

Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program

Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities, and Patapsco River and Back River Watersheds



Maryland
Department of
the Environment



Information Session and Workshop

July 25th, 12pm to 1:30pm

Presented by:
Kathy Somoza and Delaney Samons

Learn more at: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/healthy-environment-healthy-communities/>

We will begin momentarily. This webinar will be recorded and posted on our website/shared with those who were unable to attend.

Agenda

- Introductions (5 min.)
- Grant Program Overview (25 min.)
- Application Process & Resources (20 min.)
- Project Examples and Additional Resources (10 min.)
- (Optional) Online Application Demonstration (15 min.)

We will have breaks for questions and answers throughout the session!



Introductions



The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit organization. Our mission is to engage and empower diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region.



Grant Program Overview



Funding Available:

- Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities: ~\$225,000 available in Year 1
- Patapsco and Back River Watersheds: ~\$1.1 million available in Year 1



Deadline to apply: Thursday, October 24th, 2024, at 4:00 PM EST

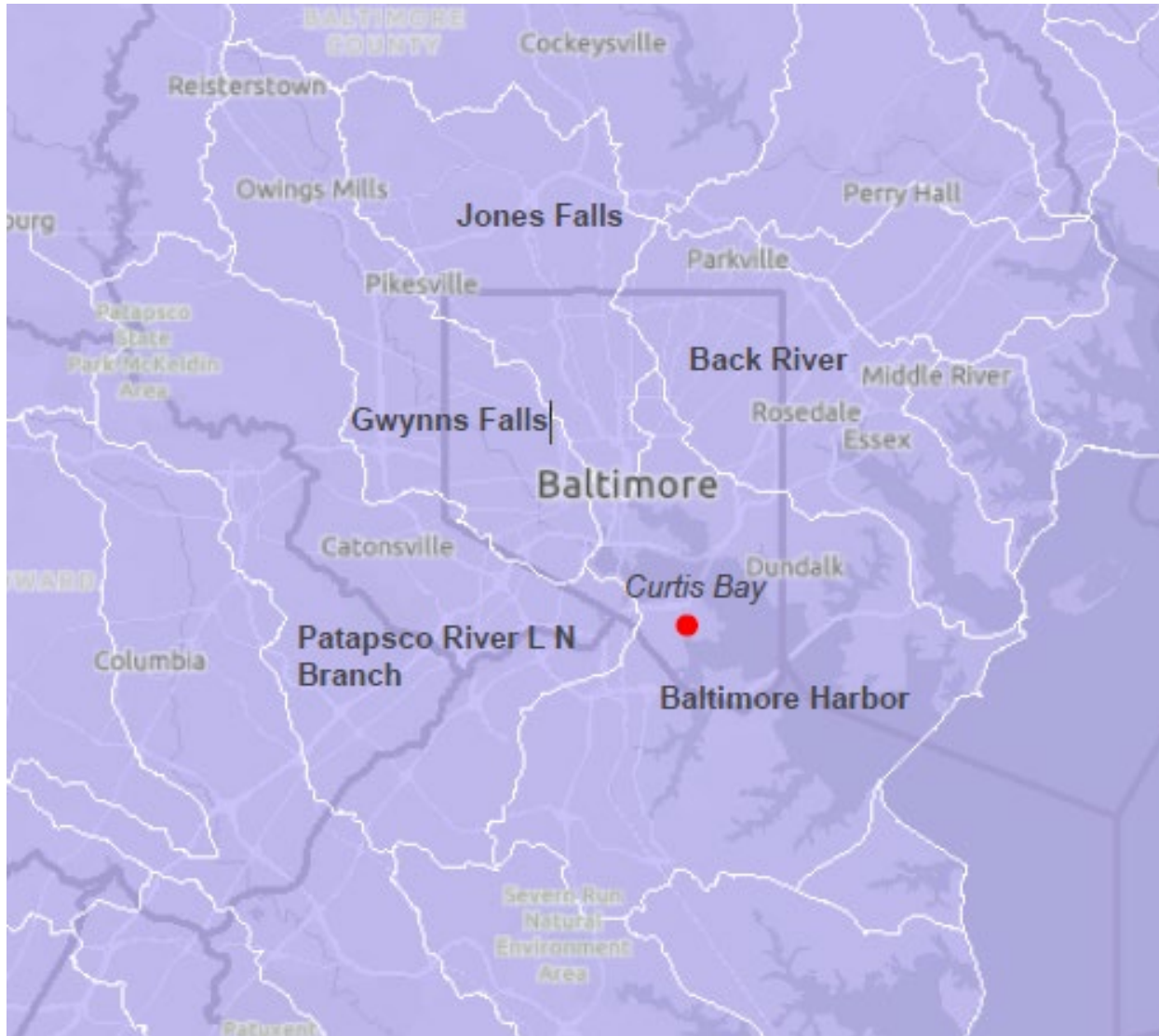


Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit Organizations; Community, Homeowners, and/or Neighborhood Associations; Faith-based Organizations; Service, Youth, and Civic Groups; State and Local Government Agencies; and Public and Independent Higher Educational Institutions



