

Creek ReLeaf Program Ecological and Programmatic Ranking Criteria				
	Ranking Factor	Details	Maximum Total Points	Site Score
1	Reforestation Width	Width >100 ft (3pts); Width 50-100 ft (2 pts); Width 35-50 ft (1 pt)	3	
2	Reforestation Length	Length >300 ft (3 pts); Length 100-300 ft (2pts); Length <100 ft (1 pt)	3	
3	Connecting Forest "Islands"	Reforestation area will be connecting forested islands (2 pts)	2	
4	Stream Order	First order (3 pts); Second order (2 pts); Third order or greater order (1 pt); no stream (0 pts)	3	
5	Brook Trout Presence	Located in a watershed with brook trout (2 pt)	2	
6	Watershed Health	Located in a watershed with good health (3 pts); very poor health (3 pts); poor health (2 pts); fair health (1 pt)	3	
7	Land Ownership	Private land within MS4 boundary (2 pts); Private land not within MS4 boundary (1 pt); within Phase II jurisdiction - Fatal flaw (drop site)	2	
8	Site Access	Easily accessible for planting and maintenance equipment and long term monitoring (1 pt)	1	
9	Within a CIP Drainage Area	Within a CIP Drainage Area (3 pts); outside of CIP Drainage Area (0 pt)	3	
10	Total Reforestation Area	>5 acres (3 pts); 2-5 acres (2pts); <2 acres (1 pt)	3	
Total Points and Score			25	

Ranking of Reforestation Projects	
Total Score	Priority
≥ 20	High
≥ 10-20	Medium
<10	Low

Connecting Forest “islands” – The potential to expand or connect existing forested areas on the property or surrounding properties.

Stream Order - A stream's order is its rank, or relative position, within the network. A first-order stream is a channel with no tributaries. That is, a channel at a stream's upper reaches near its source. A second-order stream is a channel fed by at least two first-order tributaries. The joining of two-second order streams forms a third- order stream, etc. Stream ranking continues in this manner until the highest-ordered channel is reached. First and second-order streams are located in the headwater areas of watersheds and typically convey small volumes of water.

These lower-order streams are vulnerable to pollution because they are unable to dilute contaminants received from their collection areas and the in stream ecosystems are generally not complex enough to assimilate much organic waste.

Brook Trout Presence - Brook trout in Maryland are designated as a Species of Special Concern and are valuable for ecological, aesthetic, recreational and economic reasons. They are considered a biological indicator species because they can only exist in clean, free flowing coldwater streams. The presence of a documented brook trout stream on a property or determination that the applicant property drains directly to a trout stream watershed indicates that property has a heightened need for protection.

Brook Trout streams in Frederick County are indicated on the [following map](#).

Watershed Health – Frederick County conducted watershed assessments of all major watersheds within the County between 2008 and 2019. To complete these assessments scientists collected information from stream reaches throughout the County including such factors as the amount of forest along the stream banks, amount of stream bank erosion, levels of particular pollutants in water samples, stream “bug” presence and species diversity, and other tangible metrics.

- [Ballenger Creek](#)
- [Bennett Creek](#)
- [Lower Bush Creek](#)
- [Upper Bush Creek](#)
- [Carroll Creek](#)
- [Catoctin Creek](#)
- [Fishing Creek](#)
- [Glade Creek](#)
- [Hunting Creek](#)
- [Israel Creek](#)
- [Little Catoctin Creek South](#)
- [Lower Linganore Creek](#)
- [Upper Linganore Creek](#)
- [Little Pipe Creek](#)
- [Middle Creek](#)
- [Monocacy Direct Southwest](#)
- [Owens Creek](#)
- [Potomac Direct](#)
- [Toms Creek](#)
- [Tuscarora Creek](#)

Land ownership – As part of the initial meeting OSER discusses with owners if there are any liens against the property or issues of land use regulations with the mortgage company or an easement holder that would prevent the property from being reforested. This determination is

outside of the item listed in the Ecological and Programmatic Ranking Criteria Table. The Land Ownership metric in the table is based on the physical location of the property either being within Frederick County's delineated MS4 boundary or outside of it. If the property is located in one of the eight municipalities within Frederick County that have their own MS4 permits it is considered a fatal flaw for the Creek ReLeaf application as these municipalities could use the reforestation towards meeting their goals and Frederick County does not wish to remove this option from the municipality.

Site Access – The property is ranked on how accessible the site is for plating, maintenance and long term monitoring. This is strictly a programmatic ranking metric with sites having easy access to the reforestation area receiving a single point more than sites having difficult access. Sites that have no access to the reforestation areas are not eligible; and this is determined during the initial site visit with the owner.

CIP Drainage Areas - Is the property located in a drainage area that contains other CIP projects utilizing similar contractors or materials? This metric helps the County obtain the greatest benefit from contracts and funding by utilizing economies of scale.

Total Reforestation Area – This metric is set up so that property owners placing larger parcels under easement will receive greater credit in the ranking process. The total area to be reforested must be at least 5 acres and the program was initially set up where neighbors could join together to meet that minimum, thus the 1 point allotment for less than 2 acres since each property is evaluated individually for the Ecological and Programmatic Ranking as a whole.