

# The Patuxent Current

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*The Newsletter of the Patuxent Riverkeeper*



## Holy Smokes! What's Wrong with the River?!

When it comes to clean water it sometimes seems as though we want it, but won't do what's necessary to get it. The Patuxent, like many of the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, reflects the cumulative effects of point source pollution, trash, dumping, storm water runoff, wastewater contamination, neglect and urbanization. And those are just some of the problems. Some parts of the Patuxent River today have advisories against swimming. State health authorities have posted advisories limiting the amount of fin or shellfish you should consume, plus crab and oyster harvests have reached new lows. Who's to blame? All of us really— although some culprits deserve more blame than others. The quandary of a Riverkeeper is to avoid being adversarial with everyone. Collaboration is usually a more effective tool. Yet, the mere hint that cleaning up the River will require one or the other of us to change our behavior, lifestyle, habits or business practices makes people edgy and fingers start pointing elsewhere. Anybody who tells you that "critical areas" laws are sufficient to save the River is misinformed. Laws won't save our waters. Diligence and advocacy will. The government won't save our River either, although citizens working with government can. And, while Riverkeepers are not the only folks clanging the fire bell of alarm at the state of our water resources, the trend is that Riverkeepers collectively are the group likely to take their advocacy to whatever measures (within the law!) to tackle problems in the watershed. In the end it will take more than Riverkeepers to help restore sanity to the ways we use our scarce water resources. But Riverkeepers are an unabashed catalyst that can work in non-governmental ways to attack the broader issues that lead to degraded water. There are lots of ways for you to get involved, too. Donate to this worthy cause, volunteer to help out with a clean-up, and work on an issue or a project. Sign up to monitor or test the stream or river nearest you... and just give a hoot.

**Patuxent Stat:** About 50% of the Patuxent watershed is deforested. About 21% of the watershed is urbanized and 27% is agricultural.



2004 Volunteers roll a metal shed out of the river

## Patuxent Clean-up Double or Nothing!

The Annual Patuxent Clean-up fuses many of the smaller scale efforts by citizens throughout the length of the River into a single annual tradition. This year, there are different clean-up dates in the north and the south of the River. This will allow those who participate in other similar activities such as the Potomac River Clean-up to participate in both events while synchronizing with longstanding cleanups in the north. The Annual Clean-up offers a centralized method of measuring the growth of the total cleanup effort, and to accredit the separate efforts of hundreds of volunteers across the state. The statewide Patuxent Clean-up effort has doubled in size in the first two years. The goal for 2005 is to double it again by adding more civic groups and watershed organizations. In 2004 there were over 40 clean-up sites across the Patuxent watershed on federal, state, county, municipal, corporate, and private property. Volunteers worked from the headwaters in Montgomery and Howard Counties down to the confluence with the Chesapeake. Most of the sites were on the main stem of the River, with the exception of sites on Western Branch, Mill Creek, two tributaries in the Yorktown neighborhood of Bowie, and on the Little and Middle Patuxent. Groups in small craft picked up trash from 24 miles of waterway. Information about 2005 dates and locations can be found on the web at: [www.cleanpatuxent.org](http://www.cleanpatuxent.org)

[www.paxriverkeeper.org](http://www.paxriverkeeper.org)



## About Your Riverkeeper

Fred Tutman is a lifelong resident of the Patuxent River watershed where he has been an activist and volunteer for over 25 years. Tutman lives on a “legacy” family farm within a stone’s throw of the River where he played as a boy and where he was entranced by the beauty and endless mystery of the rural Patuxent. Fred founded and operated a media production and consulting business for two decades and also helmed an information technology company for over two years. However, his overseas travels intensified interest in the environment and in social justice issues. Fred volunteered thousands of hours a year for groups such as the Environmental Fund for MD, For a Rural Maryland, The National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Federation of MD, The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and many others. He is a Commissioner on the State Patuxent River Commission. Fred worked as a law clerk for the DC Water and Sewer Authority and has also clerked in legal roles on numerous issues and causes dealing with conservation, land use, zoning and preservation. As the founding Patuxent Riverkeeper, Fred hopes to bring considerable practical experience as a grassroots activist. A “true believer,” Fred believes that being an advocate for the River is part of the realization of his personal life’s work.



