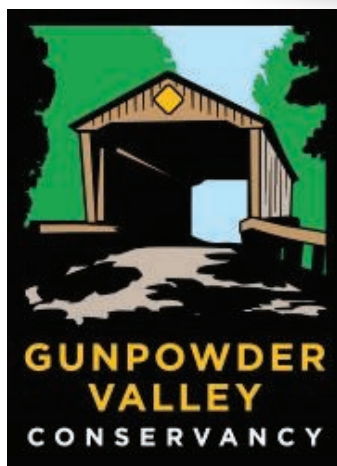



# GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



## 28 YEARS

Bridging People,  
Land Preservation and  
Waterway Restoration in  
the Gunpowder Watershed

# Reflections from the Executive Director and Board President



2017 has been an incredible year for the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Substantial successes, organizational growth, and expected challenges marked our 28th year in operation. We are forever grateful for the growing list of individual, business and community supporters and partners.

Since inception, over 24,000 volunteers have participated in the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's land preservation and watershed education and restoration activities. Our volunteers and funders are the driving force of our organization, and we thank you immensely for your support!

In 2017, a transition in leadership saw Board President, Charlie Conklin, stepping into the role of Vice President of Operations, with our new Board President, Jim Martin, taking the helm. We welcomed three new board members - Randy Davis, Stephanie Gordon and Inna Kolomiyytsev, while working vigilantly to grow membership, increase partnerships, and hold the most successful Annual Fall Fundraiser and Dollar for Dollar Match Campaign in our history.

While the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy has experienced the competitiveness of obtaining grant funding to grow our Watershed Education and Restoration Program, we are grateful for the grants that have been awarded, as well as, the corporate sponsors and individuals whose donations support our programs.

Water and land is a complex web that brings us life. Our work protects, restores and preserves this natural interconnection between land and water. We want to work with you, your communities, schools, clubs, and religious affiliations to preserve land, plant trees, install rain gardens, clean up rivers, maintain trails and perform tree maintenance and invasive plant removal in the Gunpowder watershed. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, we thank you for your continued support. We could not do this work without you and thank you for being an integral part of our organization.

We encourage you to learn about this year's accomplishments and environmental programs by visiting [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org). We hope this report will interest you in further participating and supporting our mission to educate and mobilize people and resources to preserve and restore the lands and waterways of the Gunpowder watershed.

Sincerely,



Jim Martin, President



Carol Silldorff, Executive Director

## Board of Directors, Advisory Council and Staff

### Board of Directors

Jim Martin, Board President  
Charlie Conklin, Vice President of Operations  
Edward W. Stuebing, Ph.D., Treasurer, Past President  
Brandi Overstreet, Secretary  
Randy Davis  
Stephanie Gordon  
Chris Hannaby  
Inna Kolomiyytsev  
John Miller  
Bill Rees  
Matt Simons

### Advisory Council

Purnell Glenn  
Justin Esworthy  
Dorothy Hinnant

### Staff

#### Management

Carol Silldorff: Executive Director  
Peggy Perry: Education and Restoration Program Director and Clear Creeks Project Manager  
Darcy Herman: Clear Creeks Project (CCP) Assistant Manager  
Kim Peabody: Tree Maintenance Coordinator  
Karen Stupksi: Grant Researcher/Writer  
Amy Young: Clear Creeks Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator

#### Additional Staff

Matthew Bonomo: CCP Project Assistant, Reforestation Program  
Patricia Ceglia: Landscape Architect, Clear Creeks Project  
Jack Leonard: Landscape Architect, Clear Creeks Project  
Tiiu Mayer: Forest Steward Coordinator  
Allison Mosely: Youth Conservation Corps Coordinator

# Our Programs

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) aims to work with residents and volunteers to care for the entire Gunpowder watershed system by providing a variety of stewardship opportunities.

The GVC has conducted many outreach, restoration, and land preservation projects, focusing on:

- Land Preservation
- Reforestation
- Tree Maintenance
- Rain and Bayscape Gardens
- Education and Stewardship
- Trail Maintenance
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Adopt-A-Stream and Stream Clean-Ups



Rain Barrel Installation

## About the Gunpowder Watershed



Since 1989, we have maintained conservation easements on over 1,600 acres of land, planted more than 30,000 trees on 150 acres, distributed 400 rain barrels conserving over 1 million gallons of water, coordinated 600 stream clean-ups, and recruited more than 24,000 dedicated volunteers to protect and restore the land and waterways of the Gunpowder watershed.