Find the Request for Proposals, online application, resources, and more on the program page at: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/healthy-environment-healthy-communities/>.

Eligible Locations



- The Patapsco River watershed (including Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, Baltimore Harbor, and the main stem of the Patapsco River) and the Back River watershed.
 - Funding will be directed in and around the Patapsco River and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plants, as well as throughout the two watersheds.
 - Look up your watershed using the Maryland Department of the Environment's Maryland 8-Digit Watershed Map: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/tmdl/datacenter/pages/8digitwatershed.aspx>.
- The Curtis Bay and surrounding communities, including Hawkins Point, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, and other South Baltimore communities.

Background, Goals, and Priorities

Funding from this program originates from environmental enforcement cases for violations at the Patapsco and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plants and a criminal enforcement case against Curtis Bay Energy.

Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities

Goal: Improve, protect and/or reduce risks to public health or the environment and to the extent practicable, specifically address matters related to solid waste management and watershed pollution.

The entire Curtis Bay and surrounding communities (including Hawkins Point, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park, and other South Baltimore communities) will be prioritized for this funding.

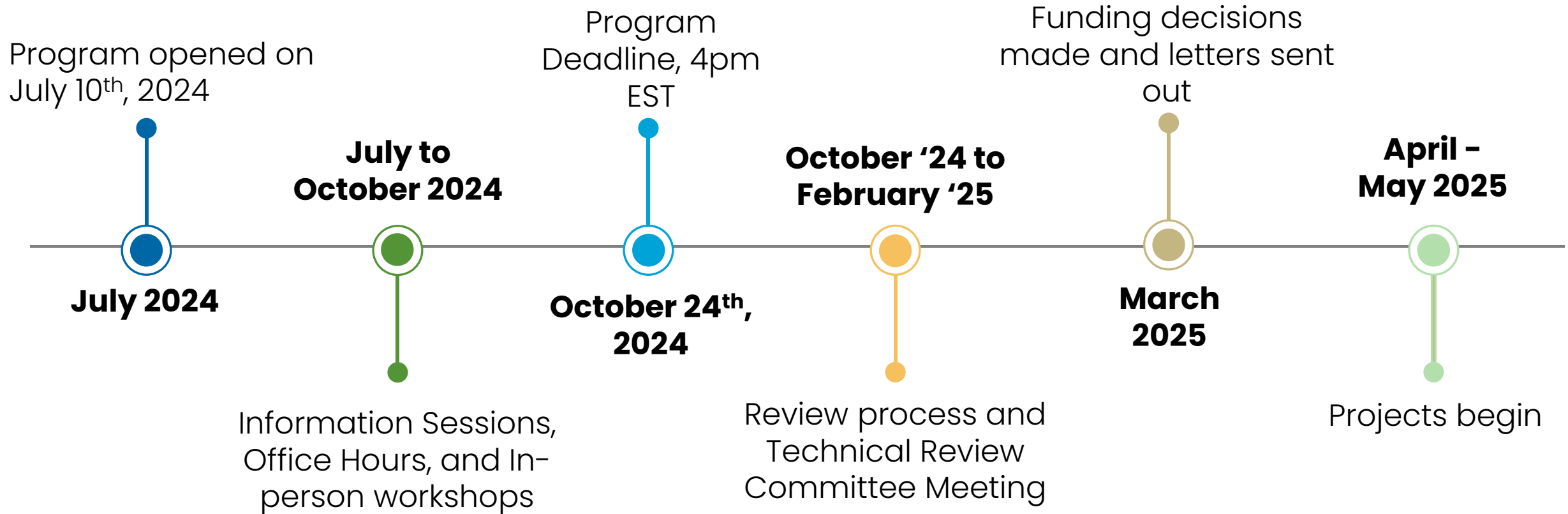
Patapsco River and Back River Watersheds

