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Grants up to \$75,000 available for community-based natural resource projects in Howard County

Ellicott City, Maryland – The Howard County Office of Community Sustainability and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce grant opportunities to fund projects that both improve communities and improve local natural resources within the County such as green spaces, parks, tree canopy, waterways, and more. The County is committed to bettering the health and well-being of County residents by investing back into the communities it serves.

A variety of project types will be funded, including but not limited to: educating community residents about natural resources and stormwater improvement practices like downspout disconnection and rain barrels, proper pet waste management, rain gardens, tree planting, and pervious pavement through demonstration projects; implementing these types of practices, especially in areas that offer high demonstration value; communicating environmental messages that promote water quality improvement efforts; promoting environmentally responsible communities through behavior change program development; and supporting the formation or capacity-building of organizations who want to promote watershed health.

“Offering local groups funds to accomplish multiple goals – clean, livable communities and improved natural resources – is what the Trust is all about,” said Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “We are so thrilled to have Howard County join us as a partner in engaging local nonprofits.”

Non-profit organizations such as local watershed groups, community associations, service and civic groups, and faith-based organizations are 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 to improve watershed health and local ecological ownership. Please visit <https://cbtrust.org/outreach-and-restoration/> or contact Abbi Huntzinger at 410-974-2941, x106 to learn more and review the request for proposals. Applications are due on or before September 11, 2017, by 5:00 p.m.

"These grant opportunities play an important role in helping us accomplish multiple goals in a cost-effective manner," said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "The organizations who receive these funds will be leading partners in our efforts to reduce stormwater pollution, assist in flood mitigation strategies and projects, and educate our residents about the role we all play as responsible stewards of our environment committed to building a more sustainable community."

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by the Maryland General Assembly dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's grantees engage 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 governments such as Howard County's 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

About Howard 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.