

# 2018

# ANNUAL REPORT



**BRIDGING PEOPLE, LAND PRESERVATION, AND WATERWAY  
RESTORATION IN THE GUNPOWDER WATERSHED SINCE 1989**

# REFLECTIONS FROM 2018

The mission of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) is to educate and mobilize people and resources to preserve and restore the lands and waterways of the Gunpowder watershed. We are an organization that was founded in 1989 by a group of people trying to make a difference. And as we enter our 30th year, we celebrate that together, with our many partners, corporate sponsors and our amazing volunteers, we are making a difference.

In our report, you will learn about our programs to preserve lands and restore areas that are critical to the health and character of the Gunpowder watershed. We are excited about the impact we are having with our educational programs that work to promote a life-long sense of wonder and understanding of the natural environment. But most importantly, you will hear about the people that make this all possible.

Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of the GVC. In 2018, over 2,300 people gave the GVC their time and effort to help us protect, restore and preserve the land and water around us. This is a new record for the GVC! We are humbled by the support we receive from the communities we serve.

We have an incredible staff that deserves our thanks for the amazing work they do on behalf of the GVC. It is because of their passion, professionalism and dedication that rain gardens are built, rain barrels installed, trees planted, trails maintained, streams cleaned, invasive plants removed, grants received, and our message spread through our newsletters and website. As we look forward, we are focusing on continuing to bring additional properties under conservation easement. The State of Maryland's Rural Legacy program has awarded the GVC a grant to be used to secure conservation easements in the Gunpowder Rural Legacy area.

We will continue our education and restoration work with the Clear Creeks project. The impact in the Middle River, Tidal Gunpowder, Bird River and Lower Gunpowder Falls watersheds has been amazing! It would not have been possible without the people in those communities embracing change. They are making a difference in their communities! We are excited that Lou Etgen has joined the GVC as Executive Director. Lou brings tremendous experience and leadership to the role. Visit our website to learn more about Lou and our programs and partnership opportunities.

We also face challenges! As a non-profit organization, we depend on funding from governmental and non-governmental agencies, corporations and individual donors. We continue to depend on your donations, your time, and your voice to encourage our public officials to promote effective stewardship of both rural and urban landscapes. 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.

Sincerely,  
Jim Martin, Board President





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ADVISORY COUNCIL AND STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## STAFF MANAGEMENT

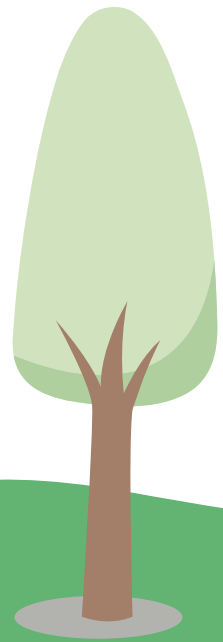
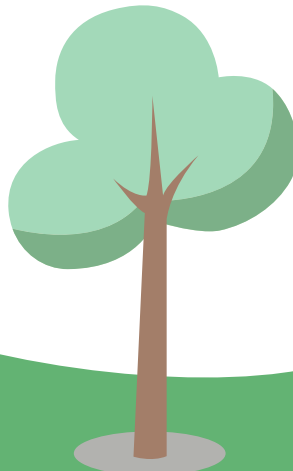
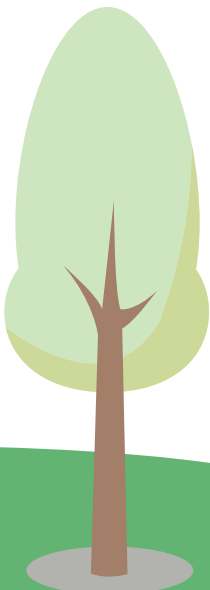
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Lou Etgen, Executive Director  
Peggy Perry, Education and Restoration Program  
Director and Clear Creeks Project Manager  
Darcy Herman, Clear Creeks Project Assistant  
Manager  
Kim Peabody, Tree Maintenance Coordinator  
Karen Stupksi, Grant Researcher/Writer  
Ann Jones, Land Preservation Director  
Amy Young, Clear Creeks Project Volunteer/  
Outreach Coordinator

## ADDITIONAL STAFF

---

Matthew Bonomo, Clear Creeks 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 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**

**Adopt-A-Stream and  
Stream Clean-Ups**

**Reforestation**

**Trail Maintenance**

**Tree Maintenance**

**Stormwater Management  
and Rain Barrels**

**Education and  
Stewardship**

**Rain and Bayscape  
Gardens**



## 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 over 170 acres, distributed more than 500 rain barrels conserving millions of gallons of water, coordinated 700 stream clean-ups, and recruited more than 26,000 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. In addition, the majority of the Baltimore metropolitan area water supply comes from two reservoirs located within the Gunpowder watershed: Prettyboy Reservoir and Loch Raven Reservoir.