Goal: Improve water quality and/or ecological function in the Patapsco and Back River estuary and/or upstream waters; Reduce impacts from pollution in these waterways; Improve public education/transparency about water quality; and Provide mitigation or remediation benefits for harms to water quality and the aquatic environment.

Within the Patapsco River watershed (including Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, and the Baltimore Harbor), projects within Baltimore City will be prioritized. The entire Back River watershed will be prioritized.

Environmental Justice: Projects located in residential census tracts with a 75% or higher Environmental Justice (EJ) score percentile, per the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) EJ Screening Tool (<https://mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/>), will be prioritized. View the Evaluation Criteria for full details on how projects will be evaluated/prioritized.

Program Timeline and Overview



Eligible Project Types



**Environmental
Outreach,
Education, and
Engagement
Projects**



**Environmental
Action Projects**



**Larger-Scale
Watershed and
Environmental
Restoration
Projects**

If you have a project idea that does not directly fit into the high-level categories but meets the broader goals of this grant program, contact Trust staff to discuss your idea before applying.

Environmental Outreach, Education, and Engagement Projects

Request amounts are typically \$5,000 and above

Demonstrate an increase in public understanding of and engagement in the benefits, challenges, and solutions to restoring the local community's natural resources and environmental health.

Example projects include:

- Projects that increase awareness of environmental health disparities
- Environmental workforce development
- Community science programs that support the collection of air quality, water quality, and/or other natural resource information
- Stream clean-ups and storm drain stenciling coupled with education efforts
- Community clean-ups that include education on litter impacts
- Additional projects examples can be found in the RFP



Environmental Improvement Action Projects

Request amounts are typically between \$5,000 - \$30,000

These projects aim to green recreational and communal spaces through tree plantings, rain gardens, rain barrels/cisterns, pervious pavement, and other practices.

Example projects include:

- Small to medium scale community greening projects such as trees, rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns, pervious pavement, and/or native plantings that aim to improve water quality and reduce minor flooding
- Reclaiming vacant lots to install site appropriate stormwater BMPs (Best Management Practices) with other greening space activation elements
- Community tree plantings and sustainable landscaping using native plants
- Urban soil restoration
- Additional project examples can be found in the RFP



Larger-Scale Watershed/Environmental Restoration Projects

Request amounts are typically \$30,000 and above

These projects will implement in-the-ground projects that benefit both the community and the quality of one or more natural resources (e.g. water quality, air quality, tree canopy, and habitat).

Example projects include:

- Stormwater practices such as bioretention cells or bioswales
- Streamside forest buffers
- Wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement
- Living shorelines
- Stream restoration and fish passage projects



Larger-Scale Watershed/Environmental Restoration Projects

- Several stages of large-scale restoration work will be supported: designs (conceptual and final design); design and build projects; and projects where final designs exist, and funds are needed for implementation.
- All design-only applications and awards shall commit to planning for and demonstrating the ability to implement.
- Preference will be given to projects that have completed the planning and design stages and are ready for the implementation stage.

The most competitive proposals should request funding at or below \$200,000 per impervious acre treated (grant funds requested, not overall cost). Restoration projects that exceed \$200,000 per impervious acre treated should include an explanation in the additional budget justification section.

Questions?