Fred Tutman, Riverkeeper

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## Patuxent Riverkeeper Frequently Asked Questions

### Isn’t there already enough advocacy on the River?

No way. If so, then why has water quality declined steadily for the past several generations? The River needs all the help it can get, and a focused grassroots movement that obtains technical assistance from a national network of similar groups, plus a local Chesapeake Bay collaboration of supporting Riverkeeper organizations is a fresh concept and a new look at a familiar problem. The Riverkeeper does not seek to replace or compete with any other legitimate advocacy activity for the River. The goal is to augment and provide a holistic framework to achieve better liaison from the groups that share common aims.

### Aren’t Riverkeepers controversial?

They shouldn’t be. Riverkeepers work within the law and directly with the “stakeholders” as zealous advocates, doggedly pursuing the aims of protecting the resources. Some people have become accustomed to long dialogues between the stakeholders while the River just gets worse. Riverkeepers believe in *action* and not just meetings. Action makes us controversial to some. The model for direct focused advocacy is effective at cutting through red tape, squelching the foot dragging and inefficiency caused by the extended public debate about pollution while favoring direct public action. National experience shows that Riverkeepers get things done. This makes us especially

controversial to those who either profit from pollution or are just resigned to the status quo.

### Riverkeepers are self-appointed, right?

Nope. The Patuxent Riverkeeper serves at the pleasure of an active Board of Directors and a sustaining non-profit organization that responds to the aims of its members. The assumption that Riverkeepers are self-appointed “river cops” could be because of the appearance of unilateral action centered on someone with whom the buck stops. This is different from the institutionalized approach favored by some watershed advocates. Practically, Riverkeepers answer to high standards and are experienced activists who either do their job--or lose their jobs. Riverkeepers serve the river and the people who also serve the river. These realities discourage unilateral, half baked and “freelance” actions by Riverkeepers.

### How are Riverkeepers funded?

Riverkeepers are supported through memberships, fundraising activities, and foundation or corporate funded support. Most Riverkeeper programs are underfunded and rely upon volunteerism and other means of extending their programmatic activity beyond the constraints of small non-profit budgets.



## About Waterkeepers

Waterkeepers in America began on New York's Hudson River in 1966 when commercial and recreational fishermen united to save the river. In 1983, they hired the first full-time Hudson Riverkeeper to patrol the river, to restore its abundant fisheries and to lead citizen-based enforcement of environmental laws. The early successes of Hudson Riverkeeper spurred an explosive growth of similar grassroots programs across the globe. Founded in 1999 by environmental attorney and activist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the Alliance strengthens the impact of individual Waterkeepers by providing a centralized source of scientific, legal, media and capacity-building resources. Staffed by seasoned environmental organizers and attorneys, the Alliance brings local Waterkeeper organizations together to share the knowledge, insight and skills that help them to protect and defend the well-being of their local waterbodies. With 119 member programs, Waterkeeper Alliance is the nation's fastest growing environmental organization.

## Chesapeake Area Waterkeeper programs include:

The Assateague Coastkeeper, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Chester Riverkeeper, James Riverkeeper, Patapsco Riverkeeper, Potomac Riverkeeper, Severn Riverkeeper, South Riverkeeper, Patuxent Riverkeeper, Virginia Easternshorekeeper, Upper Susquehanna Riverkeeper

### The Patuxent Riverkeeper Founding Board of Directors

Richard Dolesh  
Vincent O. Leggett  
Lee Paul  
Michael Tolker  
Frederick Tutman

**Patuxent Facts:** There were approximately 491,000 people living in the watershed in 1990. This number is expected to grow to 757,000 by 2020 (54% growth!)

