

ESTUARY BASICS CONTINUED

runs beneath the service area through concrete culverts. Retrofit projects planned or underway at the I-95 Service Plaza include two bioretention cells to replace the existing concrete swales located between the highway lanes and the plaza, inlet protector devices installed in catch basins, and sand filter and StormFilter® BMPs installed near one of the gas stations. Water quality monitoring is providing data on total pollutant loads coming from the service plaza and will allow DeIDOT to assess both the effectiveness of the BMPs and the impact of discharges on Leatherman's Run, before and after retrofit installations.

The second area targeted for retrofits and monitoring is the Pike Creek Watershed in the Christina River Basin, which is dominated by residential development. Total maximum daily load (TMDL) regulations for Pike Creek will be in place for nutrients and bacteria by 2004. DNREC's Nonpoint Source Program recently has developed a Pike Creek Watershed Initiative to provide technical outreach, incentives and coordi-

nation to facilitate implementation of BMPs to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to Pike Creek, primarily through control of stormwater runoff. In addition, a monitoring plan is under development that will include biological, habitat and water chemistry evaluation to assess stream quality changes resulting from the implementations. DeIDOT has chosen to partner with DNREC in this initiative.

Already a number of catch basin filters to remove sediment and oils have been installed on some subdivision streets in the watershed. Beginning this fall, DeIDOT, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and DNREC will work with civic associations in the Pike Creek region to implement a pet waste management campaign. This effort will include installation of pet waste collection bag dispensers on streets and in parks frequented by dog walkers, citizen education to increase awareness and compliance, and microbial source tracking techniques to determine whether bacteria derived from pet waste in Pike Creek have been reduced by the campaign.

For more information about DeIDOT's and New Castle County's stormwater quality programs, visit <http://www.ncc-swnpdes.com/index2.htm>, or call 1-800-652-5600.



NATIVE ROSES—A SIMPLE BEAUTY

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