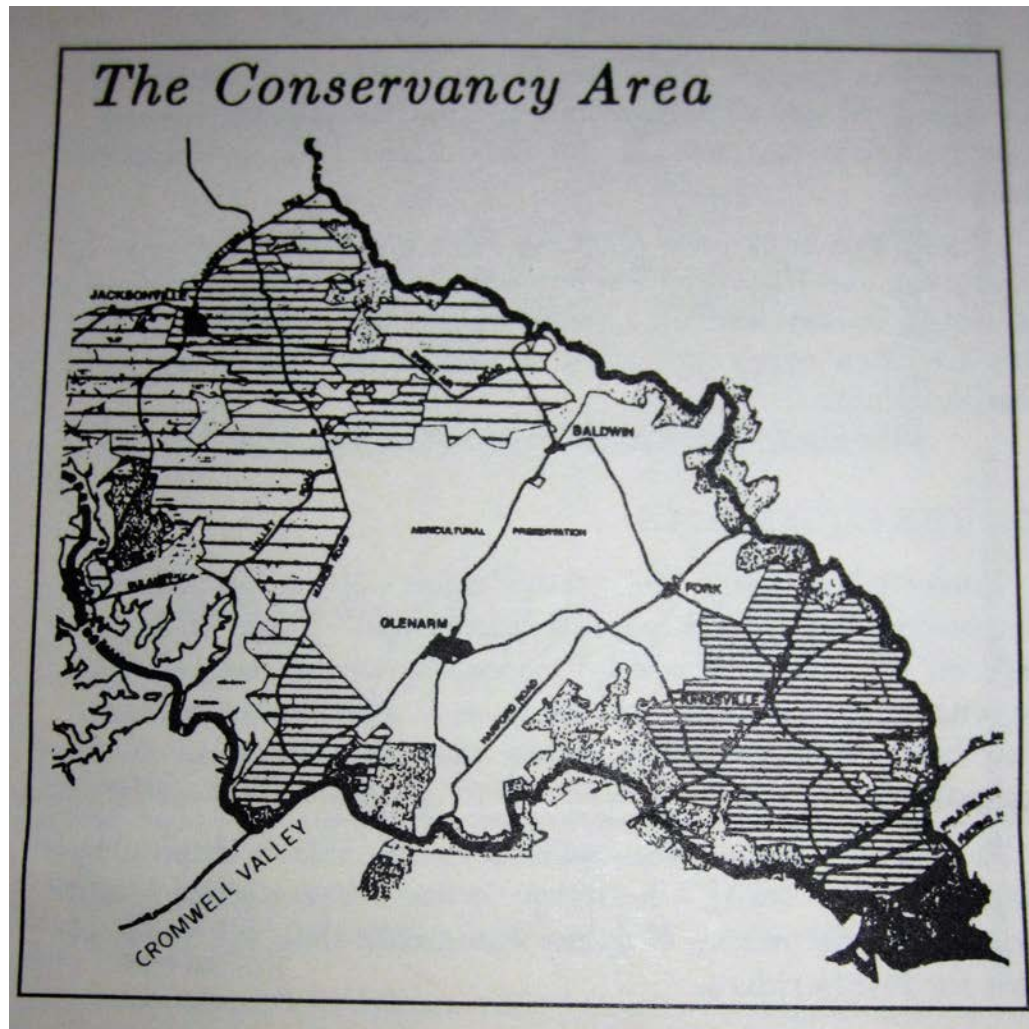


Early History: 1989 - 1993



Preserving the Green Triangle

- People wanted to protect the triangle of land between Big and Little Gunpowder Falls from development.
- Greater Kingsville Civic Association and Long Green Valley Association donated \$2,500 to start a land trust.



Something for Everyone

- GVC helped people take action on behalf of their special passions:

For the Conservationist! For the Nature Lover! For the History Buff! For the Equestrian! For the Farming Advocate!

- 400 members in first year!