## Chesapeake Waterkeepers Mobilize Area Campaign



Robert Kennedy, Jr

In June of 2004, President of the Waterkeeper Alliance, Robert Kennedy, Jr. joined Senator Paul Sarbanes and other luminaries at the Sequoia Restaurant in Georgetown to celebrate *The Chesapeake Initiative*. This important environmental coa-

lition will bring all Chesapeake Waterkeepers together to share resources and leverage their individual strengths in order to expand each Waterkeeper's capacity for on-the-water, citizen-based enforcement of environmental laws in the Chesapeake Bay Area. Today, the Chesapeake Waterkeepers patrol 1,500 miles of tributaries and shorelines throughout the region and are at the forefront of enforcement efforts. This kind of grassroots activism, where communities take charge of their waterways, is critical to protecting the Chesapeake Bay from growing threats posed by development, toxic dumping, sewage discharge, runoff pollution and more. Collaboration between Riverkeepers within the various spheres of the Chesapeake Bay Tributaries allows a more focused and concentrated approach to the practical problems facing Bay clean-up efforts. The area Riverkeepers are aided in this important work by a full time "Regional Coordinator" who provides liaison support and special projects assistance from veteran MD Environmental attorney Erin Fitzsimmons who will establish a Chesapeake "Keeper" office in winter 2005.

### RECORDING ARTISTS SUPPORT THE PATUXENT

Patuxent-based blues and folk band, RockFish, has joined efforts to support the Patuxent River and the Riverkeeper. A portion of the proceeds from sales of their debut CD *Shady Grove* are donated to efforts to conserve the River. Watch their web site: [www.rockfishmusic.info](http://www.rockfishmusic.info) for updates about gigs... Also, local researchers Carrie & Michael Kline and others have completed the first of a series of audio compact discs that reflect the oral history of the watershed. The first "CD" is called: "Born and Raised in the Tobacco Fields: Portrait of a changing American Landscape" the recording features many venerable voices of the Patuxent. For more info: [www.folktalk.org](http://www.folktalk.org)



## Spotlight on Environmental Justice

As population increases in our watershed, it is evident that the population distribution and socio-economic factors are uneven. People like living near the water; homes sell for more money in waterfront areas and so, a disproportionate share of the impact of civilization is concentrated along our waterways. Because public investment is heavier in the areas where affluent citizens live, then traditional watershed policy creates environmental justice disparities. More attention is given to the areas with the highest property values. We direct massive sums of public money into waterfront neighborhoods where affluent landowners dwell. Yet far less effort and public resources are focused on making the urban areas more livable. Therefore, there is a connection between the decline of our watersheds and the decline of our cities. In the watersheds, this pattern is regarded as good business, and makes happy homeowners who pay big taxes. This makes the jurisdictions happy. However, unchecked growth in the watersheds will spell the end of the River as we know it. Everybody can't live next to water! And bad planning and poor fiscal policy could ultimately kill the cities and our rivers. Part of the solution to cleaning up our watersheds is to also address the societal factors that impose greater burdens on our watersheds.

When people discuss environmental justice they are usually describing the widespread phenomena that poorer communities and minorities, people without financial clout, are often on the receiving end of onerous land use projects, or have a much more difficult time enlisting regulatory support when trying to address local environmental problems. The relationship between social justice issues and environmental ones is less obvious sometimes, but still very real. It simply is not fair, defensible or practical to solely clean up the rivers nearest the most affluent neighborhoods. Also, regulatory enforcement should, as a matter of simple justice, be diligent in all communities. As for the rush to colonize our waterfront areas, is it possible that if our cities were nicer places to live then might there be far less market demand to sprawl development and consume the land in our watersheds? Consider that if a portion of our society is excluded

from the dividends of a robust environment, then wouldn't that class more likely become opponents of saving the environment? The Patuxent Riverkeeper is committed to not only cleaning up the River, but correcting environmental disparities that contribute to its decline. Stay tuned.

### Patuxent Webinars...

The Patuxent Riverkeeper is planning a series of Webinars in 2005 to make science and information about the watershed more accessible. What's a webinar? A webinar is a one-hour learning experience that you can dial into from your telephone and view or download visual aids on the worldwide web. It is a seminar that you can listen to and participate in without having to travel anywhere. Our 800 phone number allows you to dial in, ask questions and hear the presenters. If you have simultaneous access to the worldwide web then you can also view visuals for the webinar that are posted there. Webinars allow you to gather a large amount of information in a short period of time, such as on your lunch break. The Webinars are convenient because you don't have to travel anywhere. Because they take place in a "virtual" format, there are minimal costs allowing information to be delivered inexpensively. The telephone and web format permit people to participate from greater distances. Upcoming webinar events will be posted on the Patuxent Riverkeeper web site: [www.paxriverkeeper.org](http://www.paxriverkeeper.org)

