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Funding available for clean water projects in Baltimore City communities – your stormwater utilities fees at work!

Baltimore, Maryland – Today, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works announce a grant opportunity to fund projects that improve and green communities, reduce polluted runoff, and improve or create local natural resources like green spaces, parks, tree canopy, and more. Funding for projects in the City comes from the stormwater utility fee. The Department of Public Works is committed to bettering the health and well-being of City residents by investing the stormwater utility fees back into the communities it serves.

Eligible projects types include but are not limited to stormwater management education and awareness programs; projects that reach faith based communities, Spanish-speaking communities, and communities identified in Baltimore City’s MS4 Watershed Implementation Plan; pet waste removal campaigns; litter reduction campaigns; bioretention cells, bioswales, rain gardens, rain barrels, urban tree canopy projects; and green workforce development such as environmental project maintenance training.

“The Chesapeake Bay Trust is thrilled to continue its partnership with Baltimore City to engage local residents and promote greening of local communities,” said Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “Such greening improves community livability, walkability, and human health in addition to providing environmental benefits.”

“We are making a difference in the City of Baltimore. Residents and organizations can utilize these grants to impact their local neighborhoods while helping to reduce water pollution and create a cleaner, greener, and healthier Baltimore City,” commented Rudolph S. Chow, Director of Public Works.

Non-profit organizations, including local watershed groups, community associations, service and civic groups, and faith-based organizations, are eligible and encouraged to apply for funding. As part of an effort to more fully engage underrepresented groups in its grant-making, the Trust strongly encourages projects that increase awareness and participation in multicultural communities. Grants will range from \$5,001-\$75,000. Please visit <https://cbtrust.org/outreach-and-restoration/> or contact Kacey Wetzal at 410-974-2941, x104 to learn more and review the request for proposals. Applications are due on or before September 11, 2017.

Residents of Baltimore City are invited to participate in a workshop to learn about designing and implementing outreach and restoration projects and how their stormwater utility fees improve local communities and the environment. Four workshops are planned now through August 2, 2017. Please contact Zack Kelleher at ZKelleher@cbtrust.org for more information.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust engages hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax

form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local agencies such as Baltimore City Department of Public Works and the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability. The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for fourteen years: 92 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.