## 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

**2,332**  
VOLUNTEERS



### TREE MAINTENANCE

5,227 trees have a better chance of growing into healthy forests. Volunteers removed 4,863 pounds of invasive plants growing around young trees.

**Removed 9.35  
tons of trash**  
during 38 stream  
clean-up events with  
430 volunteers

**30,000<sup>th</sup> Tree Planted**

1,035 trees planted in 2018 by over 575 volunteers



**40**  
EDUCATIONAL  
WORKSHOPS/  
TRAINING  
ON WAYS TO  
PROTECT THE  
GUNPOWDER  
WATERSHED

**65**  
RAIN  
BARRELS

SOLD  
conserving  
over 84,500  
gallons of  
water a year



**Installed 24  
Conservation  
Gardens**

featuring native plants that  
filter stormwater runoff and  
provide habitats for  
pollinators

# 2018 GUNPOWDER VALLEY CONSERVANCY LAND PRESERVATION REPORT



Sines property under conservation easement

*"We believe that the first thing that interested us about the farm at Bird River Beach was the great potential to be an oasis in an area that was continuing to be overdeveloped. We saw the beauty in the land that with a little love and a lot of hard work it could be thriving again as a natural setting. With the help of the GVC and lots of volunteers, relatives, friends and neighbors our dreams are coming true. To date we have finished a 10 year grading restoration project, planted hundreds of trees, pond enhancements and wildlife habitat creations."*

*Some of the projects that are ongoing are wood duck and bluebird nest boxes, honey bees, organic farming and wildlife food plantings. We welcome visitors and new natural enhancement ideas. Having a property in a GVC easement has been a partnership that has made a true oasis for us and future generations".*

*— Victoria and Norm Sines*

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's land preservation program encourages land owners to place their properties in conservation easements to preserve the environment and natural resources – the ecosystem that sustains our lives, and the agricultural, recreational, historic and scenic resources in perpetuity for future generations.

Our priority areas are currently located in the Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area, along the Gunpowder Falls from Sparks into White Hall, Maryland, and the Coastal Rural Legacy Areas, along Middle River and the Bird River watersheds. Currently, GVC has 34 properties totaling 1606 acres in conservation easements, with the goal of preserving 2000 acres by 2020.

In 2018, we continued to communicate to landowners the values of preserving land through outreach and an "Easement 101" workshop that was held to educate people on the opportunities available to place their land in a conservation easement. We also monitored preserved properties in the Gunpowder Rural Legacy area and encouraged landowners to engage with their neighbors to consider placing their land in an easement. In 2018, GVC was awarded a grant from the MD Department of Natural Resources Rural Legacy Program for \$720,000 to be used to purchase easements in the Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area. Thanks to our Land Preservation Director, Ann Jones, we have also submitted through Program Open Space funding to purchase an easement on a property that is contiguous with the Gunpowder River and the NCR trail.

We appreciate the commitment of the current owners of the lands that are in easements. Two of our property owners, Victoria and Norm Sines, have a 77-acre property in easement in the Bird River Watershed. This property was originally a quarry used for aggregate for the building of roads into the coastal areas. They shared their passion for living on a preserved property in the quote at left.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

**To learn about placing your property in a conservation easement, visit our website:**  
[www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/conservation-easements](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/conservation-easements)

Alternatively, contact Charlie Conklin, GVC Board Member and VP of Operations via email at [ceconklin12@verizon.net](mailto:ceconklin12@verizon.net).



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF THE CLEAR CREEKS PROJECT

It all started in 2012 with a shared desire to restore clean, clear water to the waterfront communities along the Middle River and Tidal Gunpowder. Residents vividly recalled a time when the water was so clear that you could see your feet in the creeks. Water quality has degraded as increased development and impervious (hard) surface prevent stormwater from soaking back into the ground. Stormwater runoff is one of the leading sources of water pollution, however, the problem can be tackled through partnerships with local government, nonprofits, businesses, faith-based communities, individual residents, and other stakeholders.

