

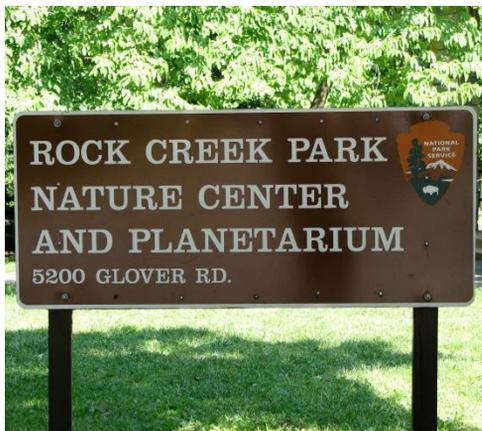


Mini Community Engagement

This program seeks to engage new applicants and organizations from a diverse array of communities in small-scale projects that enhance communities, engage residents, and, ultimately, improve natural resources. We feel that a broad range of communities can benefit from healthy natural resources even if their primary focus is on other issues. Human health, the economy, jobs, community livability, education and our children are all connected with a health environment.

Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup

This project fostered outreach, education, and protection efforts to overcome threats to Rock Creek, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay by engaging the surrounding communities in a total stream cleanup and storm drain marker initiative for Rock Creek, its tributaries and the parks connected to Rock Creek.



The Rock Creek Community Engagement project complemented other water quality related projects taking place in the Rock Creek community. The Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup was a part of the larger Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup that takes place in 5 states at over 300 sites on the same day. There were 77 sites organized and led by Rock Creek Conservancy volunteers, which is the most of any other participating organization. In terms of cleanup results, Rock Creek Conservancy contributed 20% of the total volunteers, 7% of the tires and 10% of the trash and recycling removed.

going pet waste behavior change project.

Public involvement was the goal of this project. Volunteer leaders in each community worked with us to recruit, train and educate volunteers for our Annual Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup. This volunteer led effort contributed to the additional 2,180 volunteers who participated in the cleanup and storm drain marking events. We also had a volunteer videographer come out to one of the cleanup events and create a multi-media video for the Conservancy

In our determination to increase awareness about stormwater issues, we had a call for volunteer artists to design our stormwater awareness murals at the Aspen Hill library. Volunteers were heavily involved in the preparation and painting days of the storm water awareness murals. Additionally, we had a volunteer create storm drain marking binders which includes a "how-to" kit that we will continue to use and supply to storm drain marking volunteers.

Our stormwater awareness murals were strategically selected to be painted at the Aspen Hill library. The library is home to two Low Impact Development demonstration sites including a rain garden and bioswale. These Montgomery County owned sites are frequently visited by educational tour groups and maintained by community volunteers. We included a pet waste themed storm drain to complement our on-

2,180 Volunteers

16,568 Publications
Produced

35 Leadership training
participants

18,206 lbs of trash
removed

80 Storm Drains marked



Projects Elements

Our project outcomes included:

- Educating people that trash is a visible marker for the pollution from our neighborhoods and that there is connection between storm drains and trash and pollution in Rock Creek and the Chesapeake Bay
- Empowering Rock Creek neighbors to work for watershed health by engaging volunteers from every neighborhood in an event near their home
- Collaborating with government agencies to make sure trash hotspots are addressed
- Working with partners from the business, nonprofits, and community organizations to field volunteer groups
- Educating community members on local water issues
- Promoting actions that individuals can take to improve waterways
- Installing 300+ storm drain markers during the months of April and May for a Marker Marathon

CBT Grant Awarded:	\$5,000
Munson Foundation:	\$2,475
MARPAT Foundation	\$5,932
National Parks Service:	\$400
Montgomery Parks:	\$2,000
Alice Ferguson Foundation:	\$3,650
Membership:	\$700
Total:	\$19,457

Project Partners:



Storm drains raise awareness that stormwater flows into Rock Creek park.