The Gunpowder watershed drains 500 square miles from its starting point in lower York County, PA sweeping through Baltimore, Carroll and Harford Counties in Maryland before reaching the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Gunpowder River is 53 miles long and has two main branches: Big Gunpowder Falls and Little Gunpowder Falls.

Protecting land adjacent to the Gunpowder River and its tributaries is critical to sustain water and air quality for fish and wildlife habitat. The majority of the Baltimore metropolitan area water supply comes from two reservoirs located within the Gunpowder watershed: Prettyboy Reservoir and Loch Raven Reservoir.



Experiencing the joys of our beautiful Gunpowder Watershed.

# 2017 Education and Restoration Accomplishments

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy works with over one hundred partners and connects to thousands of individuals each year to perform tree plantings and tree maintenance, stream cleanups, conservation garden workshops and installations, rain barrel installations, trail maintenance and invasive plant removal, storm drain stenciling, canoe river cleanups, adopt-a-stream programs, forums, and educational workshops. We also exhibit at public events where we provide information on watershed restoration. All volunteer events are eligible for community service credit.



Photo credit: Peg Perry

We encourage interested volunteers and their families to visit [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/calendar](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/calendar) to learn about involvement opportunities.





# The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Clear Creeks Project Turns Five in 2017

From Wilson Point to Bowleys Quarters, Holly Neck to Bird River Beach, Miramar Landing to the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall, and many points in between, over 3,000 people have participated in the *Clear Creeks: Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride Project!* We are proud of these accomplishments and eager to further partner with communities to restore water quality.

2013-2017 Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Clear Creeks Accomplishments	
256	Rain barrels distributed
42	Rain gardens installed
16	Micro-bioretenion systems installed
46	Bayscape gardens and buffers installed
68	Yards Bay-Wise Certified
145	Workshops and community wide educational events
29	Streams adopted
48	Stream clean-ups conducted
46,507	Pounds of trash removed from streams
943	Stream clean-up volunteers
2112	Trees planted
16.68	Acres planted with trees
858	Tree planting volunteers
41,405	Households reached with mailings
425	BMP/Bay-Wise practices implemented
263	Households "changing behavior" (BMPs + BW)
3,385	Participants/volunteers taking restoration actions
9,763	Volunteer hours contributed
\$261,550	Value of volunteer labor

The Clear Creeks Project began in 2013, at the edge of the water, in the creeks of Middle River and the Tidal Gunpowder, where residents witnessed deteriorating water conditions. Community residents tag-lined the project “see your feets in our creeks.” They remembered being able to wade six feet into the water and clearly view their toes, and expressed hope of restoring water quality for future generations.

Communities voiced their opinions and GVC listened. Together we shaped the Clear Creeks Project to educate, motivate, and provide incentives to residents to improve water quality through:

- **Stormwater best management practices (BMP’s) and Bay-Wise (BW) landscaping** such as the installation of rain barrels, rain gardens, Bayscapes, and Bay-Wise landscaping.
- **Hosting free educational workshops, events and producing and distributing literature** to provide information on improving water quality, reducing flooding, and creating habitat for native wildlife.
- **Providing cost-share discounts** for Clear Creeks watershed residents and institutions ranging from 50% discounts on rain barrels to 80% discounts on rain garden installations for those implementing these practices.
- **Fostering volunteer opportunities** to “adopt” and clean streams, plant and maintain trees, install conservation gardens, construct rain barrels, and become Bay-Wise Certified Stewards.

# Clear Creeks Project Expansion Continues

From 2016 to 2017, community leaders and residents partnered with the GVC to expand the Clear Creeks Project into the adjacent Bird River watershed, adapting the program to meet the needs and values of both waterfront and inland neighborhoods. The Miramar Landing residential community and the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association taught GVC that Home Owner Associations and sporting clubs are impressive partners and ideal places to showcase stormwater BMPs.

Also in 2017, GVC expanded our partnerships and education and restoration activities to the Lower Gunpowder Falls watershed, an area encompassing Carney, Parkville, Glen Arm, and parts of Towson, Long Green, Baldwin, Perry Hall, and Joppa Road corridor. This work will officially become part of the Clear Creeks Project expansion in 2018, where we will continue to work together to realize our mutual goal of clean water. Strong partnerships with the Jennifer Branch Conservation Association (a sub group of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy created in 2010 as a result of our first large-scale community BMP project, the Jennifer Branch Preservation Project) will help bring our joint goals to fruition.



