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\$150,000 in Stormwater Outreach and Restoration Grants Awarded in Howard County

Ellicott City, Maryland – The Howard County Office of Sustainability and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce a new partnership and the recipients of seven grants for projects that both improve and green communities as well as address environmental issues such as stormwater. The seven recipients are community-based groups tackling problems and aiming for improvements throughout Howard County. The grants were awarded to local nonprofits with individual awards ranging from \$7,830 to \$30,535.

“We are so honored to partner with Howard County to distribute resources in this manner,” said Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “This collaboration ensures that local groups will be able to pursue projects that both advance their missions and improve the environment.”

Grants totaling just over \$150,000 were awarded to support organizations in an effort to increase awareness of natural resource protection to implement projects that will reduce the amount of pollutants and the amount of stormwater entering Howard County waterways during and after storm events. These funds support local watershed groups and non-profit organizations to take the lead on community-driven projects, build capacity for future work, and contribute to the County’s water quality goals.

“These grants provide crucial funding that will assist us in accomplishing multiple goals in an extremely cost-effective manner,” said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. “The work of these organizations will help us better manage stormwater pollution, assist in flood mitigation, and educate our residents about the role we all play in protecting our environment and making us a more sustainable community.”

Awardees of the Outreach and Restoration Grant Program in Howard County include:

River Hill Watershed Committee

Grant Award: \$7,820

To remove invasive plants in the natural areas throughout the neighborhood, replant with native plants, and raise awareness of the importance of watershed health with neighborhood residents.

Howard County Conservancy, Inc.

Grant Award: \$21,000

To develop, fabricate, and install an interactive watershed learning station appropriate for teaching visitors of all ages about the features of a healthy watershed and the impact of humans on the health of the watershed.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC)

Grant Award: \$29,443

To engage faith communities that will assist in improving water quality and to train congregational leaders to facilitate ongoing green ministries within their faith communities.

University of Maryland College Park**Grant Award: \$30,000**

To develop a social marketing/behavior change program that encourages residential property owners to implement projects that capture and filter stormwater in order to protect Howard County waterways.

The Community Ecology Institute**Grant Award: \$20,000**

To engage a diverse group of Howard County families in a series of twelve "Watershed Weekend" events that encourage active watershed stewardship that protects and restores Howard County waterways.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.**Grant Award: \$30,535**

To support the installation of projects that capture and filter stormwater, remove invasive plants, and install native plants in the Greenleaf neighborhood in Columbia, MD and to support education of County residents about protection and restoration of natural resources.

Friends of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Greenway, Inc.**Grant Award: \$30,000**

To raise awareness and engage residents in the challenges and solutions to restoring our region's natural resources. As part of this project, watershed cleanups, tree maintenance, invasive plant removal, and a Stream Watch program will be undertaken.

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 and state agencies. 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.

About Howards County Office of Sustainability

The Howard County Office of Community Sustainability was created by Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman shortly after he took office in December 2014. It aims to protect and enhance the quality of life in our communities by addressing environmental and economic issues affecting County citizens and future generations. Guided by principles of science, ingenuity, sustainability and stewardship, the Office engages in water quality, economic development, agriculture, energy and education initiatives.