### Welcome Morgan State to The Patuxent

Please join the Patuxent Riverkeeper in welcoming Morgan State University's new marine biology research laboratory to Jefferson Patterson Park in Calvert County, MD. The facility is located in work space that was formerly occupied by the National Academy of Sciences. Of particular interest to the research staff is the long term study of the crab & oyster populations and also the distribution and prevalence of harmful algae blooms



## Meet Linda Fadely Volunteer & Development Director

The Patuxent Riverkeeper is pleased to welcome Linda Fadely on board to anchor our volunteer and development outreach activities. Linda is a native of Washington, D.C. and has lived on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay for over 20 years. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Conservation at the University of Colorado and quickly returned to the East Coast where her love of the water brought her to Southern Maryland in 1982. In 1990, Linda became a board member for Battle Creek Nature Education Society (BCNES), a non-profit "friends" group supporting the environmental education efforts of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. Linda served as Treasurer for 5 years then went on to serve as Volunteer Coordinator, Development Director and lastly, Executive Director. She is most proud of her combined efforts with the Board, members, community, local and State Governments which made the Environmental Education Center at Flag Ponds Nature Park a reality. She looks forward to achieving great things for Patuxent Riverkeeper, the Patuxent and the Bay.



Linda Fadely

## PATROLLING THE PATUXENT

How does one patrol a river as large and diverse as the Patuxent? We do it with motorboats, kayaks, and canoes; on foot and by airplane. The airplane part is due to the generosity and environmental good works of local pilot Martha Ainsworth. Captain Martha helps the Riverkeeper survey sections of the River from the air that are either inaccessible from the ground, or difficult to assess from the water. From the air, we can spot illegal dumps, possible restoration sites, and observe from a birds-eye view, the way adjacent construction and human habitation influences the River. From there, it is also easier to see plumes of sediment or the comparatively different types of water conditions to be found depending on activity in the near envelope of the River. The Patuxent has a distinctly different character depending on where you are. In the north, in Montgomery & Howard Counties, the enormous reservoir dams owned by WSSC reveal very different signatures in terms of sediment. The water often has a green to blue quality to it when compared to areas further downstream that can have a brackish or coppery color. Sometimes the division between wholesome water and noticeably polluted water is striking, such as, near large earth moving projects, new home building sites, highway construction and the like. Air patrols give us a big picture, even though nothing compares to being on the River in a kayak or canoe where you can actually touch the water, come into more intimate contact with the marine life and vegetation, and can tell firsthand exactly



what kind of shape the watershed is in. The Patuxent Riverkeeper now has a 15-foot motorboat which is undergoing engine overhauls and refurbishing through the winter. By spring of 2005, our inaugural patrol boat will be christened and will stay in the water at a donated boatslip in Mechanicsville. The Riverkeeper will make regular patrol sweeps in the southern end of the River by motor while using other modes in the north. The launch of the patrol boat will be marked with a celebration, so become a member of Patuxent Riverkeeper in order to be invited to this historic event! Also send ideas to help name the Patuxent Riverkeeper boat to: [Fred@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:Fred@paxriverkeeper.org).



## 2005 Patuxent Riverkeeper Work Plan

The major challenge for a “Riverkeeper” in an area as large as the Patuxent River is to focus on manageable tasks and avoid casting finite resources too widely. Riverkeepers are uniquely chartered as advocates and while we wear many hats (education, outreach, restoration projects) our aim is to produce real results. To do this, requires a solid plan and a prioritized focus. The Patuxent Riverkeeper plan for 2005 includes the following strategic aims:

**ADVOCACY:** Serve as a clearinghouse for tasks and actions aimed at solving specific problems on the River. (1) Patrolling the River and confronting significant polluters. By this, we don’t mean just bugging people who throw beer cans in the River (we know who you are!), the Riverkeeper strategy also includes identifying and confronting major and chronic violators, asking them to stop and then persisting until they actually do. (2) We work on getting better performance from the enforcers, assisting the authorities in getting better results out of existing laws by investigating complaints, monitoring specific problems and serving as a catalyst to resolve problems in favor of cleaner water.

