

form a "green team" and take appropriate and affordable actions.

## Just the Facts

**Budget:** Each year, the City provides CBE with a budget that can be used to fund its projects.

**Meetings:** The CBE usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. and usually at City Hall, 4500 Knox Road. A schedule of dates and meeting locations can be found in the College Park "Municipal Scene" of the Gazette newspaper.

All meetings are open to the public, and the CBE encourages citizen input and participation. Those who wish to propose agenda items should contact the City's staff liaison for CBE at 240-487-3538, ext. 2 at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting.

**Membership:** CBE membership is limited to a total of 25 individuals who are appointed by the Mayor and Council for renewable terms of three years. Members serve as volunteers and receive no pay.

The committee elects its own co-chairs, and the City's Planning Department provides a staff liaison to work with members.

College Park residents who are interested in becoming members may send an email to [planning@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:planning@collegeparkmd.gov).

Residents who simply want to volunteer their services for selected projects are also needed.

For more information about the above, please call 240-487-3538, ext. 2.

You also may talk with your area's elected City Council member. A list of Council can be found at [http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/government/mayor\\_and\\_council/index.php](http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/government/mayor_and_council/index.php).

# Introducing College Park's Committee for a Better Environment (CBE)



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"Think globally, act locally." It's now an old phrase but one that still applies to grassroots organizations such as the City of College Park's Committee for a Better Environment (CBE).

Like others who practice this philosophy, CBE members are concerned about the health of the whole planet and committed to taking actions to improve the local environment.

### Actions Taken

Back in 1972, the College Park Mayor and Council established CBE to provide guidance and leadership to the municipal government, as well as service and outreach to the community.

Examples of CBE's contributions include the following.

**Veterans' Memorial:** In the early 1990s, CBE and the City's Department of Public Works worked together to launch, fund, design, and landscape this small park at the corner of Greenbelt Road and Route 1.

**Guilford Run:** In 1997, CBE received the River Stewardship Award from American Rivers (<http://www.americanrivers.org/>) for its restoration work of this Anacostia River tributary, which is located on the City's southern border. Prior to receiving this award, CBE launched the Stream Team Project, conducting stream walks, leading clean-ups, and soliciting the help of numerous volunteers to plant trees and bulbs along the stream bank.

**Green Awards:** Each April, in honor of Earth Day, the CBE publicly recognizes (at a City Council meeting) those who have made an effort to protect or enrich the local environment. Citizens, organizations, and/or businesses are eligible for this recognition, which includes a certificate as well as a gift card to an environmentally friendly local business.

**Community Outreach:** In the last several years, the CBE activities have included the following:

- Creation of a series of brochures covering topics such as recycling,

energy efficiency, pest control, noise pollution, composting and others

- Screenings and discussions on several environmentally relevant films, including "Kilowatt Ours," "Gasland," and "Bag It: Is Your Life too Plastic?"
- Stream and roadside cleanups
- Sustainable landscaping projects at various locations, including Youth and Family Services, Paint Branch Elementary School, Hollywood Elementary School, Attick Towers, and the Trolley Trail
- Educational workshops for residents, covering topics such as Bayscapes gardening, rain barrels, rain gardens, native plants, wild edibles, shade gardening, and various topics related to energy efficiency.

**Emissions Inventory:** In January 2009, the CBE presented findings to the Mayor and Council of a study of municipal operations and greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of CBE recommendations, the Mayor and Council directed the City manager to