

ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE LANDS &
WATERS OF THE GUNPOWDER WATERSHED

1989 - 2019



Reflections from 2019

2019 will be remembered as a year of celebration of all our good work and of the people who made it happen. It is not lost on those of us here now that we are riding on the efforts of so many passionate, forward-thinking leaders, and it was an honor to be able to recognize many of them this past year.

The GVC's 30th Anniversary could be measured by the following program successes:

- » Achieved our best year yet in protecting water quality and engaging volunteers and members
- » Preserved 240 additional acres of prime natural area with increased access to the Gunpowder River
- » Secured two years of funding through grants for our highly successful Clear Creeks Project and its expansion into the Loch Raven area

It was also a year of transition. The Board and staff have spent 3 years preparing for what has been termed "The Leap." A point in time when the organization takes a large step forward towards achieving our mission. Several key infrastructure needs were to be met, including the hiring of an Executive Director. GVC is now poised to make this "Leap" towards a clean and healthy Gunpowder Watershed for the next generation.

As we move forward, we have additional challenges but also more opportunities. We have started the strategic planning process to ensure that by the end of 2020, when our current plan expires, we will be well on our way to meeting our goals for the next 3 - 5 years. And do not be surprised if that plan incorporates a large increase in our tree planting efforts! Healthy forests and woodlands play a key role in lessening the impacts of climate change and providing clean water in our streams. With some estimates giving us a ten-year window to turn climate change around, GVC will be doing our part locally by joining with other regional organizations and businesses to plant, preserve, and maintain even more trees.

We would like to thank all of you for a successful year and encourage you to continue to engage with the GVC as we work for cleaner water and preserved open spaces. Your support, but more importantly, your friendship, is of great value to us and we will work to honor the trust you have placed in us to succeed, for the sake of the Gunpowder Watershed and for those of us who live here.

Sincerely,

Lou Etgen (GVC Executive Director)

Jim Martin (GVC Board President)

Learn more about our six new Board members at:
gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/board-of-directors-advisors

Our Mission



To educate and mobilize people and resources to preserve and restore the lands and waterways of the Gunpowder watershed.

The GVC is committed to clean water for the two million people who live in, visit or benefit from the Gunpowder Watershed by preserving land, restoring ecosystems and mobilizing people to become environmental stewards.

Where We Work



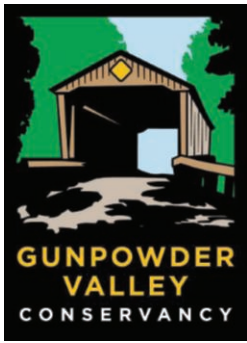
The **Gunpowder Watershed** drains 500 square miles from York County, PA through Baltimore, Carroll & Harford counties, to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Most of the Baltimore area's drinking water supply comes from two reservoirs located within our watershed: Prettyboy and Loch Raven.

What We Do



- » Land preservation
- » Watershed education & restoration
- » Clear Creeks Project
- » Reforestation
- » Tree maintenance
- » Stream adoptions
- » Stream clean-ups
- » Rain barrels
- » Conservation gardens
- » Trail maintenance
- » Volunteer engagement

gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org



Celebrating 30 Years of GVC

In 1989, the GVC began as a grassroots effort to protect the “green triangle” of land between the Big and Little Gunpowder Falls from development. Our founding members, Ed Stuebing, Mary Frances Shepperd and Betty Shea Miller incorporated the GVC on December 6, 1989. They evoked a simple motto to inspire people to preserve land and protect our waterways.

...because the commitment begins at home

The GVC logo features the Jericho Covered Bridge as a nod to our origins and our commitment to connecting people to all that the Gunpowder Watershed has to offer.



LENDING A HAND FOR MOTHER EARTH

The GVC's first volunteer event took place in April 1990, in honor of the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day. 300 volunteers removed 28 tons of trash from Gunpowder Falls State Park (GFSP)'s streams. Their work uncovered an **upside-down Volkswagen car** and **over 100 tires**.



PRESERVING THE PAST & BLAZING NEW TRAILS

GVC volunteers were influential in campaigns to create the Franklinville Historic District and Cromwell Valley Park. If you have ever hiked the trails at GFSP, you'll recognize **their distinct hand-drawn maps**...created by the GVC Trails Committee!



