

2022-2023

# IMPACT REPORT

# Dear Friends & Supporters,

**Thank you for 15 years of impact!** On December 8, 2008, 50 government leaders, restoration professionals and community advocates met at Arlington Echo to launch the Watershed Stewards Academy. In just 3 short months, we wrote the curriculum for the Steward Certification Course and recruited our first class of 32 Stewards. We curated the Tool Box of Sustaining Action and enlisted a Consortium of Support Professionals to mentor our new leaders. In 15 years, we have trained almost 350 Watershed Stewards and expanded our programs to include Tree Troopers and short courses for diverse audiences with innovations that increase accessibility and inclusion.

While we know that the thousands of projects installed by Stewards over the last 15 years have significantly improved our local waterways, we've often wondered how people's individual actions have changed because they have engaged with a Watershed Steward. Have we successfully ushered in a cultural shift toward communities that are truly acting to ensure a healthy environment for all? This year, when we surveyed over 1,000 County residents, we learned just how much of a difference Stewards make in their neighborhoods.

**Have you planted all or mostly all native plants in the last 5 years?**

**92%**

of people familiar with WSA answered yes

**Are you likely to plant a tree?**

**84%**

of people **WITH** a Watershed Steward in their community answered yes

**19%**

of people **WITHOUT** a Watershed Steward in their community answered yes

**The impact a single Watershed Steward can have is tremendous.** In the coming year, we'll use what we've learned from this study to inform strategies for helping Stewards lead others to action.

We value the uniqueness of every community we work with, and remain committed to going farther together rather than faster alone. Strong partnerships are making it possible for us to forge new connections and create opportunities that are meaningful, accessible, and which will allow all of us in Anne Arundel County to embrace our role as Stewards caring for our environment.

**All of this work is not possible without you—our leaders, supporters and friends. Thank you for 15 great years!**

## With Gratitude & Optimism

### WSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair:** Frank Dawson

**Vice-Chair:** Carmera Thomas-Wilhite

**Secretary:** Melanie Parker

**Treasurer:** Steve Russo

**Development Chair:** Don Simpson

Khadija Abdur-Rahman,

Jan Atwood, Sam duPont,

Nina Fisher, Kevin Green,

Leila MacCarthy, Ron Snyder,

Erica Whorley

### WSA STAFF

**Executive Director:** Suzanne Etgen

Terryl Acker-Carter, Jackie Baird, Sara Ballesteros, Noelle Chao, Trish Hennessy-Webb, Francesca King, Jeffrey Popp, Faith Waaramaa, and Brady Waters





# Deeply Rooted in Our Mission

In 2009, WSA's first class of Stewards planted a tree as a symbol of future growth for WSA. Fifteen years later, trees are more than a symbol for our organization; they are evidence of the exponential enduring impact our leaders have within our communities.



## SAVE OUR TREES

This Spring, a new grass-roots initiative dedicated to protecting tree canopy became an official WSA program. Led by Watershed Stewards and other local environmental leaders, Save Our Trees is committed to stopping ivy and invasive vines from strangling trees. *“The missions of Save our Trees and WSA are so closely aligned – both aimed at leading impactful community action to reduce pollution and make our local environment healthy for all- that it seemed logical to join forces.” Frank Dawson, Board Chair, WSA.* Over the last year, Save Our Trees, has removed vines from over 1900 trees, and we're coordinating with Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis on longer term solutions.

Protecting existing tree canopy while substantially increasing the number of new trees is essential to sustain our environment.

WSA's RePlant programs transform communities and established 8.2 acres of new urban forest

### TREE TROOPERS



1922 trees planted

### BACKYARD BUFFERS



1850 seedlings distributed

### GROVES OF GRATITUDE



485 trees distributed



30 new tree troopers trained



4740 people engaged

Donations from WSA's Groves of Gratitude program raised \$1,600 for the Judy Center at Belle Grove Elementary.

They used the funds to bring Judy Center families to the Annapolis Maritime Museum and tour the Chesapeake Bay in a skipjack. For many of these families, it was their first time on the water.



WSA Class 1 Tree





# Stewards Spark Collective Action

With over 325 Watershed Stewards and over 150 Tree Troopers trained in the past 15 years, WSA has created a network of connections, collaboration and catalysts for cleaner waters in Anne Arundel County.