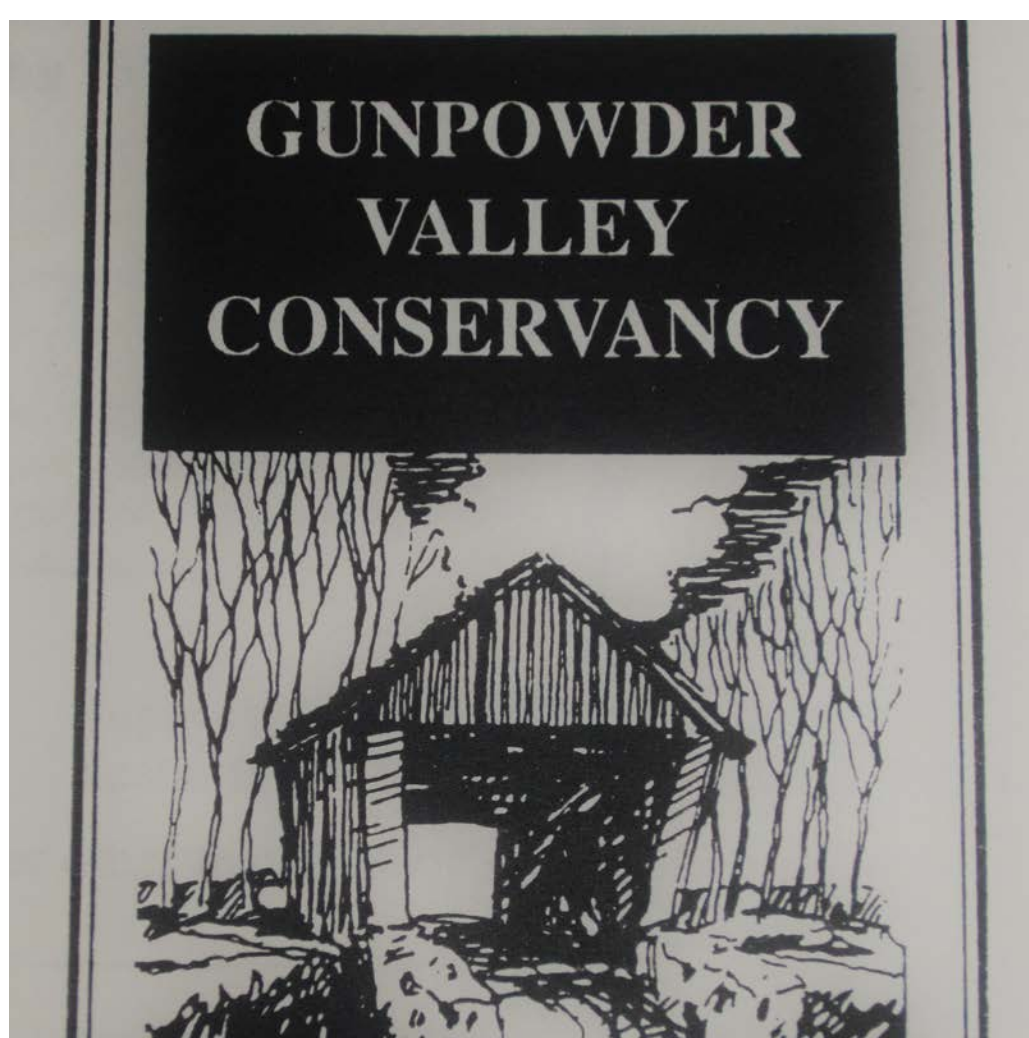
Our Founder

- **Ed Stuebing** founded GVC in 1989. Ed, **Mary Frances Shepperd**, and **Betty Shea Miller** incorporated GVC on December 6, 1989.
- First GVC Board of Directors meeting held in January, 1990 at Heathcote Cottage in Kingsville. Ed Stuebing elected first President.



Earth Day 1990

- Our first volunteer event! Our first tree planting! Huge stream clean up in Gunpowder Falls State Park (GFSP)!
- Scouts performed 20 cannon salute.
- 300 volunteers picked up 28 tons of trash. National Guard removed upside down Volkswagen car, appliances, and over 100 tires from GFSP streams.



Making Connections

- GVC serves as a bridge between the Gunpowder Valley residents and conservation resources.
- Board member, Mike Gaudreau, designed the original logo, depicting the Jericho Covered Bridge in 1990.

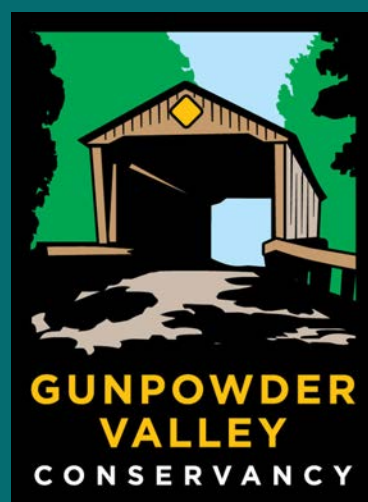
...because the commitment begins at home

~ Early GVC motto



Special Thanks

To Our First Committee Chairs: **Karen Albright** (Agricultural Preservation) * **Tom Beers** (Streams) * **Charlie Conklin** (Streams) * **Dennis Flanigan** (Trails) * **Pete Raimondi** (Community Beautification) * **Marlene Rollins** (Historic Preservation) * **Wendy Stallings** (Conservation Planning) * **Ed Stuebing** (Land Trust) * **Karen Stuebing** (Newsletter) * **Carol Thurlow** (Fundraising)



Saving Streams and their Stories: 1994-1998

Historic Preservation

- GVC Historic Preservation committee inventoried old properties and landmarks, and filmed oral histories.
- Organized the campaign resulting in Franklinville becoming Baltimore County Historic District in July 1995.