CREATING RURAL LEGACIES

The GVC helped create the **Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area** and **Baltimore County Coastal Rural Legacy Area** to protect contiguous tracts of cultural and natural resources. We also co-founded the Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance circa 1997.



GREENING COMMUNITIES

We have also **increased our impact on the Gunpowder's health by installing multiple Bay-Wise practices** across one site or community. This work through our Clear Creeks Project has connected almost 5,500 neighbors, members and students to environmental stewardship activities.

Our Accomplishments



28,700+ volunteers



31,000+ native trees planted



1 million gallons of water conserved



259 tons of trash removed



169 conservation gardens installed

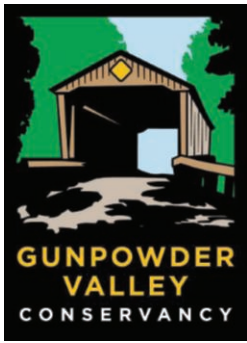


120+ community partners



THREE CHEERS FOR THREE DECADES

Kudos to our **2019 Hero of the Green** Charlie Conklin (pictured on right; founder Ed Stuebing on left) for his 30 years of service to the GVC! Chances are you first heard about the GVC from Charlie. He has played a vital role in our outreach efforts, especially with Towson University and senior centers.



Why We GVC

DEB LANCASTER

CO-CHAIR OF THE JENNIFER BRANCH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (JBCA)



In 1971, I took part in an Earth Day celebration. I learned to recycle and started thinking about Mother Earth. Fast forward to 2009, four kids, now grown, and I was looking for “something.” I received a mailer from the GVC and signed up for a rain garden and a rain barrel. Soon I volunteered at other events, became a stream captain, and helped form a local offshoot of the GVC, the Jennifer Branch Conservation Association.

“What I learned from the GVC transcends me. It is something I do not only for me, but also for my children, their children, and the generations thereafter.”

MARK MCDONALD

GVC VOLUNTEER AND BAY-WISE STEWARD

As a child, I loved playing in the woods, taking hikes, catching tadpoles and watching them grow into frogs, and fishing in the Chesapeake Bay. As an adult, I enjoy taking picnics and running through the Loch Raven watershed. GVC gives me an opportunity to continue sharing my love of the outdoors with others and promoting good environmental practices.



DOUG DEMEO

GVC PARTNER - OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

I am profoundly grateful to GVC! They have helped our school and parish fulfill our faith-related mission to become better stewards of our air, land and water, and ecological leaders in our community. They have planted native trees, installed rain barrels, and created 6 conservation gardens. And there is more to come in 2020!



CINDY RILEY

GVC LAND EASEMENT OWNER

When I purchased a home with 23 acres of land and a Gunpowder River tributary running through it, my plan was to subdivide a building lot to help cover the investment. The longer I lived there and enjoyed the stream, the less I wanted to give up any of it. A friend connected me to the GVC. First, I placed an easement on the property and then allowed native trees to be planted to create a forest stream buffer. I appreciate all the GVC volunteers and the work that they have done here. I enjoy “my stream” every day, so I share a common goal with the GVC to preserve this unique and beautiful resource for future generations.



OLIVIA VENO

FORMER GVC INTERN

I first heard about GVC when I was a sophomore at Towson University. What has kept my interest over the past few years is that it has provided me with so many opportunities to not only learn new things, but to help make a difference.



“I drive through Loch Raven Reservoir and see trees I helped plant 3 years ago and it is a really good feeling.”

ALICE STRATHY

GVC VOLUNTEER AND BAY-WISE STEWARD

I have always loved nature and gardening. Too many times, I drove tree-lined roads that ended up having the trees cut down to make room for housing developments. It was so heartbreaking. I decided if I ever had a chance to do something to help the trees I would do it. And then I found out about the GVC in 2015! I reached out to the GVC about an erosion problem in my backyard. They installed a Bayscape garden and a rain barrel. The garden helped with the erosion problem and now my backyard comes alive with butterflies, bees, and dragonflies each year.

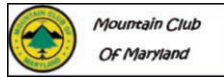




2019 Donor List

Thank you to our funders, sponsors, donors and members!

