Welcome to Blue Water Baltimore’s first-ever annual report!

We are excited to offer this report for many reasons. It’s our chance to sum up our accomplishments for those of you who have helped create and support Blue Water Baltimore. We also want to introduce ourselves formally to anyone not yet familiar with us! Most important, it is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and fun that our volunteers, supporters, and staff have put in over the past few years.

Blue Water Baltimore began in 2009, when five local, grassroots environmental organizations, each dedicated to caring for their neighborhood stream, decided to join forces and collectively address water quality issues in Baltimore. Together, we have accomplished far more than we could have done separately to restore the quality of Baltimore’s rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. (Read our full story on page 3.)

We have consistently achieved real victories every year since our merger, but without a doubt 2012 proved to be a milestone year for us. Last year – following a strategy to “Reimagine. Restore. Protect.”—we reimagined Baltimore’s rivers and streams as clean resources for people to use, and removed more than 60 tons of trash from our streets. In an effort to restore, we planted nearly 2,000 trees on about 25 acres of land. And to protect our waterways, we helped pass three major clean water bills. There is so much more to tell: turn to pages 5 and 7 to read about our other many accomplishments.

Of course, it would not be possible for us to make these great strides toward our goal of cleaner streams and a fishable, swimmable Baltimore Harbor without the generosity of thousands of concerned citizens in Baltimore. I offer a sincere “Thanks!” to our talented and passionate volunteers and donors, who allow us to keep patrolling the Harbor, planting trees, cleaning up streets and streams, and otherwise ensuring a better quality of life for all.

I hope that the stories of our successes you’ll discover inside, along with our financial data, information about our sponsors, and a few surprises, will delight and inspire you to join voices with us and speak out for clean water—and healthy communities—in Baltimore.

Sincerely,

HALLE VAN DER GAAG,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WHO WE ARE

Blue Water Baltimore is a not-for-profit organization with a singular mission: to restore the quality of Baltimore’s rivers, streams, and Harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities.

Blue Water Baltimore began in 2009, when five local, grassroots environmental organizations, each dedicated to caring for their neighborhood stream, decided to join forces and collectively address water quality issues in Baltimore. We knew that we could accomplish far more together than we could as separate entities. With the support and dedication of our staff, board, amazing volunteers, and generous donors, we have been able to build on the strength of the legacy organizations, and we are now one of the largest environmental groups in Maryland.

WHAT WE DO
We work toward a future when our neighborhood streams are safe for fishing and swimming and our clean Harbor is the pride of our City. To achieve these goals, we mobilize volunteers to monitor the area’s streams for pollution. We organize trash cleanups, plant trees on public land, and provide a helping hand to property owners who want to do their part to reduce polluted runoff from their properties. We advocate for stronger laws for clean water, both locally and statewide.

Blue Water Baltimore operates many programs to support our mission. From the LEED-certified Blue Water Baltimore Watershed Center, our headquarters, we run several educational and community projects, including:

- Clean Water Community Initiative—works with community leaders to integrate clean water projects into existing neighborhood programs;
- Clean Waterways—addresses problems like storm water and sewage runoff, toxic pollution, and trash;
- Community Greening—dedicated to improving our City’s forest canopy, air quality, and quality of life.

And planted

1,995 trees on 24.88 acres of land at 39 different planting events
OUR OTHER PROGRAMS
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper—protects and restores Baltimore Harbor and the greater Patapsco River and its tributaries through enforcement, fieldwork, and citizen action to make the river suitable for recreation, to improve public health and the health of the river ecosystem.

Herring Run Nursery—a nonprofit nursery that specializes in growing and selling native plants to customers throughout our watersheds, including homeowners, community associations, schools, landscapers, and restoration ecologists.

WHERE WE ARE GOING
Although we have accomplished much in a short period of time, our work is far from done. Baltimore’s waterways suffer from chronic pollution caused by generations of industrial pollution, an aging sewer infrastructure, residential development and trash issues. It will take more than our group to address these issues. Each of our programs focuses on ways to get the community involved, and each year we seek to increase our scope of work, reach more neighborhoods, and work with more residents and volunteers than ever before. With the help of communities in the area, we will plant more trees, clean up tons more trash, remove more impervious surfaces, reduce more storm water runoff, advocate to help pass major environmental bills, and engage more school groups in hands-on environmental educational activities.

These past few years have given Blue Water Baltimore a solid foundation and positioned us to have an even more successful future. We look forward to continuing our work to create clean water and help build strong communities in Baltimore.

We sold **10,060 plants** at the Herring Run Nursery raising **$143,195** to help support our programs
And removed 61,460 pounds of trash at 78 cleanup projects, including 57 Project Clean Stream sites in April.

Advocated to help pass 3 major environmental bills.

Waterkeeper sampled 30 sites biweekly for bacteria, nutrients, and other pollutants.
ADOPT-A-STREAM

For nearly five years, Blue Water Baltimore has been busy working to restore the quality of Baltimore’s rivers, streams and Harbor. However, it’s the citizen volunteers who have been crucial to ensuring that our work gets accomplished.