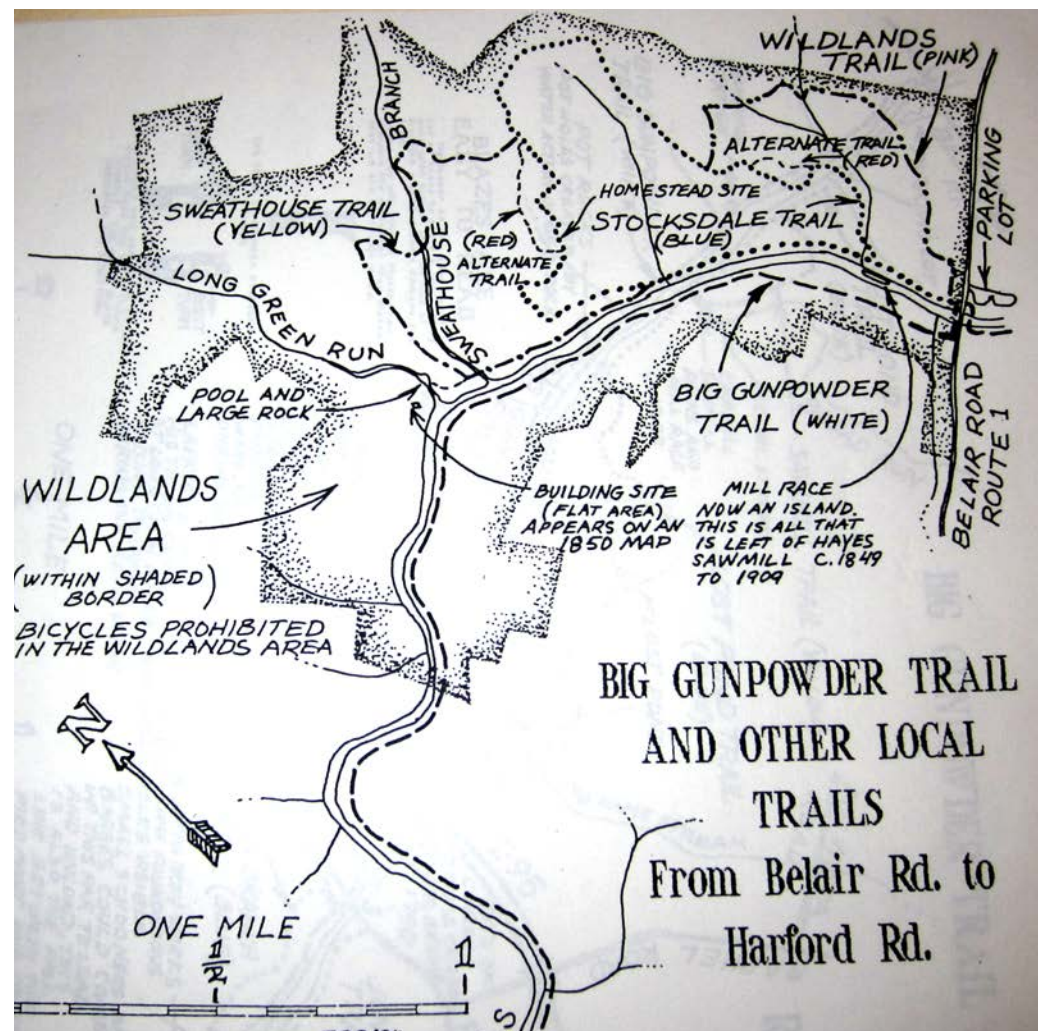
Preserving Cromwell Valley

- GVC Vice President, Dot Streb, initiated "Campaign to Save the Valley" to prevent development of Sherwood and Merrick Farms.
- GVC provided input on Cromwell Valley Park Master Plan. Honored the "Heroines of Cromwell Valley Park" in 2011 (Lillian Jennifer, Francis Sherwood, Dot Streb).



GFSP Trails

- Recognize these maps of Gunpowder Falls State Park? Our Trails Committee developed the marking system, marked and mapped the trails, and published the maps!
- The first trail they completed was from Harford Road to Belair Road.
- The committee also created the GFSP Volunteer Mounted Patrol, which still exists!



Streams

- GVC participated in **Maryland Save Our Streams**. They offered sediment control workshops and monitored water quality by identifying aquatic insects.
- Volunteers helped assess stream health to identify pollution problems and gather community support for local waterways.

GVC Today: Streams

- Our Stream Watch program began in 2008. We now conduct stream clean-ups twice a year: Project Clean Stream (April) and Better Waterways (November).
- Concerned citizens can attend free Adopt-a-Stream trainings to become a GVC Stream Captain.
- Over **30 Stream Captains maintain 20+ miles of stream** in the Gunpowder watershed.



Awards from MD Save Our Streams

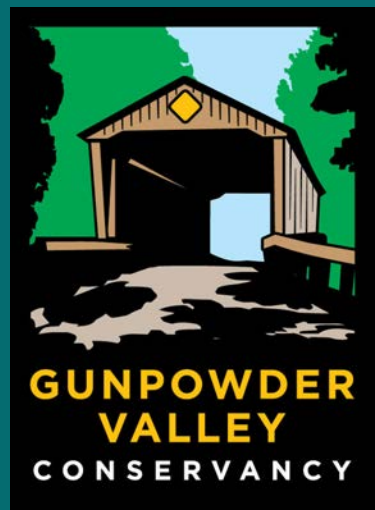
Excellence in Watershed Leadership (1994)

Stream Action Award (1996) for consistently accepting the challenge to inspire respect for and improve Maryland's waterways



Special Thanks

Tina Bianca (Gunpowder Falls State Park) * **Valerie Brennan** (Maryland Save Our Streams) * **Ted Brower** (Trails) * **Linda Eminizer** (Trails) * **Jim Kelly** (Historic Preservation) * **Barbara Taylor-Suite** (Maryland Save Our Streams)

