



DO SOMETHING
BIG
Impact Report 2018



As we enter our 10th year, I am struck by the profound impact Master Watershed Stewards have made here in Anne Arundel County and across the Bay watershed. Since 2009, over 200 citizens have dedicated themselves to the rigorous Master Watershed Steward certification. Representing 100 communities and 25 houses of worship from Brooklyn Park to Herring Bay, these leaders installed over 2,300 projects and engaged over 134,000 neighbors.

Our original concept of community-based citizen leadership has to include houses of worship, businesses, government agencies and schools. From Steward Jamie Rowell, of Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation, who singlehandedly eliminated pesticides and fertilizers on most of our turf sports fields, to Steward Betsy Love whose project cleans and cools stormwater runoff from over 28 densely developed acres in Eastport, the impact of Master Watershed Stewards cannot be overstated.

Most surprising to me is the impact Stewards have beyond Anne Arundel County. Through a partnership with University of Maryland Seagrass Extension, we helped five other WSAs across Maryland grow their own army of citizen leaders. As the co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Citizen Stewardship Goal Team, WSA is leading an important movement to increase the number and diversity citizen stewards among the 17 million residents of the Bay watershed.

I continue to be proud, humbled and, most of all, certain that our waterways will be restored! I hope you will find inspiration within these pages for your restoration dreams.

Suzanne

SUZANNE ETGEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks to you, Watershed Stewards Academy is Doing Something BIG!

Our growing network of trained and mobilized Master Watershed Stewards are creating real community change across Anne Arundel County. Stewards engage thousands of residents and dozens of community associations, houses of worship and businesses to install restoration projects that clean our waters.

Sometimes, these projects are BIG. The inspiring stories of St. Luke's in Eastport and the Berrywood community show what individuals with a vision and the right support can accomplish.

Often our projects are on a scale that is accessible for an individual homeowner. And they add up to something BIG when multiplied across a whole neighborhood, as you will see when you read the story of Clean Water Communities.

WSA is also an active connector, magnifying the efforts of others. Bringing together 11 groups for the GreenGive, we helped generate over \$209,000 on a single day in 2017 to support conservation efforts in the County. That's something BIG!

RiverWise Congregations continues to touch parishioners and engage houses of worship. And we are proud to partner with Anne Arundel County, leveraging a small public investment many times over with private contributions and an outpouring of volunteer effort.

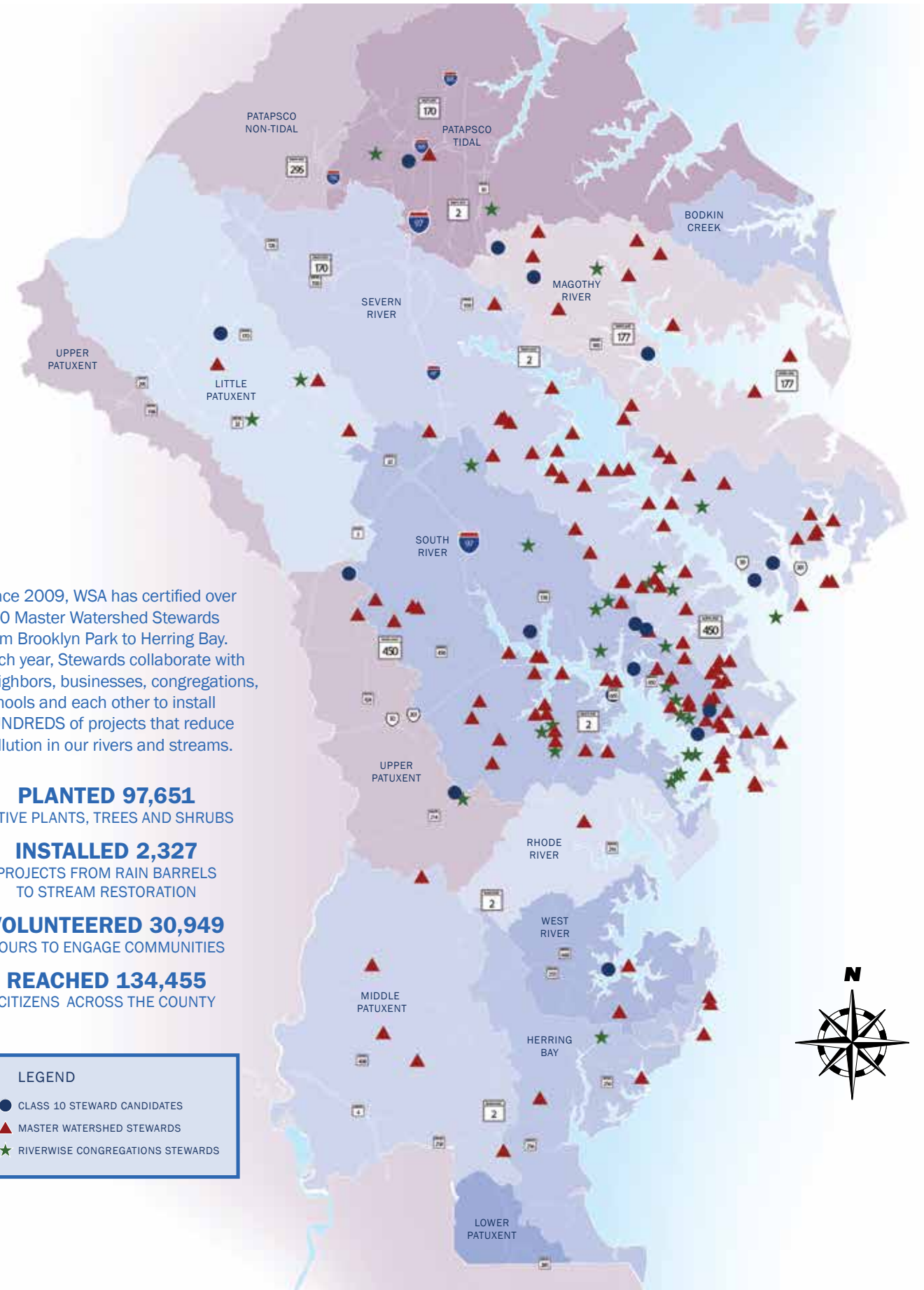
The backbone of all this success is our professional, talented Staff, supported by an active Board. In addition, our Consortium of professional experts lend their valuable expertise and time.