## AYIA LINDQUIST & REN GRUMBLES

Ayia Lindquist and Ren Grumbles spent the past year building sustained engagement and long term relationships through their sensory gardens in Brooklyn Park. Ayia hosted seed collections and planting events at the **Brooklyn Park Library** and **Park Elementary**. Ren delivered **Mindfulness in Nature** programs, maintenance events, and supply of tools and resources, engaged students and families of the **Judy Center at Belle Grove Elementary**. Ayia and Ren are working to ensure that their gardens are a resource for learning, healing and inspiration throughout the year.



## BETH PAQUETTE

Beth Paquette originally questioned becoming a Watershed Steward while balancing family duties, full-time work, and her passion for paddleboarding. Yet, she found a solution by creating a unique capstone project, **Riversweepers**. The popularity of her Paddle Patrol presentation, and her social action group, **Riversweepers**, dedicated to picking up trash in our rivers while enjoying on-the-water activities, led Beth to collaborate with **CapitalSUP** to provide free paddle board rentals to people who would *Riversweep* during their outings.



## GARY GAKENHEIMER

Gary Gakenheimer completed a massive shoreline restoration project with **BGE** in his community, Chestnut Hill Cove in Pasadena. The site, which suffered excessive erosion and slope failures, is now home to over 20,000 square feet of new tidal wetlands with over 17,000 plants. Gary is also working to restore a highly eroded tributary stream so that the new wetland is not overwhelmed by sediment.





We know that large scale restoration of our communities can't be achieved in a vacuum. Our network of leaders create unique and effective partnerships that connect and extend the resources of government and non-profit organizations, making Anne Arundel County a leader in community engagement and environmental action.

## Partnerships for Students & Families

Through our partnership with **Anne Arundel County Public Schools**, WSA engaged **13** schools, inspiring **950** students, teachers, staff, and families to take action this past year. In addition, WSA delivered over **20** programs and projects, reaching new audiences and continuing consistent engagement in 2/3 of the **Anne Arundel County Public Library** branches. WSA's relationship with **Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks** expanded with a focus on invasive removal, native plantings, and programming for children and families. Our RePollinate program brought together Stewards, Master Gardeners, and County Park Rangers to create a meadow with 3,000 natives at **Mayo Beach Park**.



### Partner Spotlight

Initially connected through our partners at Brooklyn Park Library, WSA engaged **The Complete Player Charity Young Leaders** after school program.

“Through our partnership with WSA, our students learned the importance of being a good environmental steward and motivated them to work together to create a conservation landscaping project. This outcome excites TCP the most because the community benefits as a whole through our partnership.”

- Andy Schindling | Founder & President,  
The Complete Player Charity

## Partnerships for Green Jobs

**Maryland Reentry Resource Center & Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council** teamed up to train returning citizens to install and maintain green infrastructure projects and remove invasive species. WSA partnered to connect congregational and library projects in need of maintenance to serve as the program's hands-on training sites. In the future, we hope to connect this newly trained workforce with communities in need of project installation and maintenance to create more green jobs across Anne Arundel County.

## Partnerships that Engage Communities in Action

Samm Russell's capstone, **Talking TR@\$H**, engaged over 200 people to remove almost 2.5 tons of trash and learn about actions that reduce litter. Samm collaborated with **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** on a stream clean up at **Severn Danza Park** and led an educational program at the **Odenton Library** with experts from the **Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration** and the **Recycling Center**, focusing on proper pet waste, litter, and plastic waste disposal. Her reputation for action led her to partner with the **Department of Public Works** and the **Anne Arundel County Police** for additional clean-up events.