Rain garden installation

Last fall, as a part of GVC's Better Waterways Clean-Up, volunteers Betsy Eisbart, Fran Sanderson, and Karen Schueler from the Bowerman-Loreley Beach community joined Jennifer Branch Conservation Association co-chair Susan Bath in Carney to perform a stream cleanup of the headwaters of the Jennifer Branch. Reporting on this activity in their newsletter, they mused, "Wait a minute. Did you say Carney? Way out there? Why would they go do that?? Well, Carney is part of the Gunpowder River watershed, which directly impacts the Bird River. It's true. 'What happens up stream happens downstream.'"

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. Here is to more Clear Creeks Project partnerships, involved people, and progress over the next five years!

**Volunteer and learn more:** [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/clearcreeks)

**View calendar of events:** [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/calendar](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/calendar)

As part of our expansion work into the Lower Gunpowder Falls watershed in 2018, GVC's work will include many events and BMP installations at the Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association in Carney. Please join us to learn more about how you can beautify your landscape while improving water quality.



2017 Clear Creeks Project funding is provided by the following agencies and organizations:

Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Baltimore Gas and Electric, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, administered by MD Department of Natural Resources, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.

*Better Waterways Clean-Up 2017 Volunteers in Carney, MD*

# 2017 GVC Land Preservation Report

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's land preservation efforts focus on working with land owners in the Gunpowder watershed to place properties in conservation easements to preserve the natural environment - clean air and water, agricultural, recreational, historic and scenic resources in perpetuity for future generations. Identified priority areas are currently located in the Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area along the Gunpowder Falls from Sparks into White Hall, and the Coastal Rural Legacy Area, along Middle River and the Bird River watersheds. Currently, GVC has 34 properties totalling 1606 acres, in easements with the goal of preserving 2000 acres by 2020.

The GVC's Gunpowder Watershed Conservation Project, initiated in 2015, is a collaboration with the National Park Service, Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance (BCLTA), Baltimore County Department of Planning, Maryland Environmental Trust and many other partners. Three workshops in 2016 resulted in each land trust developing their own criteria to identify properties that are regionally significant to the sustainability of the values identified by each land trust through the use of geographic information systems.

In 2017, thanks to the tremendous technical support from the Baltimore County Department of Planning, the GVC now has the capabilities to identify areas within the Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area that meet criteria for placing land in preservation. GVC will focus outreach to landowners of the priority properties to encourage them to place their properties in a conservation easement through the various opportunities for conservation that exist - from donations to purchased easements.

GVC acknowledges the owners of the properties currently in easements for their commitment to preserving land for future generations. Preservation of land promotes each land trusts's conservation values while securing healthy drinking water for residents and agricultural needs in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

As quoted from a Native American proverb, "We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

**To learn more about placing your property in a conservation easement, please visit our website:**

[www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/conservation-easements](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/conservation-easements)

or contact Charlie Conklin, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Board Member and Vice President of Operations, via email at [ceconklin12@verizon.net](mailto:ceconklin12@verizon.net).



*Sines property under conservation easement*

# Financials

## Revenue

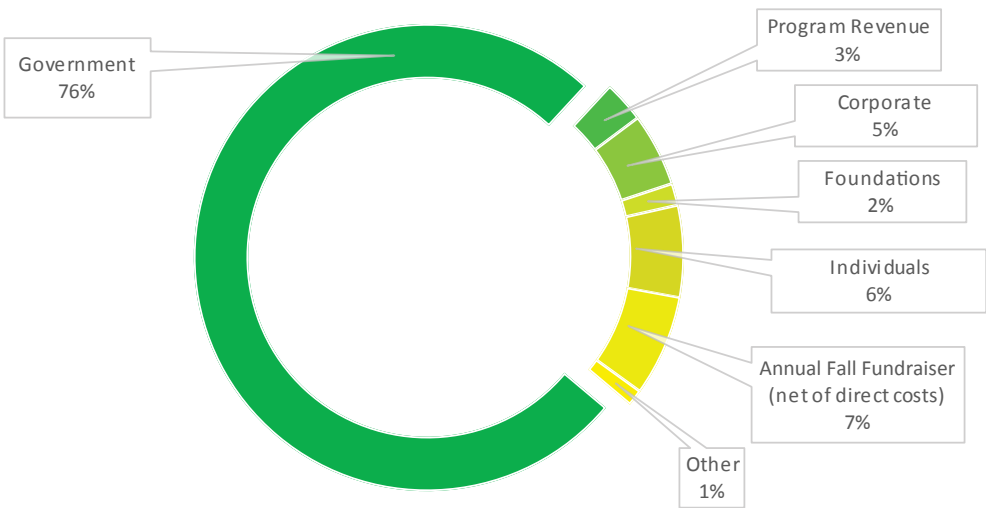
Government	\$	292,189
Program Revenue	\$	11,242
Corporate	\$	19,759
Foundations	\$	6,000
Individuals	\$	24,753
Annual Fall Fundraiser	\$	27,233
Other	\$	9,978
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>391,154</b>