2019 GRANT FUNDERS



WHITE OAK - \$1,000 +

Anonymous
David Berry
BGE an Exelon Company, Corporation Relations
Bluemont Manor Farm, LLC
Sanford & Susan Buxbaum
Donald Callihan
Century Engineering Inc.
Charles Conklin
Chuck Conklin III
Randy & Marcy Davis
Justin & Molly Esworthy
Kiwanis Club of Towson Timonium Foundation
Sandra Liotta & Carl Osterman
Livegreen Landscape Assoc. Inc.
Loch Raven Skeet & Trap Center Inc.
Julie & David Lynn
M&T Charitable Foundation
T. Rowe Price Investments

HICKORY - \$500 +

Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association
Susan & Fred Bath
Steve Fauser
Gaylord Brooks Realty Co. Inc.
Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, Inc.
Inna Kolomiytsev
Lisa Lubomski
James & Sandy Martin
Miramar Landing HOA
Pat Novak
Nancy & Bob Pentz
Perry Family

Thomas Reifsnyder & Lily Im
Matthew & Danielle Simons
Stormwater Maintenance & Consulting
Karen Stupski
Towson Service Foundation, Inc.
Kimberly Turner
WSP

SASSAFRAS - \$100 +

American Native Plants
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
Mary Barber
Kimberly Barnes
Elaine Batang
Dr. Robert & Betty Batchelor
Char Baumgardner
Ruth Bennett
Ellen & Lyle Benson
Dottie Berg
Bird River Beach Community Association
Cynthia Bork
Bowerman Loreley Beach Community Association
Daniel Brellis
Jo Ann Brooks
Matthew Brown
Sarah Bunk
Kirsten Burger
John Canoles
Caplan Family
Law Office of C.J. Carmody
Timothy Casey
Patricia Contino
James Cornell
Councilwoman Cathy Bevins

Darin Crew
Cromwell Valley Park Council
Robert & Luana Crush
Rob Culp
June & Ted Dahlstrom
Edward Decker
Robert & Julia Deford
Stephanie Detterline
Doerfer Insurance Services, Inc.
Susan Dowell
Ecotone, Inc.
Edrich Lumber Inc.
Leslie Erickson & J. Wright Witcher
Essex Middle River Civic Council
Lou & Cindy Etgen
Marie & James Etgen
Exelon Foundation
Fidelity Charitable
Fran & John Flanigan
Dennis & Janice Flanigan
Terri Forand
Melinda & Steve Fowl
Garden Architecture, LLC
Purnell Glenn & Corinne Andiorio
Stephanie Gordon
Cyrus Green
Barbara & Dave Gunter
Alta & Jim Haywood
Scott & Gail Hisey
Holly Neck Conservation Association
Elizabeth Hunt
Karen Jacobs
Kathy Judge
David & Rose Kausch
James & Patricia Kelly
Miriam & James Knuth
Deborah & Mark Lancaster
Lynn Lanham

SASSAFRAS - \$100 +

John Leonard Jr.
Dr. Roger & Joan Lewin
Chin and Lana Lien
Wally Lippincott
Jonathan Lovell
Jenifer Mallinoff
Marshy Point Nature Center Council
Kathy & Frank Martin
William McAvoy
Scott McBride
Mark & Linda McDonald
David McKibbin
Suzanne Merryman
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, FLCA
John Miller & Dr. Jane Wolfson
Louise Miller & Gabriel Purviance
Braxton Mitchell
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc.
Network for Good
Dr. Carol Newill & Brough Schamp
Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council
Brandi Overstreet
Joseph Palmer
Kim Peabody
Gordon L. Peltz & Linda Peltz
Lorraine & Joseph Perry
Phoenix Wildlife Center
Merritt Pridgeon
Sandy Reid
Debbie Richardson
Barbara Risacher & Arthur Casserly
Marion & Ed Romans
Janet & Doug Schollenberger
Heidi Schreiber-Pan
Thomas Schueler
Mona Scott and Lee Ann Smith
Elizabeth Shrader
Victoria & Norman Sines
Deborah Slawson
Timothy Somers
Michael & Pamela Spencer
Julieta Stack
Robert & Sally Stanhope
Alice & Darryl Strathy
Henry & Sandy Stromberger
Ed & Judy Stuebing
Laurie Taylor-Mitchell
Benjamin Thompson
Ashley & Katey Traut
David Vanko
Donald Vetter
W. Trees Utility Veg Consulting
Laura & Robert Wilke
Olivia Zug