The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy's Clear Creeks Project: Our Water, Our Heritage, Our Pride launched in 2013 as a result of the citizen-based initiative to educate the public how to implement bay-friendly practices on their property to restore water quality. Thanks to our grant funding for the past five years, we have provided homeowners, businesses, and other institutions in our project area with 50 – 80% discounts on such practices as rain barrels and rain gardens. A lot of individual actions really do add up!

The Clear Creeks Project has expanded further upstream to include the Bird River watershed in 2015 and Lower Gunpowder Falls (LGF) watershed in 2018. With a 46-square mile drainage area and almost 200 stream miles, the LGF offers many opportunities for people to connect to water, whether it be an unnamed creek behind a townhome community or along the banks of the beautiful Big Gunpowder Falls. We're happy to report that LGF residents and organizations have quickly become active participants in the Clear Creeks Project with thirty-six rain barrels sold and nine conservation gardens installed, including two Bayscapes and seven rain gardens. In 2018, twenty percent of all Clear Creeks Project volunteers lived in the LGF watershed.

Now over five years after the project launch, we can take a step back and truly see how individual actions through the Clear Creeks Project have had a larger impact on educating the public about reducing stormwater runoff.

**A model community:** In 2016, the Miramar Landing community (Middle River) earned the distinction of becoming the first HOA in Baltimore County to have its community property certified as a Bay-Wise landscape through the UME-Baltimore County Master Gardeners after many stormwater best management practices were installed by GVC. It is now considered a case study for municipal stormwater management in the Chesapeake Bay region.



Homeowners Baake and Giantomasi await for spring in front of rain garden installed through Clear Creeks Project

*"We had just moved into our home in Parkville and wanted to replant native plants in the abandoned gardens to attract bees, birds, and butterflies. Our old home had a fantastic following among bees and lightning bugs. But the first summer was exceedingly wet, and our dream of a garden became an urgent concern about too much standing water in the back, and an almost river on the side. On researching how to improve the drainage, we came across information about the Clear Creeks Project and its workshops.*

*We are both transplants from other states, and we have long been committed to environmental preservation. But we had not realized what was at stake out here in Maryland regarding the Bay's overall health, and that what we are doing does really help. It's easy to feel helpless about improving the environment, but the information we received from the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy helped us be better stewards of the land."*

- James Giantomasi and Lila Baake



**A cornerstone of environmental education:** Zion United Church of Christ in Perry Hall incorporated its rain barrels, rain garden, and edible Bayscape into its 2018 “Nature Explorers” vacation bible school. Having these Bay-Wise practices on-site helped the church serve as a community example of the positive things people can do to protect our local waterways.

**A bridge between outdoor sporting and conservation:** Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall and Baltimore County Game and Fish Protective Association in Carney, Maryland have both enhanced their properties with conservation gardens and native trees and shrubs. Through educational signage, current and future members will learn how adding native plants to the landscape can provide beneficial wildlife habitat, as well as improve water quality for recreational opportunities.



## REI PROVIDES GRANT SUPPORT FOR GVC FOR NEARLY A DECADE!



**R**ecreation Equipment, Inc. (REI) has awarded over \$70,000 in funds toward the stewardship of GVC's Gunpowder watershed local waterways and restoration projects to increase wildlife habitat and improve water quality since 2008. Throughout the past 10 years, the GVC has partnered with the local REI Timonium Store in restoring areas of Gunpowder Falls State Park and Baltimore's Loch Raven Reservoir.

Projects supported include the planting of 2,500 native trees on 14 acres within Loch Raven Reservoir; and maintaining 7 miles of Loch Raven Reservoir and Gunpowder Falls State Park trails by installing 41 rolling grade dips, 8 water bars, removing 2,500 lbs of invasive plants and planting 1,491 native herbaceous shrubs through 30 Trail Maintenance/Invasive Removal workshops.

REI grants also supported tree maintenance of 2,172 REI planted trees by 143 volunteers, and GVC's Better Waterway fall clean-up events every November with total outcomes of 52,046 lbs of trash removed during 109 cleanup events by 1,310 volunteers.