## Expenses

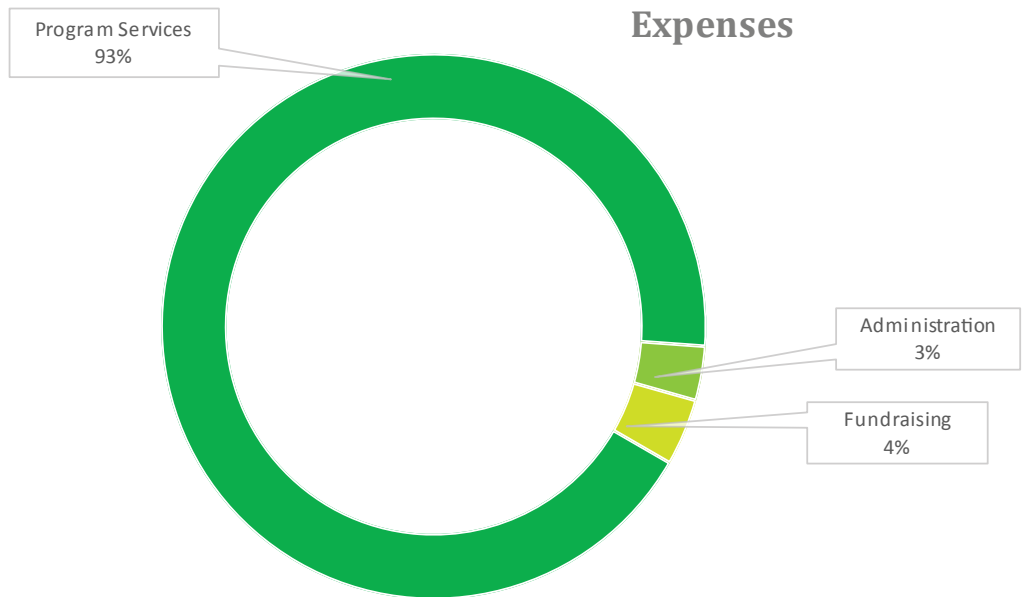
Program Services	\$	369,647
Administration	\$	12,833
Fundraising	\$	15,767
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>398,247</b>



### Revenue



### Expenses





# Thank You Funders, Sponsors, Donors and Members

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy could not accomplish our ambitious conservation goals without the generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations and partners! Every contribution plays a crucial role in our conservation efforts.

## 2017 Education and Restoration Grant Funders

Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability  
Baltimore Gas & Electric  
Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Keith Campbell Foundation  
Maryland's Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (administered by Maryland Department of Natural Resources)  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund (funded by the U.S. EPA)  
REI, Inc.

## Donors

### White Oak \$1,000 or more

Baltimore Gas & Electric  
Sanford and Susan Buxbaum  
Century Engineering Inc.  
Charlie Conklin  
Randy and Marcy Davis  
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.  
James and Sandy Martin  
Kiwanis Club of Towson Timonium  
Loch Raven Skeet and Trap Center  
McCormick & Co., Inc.  
Bill Rees  
Marjorie Roswell  
PayPal  
SC&H Group, Inc.  
Ed Stuebing  
T ROWE PRICE Investments  
Towson University

### Hickory \$500 or more

Baltimore Co Game & Fish Protective Assn  
David Lynn  
Holly Neck Conservation Assn  
Meredith McDonagh  
Great-West Life & Annuity  
Jennifer Branch Conservation Assn  
Kelly Integral Solutions, LLC  
Sandra Liotta  
MD State Game & Fish Protective Assn  
Miramar Landing Homeowners Assn  
MOM's Organic Market  
Pat Novak  
Matthew and Danielle Simons  
Towson Rotary

