CITY MD**  
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**HOW SWEET IT IS, EDEN MD**  
410-742-3987

**WWW.MDCOASTALBAYS.ORG**

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## WHAT IS THE BAY-FRIENDLY PROGRAM?

The bay-friendly program teaches residents how to manage their property in an environmentally-friendly way.

Bay-friendly residents practice techniques that protect drinking water, reduce exposures to harsh chemicals, protect important habitats and ensure the long-term health of local bays, creeks and waterways.

You can enhance the natural resources in your community by using environmentally friendly practices in landscaping, by planting native trees and shrubs, and by being involved in education concerning day-to-day activities.



Vegetated swales beautify the community, capture rainwater, and filter out pollutants before they reach local streams.

## HOW DOES THE BAY-FRIENDLY PROGRAM WORK?

Inside this brochure is a checklist of things that you can do to protect the environment and become bay-friendly. If you have specific questions about the checklist, visit our website for more thorough explanations. Once you have completed the checklist, mail the completed form to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program or contact us by email to receive credit for your accomplishments and to be recognized as a bay-friendly resident.

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program will award you with a decal and a certificate of appreciation to recognize you as a bay-friendly resident.



Rain Barrels conserve water by catching water from your rooftop for later use in your garden and flower beds.

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Maryland Coastal Bays Program**  
9919 Stephen Decatur Highway -  
Suite 4  
Ocean City, MD 21842

Seal closed  
with tape



# MCBP BAY-FRIENDLY CHECKLIST - REFER TO WWW.MDCOASTALBAYS.ORG FOR GREATER DETAIL ABOUT COMPLETING THE CHECKLIST.

INSTRUCTIONS: COMPLETE THE CHECKLIST, COUNT THE NUMBER OF ITEMS CHECKED, SEND CHECKLIST TO THE MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM WHEN YOU REACH THE TARGET SCORE.

Phone #:

Name:

### Water Quality Protection and Water Conservation (One Point Each)

- I direct my gutters away from pavement and onto the grass (or vegetated area).
- I have not increased impervious (non porous) surfaces on my property or I limit rainwater runoff.
- I water my plants/lawn less often but for longer duration (to allow 1 inch applications) or I do not water.
- I water during early morning hours or do not water at all.
- I hand water or use drip irrigation rather than spraying sprinklers.
- I have spray/shut-off nozzles attached to watering hoses.
- I do not "wash" sidewalks or the driveway.

### Bay-friendly Landscaping (One Point Each)

- I minimize lawn areas (naturalized areas are created or groundcovers used).
- I maintain a mowing height at 2-3 inches (or highest possible setting on my mower).
- I plant groundcovers (or other vegetation) or use mulch to cover exposed soil areas.
- I place a maximum of 2-3 inches of mulch around trees, shrubs, and garden beds.
- I group my plants according to their water needs.
- I plant with native plants when creating new areas or replacing existing areas.
- I remove invasive plants where possible.
- I leave dead trees and brush where possible to provide a food source and habitat for wildlife.
- I have a pond(s) and/or bird bath(s) on the property.

### Limiting Fertilizer and Pesticide Use (One Point Each)

- I do not use fertilizers; or, slow release/organic fertilizers are used based on results from a soil test.
- I keep excess fertilizer and debris off of driveway/sidewalks and out of storm drains.
- I use compost or grass clippings as a lawn/garden amendment.
- I can identify 5 beneficial insects in my lawn/garden.

- I minimize my pesticide use, pesticides used are low toxicity or organic (pesticides include both herbicides and insecticides), or pesticides are not used at all.
- I spot spray pesticides/chemicals (ex: only affected plants or lawn areas are treated instead of spraying the whole lawn) or use no pesticides.
- I apply an integrated approach for controlling unwanted insects, weeds, animals, (pulling weeds, spray pests off plants with water, naturally occurring parasites and predators, barrier fences).
- I tolerate some pests (insects and weeds) in my lawn/garden.

### Good Samaritan (One Point Each)

- I pick up and dispose of my pet feces.
- I minimize my winter salt use, salt is not used at all, or alternatives are used.
- I dispose of household chemicals properly.
- I called the local Master Gardeners as a resource regarding one of my lawn/garden related questions.
- I gathered information from another source such as a garden center, magazines, or local cooperative extension to answer one of my lawn/garden related questions.
- I attended at least one educational class or hike on a landscape related topic.
- I communicated my efforts with neighbors, friends, relatives, or other local group.

### Bay Steward - Bonus (2 points each)

- I have installed dry wells or rain barrels on building downspout(s) or have created a rain garden.
- I have bird and/or bat houses installed.
- I have plants that provide a food source for wildlife.
- I live along a waterway or water resource and maintain a naturally vegetated buffer along its edge.
- I live on a wooded lot and do not have a lawn.

MY TOTAL SCORE (add up all of your checkmarks) \_\_\_\_\_ Target Score = 20

*To be recognized as bay-friendly your score must be at least 20.*

*A special thank you to the Stony-Brook Millstone Watershed Association of Pennington NJ for permitting the use of their program materials for the development of this publication.*

Mail checklist or contact the Maryland Coastal Bays Program to be certified as "Bay-friendly"