

COMMUNITY UPDATE



WE'RE COMMITTED TO
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
THE COMMUNITY, AND
OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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Alliance for the Chesapeake

Update on Water Quality of Roland Run

The Friends of Roland Run (FORR) has completed a 12-month series of water quality tests on the Roland Run. Utilizing the same indicators, methods, and data reporting organization as Blue Water Baltimore, FORR measured pH, turbidity (water clarity), water temperature, and dissolved oxygen.

All twelve tests were conducted at a consistent location near Morris Ave and the playground. Each test was performed on the same day of the month and at the same times, under the supervision of FORR volunteers with expert guidance from the Alliance for the Chesapeake’s River Trends Community Program ensuring accuracy and reliability.

All the data derived from testing goes to the following organizations:

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Izaak Walton League of America, Dickinson College’s Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Integration, and Application Network—who also partners with the Chesapeake Monitory Cooperative (CMC). The CMC provides technical, logistical and outreach support for the integration of citizen-based and non-traditional water quality and macroinvertebrate monitory data.

Per the Alliance for the Chesapeake, “This is the first effort to integrate citizen science water quality data, to inform policy management and water quality assessments, into a federal program...and will accessible to the public, local governments, universities and others.” Country Club Park and the Roland Run are now data points in this effort to monitor the health of our rivers, streams and runs.

What has FORR found in the water samples?

In the Roland Run:

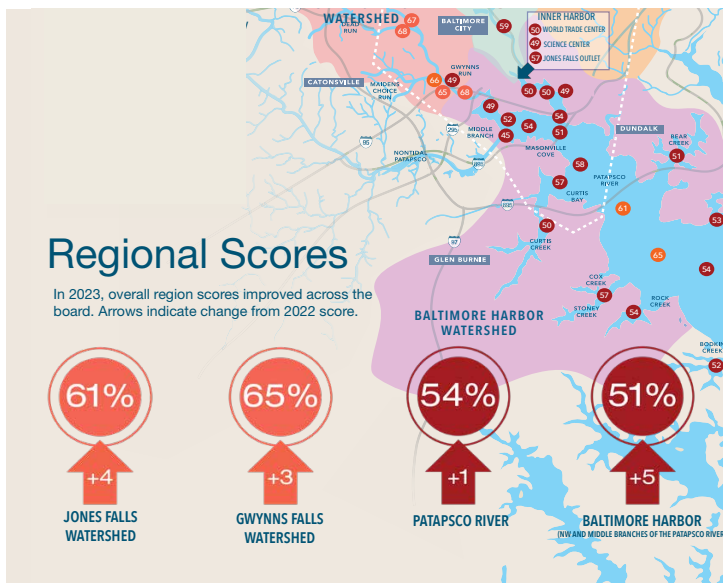
- water clarity is good, except after major rain storms;
- pH is, for most seasons, conducive to aquatic life, albeit, limited;
- dissolved oxygen in the water is conducive to aquatic life to a point; and
- water temperature is cooler than air temperature.

What acute changes did FORR find during its testing?

Erosion is a problem and can be seen along the Roland Run at the Trebor Court area (see past FORR newsletter for pictures of dams and erosion along the banks).

FORR suspects pollutants from upstream flow down stream.

NOTE: BC DEPS states no one should get into the Roland Run after a rainstorm for at least 48 hours.



Baltimore’s Waterways

Blue Water Baltimore released its annual report card for the health of Baltimore’s waterways, handing the Inner Harbor its latest in a long line of failing “F” grades.

See *Blue Water’s quality report at BlueWaterBaltimore.org and look for 2023-WQ-Report-Card-Web.pdf.*

“The health of the water from an ecosystem perspective is really about the animals that don’t have a choice but to be in the water.”

*Eric Schott, Associate Research Professor
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science*
“This weekend is Harbor Splash. What does the data show about water safety?”
BALTIMORE SUN

Neighborhood News

How will the Lutherville Station Development affect the environment of the Roland Run and Country Club Park? FORR talked with the developer, Mark Renbaum, for answers on the environmental impact from the development.

There have been some discussions about how and what the development effects will be on the environment. Most talk surrounds infrastructure issues: storm water and sewer. What effects will the development have on these systems? And will the development address these concerns?

The environmental benefits coming from the Lutherville Station project are significant.

We are committed to making sure that the Project will have a very robust and environmentally sensitive stormwater management design. Currently, there is no stormwater management on site.

It should be noted that the installation of any stormwater facilities (of which this project will have several) will present a meaningful improvement to the water quality of water leaving the site.

We are not increasing the amount of impervious area with the project, and as a redevelopment project we will provide water quality for 50% of the impervious area within our limit of disturbance. We are further examining how we can add additional water quality benefits to the waterways downstream of our project. We've also offered, in writing to community leadership, our stormwater management consultant would consult with the Community's consultant regarding stormwater design.

Most, if not all, the sewer and storm water infrastructure runs in Country Club Park. Will the development have any positive impact on this community?

In addition the previous question, there will be upgrades in the sewer and stormwater infrastructure which will enhance the the infrastructure in that community.

Baltimore County owns the green space between the development and Country Club Park. The BC DEPS spent millions of dollars creating a flood plain and stream restoration along the Roland Run. Will this development affect this open space flood plain and the stream restoration?

The development does not impact nor address those areas where BC DEPS has developed as a flood plain.

When applying for government funds for the development, will any of those funds be directed towards assuaging the flooding in Country Club Park?

In a word, yes. We recognize the incredibly powerful economic impact of this project, and we intend to partner with County and State partners and environmental groups such as Friends of Roland Run to drive meaningful investment into the Roland Run itself.

FORR understands the development may required a TIF. Can you explain a TIF and how it would be beneficial to the surrounding community?

A TIF (generally) is a financing tool that captures and uses increased property tax revenues from new development within a defined geographic area to fund public infrastructure.

Tax Increment represent the taxes collected on the new assessed value within the development district. Revenues generated from properties within the TIF districts are split into two components:

1. Base Revenues: This is the amount available before the TIF district is established.
2. Incremental Revenues: These are new revenues in excess of the base revenue that are generated by development projects. These monies are allocated to the TIF project.

A TIF will be very beneficial to the community by using the incremental tax revenues generated by the Lutherville Station project as a source of funds to finance infrastructure improvements like roads, utilities, schools, public spaces, etc.

Would you consider community benefits for the Country Club Park?

Of course. We have already received some input on that question. Community benefits have been suggested for the local schools, water testing program and construction of a small pavilion at the playground. We are also open to suggestions!