Ours is a story of doing. Ours is a story of success. With your help, WSA is Doing Something BIG!

Steve

STEVE RAABE, BOARD CHAIR

WSA envisions every community in Anne Arundel County actively engaged to ensure clean waters.



Since 2009, WSA has certified over 200 Master Watershed Stewards from Brooklyn Park to Herring Bay. Each year, Stewards collaborate with neighbors, businesses, congregations, schools and each other to install HUNDREDS of projects that reduce pollution in our rivers and streams.

PLANTED 97,651
NATIVE PLANTS, TREES AND SHRUBS

INSTALLED 2,327
PROJECTS FROM RAIN BARRELS
TO STREAM RESTORATION

VOLUNTEERED 30,949
HOURS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

REACHED 134,455
CITIZENS ACROSS THE COUNTY

LEGEND

- CLASS 10 STEWARD CANDIDATES
- ▲ MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS
- ★ RIVERWISE CONGREGATIONS STEWARDS

Collective Impact: Caring for Creation Begins at Home for RiverWise Congregations



Sixty-nine members of Asbury Broadneck United Methodist, Fresh Start Church in Glen Burnie and the Islamic Society of Annapolis completed a specially tailored, compressed version of the Master Watershed Stewards Certification Course to learn about the ways they could care for Creation. After getting the waterway restoration bug, **30** of these Congregational Stewards installed projects to reduce polluted runoff from their own properties. In all, **27 conservation landscapes, 10 tree plantings** and **62 rain barrels** are a tangible reminder to congregants that caring for Creation begins at home.

One congregation, Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church, has a big problem. Every time it rains, polluted runoff from **34 acres** of uphill development courses through its historic cemetery, pushing up caskets and overturning gravestones. To better understand the hydrology behind the issue, congregants reached out to the Watershed Stewards Academy.

“I reached out to find help and as a resource to educate myself,” said church member Kimberly Hickey. Kimberly and three other congregants, Robert Brown, Darius Stanton and Kenyatta Rowell, graduated from WSA’s Master Watershed Steward certification course, and 18 members completed the Congregational Steward program. Together with non-profit partners, Watershed Stewards Academy, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, stormwater professionals such as Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting, LLC, and funders, MD Department of Natural Resources and the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program, the congregation will soon break ground on a project to treat **45,312 gallons** of polluted runoff and protect the final resting place of over **2,000 residents**, including former slaves and civil war heroes.



“It’s been a gift,” ABUMC Pastor Stephen Tillett said of the project. **“We are grateful.”**

Do Something Big: Donate to WSA’s Impact Fund

The RiverWise Congregations Program provides technical, faith based assistance to help Houses of Worship care for God’s Creation. Through this partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Our Creeks and Conservancy, and funded through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, WSA engaged 25 congregations, certified 30 Master Watershed Stewards and trained 69 Congregational Stewards. With your support, we can empower more congregations to be responsible caretakers of our natural world.

In 2018, the Watershed Stewards Academy aims to raise \$50,000 in an IMPACT FUND to support RiverWise Congregations. With your help, we can make a BIG IMPACT on Anne Arundel County by encouraging underrepresented communities to take action for clean water.