Application Process

1. Read the Request for Proposals (RFP)
2. Schedule a meeting/call/site visit with us
3. Identify project partners
4. Compile application pieces
5. Send a draft of your application to us for feedback
6. Submit the online application

SUBMIT EARLY!

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a few days prior to the deadline given the potential for high website traffic on the due date. The Trust cannot guarantee availability of online system technical assistance on the due date.

Application Pieces

Narrative

Download and answer the required narrative questions

https://cbtrust-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/ksomoza_cbtrust_org/Eb0rUG8kl_tls4pVzxyPkK8BrPd4srGCONI4PpCN9dT-zA?e=wggDH1

Supporting Documentation

Gather supporting documentation

- Letters of Commitment
- Draft workshop agendas
- Site photos
- Site map
- Concept plan/design
- Planting plan/plant list
- Maintenance plan

Budget

Obtain cost estimates to build your budget

Download the Financial Management Spreadsheet and complete the "Application Budget" worksheet

https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Financial-Management-Spreadsheet_5.9.24.xlsx

Provide budget justification

Tips for a Strong Narrative

- Be detailed and clear
- Demonstrate a project need
- Add background but focus on the project
- Answer each **applicable** question
- Reviewers are your audience – don't assume prior knowledge of any part of your project
- Use font size, bullets, headers, text boxes and other tools to visually organize and emphasize key points

Winning Factors

- Alignment with program and community priorities
- Community buy-in and support
- Reasonable and accurate budget that aligns with narrative
- Qualified and appropriate partners
- Clear focus
- Well-supported methodology
- Located in or around an impacted community
- Project readiness to proceed!

Tips for Success

- Contact Trust staff early
- Check deadlines & eligibility criteria
- Follow the online instructions and submit all required components (narrative and budget)
- Review the Evaluation Criteria section in RFP
- Details, details, details!
- Letters of Commitment
- Landowner permission

Watch Our “How to Apply for a Grant” Video

For a detailed and thorough explanation of the application process, view our “How to Apply for a Grant” video using this link:
<https://cbtrust.org/grants/>



After Submitting Your Application...

The Trust processes applications after the deadline

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) reviews the applications

The TRC's recommendations are presented to the Trust's Board of Trustees for approval

The Trust sends out decision letters by email to the applicant



The average approval rate from the last three rounds in a similar grant program is **45%**. This includes both fully and partially-funded applications.

If awarded:

Review, sign, and submit the award agreement, review and submit the award's requirements, and complete the work outlined in the application

If declined:

Reach out to the Trust to schedule a debrief. The Trust will provide a summary of the TRC feedback and recommendations on how your application could be improved and resubmitted to a future program.

Questions?

Project Highlight

Lifting the Veil on Sewage: Blue Water Baltimore and the Belair-Edison and Cherry Hill Communities



Connecting Baltimore Communities with Resources and Relief



Award Amount:
\$30,000

Description:

Blue Water Baltimore pilot campaign to combine digital media with community-based grassroots advocacy to:

- Engage residents about how sewage back-ups happen
- Connect residents with the resources they need to get help
- De-stigmatize sewage backups to increase overall reporting rates

Project Highlight

Vacant Lots converted to Urban Farms



Award Amount:
\$50,000

Description:

The Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm cultivated urban food forests on vacant lots, created a native food/forest tree nursery, increased pollinator habitats, installed rainwater harvesting systems for greenhouses and planter boxes on vacant lots, and produced food while reducing runoff and supporting youth training and skills.

Project Highlight

Greater Grace World Outreach Inc. Campus Greening



Phase 1 Green Infrastructure and Community Greening



Award Amount:
\$57,012

Description:

Greater Grace Campus Greening stormwater practices installed to:

- Treat stormwater runoff
- Increase pollinator and wildlife habitat
- Increase community climate resilience
- Bring awareness of environmental concerns to congregations and students

Grant Programs Overview

Outreach and Engagement

- Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant
- Veterans Engagement Mini Grant
- Outreach and Restoration Grant Program*
- Keep Maryland Beautiful

Restoration and Science

- Goal Implementation Team Support (GIT)
- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3)
- Nontidal Wetlands
- Oyster Innovation
- Restoration Research
- Urban Trees
- Mini Urban Trees
- Watershed Assistance

