

The pages in this document were taken from the "Corsica River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy: Final Report" published in September 2004. The entire document can be found at [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr\\_strategy.pdf](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr_strategy.pdf).

# Corsica River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy: Final Report

**Excerpt Showing an Example of a Watershed  
Plan Introduction**

**September 2004**

# I. Introduction

In 1998, the State of Maryland developed the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP Technical Workgroup, 1998) to identify and restore watersheds not meeting clean water and other natural resource goals, and to sustain healthy conditions in those watersheds that currently meet these goals. Development of this plan involved conducting a Unified Watershed Assessment, prioritization for restoration or protection, and developing strategies for restoration and protection. The initial Unified Watershed Assessment classified the Maryland 8-digit watersheds into the following categories:

- Category 1 - Watersheds not meeting clean water and other natural resource goals and needing restoration;
- Category 2 - Watersheds currently meeting goals that need preventive actions to sustain water quality and aquatic resources;
- Category 3 - Pristine or sensitive watersheds that need an extra level of protection; and
- Category 4 - Insufficient data

As a direct result of this effort the Corsica River Watershed (Maryland 8-digit watershed 02130507) was classified as a Category 1 watershed in need of restoration

The next step in the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) process was to assign restoration priorities to each watershed. Watersheds that failed to meet at least half of their goals (i.e., half of the evaluation indicators had values failing to meet Category 1 benchmarks) were considered Category 1 Priority Watersheds in need of restoration in the near term (e.g., within 2 years of CWAP publication). The Corsica River Watershed received a Category 1 Priority for restoration.

The final component in the CWAP is the development of Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS) for watersheds in need of restoration or protection. A WRAS is a comprehensive restoration strategy that addresses all aspects of watershed condition and water quality. The WRAS is led by the local government, in partnership with the State, and encourages public participation in the strategy development and implementation. On April 2, 2003, the Town of Centreville entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources to develop a WRAS for the entire Corsica River Watershed. This memorandum provided the Town with a pathway to apply for and receive grant monies to assist in the watershed assessment and planning, receive technical assistance from Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and develop the watershed restoration strategy. Consequential CWA influences are to State and local stormwater management codes, sewer and water regulations, and ultimately in local Comprehensive Land Use Plans. To move from existing planning methods to include watershed based perspective and protection, would require a significant shift in State and local policy, considerable resources, and added manpower. While such a shift may be appropriate, the WRAS Committee recognizes that the success of such an effort will depend on actions taken beyond the limits of the Corsica River Watershed. The same is not true for the Town of Centreville which lies in a separate political jurisdiction and lies solely within the watershed.

The Corsica River Watershed comprises 25,300 acres (40 square miles) which lie entirely within Maryland's Coastal Plain. Of this acreage, 2,441 acres lie within Queen Anne's County Critical Area, 21,452 acres lie in the County upland, and 1,406 acres lie within the Corporate Limits of the Town of Centreville (Approximately 1,395 acres of the above total lie within the tidal reaches of the Corsica River itself).

The primary goal of the Corsica River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy grant application was to:

*Develop a WRAS that fully quantifies the existing water quality stressors, the existing stream conditions, and other natural resource impairments of the Corsica River Basin, which results in a watershed-wide master plan to reduce impairing nutrients, to restore and preserve habitat areas, to monitor nutrient reduction gains and habitat protection progress and pre-account for environmental impacts of growth consistent with and anticipated by, the Comprehensive Plans of The Town of Centreville and Queen Anne's County, and reflecting concomitant regulatory and programmatic changes initiated and adopted thereby.*

The WRAS recommends the ethic that growth or agricultural land conversion in the watershed not occur at the further expense of the environmental health of the Corsica River.

The WRAS results for the Corsica River Watershed comprise:

- Priority impairments with restoration and protection needs;
- Specific projects and strategies to remediate the identified impairments;
- Instruments for programmatic changes in the Code of the Town of Centreville; and
- Recommendations for Queen Anne's County consideration.