



For Immediate Release

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Over \$93K Awarded to District Communities, Non-profits, and Small Businesses with Funding for Stormwater Projects that Combine Art, Family, Play, and the Environment.

Annapolis, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. – The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust), which manages the funds raised by the Maryland Chesapeake license plate, among other revenues, and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) are excited to announce awards made through the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program. Seven organizations have received funding totaling \$93,760 for projects to both engage communities and new audiences in environmental issues as well as help manage stormwater runoff in the District of Columbia. Through this partnership, grants will be made to protect and enhance the District's water bodies and watersheds and build relationships with community-based organizations and small businesses.

“The District of Columbia is committed to improving our local water quality while contributing to our communities' health and sustainability,” said Tommy Wells, director of the Department of Energy and Environment. “We are especially thrilled with the innovation and partnerships formed to complete this vital work.”

The Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program supports community-oriented and -inspired projects designed to increase knowledge about watershed and stormwater-related issues, while connecting with people through other interests such as the arts, their neighborhoods, their families, and play spaces.

A brand new partnership in 2020 between DOEE and the Trust on the program will help increase assistance to new applicants brand new to grant-writing and provide additional financial support for awards. The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a regional grant-maker specializing in public engagement in natural resources issues work. The Trust also helps many other jurisdictions with similar public engagement programs, such as neighboring Prince George’s and Montgomery counties.

“In these tough times, connecting people with the outdoors and with nature is more important than ever,” said Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “These projects are so creative, so unique – marrying poetry and family and play with the outdoors and our natural

world in ways that will make people see the world differently, allow them access to new resources, and change people's lives."

Recent Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program awardees include:

Casey Trees, \$15,978

Trees, Water, and You: Fostering Stewardship on Kingman & Heritage Islands

For the creation of digital and print educational resources, including information regarding the trees on Kingman and Heritage Islands and their role in promoting community and watershed health and a community stewardship day to include tree plantings.

The Green Scheme, \$13,997

Ward 8 Water Watchers

For residents in and around the Oxon Run sub-watershed to participate in a series of family-oriented educational activities regarding natural resources and stewardship.

Day Eight, \$16,000

Anacostia Swim Club

For Anacostia River-focused poetry performances and community engagement activities that promote stewardship of local natural resources.

Anacostia Riverkeeper, \$13,788

River Service Today, River Stewards Tomorrow

For high school students and community members to participate in a series of stream visits, trash cleanups, and educational activities regarding litter impacts on local waterways.

Endangered Species Coalition, \$10,000

Quincy Entrance and Woodland Improvement Project

For community engagement activities to expand a woodland adjacent to the Quincy Alley area to include the installation of natural spaces curated for kids to play and for native trees.

Urban Learning and Teaching Center, \$10,000

Lions in the City: Cleveland Elementary School Waterway Guardians in Shaw, DC

For Cleveland Elementary School's fourth and fifth grade students to participate in a neighborhood-based, watershed education project that will connect them to the Anacostia River.

Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region, \$13,997

Anacostia High School Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)

For school students to participate in a field experience at Kingman and Heritage Islands and for teachers to participate in professional development.

In addition to the awards listed above, the Department of Energy and Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust anticipate making a second round of awards this fall pending funding availability.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization established by state government dedicated to improving our region's natural resources through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust's 400 annual awardees engage hundreds of thousands of individuals annually in projects that have a measurable impact on the region's waterways and other natural resources. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from an online boating, fishing, and hunting license system, contributions from individuals and corporations from all over the watershed and beyond, and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust has received the highest rating (4 stars) from Charity Navigator for nearly two decades: on average more than 90 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.