

Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Timeline

1600's

1607



Captain John Smith explores the Chesapeake Bay and Tributary Rivers "an abundance of fish, lying so thick with their heads above water...neither better fish, more plenty, nor more variety for small fish had any of us ever seen in any place so swimming in the water"

Bay region 90% forested, streams were shaded, cool and free of sediment supporting a health brook trout population



1650 Tobacco industry is booming and shipping ports like Elkrigde landing are built to transport products



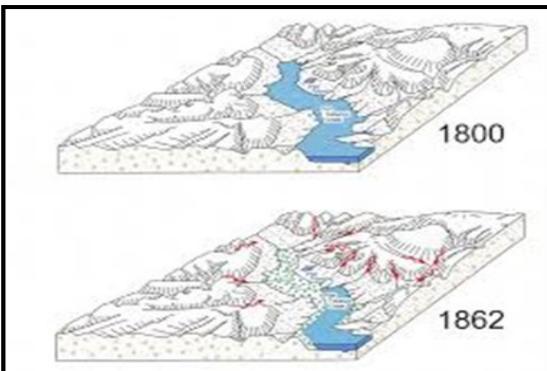
1750 Settlers strip over 30% of forest to support settlements and agriculture



1770 Farmers are consistently using plows and permanent tillage prevents reforestation



1770's Soil erosion begins to become a problem silting in ports and wetlands



1862 Largest recorded flood in Ellicott City

HARPER'S WEEKLY

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THE GREAT FLOOD IN MARYLAND—JAMES E. CARR RESCUING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE MARYLAND FLOOD.
This sudden rise in the Patuxent, Lohigh, Jordan, and other streams of Maryland and Pennsylvania, which have their rise on the eastern slope of the Alleghany Mountains, has caused immense damage to property in various parts of the country, and sad and serious loss of life in Baltimore and Ellicott City. Our illustrations on this page and on page 500 were sketched on the spot by our artist, Mr. THEODORE R. DAVIS, and may be relied upon as accurate and complete.
The reason of this sudden flooding of the streams has been attributed to the overflowing of a lake near Baltimore and various other equally unsatisfactory causes; but as simultaneous floods occurred at various places along the Atlantic slope of the Alleghenies, it is doubtless to be attributed wholly to the heavy fall of rain which began on the morning of July 24 and lasted until one o'clock of the same day. The singular part of the affair and the most difficult to explain is the rapidity with which the streams rose. The Patuxent River at Ellicott City and Jones's Falls, which runs through Baltimore city, rose at the rate of five feet in ten minutes! The water came down those streams like a great continuous wave on the sea-shore. The river at Ellicott City rose ten feet before a drop of rain had fallen there, and was at one time forty feet high! In Baltimore the rise was so rapid that a gentleman cut

THE GREAT FLOOD IN MARYLAND—DESTRUCTION OF THE LARRABEE IRON-FOUNDRY.

1900 Population begins to grow rapidly around the Washington DC, Baltimore area



1945 - 1970's Increase in development and impervious cover greatly accelerates stream erosion

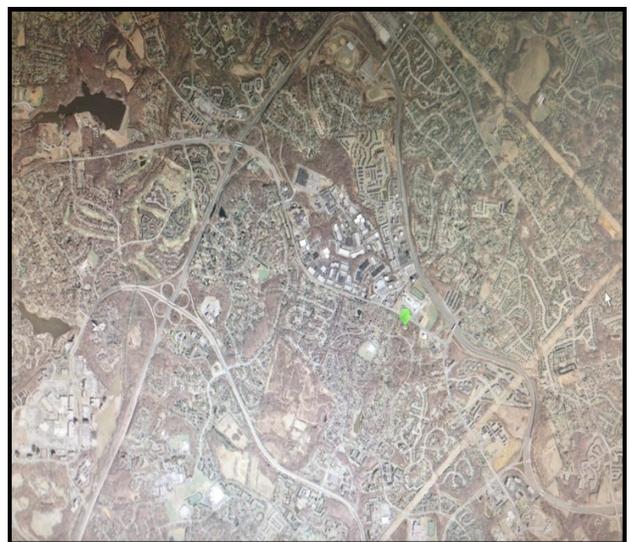


1960 - 2010 Impervious area expands to support development of Howard County

1965



2010



1972 US Congress passes Clean Water Act setting goals and standards to clean up waterways

1985 Maryland develops first regulations for control of stormwater runoff

1994 Howard County is issued its first Stormwater permit from the State of Maryland requiring better stormwater management

1994 - present

County increases projects to better control stormwater runoff



2012 State of Maryland requires counties to establish a Watershed Restoration Fund



2013 Howard County adopts a dedicated fee to address stormwater requirements mandated by the State Permit

2013-present

Programs and Projects to control stormwater runoff grow rapidly engaging all portions of the community