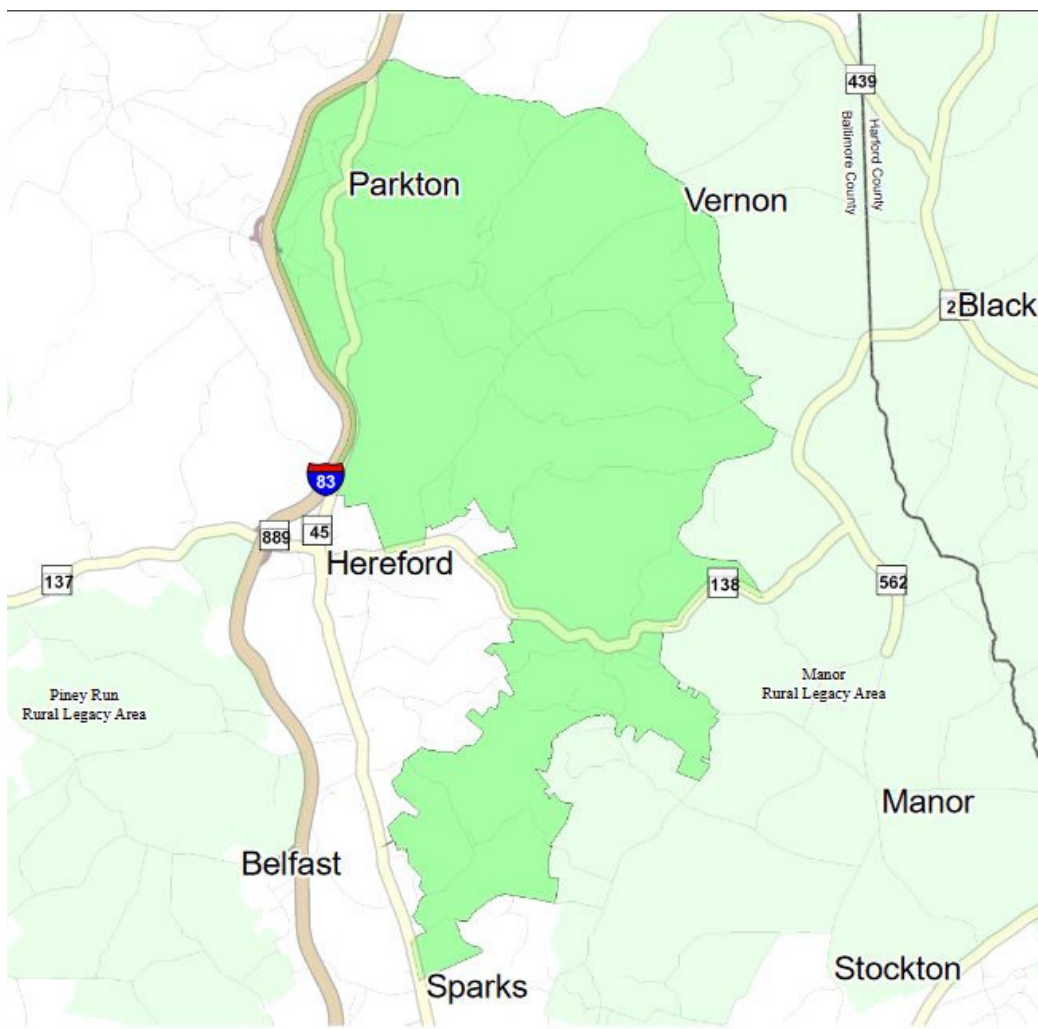


Caring For the Future: 1999-2003

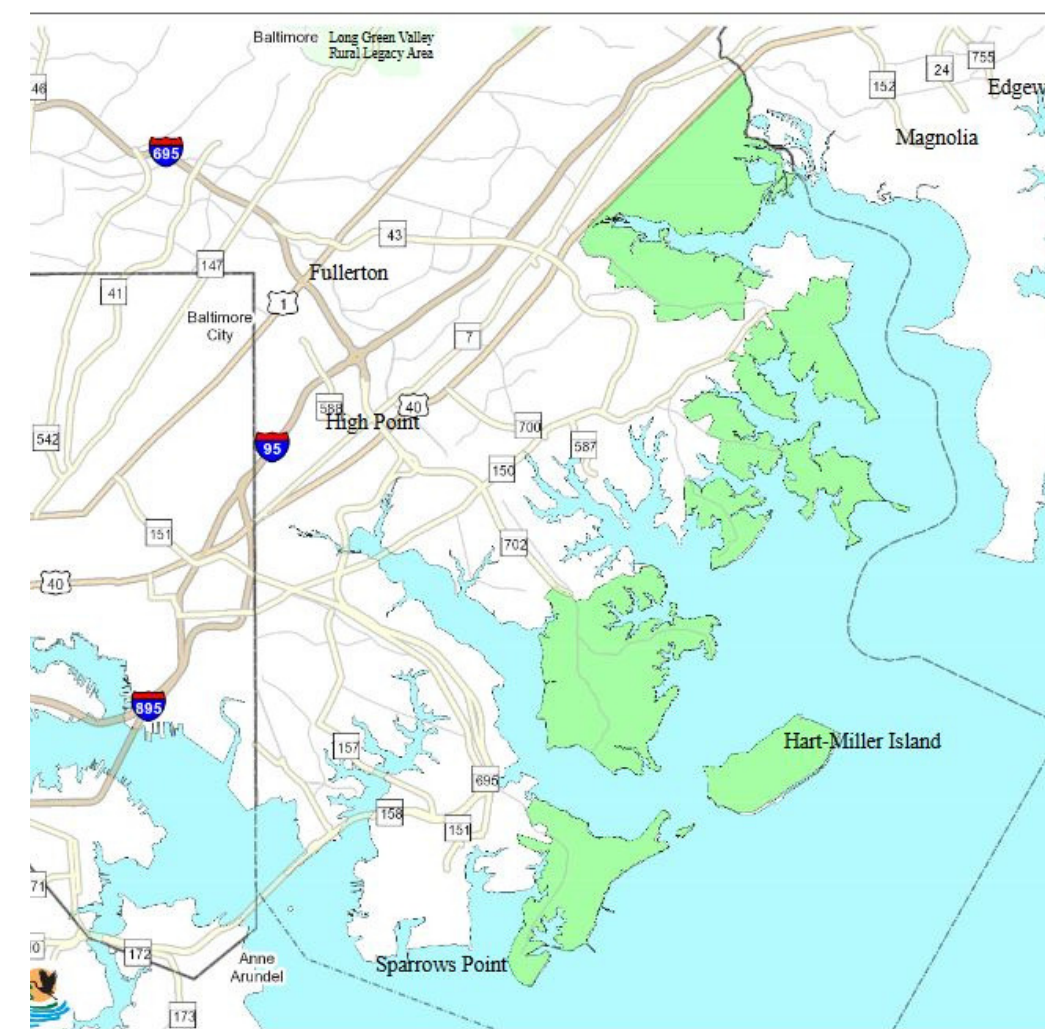
Land Preservation



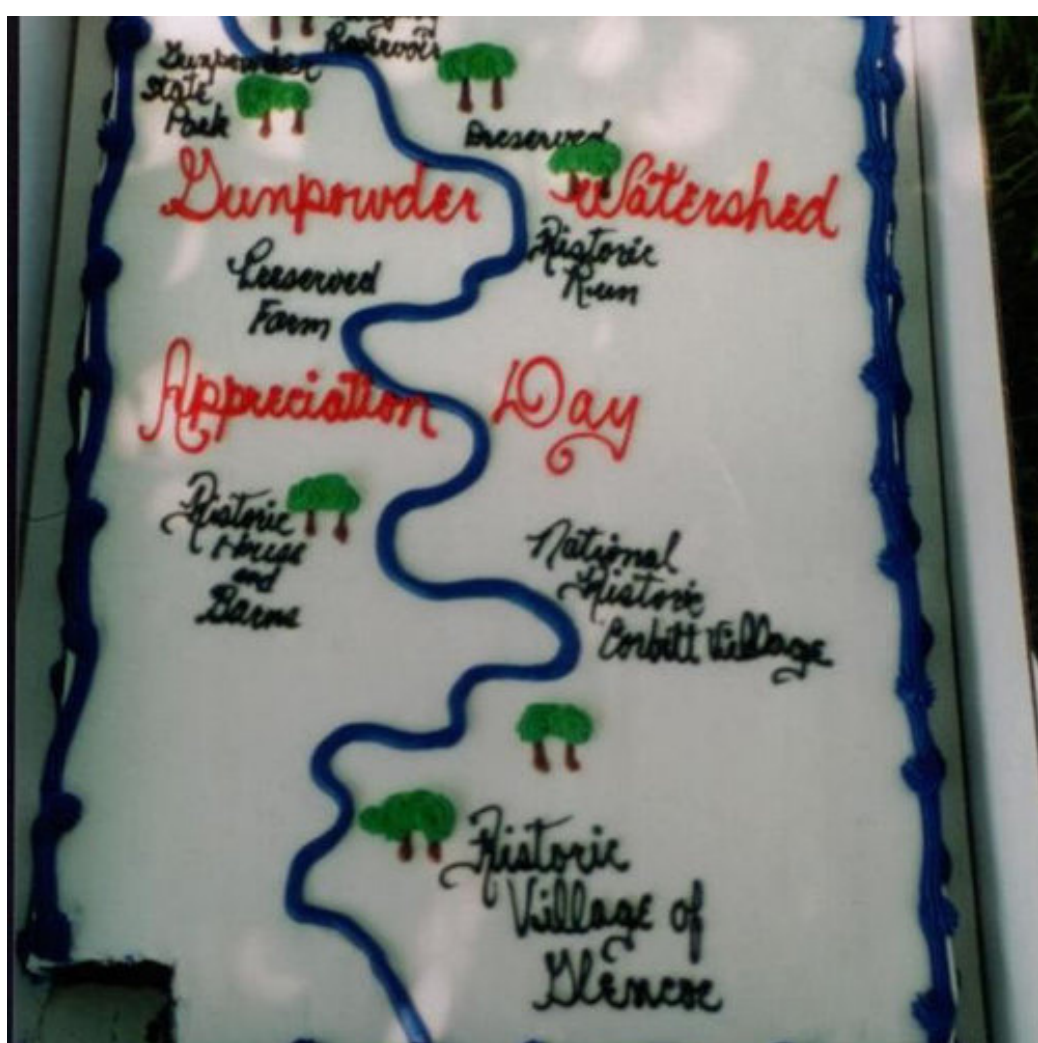
- GVC has preserved **1,607 acres** in the watershed. Includes 300 acres combined at Camp Puh'tok and Gunpowder Youth Camp.
- Member of national Land Trust Alliance since 1990; co-founder of Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance circa 1997.