**COALITION BUILDING:** Ironically while the watershed has declined steadily from many causes—the first rung challenge facing any serious preservation efforts is not only pollution but...people. With people come attitudes, bureaucracies, and entrenched behavior that people have toward the River. Part of our work seeks to expand the willingness for people to actually participate in meaningful strategies to make positive outcomes happen for the River.

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION:** We have a number of projects aimed at raising public awareness, knowledge and appreciation for the River. We support and promote the **Patuxent Paddle Path**, which seeks to utilize the River for low impact recreation and geotourism. We are partners with **The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** in hosting the June 2005 **Patuxent Sojourn** which will create meaningful experiences for many. We appear and speak at public gatherings, speak to citizens groups, produce web sites, informational flyers, newsletters and find other methods of getting the word out to the total watershed—not only about our work, but also about the rich cultural history and ecological treasures of the Patuxent.

**RESTORATION & IMPROVEMENTS:** We develop projects and fundraise to create hands-on activities on the River that tackle things that need doing. **The Annual Patuxent River Cleanup** is just such a project for example. The **Riparian Tree Planting** project we manage in partnership with the **Patuxent River Commission** is another. We also have similar projects both underway or on the drawing boards. We welcome suggestions from our members for new issues we should be addressing and worthwhile projects we should undertake to improve water quality.

### Join & Support the Patuxent Riverkeeper...

(membership application)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \$35

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$25

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Booster \$100

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sustainer \$500



**Patuxent Riverkeeper acknowledges the following generous donors:** The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative. **Welcome New Members!** Jeffrey & Billie Archer, Ralph & Lisa Cabianco, Ted Dickinson, Ralph Eshelman, Bernie Fowler, Ken Hoffman & Amy Plummer, Sara Leeland, Patricia Poole **and New Corporate Members:** DM Group, L.C.; Kelly Generator & Equipment; Patuxent International, Inc; Southern Maryland Oil; Flag Harbor Marine Service; Carrie A. Polk Insurance, Inc.; Cheryl Bare, Century 21; Lagana Printing, Marrick Properties, Inc.

## Patuxent River Advocacy News:

Here are just a few of the advocacy efforts the Patuxent Riverkeeper has become involved in. Please contact the Riverkeeper for information about the facts, our activities and information about how you can help. We also stand ready to help put river activists in better touch with one another to build effective coalitions among those who seek to protect the River.... The **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission** operated plant on the Western Branch of the Patuxent River (**Upper Marlboro**) has had a series of major outflows and violations during 2004. New plant management hopes to address problems ranging from morale and training to administrative issues. **Turf Valley** residents near **Ellicott City, MD** have been working to obtain full disclosure of the full range of lawn and golf course chemicals that have been applied for 40 years on land slated for a major new subdivision next to the **Little Patuxent River**. Citizens' concerns are aimed at possible impacts on the watershed. State regulations only require reporting of two years for chemical applications, residents have sought more complete reporting to no avail ([www.region-hc.org](http://www.region-hc.org)). Patuxent Riverkeeper is working with **Maryland Department of the Environment, The St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District, St. Mary's Planning Department and the MD Conservation Corps** to clean up and eliminate three major tire dumps on the **Horsehead Branch** Tributary of the Patuxent. The Riverkeeper has worked to address major concerns near **Bowie, MD (Horsepen Branch)** of major runoff and soil erosion problems in a housing development where **Prince Georges County DER** waived the storm water quality control requirements and has an ineffective record of enforcement and monitoring on site. Residents of **Davidsonville, MD** near **Harwood and Lothian** have raised concerns about a proposed permit to discharge over 171,000 gallons of water a day from the **PST landfill** located off **Sands Road**. The site currently contains sewage sludge, methane gas and other long term dumped materials. Residents in **Lexington Park, MD** have been working to influence greater responsiveness to watershed concerns in the local Master Plan revision process ([www.p-r-a.org](http://www.p-r-a.org)). Residents in **Calvert County** are concerned about the effects of a proposed buried pipeline to be

built by **Dominion Cove Point LNG (www.capecalvert.org)**. Residents on **Mill Creek (Calvert County)** have been working to curb the construction of catwalks and docks that damage wetlands in order to provide new homes increased access to dock facilities. Members of the **South County Exchange (Anne Arundel County)** have produced an 8-minute video program that portrays their efforts to conserve a Greenway along the River (**contact: Forestgreenway@comcast.net**) A limited number of these videos are available for the asking from the Patuxent Riverkeeper. Residents near **Odenton, MD (Anne Arundel County)** are battling efforts to establish a landfill on the River ([www.stopodentonlandfill.com](http://www.stopodentonlandfill.com)). The developer (**Halle Corporation**) proposed to sell the land to a native American tribe and lease it back from them in order to subvert local environmental requirements by shifting to