In the past 8 years, nearly 3,000 volunteers, including those from REI Timonium, have provided close to 12,000 volunteer hours towards the restoration of the Gunpowder Watershed! REI remains supportive of GVC's education and restoration programs and continues to promote GVC events. Looking into the 2019 project year, the GVC will continue to build a corporate volunteer partnership with REI. We are grateful to REI for their long-term financial support and local store partnership this past decade contributing to the success of our education and restoration programs.



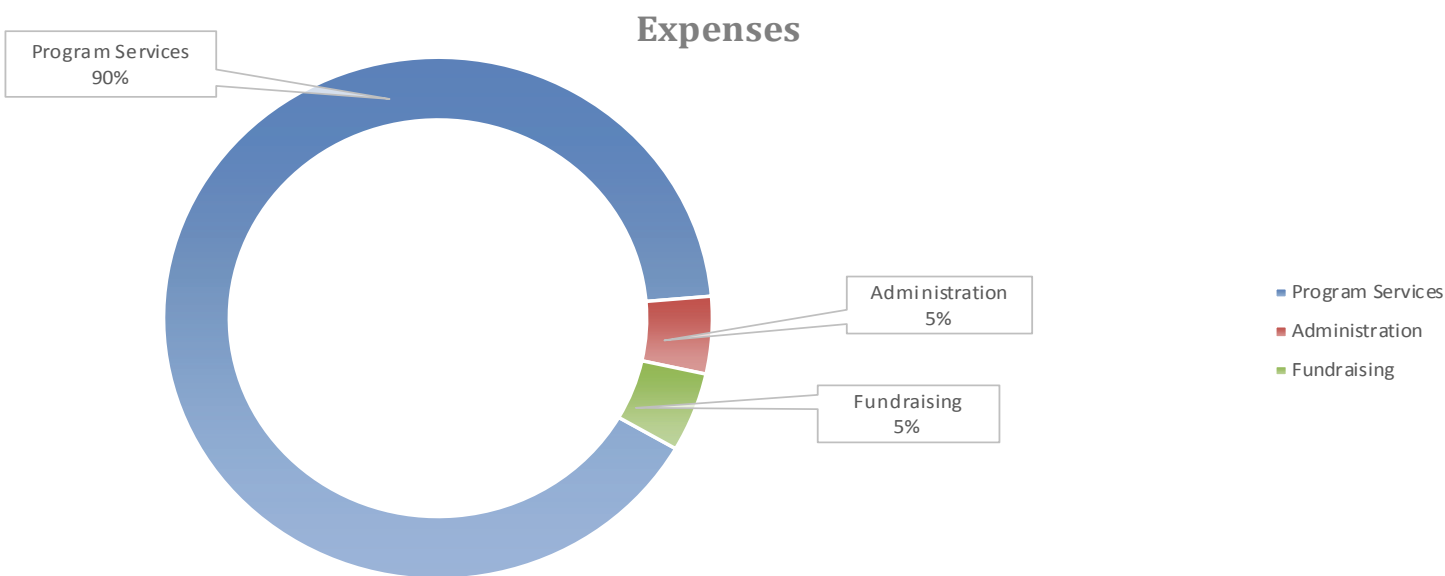
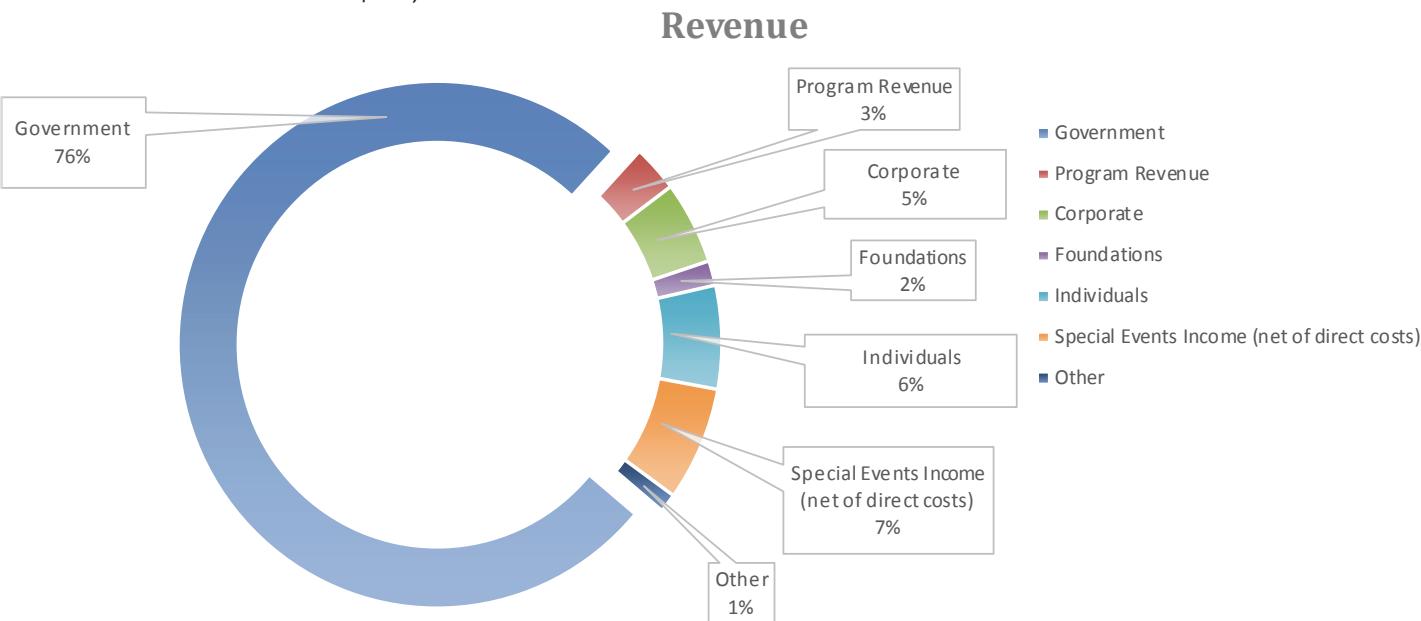
# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE

