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More than \$560,000 in Grants Awarded for Watershed Restoration and Outreach Projects

Rockville, Maryland – The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announce that \$564,134 in grant funding has been awarded to 10 organizations to improve water quality and help manage stormwater runoff in Montgomery County. Montgomery County neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, and non-profit organizations received support for projects that ranged from \$25,000 to \$95,000.

“The Department of Environmental Protection congratulates the recipients of these watershed restoration and outreach project grants” said Lisa Feldt, director of the Department of Environmental Protection. “We are thrilled to be able to support the efforts of such hard-working groups in our community, who will not only help us improve the water quality in our streams and rivers, but will be able to achieve significant water quality improvements on their property and in their communities.”

“The Trust is proud to be a partner with Montgomery County in providing resources to community groups working on the ground to green and beautify their neighborhoods,” said Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “These projects show that we can get multiple bangs for the buck, finding areas where community improvement, stormwater treatment, and resident engagement meet.”

Established in 2014, the Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program supports initiatives and projects that improve communities and water quality in Montgomery County through public engagement, education, and on-the-ground restoration. Funding for these projects is made possible through Montgomery County's water quality protection charge. The Chesapeake Bay Trust will administer the grants in partnership with the County.

The 2017 Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program awardees include:

Arts on the Block; \$50,000: To install landscaping in the Carroll Avenue/Quebec Terrace neighborhood that will manage stormwater, increase community greenspace, and educate and engage residents to become environmental stewards.

Rock Creek Conservancy; \$85,000: To install a demonstration conservation landscaping project to help manage stormwater in the Crabbs Branch Stream Valley tributary of Rock Creek.

Anacostia Riverkeeper; \$50,777: To install a rain garden on the grounds of the Silver Spring United Methodist Church.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; \$31,119: To remove impervious surface in the riparian buffer zone and replant the area with native trees and shrubs, connecting the project with the recently restored Hollywood branch stream

Temple Shalom; \$95,000: To replace part of an asphalt parking lot with permeable pavers to capture stormwater and allow it to drain slowly into a rain garden planted with native plants. Funding will also support watershed outreach activities for members, students, and the wider community.

Little Falls Watershed Alliance; \$47,450: To undertake a comprehensive stormwater management plan, community outreach, and demonstration rain garden for the Overlook community in Bethesda to inspire residents.

Friends of Cabin John Creek; \$86,750: To work within communities of the Cabin John Creek Watershed ; over 30 faith-based institutions; and local businesses to encourage awareness and promote environmentally friendly actions residents can adopt to improve the local watershed.

Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah; \$60,948: To implement conservation landscaping and other stormwater management practices to improve the property and educate the community on watershed restoration.

LDS Earth Stewardship; \$25,000: To improve stormwater management by replacing turf with conservation landscaping and using rain barrels to reduce runoff from the Pleasant View Historic Site to connect the community.

National Wildlife Federation; \$32,090: To improve the understanding of stormwater management issues among congregants in Montgomery County through outreach and awareness programs and encourage their participation in adopting improvement practices.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. The Trust engages 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 agencies. 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 Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is to enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting and improving Montgomery County's air, water and land in a sustainable way while fostering smart growth, a thriving economy and healthy communities.