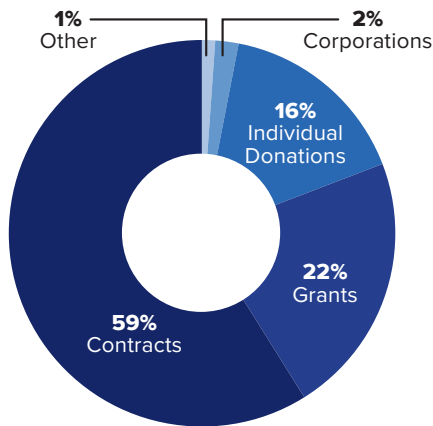




WSA Class 15

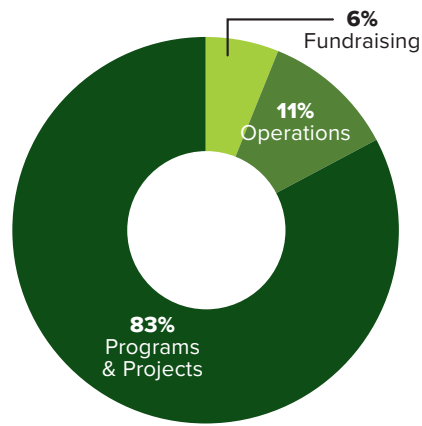
# 2022 Financials

## REVENUE



<b>\$690,816</b>	Contracts
<b>\$252,758</b>	Grants
<b>\$192,729</b>	Individual Donations
<b>\$27,119</b>	Corporations
<b>\$5,608</b>	Other

## EXPENSES



<b>\$842,394</b>	Programs & Projects
<b>\$110,177</b>	Operations
<b>\$60,653</b>	Fundraising

(WSA Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2022)

## Thank You to Our Supporters!

### Watershed Legend: \$100,000+

Anne Arundel County  
The Helena Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

### Watershed Champion: \$50,000+

Chesapeake Bay Trust

### Watershed Guardian: \$25,000+

City of Annapolis  
The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Inc.

### Watershed Protector: \$10,000+

Mike & Trish Davis  
Norman J Fisher & Doris Fisher Foundation  
Bruce Potter

### Watershed Defender: \$5,000+

Janice Atwood  
Baltimore Gas & Electric Company  
Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County  
Bill Daniel  
Adil Desai

### Mike Fritz

Gibson Island Garden Club  
Jim MacNicholl & Sara Lombardo  
John Murray  
Jim & Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation

### Watershed Preserver: \$2,500+

Frank Dawson  
Bill & Cindy Garmoe  
Kevin Green  
Karen & Bob Royer  
Don Simpson

### Watershed Advocate: \$1,000+

Carol Adamson & Richard Mosher  
Anonymous donors  
Marilyn Sue Apirian  
BayLand Consultants and Designers  
Beshore Family  
Linda Bowen  
Chesapeake Coffee Roasters  
Amy & Dan Clements  
Suzanne Etgen  
Kate Fritz

### Edmee Geis

Roy & Susan Kilby  
Peter Larkin & Barbara Power  
Beverly & Steve Marcus  
The Mitchell Petersen Family Foundation  
Jacqueline & Charles Neighbor  
Juliet Page  
Barbara & Steve Palmer  
Steven Raabe  
Lynne Rockenbauch  
Steve Russo

Eileen Scigliano & Larry Cytryn  
Tracy Wroe

### Watershed Sustainers: \$500+

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
Arundel Rivers Federation  
Chaney Enterprises  
Martin & Louise Chao  
Bill & Adrienne Croll  
Dawn Eggen-Mona  
Beth Foster  
Nancy Galetsky