Government	\$356,250.51
Other Nonprofit	\$6,752.77
Program Revenue	\$6,962.46
Corporate	\$14,313.24
Foundations	\$500.00
Business	\$103.00
Individuals	\$29,066.88
Special Events Income	\$23,069.81
Other	-\$772.70
Total Revenue	\$436,245.97

## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$351,140.80
Administration	\$18,606.24
Fundraising	\$19,031.60
Total Expenses	\$388,778.64
Net Income	\$47,467.33



# DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, SPONSORS, DONORS AND MEMBERS!

## 2018 GRANT FUNDERS



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY



### White Oak - \$1000 or more

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company  
Sanford and Susan Buxbaum  
Susannah Bergmann  
Century Engineering  
Charlie Conklin  
Exelon Foundation  
James and Sandy Hannaby  
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.  
Kiwanis Club of Towson Timonium Foundation  
Loch Raven Skeet and Trap Center, Inc.  
David and Julie Lynn  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
McCormick & Company Inc.  
Meredith McDonagh  
John Miller and Jane Wolfson  
Alan and Carolyn Penczek  
Marjorie Roswell  
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)  
W. Charles Rogers, III

Dr. Robert and Betty Batchelor  
Char Baumgardner  
Ruth Bennett  
Bird River Beach Community Association  
Roger Birkel and Ellen Stokes  
Daniel Brellis  
Jo Ann Brooks  
Capital One 360 Bank  
Timothy Casey  
Kirsten Coffen and Brett Hillhouse  
Ralph Comegna  
Mary Corddry  
Bernadette and Terry Crawford  
Darin Crew  
Cromwell Valley Park Council  
Robert and Luana Crush  
Stephanie Detterline  
Doerfer Insurance Services, Inc.  
Edrich Lumber Inc.  
Bruce Elliott  
Essex Middle River Civic Council  
Carol and George Fanshaw, III  
Steve Fauser  
Dennis and Janice Flanigan  
Wini and Roger Frye  
Cynthia Gordon  
Diana Gutierrez  
Scott and Gail Hisey  
Barbara Hopkins  
James and Patricia Kelly  
Inna Kolomiyteyev  
Erin Lowery  
Edna Mahmood  
Mark and Linda McDonald  
David McKibbin  
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, FLCA  
Miramar Landing Homeowners Association  
Mom's Organic Market, Inc.  
Mary Monk  
Gregory Newswanger  
Barbara Newton  
Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP  
Kim Peabody  
Nancy and Bob Pentz  
Michael and Christine Phelps  
Dean and Jennifer Ray