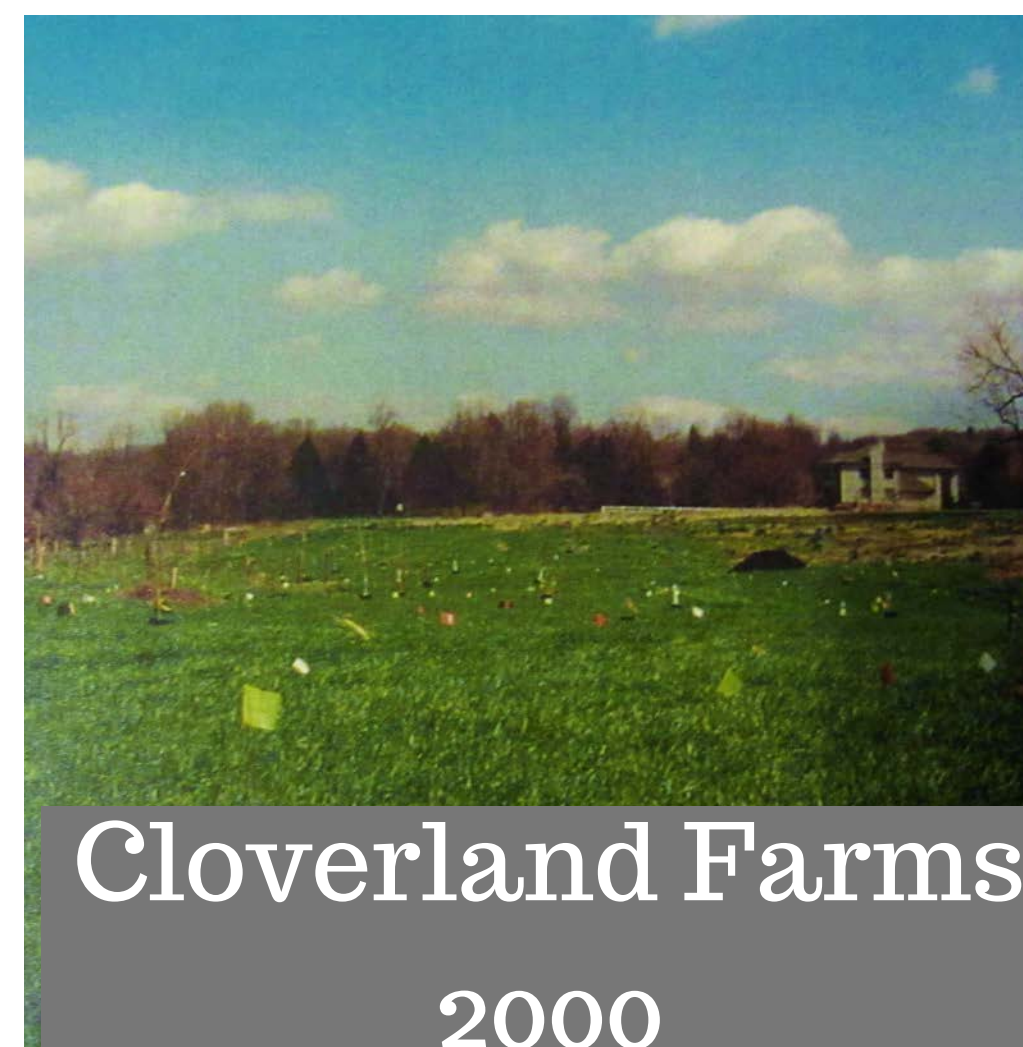
Helped create **Gunpowder Rural Legacy Area** (left) and **Baltimore County Coastal Rural Legacy Area** (right) to protect contiguous tracts of cultural and natural resources.



Gunpowder Watershed Festival



- In conjunction with Earth Day 2000.
- 900 people attended event at Oregon Ridge Park. Included over 40 local organizations.
- Guests toured examples of environmentally friendly farms and smart development.



Tree Planting

- Early tree planting sites included: Boordy Vineyard, Days Cove, and Cloverland Farms.
- Provided valuable environmental stewardship opportunities for students. Dulaney High School Key Club has been volunteering with GVC for well over a decade!



Charlie Conklin standing in front of the trees he helped plant 19 years ago!

GVC Today: Tree Planting & Maintenance

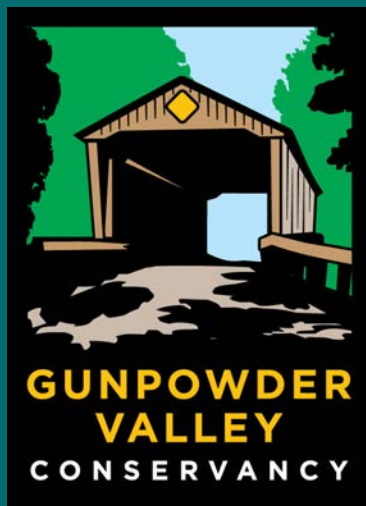
- GVC continues to plant trees on a large scale.
- We have worked in **Loch Raven Reservoir** to promote forest regeneration. GVC volunteers have planted **7,290 trees** on **51 acres** since 2008!
- Tree Maintenance volunteers monitor all GVC tree plantings for 3 years to increase tree survival rates.



"Twenty years from now, someone is going to say 'thank-you'."
~ Purnell Glenn, Miramar Landing HOA President during 2016 community tree planting

Special Thanks

All of GVC's land easement owners * **Henry Baker** (Land Preservation) * **Deborah Bowers** (Land Preservation) * **Neal Carmody** (President, 1999-2010; Land Preservation) * **Charlie Conklin** (President, 1995-1999; Land Preservation) * **Mare Cromwell** (Watershed Festival) * **Julie Deford** (Land Preservation) * **Ann Jones** (Land Preservation) * **Carl Maynard** (Land Preservation) * **Reservoir Natural Resources - Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works** * **Judy Waldman** (Land Preservation) * **Morry Wexler** (Tree Planting) * **Laura Wilke** (Land Preservation)

