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## **More than \$535,000 invested in communities impacted by environmental harm in the Jones Falls**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore, announces more than \$535,000 to support nine environmental projects led by community-based groups in the Jones Falls watershed in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The funding is a result of [a federal consent decree resolving an industrial facility's alleged unauthorized discharge of pollutants](#) in the Jones Falls and is meant as a step in remediating harms caused by this pollution within the communities impacted. The nine organizations that received funding in this community-designed and community-led program will implement critical local projects to improve water quality and restore aquatic habitat in their communities.

“This is an important effort to restore water quality, improve public health and strengthen the communities directly impacted,” said Alice Volpitta, Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper with Blue Water Baltimore. “The funding is going right back into the hands of the community members ready to lead the on-the-ground restoration projects that will protect the long-term health and sustainability of their neighborhoods.”

The Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities: Jones Falls Watershed Grant Program has aimed to improve water quality, public health, and public education about the impacts of pollution. Some of the awarded projects include planting native trees and plants; equipping community members to participate in water quality sampling; engaging youth in community cleanups; removing invasive species; and commissioning artists, designers, and community members to envision the future of the Jones Falls watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit grantmaking organization that specializes in “participatory grant-making”, which engages communities in all aspects of resource distribution, was tapped to administer the program.

“This grant program responds directly to the needs and wishes of the people who live, play, and work around the Jones Falls,” said Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “Empowering people to be part of the solution and implement their own visions will result in efforts that are sustained for years to come and ripple throughout communities.”

Additional funds from the settlement will be invested in additional community projects in the Jones Falls watershed through the Trust in the coming year.

## **Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities - Jones Falls Watershed Grant Program Awards:**

**Greater Remington Improvement Association:** \$99,991 for the installation of trees in the Remington neighborhood and along the Jones Falls Trail.

**Fusion Partnerships:** \$55,000 for community outreach, engagement, and water quality sampling.

**No Boundaries Coalition:** \$7,300 for youth community outreach, engagement, and cleanup events.

**York Corridor Business Improvement District Management Authority, Inc.:** \$60,500 for the installation of native trees, pollinator gardens, and rain gardens.

**Inquiring Systems, Inc.:** \$45,035 for the commissioning of artists, designers, writers, and community members to envision the restoration potential of Jones Falls.

**Central Baltimore Partnership:** \$36,580 for the removal of invasive species and installation of native species along the Jones Falls Trail.

**National Wildlife Federation:** \$75,000 for the outreach and engagement of the Druid Heights community and the installation of native plants.

**Central Baltimore Partnership:** \$142,075 for the installation of a wetland observation deck and educational signage.

**Baltimore Clayworks:** \$13,950 for the installation of native plants and nature-based public art.

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### **About Blue Water Baltimore**

Blue Water Baltimore, home of the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit watershed organization with a mission to protect and restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities.

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

The Chesapeake Bay Trust ([www.cbtrust.org](http://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's non-compliance, non-mitigation work is supported by the sale of Protect the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Trust is also asked by federal, state, and local partners to administer funds from criminal or civil settlements through its "Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities" program. The Trust has

received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: On average, 92 cents of every dollar go to programs.