Each of our clean waterways programs—the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, Adopt-A-Stream, the Water Audit Program, Blue Alleys, and the Clean Water Community Initiative (in Partnership with Healthy Harbor) — serves as an example of this relationship.

Each program relies on the generosity of volunteers to address problems like storm water runoff, sewage and toxic pollution spills, and trash. All make a difference in the health of Baltimore’s waterways. However, the success of one program in particular, Adopt-A-Stream, is almost exclusively dependent on the efforts of our volunteers. The following is a brief summary of some of the program’s accomplishments in 2012.

MOST DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

The Adopt-A-Stream program is an opportunity for Blue Water Baltimore’s most dedicated volunteers to act as the eyes, ears, and noses for their local streams. They are individuals and families who live in the Baltimore area, who like to be outdoors, care about the environment, and want to make sure their local streams are clean, healthy, and safe. Blue Water Baltimore trains these volunteers to “adopt” a 1/4-mile section of a stream near their neighborhood by checking regularly for pollution sources, such as sewage, trash, and sediments, and coordinating trash cleanup and outreach projects during the year.

OVER THE PAST YEAR

Our volunteers removed 61,460 pounds of trash at more than 130 cleanup project sites. That’s like hauling 10 Chevy Suburbans out of Baltimore’s waterways! Adopt-A-Stream volunteers made dozens of actionable pollution reports to Blue Water Baltimore and local officials, enabling the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper to pinpoint our efforts on sampling 30 sites biweekly for 9 months for bacteria, nutrients, and other pollutants.

Data collected by our volunteers was used to help pass 3 major environmental bills in Annapolis: to upgrade wastewater treatment plants; to set limits on where new septic systems are built; and to require storm water fees in Maryland’s 10 largest jurisdictions, including Baltimore City and County. We also partner with the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore to share this data with the public through an annual Healthy Harbor Report Card.

As a result of these and other efforts, Adopt-A-Stream volunteers have significantly increased Blue Water Baltimore’s capacity to identify and report pollution sources in more locations and more often than our staff could do alone. Over the past year, Blue Water Baltimore has seen substantial growth in the Adopt-A-Stream program and its volunteers, and we expect the program to continue growing in 2013 and beyond.
Last year, as a result of the efforts of Blue Water Baltimore, the leaders and residents of many of our City’s neighborhoods and communities were talking “trash.”

We don’t mean that we were encouraging people to be rude to each other! Rather, our efforts to address the City’s sanitation problems — such as the improper disposal of household garbage, overflowing street corner trash cans, pet waste and litter on sidewalks and in gutters and storm drains, and more — became a hot topic at community association meetings in Baltimore.

In 2011, Blue Water Baltimore created the Clean Water Community Initiative which, as part of the larger Healthy Harbor plan for cleaning up the Baltimore Harbor and its tributaries, encourages community leaders from around the City to identify actions they can take to improve the quality of life and water quality in their areas. Our role for 2012 was to help these leaders gather information about assets in their communities, recent sustainability efforts, pollution hot spots, and systems issues that are negatively impacting their neighborhoods and waterways, and then help them find resources and solutions.

Many of the concerns we heard pointed to a combination of factors, from individual behaviors to City services issues that were contributing to the problems. We also realized that these voices were not getting heard with enough amplification. So, in late fall, we organized the Clean Water Community Speak Out event to allow representatives from four neighborhoods to present their concerns to the heads of key City agencies, businesses, and nonprofits. The community leaders explained the challenges they are facing and shared actions they have been taking to clean and “green” their communities.

One solution (of the many solutions still evolving from this process) involved combining the need for improving youth engagement in the trash issue with the need for having clear action steps. The result was the development of the Storm Drain Art Program. For this program, Blue Water Baltimore partnered with graphic design students at the Maryland Institute College of Art to mobilize Baltimore’s youth to use storm drains as canvases to communicate the message of “clean water, healthy communities,” and to educate people about the need to keep storm drains free from trash.

For 2013, we are focusing on following up on these collective concerns to address the systems issues as well as the individual behavior change necessary to achieve the livable neighborhoods that we all desire. As one neighborhood leader said, “If your neighborhood stays clean, the crime stays away.”

