



January 26, 2008

**The Columbia Association is hosting a Public Meeting: *Restoring and Protecting the Waters of Columbia*, on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Amherst House, 7251 Eden Brook Drive, Columbia, MD 21046 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Columbia Association Watershed Management
2. Current Condition of Local Watersheds
3. Watershed Restoration Effort Through Retrofit Projects
4. Community Early Action Projects
5. What Can You Do?
6. Public Dialogue

[www.columbiawatershed.org](http://www.columbiawatershed.org)

## Quick Reference – Public Meeting January 2009

**What is the Columbia Watershed?** The land area that contributes runoff to a particular stream or water body is known as the watershed. Each watershed is composed of multiple smaller subwatersheds. Columbia lies in the Patuxent River watershed which is within the larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Most of Columbia is in the Little Patuxent and Middle Patuxent watersheds, with a small southeastern corner in the Dorsey-Run watershed. When we speak of the Columbia watershed we are including all the streams, lakes, plants, animals, and soils in this geographic area.

**Why are we concerned about the Columbia watershed?** Some streams in the Columbia area are eroding, and are absent the biological communities they could provide. During storm events the streams carry excess sediment, nutrient, and pollutant loads to the three Columbia Association lakes, Little and Middle Patuxent Rivers and Chesapeake Bay. When water falls to the earth as rain or snow, most of it seeps into the ground. However, if the ground is covered with impermeable surfaces (roof tops, paved parking lot, ect), the water flows over the land, often picking up pollutants and causing what is known as storm water runoff. The velocity, temperature, and content of this storm water runoff can have adverse effects on the land, plants, and animals it touches.

### **What can Stakeholders do to protect and restore the Columbia watershed?**

- Visit [www.columbiawatershed.org](http://www.columbiawatershed.org) to learn about restoring and protecting the Columbia watershed
- Volunteer for a restoration project such as tree planting or storm drain stenciling.
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide use
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste
- Keep lawn debris and litter out of the storm drains
- Disconnect gutters from pavement or streams and redirect to rain barrels/cisterns or rain gardens
- Decrease runoff by planting trees and ground cover plants on bare areas and on slopes