### Sassafras \$100 or more

Dr. Robert H. and Mrs. Batchelor  
Sue and Fred Bath  
Ruth Bennett and Karen Stupski  
Susannah Bergmann  
David Berry  
Bird River Beach Community Assn  
Bertucci's Restaurant  
Bowerman Lorely Beach Community Assn  
Daniel Brellis  
Kristen Burger  
Timothy Casey  
David Chasin  
Sharon and Rick Childs  
Kirsten Coffen  
Community College of Baltimore County  
Cromwell Valley Park Council  
Lee and Bob Crush  
Robin Davenport  
Stephanie Detterline  
Judith Ann Droege  
Edrich Lumber, Inc.  
Leslie Erickson and J.Wright Witcher  
Essex Middle River Civic Council  
Justin Esworthy  
George and Carol Fanshaw  
Enid Feinberg  
Eugene and Catherine Flanagan  
Joshua Frank  
Glen Arm Garden Club  
Karen Gordon  
Stephanie Gordon  
Chris Hannaby  
Alta and Jim Haywood  
Darcy Herman  
Scott and Gail Hisey  
Historical Society of Baltimore County  
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Pat and Jim Kelly  
Inna Kolomytsev  
Anita Kraemer  
Mary Jo Kuhn  
Deborah and Mark Lancaster  
John Leonard, Jr.  
Joan Lewin  
Sandra Liotta  
Lutherville Garden Club  
William McAvoy  
John McClintock  
David McKibbin  
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit  
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Henry and Sandy Stromberger  
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Peter and Janet Terry  
David Tomb  
TALMAR Garden & Horticultural Therapy Ctr  
Towson Rotary Foundation, Inc.  
Weyrich, Cronin, & Sorra Chartered  
Jane Wolfson and John Miller  
Christopher Zumbrun



## **Magnolia \$50 or more**

Ellen Benson  
Bowleys Quarters Community Assoc  
Valerie Brennen  
David Class  
Ralph Comegna  
Mary Corddry  
Daren Crew  
Wini and Roger Frye  
Karen Gordon  
Scott Heacock  
Barbara Hopkins  
Carla Janson  
Faith Kauffman  
Jennifer Laing  
Jessica Leonard  
Suzanne Merryman  
Jenn Powers

Marion Romans  
Mary Scott  
Timothy Somers  
Robert and Sally Stanhope  
Alice Strathy  
Leigh Ann Thomas  
Anne Todd  
Vernon Tydings  
David Vanko  
Donald Vetter  
Darryn Waugh

## **Redbud under \$50**

Susan and Jeffrey Dorsey  
James Felix  
Glenn Ferenschak  
Melinda Fowl  
Robert Goren

Mary Grogan  
Denise Junis  
Susan Kane  
Francis J. Kriston  
Mark and Linda McDonald  
Janet Milstead  
Tony Scarr  
Mona Scott  
Janet Shambaugh  
Brad Sharpless  
Catherine Tipper



## **Make a Donation**

Become a champion for clean water and land preservation by making a gift to the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy! Your donation supports environmental conservation programs to preserve land and wildlife habitat, reduce pollution, and improve water quality in the Gunpowder watershed. Donation benefits include: monthly e-newsletter, information on upcoming volunteer events, as well as, discounts on annual fundraiser event tickets and rain barrels.

**To make an online donation, or if you are interested in a monthly recurring donation, please visit:**  
[www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/make-a-donation](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/make-a-donation)

**To make a donation by check, please make checks payable to “Gunpowder Valley Conservancy” and mail to: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 9733, Towson, MD 21284.**  
**Please write your phone number and email address on the check.**

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charity and your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance for your donation and support!

## **Other Ways to Give**

### **Workplace Giving and Matching Gifts**

Contact your employer to set up a charitable donation or to start a workplace giving program.

### **Planned Giving**

Include the GVC in your charitable legacy plan. Planned giving may include bequests, gifts of securities or property that can be designated for general operations or restricted to specific projects. Consult your financial planner or attorney on a planned gift to support the GVC.

### **Gift of Stock**

Consider transferring securities, including gifts of stocks or bonds, to Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. To initiate a gift of stock, please visit: [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/other-ways-to-give](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/other-ways-to-give).



Tree planting event at Loch Raven Reservoir with Loyola Rugby team volunteers.



Tree planting at Miramar Landing.



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