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## **Chesapeake Bay Trust Receives Congressional Funds to Translate Over a Decade of Research into Usable Products for Regulators, Legislators, and Policymakers**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Bay Trust) empowers thousands of people every year with the resources they need to restore nature in communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including providing research to stakeholders who influence natural resource restoration policy and practices. The Bay Trust has just been awarded Congressionally Directed Spending or Community Project Funding of \$178,000 to turn more than a decade of Chesapeake Bay restoration science through its Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program into clear, practical tools for regulators, legislators, and policymakers.

“The Chesapeake Bay is both a natural treasure and an economic lifeline for Maryland. That’s why we fought to secure this direct federal funding for the Bay Trust to conduct critical research to best inform decisions on where restoration resources can have the greatest impact. This investment will better equip us to improve the health of the Bay and support the communities throughout the watershed that depend on it,” **said Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Questions have arisen in the restoration community about aspects of certain practices, such as stream restoration and stormwater management practices, and just how to design them to maximize their efficacy and make them more cost-effective to install. Since 2012, the Bay Trust’s Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program has been getting scientific answers to these questions by replacing assumptions with evidence. The program convenes regulators, practitioners, and scientists to identify the questions slowing progress, translate those questions into testable hypotheses, fund rigorous research, and return the findings to the people who need them.

“The Chesapeake Bay is the heart of Maryland – and we must use every tool at our disposal to protect it. I am so proud to have worked alongside Senator Van Hollen to direct federal funding to the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program which will translate a decade of restoration science into user-friendly tools for policymakers. Now, we will be able to make informed decisions about our collective efforts to restore the Bay and other local waters,” **said Senator Alsobrooks.**

The Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program has tackled questions at all scales: from the big picture, such as how many practices need to be installed in a subwatershed to see a water quality benefit in the mainstem of the Bay, to the small picture, such as does biota return after you restore a stream. Each year, findings are shared with regulators and practitioners in a standing-room-only convening that concludes by identifying the next set of questions to further inform restoration efforts.

This new funding will help synthesize these findings from more than 10 years of studies into concise, plain-language products and proactively deliver them to those shaping policies and practices. The user-friendly tools will include one-pagers, graphics, and other products covering topic areas of stream restoration, living shorelines, impacts of changing rainfall on stormwater practice efficacy, and road salt management. These tools will be shared with legislators, regulators, and other stakeholders in the Chesapeake region and nationally who may benefit from them and accompanied by guidance on how to use them in real-world decision-making.

“This project fills a critical gap in how science informs public decisions,” said **Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust**. “By translating years of important research into usable products, we can remove barriers to watershed restoration project implementation and ultimately improve outcomes for the Chesapeake Bay and other water bodies and all of our local communities that depend on it.”

The Bay Trust administers the Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program with many partners, including representatives of federal agencies; the Maryland Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Transportation State Highway Administration; counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George’s; restoration practitioner groups; and others. Program partners will continue to address the pressing questions related to Bay restoration and deliver the answers back to those who asked them, and who need them.

Regulators, policymakers, and other community members who would benefit from this science and are interested in accessing the new tools can contact the Chesapeake Bay Trust by emailing [cparker@cbtrust.org](mailto:cparker@cbtrust.org). Learn more about the Pooled Monitoring Restoration Research Program at [cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/](http://cbtrust.org/grants/restoration-research/).

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### **About the Chesapeake Bay Trust**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust ([www.cbtrust.org](http://www.cbtrust.org)) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving natural resources through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Bay 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 Bay Trust’s work is supported by the sale of a specialty license plate; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Bay Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: On average, over 90 cents of every dollar go to programs.