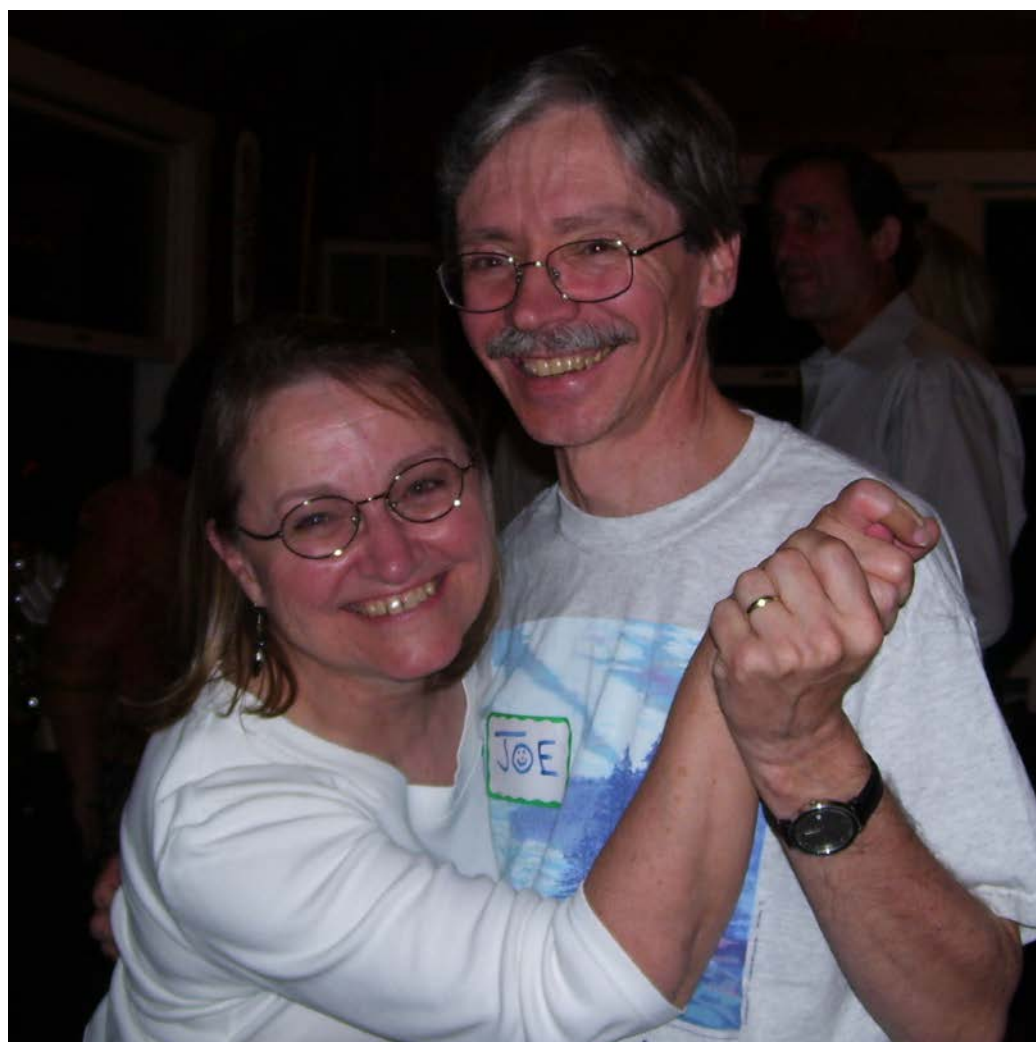


Your Community Watershed Organization: 2004-2011



Our First Staff!

- In 2007 we hired our first staff members: **Karen Stupski** and **Peggy Perry**. Their talents have helped the GVC grow into the organization that you all know today.
- Today, we have grown to 11 staff members.



Volunteer Appreciation

- Volunteers are the heart of GVC! In early 2000's, we held membership appreciation canoe trips.
- Hosted our first fundraiser dinner at Camp Puh'tok in 2010. Still going strong!
- GVC Today: We celebrate volunteer leaders twice a year at our volunteer appreciation events.



Reforestation Program

- Tree Crew Chiefs are volunteer leaders that teach volunteers how to plant trees and educate them about the benefits of trees.
- 15+ crew chiefs supervise volunteers planting over 1,000 trees each year.
- Crew chiefs and GVC volunteers maintain 1,000+ trees each year.



Trail Maintenance & Invasive Plant Removal

- Focus on improving areas within Gunpowder Falls State Park and Loch Raven Reservoir.
- Install rolling grade dips, water bars, remove invasive vegetation and plant native shrubs.
- Past partners include Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI), Gunpowder United Mountain Bike Operators (GUMBO), and Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE).



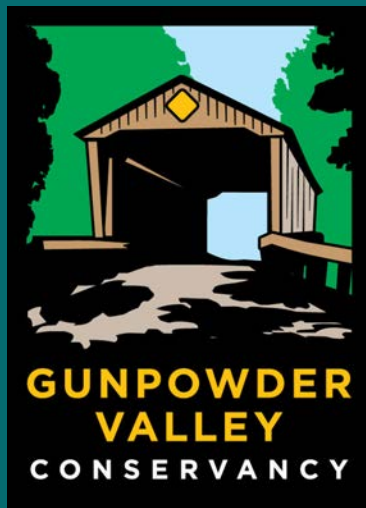
Jennifer Branch Project: 2009-2011

- Our first community greening project focused on the Jennifer Branch, a main tributary to Big Gunpowder Falls that flows through Carney.
- Informed residents about negative effects of polluted stormwater and offered green solutions. Many households took action to reduce pollution.
- It was such a success that it inspired us to pursue our *Clear Creeks Project*! Another result was that 8 residents formed the Jennifer Branch Conservation Association of GVC.