## Riverkeeper Joins 2005 Patuxent Sojourn Team

The Patuxent Riverkeeper has teamed with The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to organize and host the annual Patuxent Sojourn. Sojourns are educational and awareness raising events that involve 100 to 150 people paddling from three days up to one week on premier tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Over the course of the Sojourns, families and individuals will enhance their on-river interpretive and recreational experience by completing various restoration projects and through on-river and evening programs focused on river-related historical, cultural, and environmental topics. Evening activities are complemented by interaction with local watershed associations, businesses, and government entities that create genuine community events. This Year's Sojourn will occur on June 16- 21<sup>st</sup>. Interested? Contact Patuxent Riverkeeper or visit the event web site: [www.paxsojourn.org](http://www.paxsojourn.org).

# Volunteers needed!

[www.paxriverkeeper.org](http://www.paxriverkeeper.org)

## Water Quality Monitoring

Regional monitors to help conduct citizen based stream and River water quality monitoring in support of scientific surveys, cleanups and advocacy work. Training and resources provided. Contact: [Info@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:Info@paxriverkeeper.org)

## Whistleblowers

Do you know of contamination, pollution or an activity that harms the watershed but fear reprisals if you tell what you know? The Patuxent Riverkeeper investigates anonymous tips. No questions asked. If you do the right thing and report a hazard or an issue then you can have the satisfaction of knowing we will pursue a complaint at no risk to you. Send a fax, phone us after hours, or send a letter. Use any means you feel confident will protect your privacy and we will do the rest.

## Pax Sojourn Logistics

Folks to provide trip support for the five day Patuxent Sojourn. Work on safety, errands, food preparation, first aid or any special skill you can contribute. Help make Sojourner's experience on the Patuxent one they will remember favorably forever! Contact: [Fred@paxsojourn.org](mailto:Fred@paxsojourn.org)

## Patuxent Clean-up Site Coordinators

Volunteers to help serve as local coordinators and points of contact for the Annual Patuxent River Clean-up in April. Help rally local volunteers, tally clean-up stats, distribute clean-up supplies and related tasks. Contact: [info@cleanpatuxent.org](mailto:info@cleanpatuxent.org)

## Tree planters

Transplant and maintain seedlings at our tree "grow-out" stations. Assist in distribution and promotion of trees in the planting seasons. Teach others how to properly plant trees in buffer and riparian areas. Contact: [Trees@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:Trees@paxriverkeeper.org)

## Complaint Researchers

Help the Riverkeeper respond to and track complaints about pollution, water quality, and issues on the Patuxent River. Assemble case files, interface with regulatory agencies, collect data from observers, compose correspondence and assemble evidence and supporting information. Contact: [fred@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:fred@paxriverkeeper.org)

## Trees for the Patuxent ?

The **Patuxent Riverkeeper** is working in conjunction with **The Patuxent River Commission** to coordinate the distribution of tree seedlings for use in riparian areas. Tree forestation is vital to protect the River and the network of sustaining streams from the effects of sediment and erosion. This project entails maintaining two separate growing stations in the middle and southern sections of the River to help make the trees available to eligible sites. We are looking for nominations of suitable public lands and other eligible tree planting sites as well volunteers to help with maintenance of the trees in the growing stations, plus help with distribution and planting in the Fall 2005 planting season. Contact: [Trees@paxriverkeeper.org](mailto:Trees@paxriverkeeper.org).

**More Stats:** About 27% of the Patuxent Watershed acreage is located in Prince Georges County making it the County with the largest overall share of the River. Howard County is in second place with nearly 21% of the watershed.

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