

St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Study

The St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Study is designed in two phases. The first phase is developing a growth management plan, based on sub-watersheds in a rural area transitioning to suburbs. An extensive watershed characterization has been completed to assess and analyze existing stream conditions, and the most likely future conditions, if suburban growth continues. Alternative actions that can be taken now to minimize the future impacts are being examined. The majority of recommendations are in the form of local actions such as land use regulation, development permitting, low impact development techniques, and stormwater management options. This phase will culminate in an extensive watershed management report, designed to help the County Government manage their resources. A second phase will examine site specific restoration opportunities (which are relatively few) and will culminate in a traditional feasibility study document. Partners include: St. Mary's County, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Center for Watershed Protection.