"I could immediately see benefits of having a rain garden and rain barrels at our house, and understood how our efforts would benefit the Jennifer Branch watershed."

~ Susan Bath



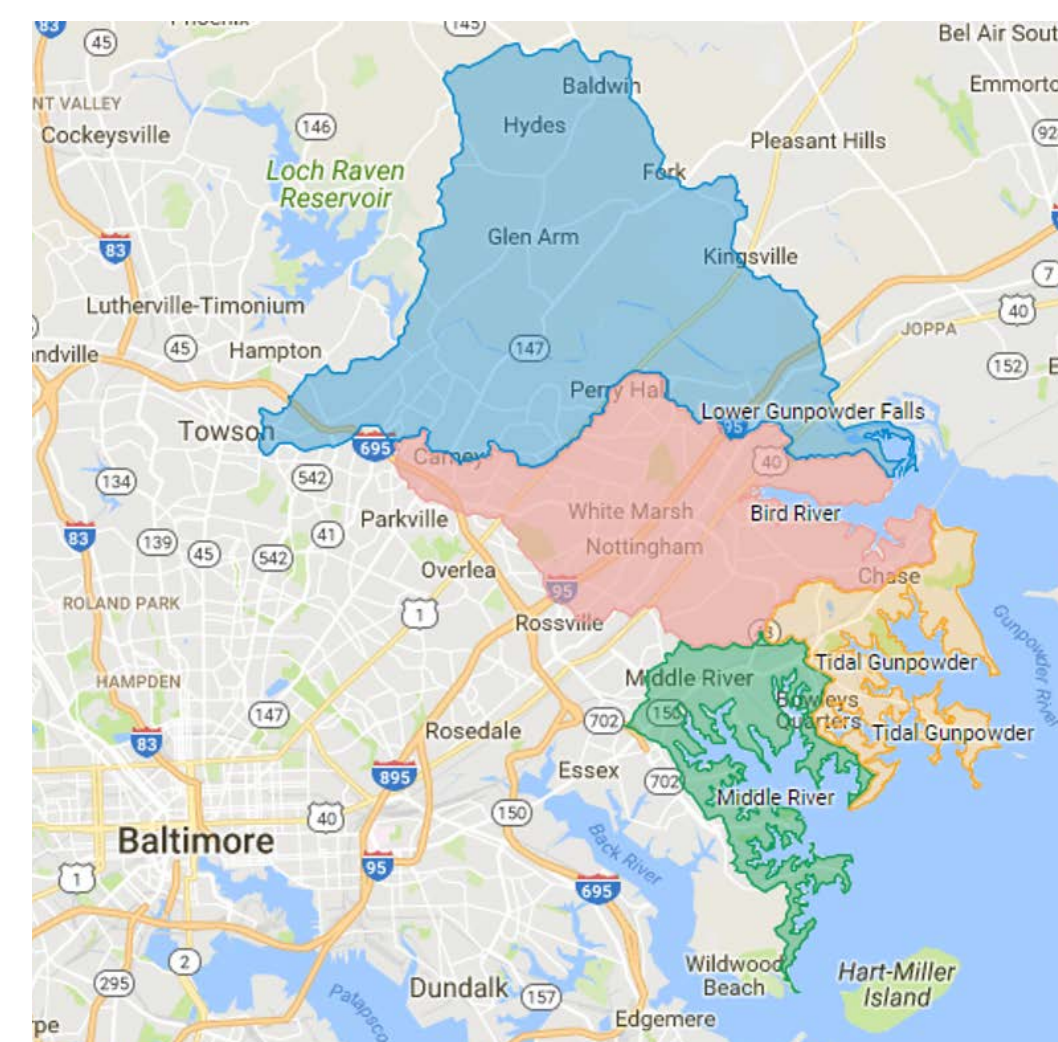


Clear Creeks Project: 2012 - 2019



See Your Feets In Our Creeks!

- Citizen-based action component of Baltimore County's **Small Watershed Action Plans (SWAPs)** to improve water quality.
- 2013 pilot study began in waterfront communities: Bowleys Quarters, Hawthorne, and Wilson Point.



Where We Work

- Project area has grown over time.
- Now includes **Bird River, Lower Gunpowder Falls, Middle River, and Tidal Gunpowder** watersheds
- Our goal is to expand into Loch Raven Reservoir watershed in 2020.



Inspiring Others to Become Bay-Wise

- Bay-Wise Stewards are Clear Creeks champions who promote the Project and help their neighbors make simple changes for cleaner water. We currently have 20 active stewards.
- In partnership with University of Maryland Extension - Baltimore County Master Gardeners Bay-Wise Certification program.



Community Greening Projects

- Increase our impact by installing multiple BMPs across one site or community.
- Connect neighbors, members, parishioners, and students to environmental stewardship activities.

Miramar Landing HOA (2016-2017)
Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Assoc.(2017)
Baltimore County Game & Fish Protective Assoc.(2018)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel (2019)

Making a Difference!

In our first 6 years, we have...

- Installed **276** Rain Barrels
- Installed **46** Rain Gardens, **53** Bayscape gardens, and **14** Micro-bioretenion practices
- Planted **2,497** native trees
- Hosted **65** Stream Clean-ups and removed **56,250** pounds of trash
- Worked **11,398** volunteer hours worth **\$305,352!**



"... 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



Special
Thanks

Clear Creeks Project Steering Committees and Partners
Councilwoman Cathy Bevins, Councilman David Marks, Senator Kathy Klausmeier

