



Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's *Clear Creeks Project*: 2013-2017



In 2013, a group of neighbors from Wilson Point, Bowley's Quarters, and other local communities met with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy to answer a question, "What would you like to see happen with your local rivers and creeks?"

Their answer was simple. What they wanted to see...were their feet.

And so, began the ***Clear Creeks Project***.

Long-time and newly-arrived residents could relate stories that they had either lived or heard told about past days when the local waterways were so clear that you could look down and watch fish swim and crabs molt. You could wade and wander through water so unclouded, you could literally see your toes. Community members wanted that degree of water clarity again for themselves, their children, and their children's children.

And so, the *Clear Creeks Project* found its heart purpose and practical goal. Someone suggested the motto "See Your Feet in Our Creeks." Someone else called out, "Make it *feets*." The grins had it. And "See Your Feets in Our Creeks!" became the rallying cry of the grant-funded, community-based project: *Clear Creeks: Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride*.

Now it was time to join together and make it happen.

For the next two years, Middle River and Tidal Gunpowder residents got their hands dirty and their mud boots wet. They planted trees, adopted creeks, installed rain barrels, planted bay-friendly gardens, and proudly certified their properties Bay-Wise. They hosted workshops at their homes; invited Project reps to come talk to their community organizations; and even built a *Clear Creeks* float and won second place in the Wilson Point 4th of July parade.

In other words, they got things done.

Then in 2015, the Project extended its reach into the neighboring Bird River watershed, and in the fall of 2015, funds were secured that allowed us to continue restoration efforts through

2017. Over time, the Project also expanded its focus to include a variety of property owners including businesses, religious institutions, private schools, and other organizations.

We are excited to announce that we now have grant funding through 2019 for Middle River, Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River, and Lower Gunpowder Falls watersheds!

With love, laughter, and a whole lot of shared determination, over 3,300 volunteers have been working to *see more feets*, taking small individual steps in order to make a big difference together. We hope you will join us!



Do your part to help us “see your feets in our creeks”! Learn more at www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks

The *Clear Creeks Project* is made possible through funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; Baltimore Gas and Electric; Gunpowder Valley Conservancy; and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

CLEAR CREEKS PROJECT NEWS ARCHIVE

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