District of Columbia

- Community Stormwater Solutions
- Donation and Reuse
- Urban Agriculture

Environmental Education

- Environmental Education
- Youth Environmental Education Mini Grants
- Outdoor Learning Network Initiative
- Regional Outdoor Learning Network

Capacity Building Initiative

- Annual Capacity Building Initiative Grant Program
- Regional Capacity Building Initiative

Chesapeake Conservation Corps

- Year-Long Program for young adults interested in the Environmental/Conservation movement
- Chesapeake Conservation Corps Mini Grants

County Specific

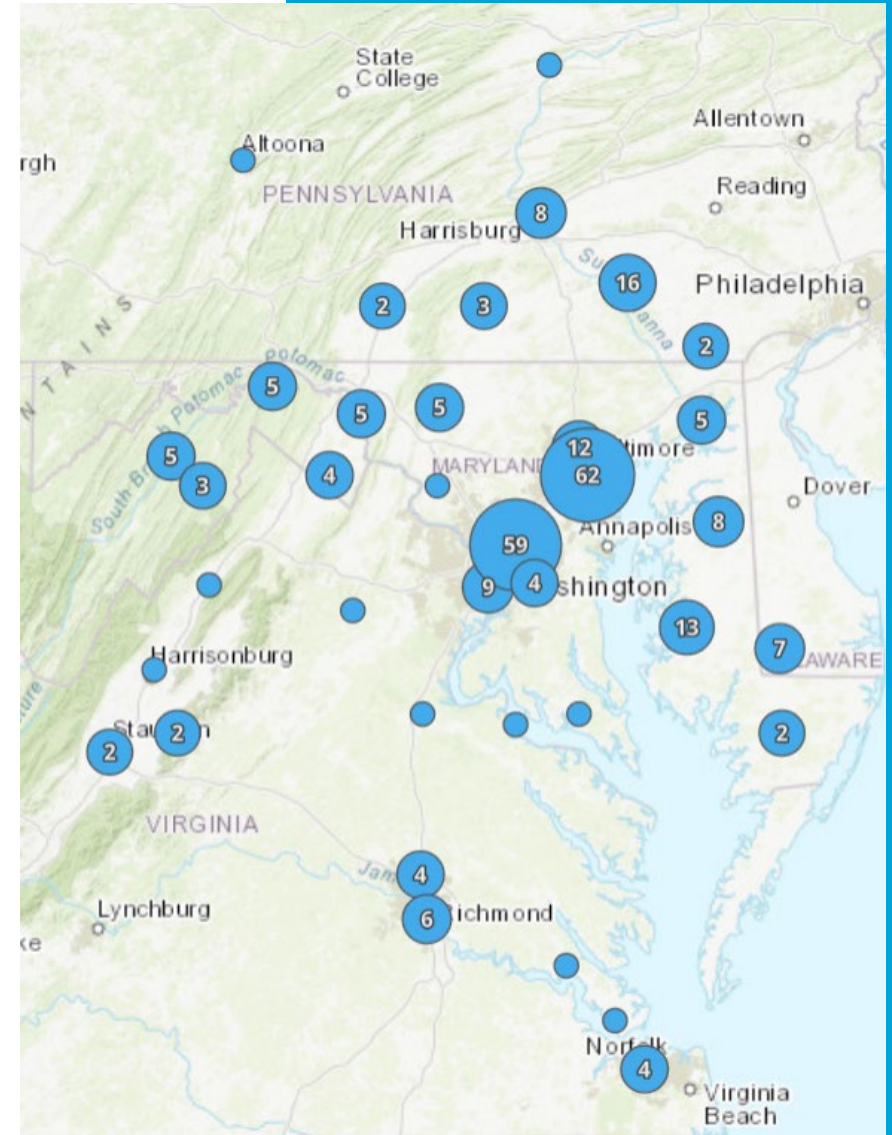
- Anne Arundel County
 - Community Tree Planting
 - Forestry and Forested Land Protection
 - Watershed Restoration
- Charles County Forestry
- Clean Water Montgomery
- Prince George's County
 - Community Gardens
 - Stormwater Stewardship