John Garofolo	Scenic Rivers Land Trust	Chuck Gallegos	Grace Schneider	Charlotte Graves	Rob Pavlik
Joe Gill	Sharon Schroer	John & Marge Gardner	Jay Schwarz	Meredith Gray	Ron Peremel
Judy Graham	Brenda Schwaab	Kathy Gramp Smith	Julie Shay	Britt & Janet Griswold	Meghan Petenbrink
Green Landing Nursery	Severn Grove Ecological Design	Jennifer Gross	Shipley's Choice Garden Club	Birgit Gruenberg	David Petrillo
Jennifer Haythornthwaite	Mary Stouten	Cindy Hall	Elizabeth & Jackson Sieglinger	Ren Grumbles	Cecelia Petro
Diane Holland	Bill & Martha Sykora	Georgina Hammond	Jan Spiro	Daniel Haas	Elaine Phillips
HUB International	Sylva Native Nursery	Andy & Ellen Happ	William Spiro	Pamela Hanna	Jeff Popp
Ann Jackson	Kathie Treacy	Geraldine Happ	Split Rail Garden Club	Jeremy Hanson	Jane A. Price
Missy Jones	Eloise Ullman	Melanie Hartwig-Davis	Barbara Squires	Marc Haseltine	Catherine Prigg
Karen Kiehne	Christina Vieglais	Dawn Hegarty	Ray Sullivan	Ken Hatch	Maureen Pritchard
Jim Koczela	John Wakeman-Linn	Stephanie & James Heidbreder	Theresa Sullivan	Trish Hennessy-Webb	Kim Radvan
David LaChapelle	Jack Weaver	Yvette Hess	Dawn Tuff	Nan Henry	Nancy Rando
Leila MacCarthy	Welspryng LLC	Hillsmere Garden Club	Ron Tate	Kimberly Hickey	Charlotte Randolph-Featherstone
Mike McCormick	Lynda Wilkinson	Jordy Hirschfeld	Michael Taylor	Keli Hill	Bud Reaves
McHale Landscape Design, Inc.	Brittany Wright	Lisa Hopf	Maria Terrazas	Michele Hooper	Jay Resnick
Liam O'Meara	<b>\$100+</b>	Dr. Sally Hornor	Carmela Thomas-Wilhite	Maggie Hughes	Sue Ricciardi
Phelps Water Company	Khadija Abdur-Rahman	Claudia Horwitz	Susan Valett	Catherine Hunter	Carolyn Ricketts
Anne Pottter	Eddie Abramson & Ariane DuBois	Karen Iglar	Lorraine vom Saal	Angela Hunt-Hysan	James Roberson
Providence Center	Dorothee Alsentzer	Vivian Jaber	Lisa Wetstone	Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake	Sarah Rohrbach
Matthew Rhoderick	Mary & Uli Alsentzer	Alison James	Sarah Wetstone	Irvine Natural Science Center	Marita Roos
Jimm Rich	Helen & Bill Anderson	Rick & Lynn Jones	Bob Whitcomb	Jenny Janis	Malissa Rose
Paul Rickett	Annapolis Horticultural Society	Amber Kasbeer	Erica Whorley	Judy Jaudon	Joyce Rosencranz
Ron Snyder	Elizabeth Argo-Wilbanks	Marianne & Howard Katz	Stacey Wildberger	Matt Johnston	Randy Rowel
Kevin Thompson	Anne Arms	Sue King	Duane and Stevie Wilding	K&B True Value	Carmen Russo
Michael & Deb Wagener	Joe Arrowsmith, PE	Tatiana Klein	John Wyss	Paul Kaladas	Sally Sachse
<b>\$250+</b>	Lisa Ausherman	Ginny Klocko	Dianna Young	Laura Kelm	Chuck Sakers
Sara Ballesteros	Joyce Baden	Brad Knopf	Kenneth Zepp	Annalise Kenney	Dana Schallheim
Sue Bell	Ray Bauer	John & Betty Knupp	<b>Up to \$100</b>	Luanne Kerrigan	Christina Schriver
Calvert Chaney Construction Company	Bayside Bloomers Garden Club	Julie Koczela	Tina Acker	Bobbie Kestenbaum	Janice Schuster
Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council	Sarah Benson	Molly LaChapelle	Kayla Acker-Carter	Francesca King	Katie Scott-Kelly
Ciminelli's Ecoasis Garden Center	Kirvin Bonner	Dan & Sally LaHart	Val Alexander Berard	Sarah Knebel	Severn River Association
Deborah M. Schwab Landscape Architecture	Michael Bowen	Debra Lambert	Deborah Allen	Alex Knoll	Salman Sheikh
Jack Detweiler	Bill Bower	Hiram Larew	Stacy Serenity Allen	Thomas Knoll	Kristin Silva
Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc.	Peter Bradley	Kathleen Litchfield	Denise Alston	Noreen Krispin	Dustin Smith
Kelly Fisher	Cape Conservation Corps	Mike Lofton	Cathy Bellarin	Susan Lanier	Lisa Spallitta