MAGNOLIA - \$50 +

Karl Blankenship
Brenda Bond
Deborah J. Bowers
Bowley's Quarters Community Association
Ronald Brown
Sandra Burt
Danelle Cayea
David Class
Sarah Collins
Richard Coyle
Katie Cruit
Anne Culbertson
Julie & Joe Degraff
Nancy & Juan Dufau
Georgene & Dave Dvorak
Gillian Edgehill
Betsy Eisbart
Liz Entwisle
Tom Ernst
Rob Etgen
George Fallon
Carol & George Fanshaw III
Brian & Cathy Finnegan
Lynn Flanigan
Karen Flora
Jill Flynn
Wini & Roger Frye
Mike Galvin
Derese Getnet
Erica & Patrick Getts
Minnie & John Gillett
William Griffith
Scott Heacock
Sarah Higgins
Mary Hoey
Marion & Al Hoffman
Ann Jones
Jay Keithline
Janet Kines
Jessica Klinefelter
Anita Kraemer
Ben Larson
Robbie Levin
Mark Magness
Carl Maynard
John McClintock
Michelle Monaghan
Kate Muro
Dr. K. Michael Murphy & Associates
Barbara Newton
Peggy Perry
Jennifer Powers
Rebecca Wertime

Mark Sabiston
Frances & Ted Sanderson
Kim Shapiro
Lois Simmons
Wanda Smith-Gerber
Doris Sweet
Karen Thorpe
Catherine Tipper
Robin Tuner
Julissa Tydings
Alison Vogrin
Sara Weldin
Trudy Wexler
Dori Wittham

REDBUD - \$25 +

Anonymous
Nick Abbasi
Jaime & Robyn Alvarez
Audrey & Eric Anderson
Donna Carr
Phyllis Carter
Jessica Emrick
Cathy Ford
Stephany Frazier
Kate Fritz
Karl & Julie Gaynor
Robert Goren
Marilyn Handwerger
Dawn Harper
Melissa Harris
David Hash
Elizabeth Helmer
Darcy Herman
Debbie Hoehn
Denise Junis
Francis J. Kriston
Andrea Madsen
Dr. Jahromi Mahmood
Sally Malena
Carol Mason
Chrystol Norton
Deborah Raynor
Barbara & Dennis Robinson
Joseph Schamp
Janet Shambaugh
Brad Sharpless
Chris Shaughness
Kristen & Matthew Shortridge
Kit Slafkosky & Chris Bauman
Cynthia van Ells
Jennifer Verbanac
Sherrie Williams
Amy & James Young

Thank you for your contributions!