This is not an exhaustive list! Learn more about our grant programs at cbtrust.org

Learn More about the Trust's Previously Awarded Projects

Chesapeake Bay Trust
Awarded Projects Map:

<https://cbtrust.org/impact-of-our-work/>



Additional Resources

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/applicant-resources-forms-policies/>

- Public Outreach and Behavior Change resources
- Native Plant Guide
- Maintenance Guides and Maintenance Plan Template
- “How to” for Obtaining Restoration Project Cost Estimates
- Signage Examples
- Green SIMPLE Tool

Office Hours

9/5, 10/10, and 10/21 at 6:30pm
8/13 and 9/24 at 12pm

Register using this link: <https://bit.ly/hehc-officehours>

Contacts

Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities

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Patapsco and Back River Watersheds

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Bay Trust

Thank You!
Any Questions?

Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program

Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities, and Patapsco and Back River Watersheds



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The Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program will support community outreach and engagement, environmental action, and larger-scale restoration projects in the communities of the Patapsco and Back River Watershed and the Curtis Bay and surrounding area. The funding sources of this program originate from environmental enforcement cases from a civil settlement involving the Patapsco and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plants (which will support projects throughout these watersheds) and a criminal enforcement case involving Curtis Bay Energy, L.P. (which will support projects in the Curtis Bay and surrounding communities).

This is the first year of the program, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be updated and adapted in each subsequent funding round to be responsive to any feedback received and continue to be supportive of evolving community needs and goals.

What this funds: This program can support environmental outreach, education, and engagement projects; environmental action projects; and larger-scale restoration projects in the communities of the Back River and Patapsco River (including Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, Baltimore Harbor, and the main stem of the river) Watersheds and the Curtis Bay and Surrounding areas.

Applicants can request funds for a range of project types. Refer to the RFP for more details.

Projects for the Curtis Bay and Surrounding Communities will improve, protect and/or reduce risks to public health or the environment and to the extent practicable, specifically address matters related to solid waste management and watershed pollution.

Projects for the Patapsco and Back River Watersheds will seek to improve water quality and/or ecological function in the Patapsco estuary and/or upstream waters; improve water quality and/or ecological function in the Back River and/or upstream waters; reduce impacts from pollution in these waterways; improve public education/transparency about water quality; and provide mitigation or remediation benefits for harms to water quality and the aquatic environment.

Generally, requests will fall into one of the following project types:

- Outreach, education, and engagement on environmental topics and natural resources in the community
- Environmental action projects that improve the environment/natural resources in the community
- Larger-Scale (>\$30,000) watershed/environmental restoration

Who can apply: Nonprofit Organizations, Community, Homeowners, and/or Neighborhood Associations, Faith-based Organizations, Service, Youth, and Civic Groups, State and Local Government Agencies, and Public and Independent Higher Educational Institutions

Eligible Project Locations:

In an effort to direct environmental enforcement penalties back into impacted communities, projects must occur in either:

Program Status: **Open**

Deadline: Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM EST

[Click Here to View the Request for Proposals \(RFP\) \(.pdf\)](#)

[Click Here to View the Required Narrative Questions to Answer \(.docx\)](#)

Attend Our Information Sessions

During the sessions, we will provide an overview of the program, eligible project types, the application process, resources for applicants, and answer questions. They will be held on 7/16 at 6:30pm-8pm and 7/25 at 12pm-1:30pm.

Tuesday, 7/16, 6:30-8: <https://bit.ly/hehc-infosession1>

Thursday, 7/25, 12-1:30: <https://bit.ly/hehc-infosession2>

[Click Here to Register for the 7/16 Information Session](#)

[Click Here to Register for the 7/25 Information Session](#)

Attend Our Office Hours

Our office hours are open for anyone to drop in and ask questions. They will be held on 9/5, 10/10, and 10/21 at 6:30 pm, and 8/13, and 9/24 at 12 pm on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/hehc-officehours>.

[Click Here to Join Our Office Hours](#)

Online Application Demonstration