Nina Fisher	Cape St. Claire Garden Club	Betsy Love and Sandie Kirkland	Becky Berbig	Elizabeth Ley	Michael Spiro
Four Rivers Garden Club	Joseph Carrier	Lauren Maddox	Judy Billage	Ayia Lindquist	John Summers
Kit Gage	Noelle Chao	Kathy Malloy	Rev. Lauren Bloom	Mark Lowe	Gavin Taylor
Sheila Glesmann	Patton & Raj Chawla	Ben Manos	Warren & Ann Brown	Lynda Lyle	Cathy Tengwall
Chris Gordon	Chestnut Hill Cove HOA	Mary Ann Marbury	Megan Bryant	Lynn Maichle	Nora Terres
Sandy Hartzell	Janet Clauson	Mark & Lugene McCormick	Ellen Bungay-Posten	Maryland Reentry Resource Center	Verena Thoma
Annie Hillary	Patricia Contino	Meade Area Post Garden Club	Alison Burbage	Monica Maynard	Elvia Thompson
Deborah Hoffman	Peter Cooper	C. Lee Meadows	John & Diane Butler	Sarah & Mike Mccarty	Eric Toney
Hyatt & Weber, P.A.	Crofton Greenery Garden Club	Lou Meyer	David Case	Carroll McGillin-Greve	Lauren Toomey
Aimee Isaac	Crofton Village Garden Club	Alison Milligan	Missy Cassidy	Marjorie McHale	Jack Turner
James H. Johnson, Jr.	Marie Del Bianco	Bob & Sue Mitchem	Patti Child	Steve McKerrow	Lauren Tyler
Eric Kahn	Emma DeVries	Chris Moore	Allison Colden	Lydia McPherson-Shambarger	Willem van den Berg
Barbara Kappel	Jimmy Dick	Douglas Morrissey	Misty Cook	Kristie McWilliams	Lisa VanBuskirk
Eric Lind	Anne Dierdorff-Thomas	Mt. Airy Garden Club	Mairin Corasaniti	Elizabeth Melvin	Sara Wagoner
Thomas Marston	Joseph Dillard	Naval Academy Garden Club	Jeanne Cox	Maryanne Mento	Andrea Weir
Jeanne Martin	Ann Ducca	Pat Neidhardt	Jim Crafton	Linda Meyer	Cynthia Wells
Mike & Ellen Mee	Sam duPont	Bobbie Niefeld	Dianne Crews	Joni Miller	Mary West
Minimalist Gardener	Christine Wysocki Duvall	Keith Oberg	Carol Cronin	Mike Mitchell	Michaline West
Betty Morganstern	Scott Eden	Jim & Andrea Palumbo	Patchin Curtis	Patricia Mitchell	Amira Westenburger
Lara Mulvaney	Linda Elliott	Harold Poliskin	Katie Davis	Beverly Napfel	Kate Wetstone
Jeff Norris	Exelon	Joan Pope	Miguel De Falco	Hedy Nelson	George Wiggins
OpinionWorks	Steffani Fine Mykins	Queen Anne's County Garden Club	John & Marie Denise	Dave & Laura Norman	Jamie Wilhelm
Melanie Parker	Ann & John Fischer	Kristin Reilly	Debbie Dorsey	Bob & Lynda Northfield	Martin Wittel
PayDirt LLC	Ann Fleer	Susanne Reinthaler	Erikka Durdle	Natalie Nucifora	Ginger Woolridge
PDK Horticultural LLC	Christina Fowler	Diane Rey	Janice Emeling	Monica O'Connor	Megan Young
Denise Peach	Denise Frey	Donna Rice & Joe Roney	Nancy Evans	Ann O'Malley	Michael Yugo
New Annapolitans Club Rockhill	Debra Gage	Randall Rowand	Jim Foster	Travis Ostrom	Jane Zanger
	Gary Gakenheimer	Eric Ruark	Katie Foster	Pat & Debbie Owen	John Zarkowsky
		Fabio Saturni	Lynette Fullerton	Vikram Pancholi	
			Frank Goetschius	Laurene Parlatore	
			Sheen Goldberg	Will Parson	



# 2022-2023 Impact



OVER  
**31,000**  
NATIVES



**689**  
PROJECTS



OVER  
**740,000**  
SQUARE FEET OF  
INVASIVES REMOVED



OVER  
**150**  
TREE TROOPERS  
TRAINED TO DATE



OVER  
**325**  
STEWARDS  
TRAINED TO DATE



**67,298**  
PEOPLE ENGAGED

## WSA Staff

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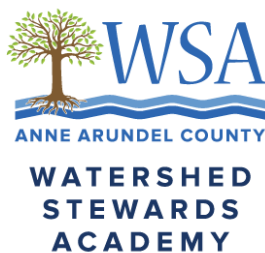
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**Brady Waters**  
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Watershed Stewards Academy is located at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center. We are grateful for this tremendous partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, connecting Stewards with the latest environmental literacy initiatives.

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