Financials

2019 Income

Government: \$426,717

Individuals: \$48,131

Program Revenue: \$30,062

Special Event Revenue:
\$24,543

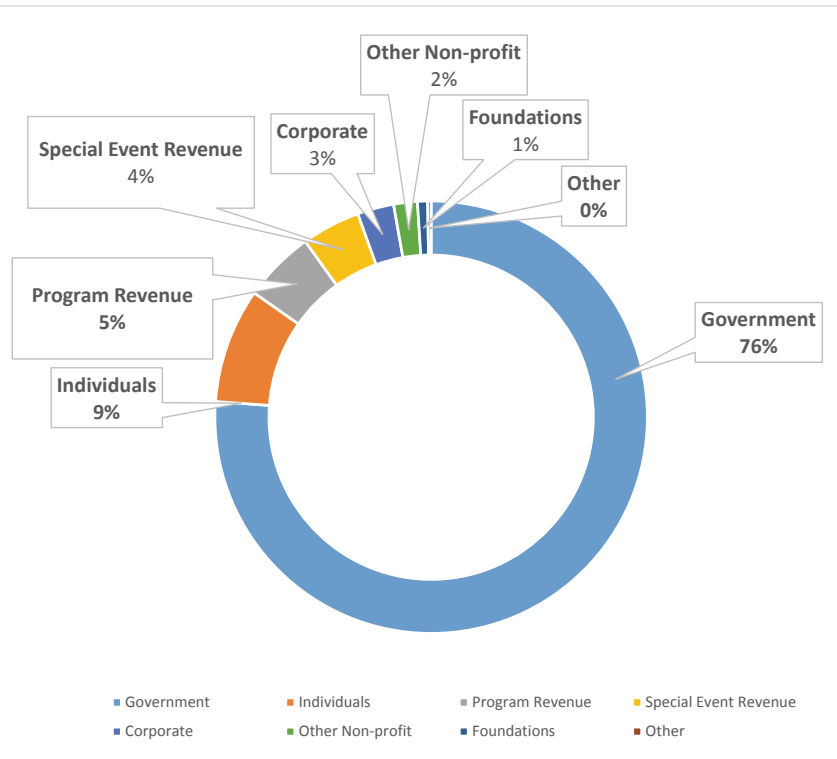
Corporate: \$15,264

Other Non-profit: \$9,915

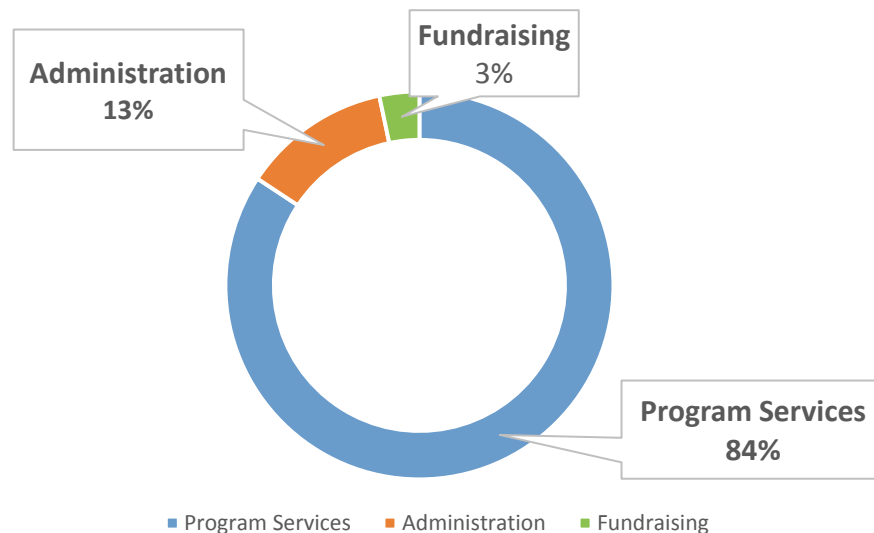
Foundations: \$4,244

Other: \$1,427

TOTAL INCOME: \$560,303



2019 Expenses



Program Services: \$414,005

Administration: \$60,940

Fundraising: \$16,316

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$491,262

Get Involved with the GVC

For three decades, the GVC has worked tirelessly to preserve the beauty of the Gunpowder Watershed and reduce pollution to our drinking water reservoirs. Today, **YOU** can make a difference for future generations.



VOLUNTEER TO IMPROVE THE GUNPOWDER

The GVC offers a variety of environmental stewardship opportunities for volunteers of all ages. Our events include: tree planting, tree maintenance, stream clean-ups, and rain garden workshops. Learn more at gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/calendar.



INVITE US TO YOUR NEXT MEETING

Let the GVC share our expertise on ways you can take action for clean water on your property and/or your community. Contact us at: info@gunpowdervc.org.



BECOME A CHAMPION FOR CLEAN WATER & LAND PRESERVATION

Your tax-deductible donation makes GVC's work possible! gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/make-a-donation.

Send checks payable to:

Gunpowder Valley
Conservancy,
P.O. Box 9733
Towson, MD 21284

\$30 plants 3 native trees that provide wildlife habitat and absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

\$70 installs a rain barrel to reduce polluted runoff into local streams.

\$100 provides supplies for 50 volunteers to remove trash along streams.

\$500 creates a rain garden to capture and filter stormwater as well as provide pollinator habitat.

\$1,000 maintains a grove of 100 trees. Help young trees grow into healthy forests!



Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
PO Box 9733
Towson MD 21284



Keep in touch with GVC



gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org



facebook.com/GVC25



instagram.com/gunpowdervalleyconservancy