To donate, visit aawsa.org/impactfund

Collective Impacts: Community Stewards Lead Neighborhoods to Act



The Clean Water Communities program connects neighborhoods with the tools to reduce stormwater pollution and improve the health of our waterways. By changing old habits and installing new landscape features, communities reduce pollution and earn a designation as a Clean Water Community.

The first Clean Water Communities, Hillsmere and Linthicum, installed projects such as cisterns, bioswales and rain gardens, reducing their polluted runoff by over 300,000 gallons per year...a BIG IMPACT on local waterways!

This year, two communities embarked on the Clean Water Communities certification. Arnold's Pines on the Severn and Riva's Glen Isle completed a newly created Community Steward program. This compressed version of the Master Watershed Steward certification course gives Community Stewards the tools and inspiration to lead their community to collective action for clean water. Together with their certified Master Watershed Stewards, this team leads behavior change campaigns and traditional stormwater restoration projects. A comprehensive stormwater assessment, completed by the South River Federation and WSA, is helping each community prioritize actions for maximum IMPACT.

In Pines on the Severn, a team of seventeen dedicated stewards, including seniors, young professionals, working parents and a middle school student are adopting best practices for their own properties and encouraging other residents to do the same. Their "Habits that Help" campaign reminds everyone to pick up pet waste and regularly pump septic systems; it also informs residents about the importance of managing leaves and protecting the tree canopy by removing English Ivy. The 10 rainscaping projects on residential property will showcase the benefits of conservation landscapes and rain barrels, and explore native planting methods for controlling runoff from steep slopes.



For a long time, residents in Pines have known about the problems caused by stormwater runoff and erosion, but have been unsure what to do. WSA has empowered our neighborhood by giving us the knowledge, the resources, and the connections to chart the best path forward."

— Noelle Chao, Pines on the Severn Resident and WSA Program Coordinator

Do Something Big: Donate to WSA's Impact Fund

Since its inception, WSA has certified over 200 Master Watershed Stewards who represent over 100 communities stretching from Brooklyn Park to Herring Bay. Each of these Stewards help communities reduce polluted runoff by coordinating the installation of rain gardens, rain barrels and other RainScaping techniques.

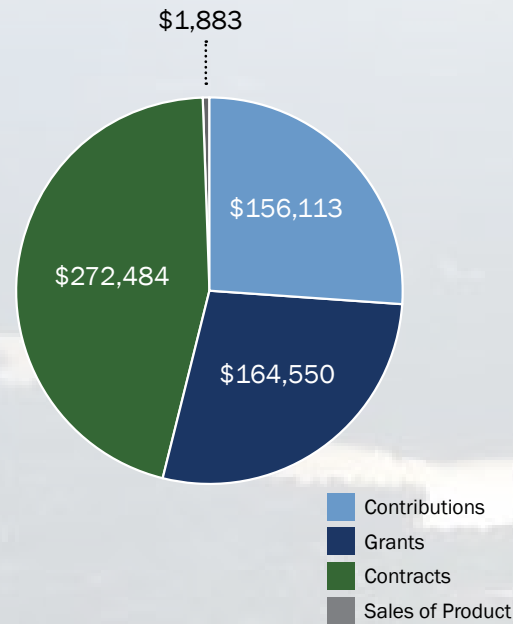
In 2018, the Watershed Stewards Academy aims to raise \$50,000 in an IMPACT FUND to support Steward Projects. With your help, we can make a BIG IMPACT on Anne Arundel County by supporting the design, implementation and maintenance of Steward Projects.

To donate, visit aawsa.org/impactfund

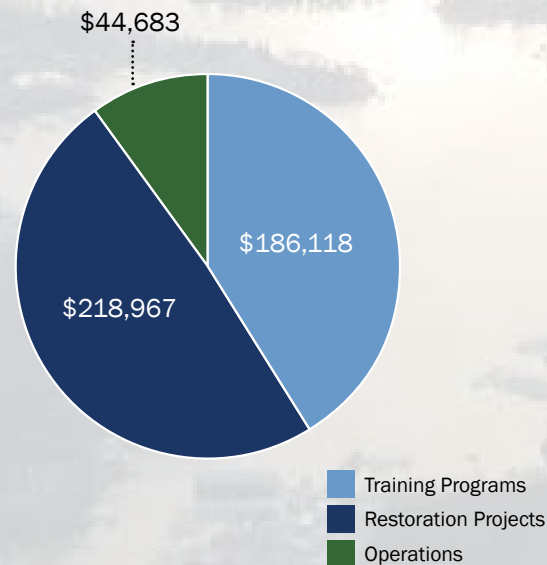
“Every dollar is magnified by the investments of Master Watersheds and their Communities, working hard to make clean water a reality.”