William Rees  
Cynthia Riley  
Barbara Risacher  
Janet and Doug Schollenberger  
Heidi Schreiber-Pan  
Mona Scott and Lee Ann Smith  
Guha Shankar  
Chalyse Shaw  
Victoria and Norm Sines  
Julieta Stack  
Henry and Sandy Stromberger  
Edward and Judith Stuebing  
Karen Stupski  
Janet and Peter Terry  
Ashley Traut  
Rebecca Volz  
Pamela Walker  
Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra, Chartered  
Ron Yaskovic

Robert and Salley Stanhope  
Cara Urban  
Donald Vetter  
David and Allison Warfield  
Joseph White

### Redbud - \$25 or more

Angeline Baca  
Charlie Brown  
Susan Dowell  
Karl and Julie Gaynor  
Robert Goren  
Mary Grogan  
Yvonne Higgins  
Intel Corporation  
Ben Larson  
Virginia Lipscomb  
Manor Garden Club  
Jenn Martin  
Tracey and Tim Mason  
MSD Consulting, LLC  
Janet Shambaugh  
Bradford Sharpless  
John Shuler  
Alice Strathy  
Catherine Tipper  
Cynthia Van Ells

### Hickory - \$500 or more

Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Association  
Susan and Fred Bath  
Randy and Marcy Davis  
Justin Eswrothy  
Chris Hannaby  
Holly Neck Conservation Association  
Kelly Integral Solutions, LLC  
Deborah and Mark Lancaster  
Sandra and Carl Liotta  
Braxton Mitchell and Laurie Taylor-Mitchell  
Marion and Ed Romans  
Matthew and Danielle Simons  
Doris Sweet  
SMC (Stormwater Maintenance & Consulting)  
Towson Rotary Foundation, Inc.  
WSP

### Magnolia - \$50 or more

Dottie Berg  
Valerie Brennan  
Mark Bright  
Donald and Catherine Burke  
Karen Cicmanec  
David Class  
Edward and Trish Decker  
Colleen Ebacher  
Liz Entwisle  
Friends of David Marks  
Scott Heacock  
Thomas Hill  
Carla Janson  
William and Helen Keenan  
Jessica Leonard  
Dr. Jahromi Mahmood  
Kate Merrey  
Zanig and Susan Pawloski  
Peggy Perry  
Mark and Debbie Romano  
Ray Schafer  
Timothy Somers

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
CONTRIBUTION!



# When you give to Gunpowder Valley Conservancy... EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS



## **\$25 Donation**

Helps plant a native tree that will absorb up to 40 pounds of carbon from the atmosphere!



## **\$50 Donation**

Helps install a rain barrel in a local residence to reduce polluted runoff that goes into local streams!



## **\$100 Donation**

Provides 500 volunteers with trash bags for clean-ups of trash and debris!



## **\$500 Donation**

Enables our volunteers to maintain a grove of trees on two acres!



## **\$1000 Donation**

Creates a 150 square foot rain garden to capture and filter over 330 gallons of rain water before it enters our waterways!



## 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, discounts on rain barrels, and volunteer appreciation events for all GVC watershed volunteers.

To make an online donation, or to make a recurring donation, visit: [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/make-a-donation](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/make-a-donation)

Please make checks payable to "Gunpowder Valley Conservancy" and mail to: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 9733, Towson, MD 21284. Write your phone number and email address on the check.

## 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) on a planned gift to support the GVC.

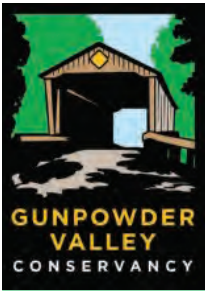
## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

To become a business sponsor, visit [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/business-sponsorship](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/business-sponsorship) to learn how to partner with the GVC on reaching your community engagement and environmental stewardship goals.

## VOLUNTEER WITH GVC

Visit: [www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/volunteer](http://www.gunpowdervalleyconservancy.org/volunteer) to learn more about our opportunities for individuals, families, homeowners, businesses, faith-based organizations, and other institutions.

**Thank you in advance for your donation and support!**



Gunpowder Valley Conservancy  
P.O. Box 9733  
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