



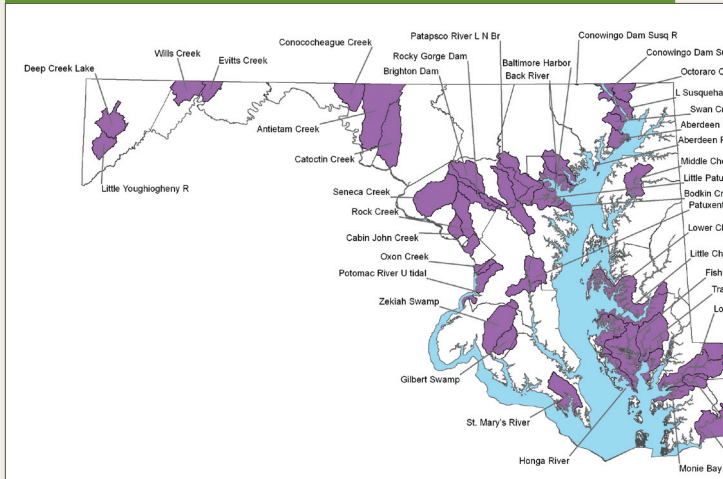
## Goal 4: Protect Baltimore’s ecology and bio-diversity

Baltimore City is part of a very unique collection of ecosystems including the Chesapeake Bay and four regional watersheds. Practicing good stewardship of our natural world improves the ability of future generations to eat fresh food, breath clean air, drink healthy water, and enjoy open space.

### KEY FACTS AND RELATED EFFORTS

- \* The **Baltimore City Critical Area Management Program** holds waterfront development to higher environmental standards to protect this sensitive ecosystem. Over 800 trees, 1,600 shrubs, and many herbaceous species were planted by developers under this program in 2010.
- \* During the summer of 2010 the **National Aquarium** and the **Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore** installed approximately 400 square feet of Floating Wetland Islands (FWIs), split between locations near the Aquarium and the World Trade Center. The FWIs at the World Trade Center site were built by school children under supervision of the Living Classrooms Foundation. Floating wetland islands appear to be a promising strategy to help improve water quality and enhance habitat values in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.
- \* **The Water Quality Monitoring and Inspection Section** of the **City’s Department of Public Works** does benthic macroinvertebrate counts at fixed and random stations each spring for use in assessing stream water quality in the Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run watersheds. During 2010, benthic macroinvertebrates were collected at 23 stations.
- \* **Blue Water Baltimore** installed 109 rain barrels and 12 rain gardens, planted over 2100 trees and shrubs, removed .8 acres of invasive plants, collected nearly 28,000 pounds of trash from streams and sold over \$54,000 worth of native plants, all of which increased the quality and availability of in-stream and upland fish and wildlife habitat.

### 2009 MARYLAND BIOLOGICAL STREAM SURVEY WATERSHED



\* Source: Maryland Biological Stream Survey

### 3 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

- If you have a garden, plant native species to provide habitat for local pollinators and birds
- Tell your workplace that native landscaping matters
- Compost your organic waste and add it to your soil

« The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has committed to long-term monitoring of streams under the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) and works to assess the status and trends in biological integrity for streams in Maryland. The most recent data is from 2009, when 3 MBSS sites were within the City of Baltimore. The fish IBI is a quantitative rating of the health of the fish assemblage found at each site.

### BACK RIVER WATERSHED

» The *Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BIBI)* measures the condition of the freshwater benthic macroinvertebrates such as crayfish, clams, and aquatic worms. *Instream Habitat* is based on the perceived value of habitat to the fish community.

	Fish IBI	Benthic IBI	Instream Habitat
BACK-205-R-2009 ut herring run	2.67 (Poor)	2.00 (Poor)	6.00 (Marginal)
BACK-301-R-2009 herring run	2.67 (Poor)	1.67 (Poor)	7.00 (Marginal)
BACK-206-R-2009 herring run	3.00 (Fair)	1.67 (Poor)	8.00 (Marginal)