2017 WSA Financial Summary

Revenue	
Contributions	\$156,113
Grants	\$164,550
Contracts	\$272,484
Sales of Product	\$1,883
Total Revenue	\$595,211



Expenditures	
Training Programs	\$186,118
Restoration Projects	\$218,967
Operations	\$44,683
Total Expenditures	\$502,731
Net Revenue	\$92,480



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*Reflected through June 28, 2018

Uniting for the Greener Good

Collaborating with other local groups amplifies the power of WSA. It truly takes a village — restoration professionals, government agencies, non-profits and community leaders — to install each restoration project. WSA is a hub of connections for everyone restoring local waterways in Anne Arundel County.

When building organizational capacity, it seems natural to carry this ethic forward. In June 2017, WSA led 10 other environmental groups to record breaking fundraising through the first ever GreenGive. This 24-hour, online fundraising event connected community members with Anne Arundel County based environmental groups. Over 584 community donations were received by the 11 organizations.

This year, 12 organizations joined together for the GreenGive and raised over \$183,000 from 651 donations in just over 24 hours.

Our profound thanks to Mike and Trish Davis, the Chaney Foundation and two Anonymous donors for providing a generous match of \$65,000! This matching opportunity incentivized our community to give generously in support of local action. Thank you!



“I am proud to live in a community where we cooperate rather than compete. It’s the right thing to do. When we help one of our organizations to thrive, we all do.”

— Elvia Thompson



Elvia Thompson,
Co-founder of
Annapolis Green and
Master Watershed Steward



Mary Uyeda,
Member West & Rhode
Riverkeeper and **Master Watershed Steward**



Reverend Johnny Calhoun, Executive Director of Our Creeks & Conservancy and **Master Watershed Steward**

“Collaboration provides a synergistic energy that propels all projects forward; especially when working in the same local jurisdiction.”

— Betsy Love



Betsy Love, Chair of St. Luke’s Environmental Committee and Restoration of Nature project and **Master Watershed Steward**



Ann Brown,
Board Member at
Back Creek Conservancy and **Master Watershed Steward**



Amy Clements,
President of Spa Creek Conservancy and **Master Watershed Steward**

Jennifer Carr, Director of Grants and Operations at South River Federation and **Master Watershed Steward**

Lynne Rockenbach, President of Severn River Association and **Master Watershed Steward**

“With the South River Federation focusing on large-scale restoration throughout the watershed, the Watershed Stewards are our “boots on the ground” engaging neighbors and implementing residential scale projects that are all important pieces of this larger puzzle we are trying to complete together to restore our rivers and Bay.”

— Jennifer Carr



Nina Fisher, President of Scenic Rivers Land Trust and **Master Watershed Steward**

“By collaborating with other groups with similar interests and/or goals, we can take advantage of each other’s strengths and get more done, than we would if we did the same thing separately. We also strengthen the connections we have with each other and can share ideas for great projects that we could not accomplish on our own.”

— Lynne Rockenbach



Let's Do Something Big...

Many of the most degraded stream sites and most cost-effective opportunities for large scale restoration are located within communities, but executing this type of project is challenging to say the least. It takes a dedicated community leader and many years of partnership building, grant writing, collaborative design processes and laborious permitting to bring community restoration to fruition. At the center of two recent major projects are Stewards Betsy Love and Molly Lachapelle. Without their tenacious leadership, millions of gallons of polluted runoff from private property and public infrastructure would go untreated.

Using three acres of undeveloped land owned by St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Watergate Pointe in Eastport, Betsy Love is spearheading a system of bioswales, a regenerative stormwater conveyance, and a living shoreline to treat polluted runoff from 28 intensely developed acres. She and her team of fellow Stewards are also creating an educational campus where students of all ages can learn about our amazing natural world and a true restoration of nature.

Over eight years ago, the Berrywood community began to work toward the restoration of Cattail Creek, a stretch deeply degraded by upstream development, but it wasn't until Berrywood got a Master Watershed Steward that their vision became a reality. Steward Molly LaChapelle used skills and connections gained through WSA to win design funding and lead her community through a collaborative design process. This year, a \$900,000 stream restoration and living shoreline project will help to restore habitat for yellow perch and small children alike.

Because of the work of these two amazing Master Watershed Stewards, the health of entire creek systems is being transformed. Thank you Betsy and Molly!



“It’s going to take everyone making sure stormwater doesn’t leave their property. The problem is so big it’s going to take everybody getting involved.”—Betsy Love

“When my family moved to Berrywood years ago, my sons fished, explored for frogs, and walked the shallow water for soft crabs. The water used to be clear in the winter as soft bottom sediment would drop out before the tidal area near our house. That no longer occurs due to upstream construction and stormwater runoff. I want my grandchildren to enjoy the water their fathers experienced.”—Molly LaChapelle

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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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aawsa.org
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