The health and vibrancy of our neighborhoods is directly related to the health of our waterways. There are many challenges and it will take some time; however, as we continue to facilitate communication and action between our partners as well as City residents, and as we all work together towards shared goals, we will most certainly achieve them.
Installed 270 **rain barrels** and disconnected 44 additional downspouts, diverting over **330,000 gallons of storm water**

Painted **289 storm drains**

Installed 18 rain gardens that capture a total of **1.75 million gallons of storm water**
Supporting Partners
Anacostia Watershed Society
Baltimore City Department of Public Works
Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks
Baltimore City Office of Sustainability
Baltimore City Planning Department
Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore Community Foundation
Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability
Baltimore County Public Schools
Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation
Baltimore Rowing Club
Banner Neighborhoods
Biohabitats
Choose Clean Water Coalition
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Civic Works
Clear Ridge Nursery
Coca-Cola Refreshments USA
Deli Brands of America
Downtown Sailing Center
Earthjustice
Environmental Integrity Project
Finnegan, Henderson, Farbow, Garrett & Dunner LLP
Good Printers
 Hollins Organic Products, Inc
Honest Tea
Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson
Manorview Farms Inc.
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland Institute College of Art
McCormick & Co., Inc
McElderry Park Community Association
Mission Media
National Aquarium in Baltimore
National Resources Defense Council
New Belgium Brewery
New Greenmount West Community Association
Nicks Fish House & Grill
Parks & People Foundation
Patterson Park Audubon Center
Phillips Foods, Inc
Potts and Callahan
Reservoir Hill Improvement Council
Ridgway Hall
South Baltimore Partnership
Stormwater Maintenance LLC
The Brewer’s Art
Trash Free Maryland
TreeBaltimore
University of Maryland School of Law Environmental Law Clinic
Urbanite
Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WTMD

Sponsors
AGM Financial Services
Association of Maryland Pilots
Baltimore Port Alliance
Baltimore T’ai Chi
Bambeco
Best Management Products Inc
BioHabitats
Clean Currents
Domino Brands
Ecologix Group, Inc.
Flanigan Consulting
Long Life Treated Wood Inc.
M&T Bank
McAllister Towing of Baltimore
Mission Media
Moffatt & Nichol
Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP
Ports America Chesapeake
Saul Ewing LLP
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
Stormwater Maintenance LLC
Straughan Environmental Inc.
Streamline Business Inc.
Terra Nova Ventures LLC
The Columbia Bank
The Hatcher Group
Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra

Donors
$100,000 +
Abell Foundation
Baltimore City
Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Constellation Energy
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

$10,000 – 99,999
Baltimore Community Foundation
Bunting Family Foundation
Clayton Baker Trust
Keith Campbell Foundation
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation
Middendorf Foundation
Munson Foundation
Rauch Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
The Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell Foundation, Inc.
Town Creek Foundation
Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.
Waterkeeper Alliance
$1,000 - 9,999
AGM Financial Services
Streett Baldwin and Sidney Minor
Best Management Products Inc
Biohabitats, Inc.
Mary Catherine Bunting
David Carroll
Charm City Run
Cooper Family Fund
Jason and Nicole Copeland
Domino Brands
Frances and John Flanigan
Mark Flanigan
Garver Development Group LLC
Twig George and Dave Pittenger
General Motors Foundation
Raymond Heil and Marcia Metzler
Inner Harbor Stewardship Foundation
McKay and Katherine Jenkins
Bobby Johnson
Robin Leone
Fred and Alison Lohr Family Fund
M&T Bank
John Machen
Mission Media
Thomas Mullen
Fiona Newton
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Ports America Chesapeake
Eric Schott
Theodore Scott
John and Susie Smith
Stormwater Maintenance LLC
Straughan Environmental Inc.
T. Rowe Price Foundation, Inc
The Kesher Fund of the Cohen-Fruchtman-Krieger Family Inc
Tour Dem Parks
George Van Dyke
Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra

$250-999
Ellen and Jim Adajian
Peter and Mary Agre
Association of Maryland Pilots
Baltimore Tai Chi
Bambeco
Doris and Ellis Brown
Clean Currents
Dawna Cobb
Mark Counselman
Will Dixon
EcoLogix
Flanigan Consulting
Jack and JoAnn Fruchtman
Andy Galli
Geiger Pump and Equipment
Sandra Gohn
Green Spring Valley Garden Club
Ann and Marcus Griswold
Jacquelyn Handley
Sidney Hollander
Margaret Hughes
Elisabeth and Matt Hyleck
Jingyee Kou
David and Rebecca Leeg
Life Long Treated Wood
Carolyn Machamer
Maryland Daffodil Society
McAllister Towing Of Baltimore
Jenny Michalak and Karl Sanzenbacher
Moffatt & Nichol
Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP
O’Malley Mulch Inc
Henry Peck
Matt Peters
Ramnsome-Wilcox Family Fund
Saul Ewing LLP
Tom and Sharon Schueler
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
St. Paul’s School
Streamline Business
Greg Taylor
Terra Nova Ventures, LLC
The Cathedral of the Incarnation
The Columbia Bank
The Hatcher Group
Darlene and Craig Townsend
Trohv
Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra

$1-249
Anayezuka Ahidiana
Jenn Aiosa
Catherine Ann Albrecht and Michael Romary
John Alexander and Marsha McLaughlin
Glen Allen
Alonso’s Restaurant
Patricia Alt
William Andersen
Judd Anderson
Linda Anderson
Ruth and George Aranow
Arcadia Improvement Association
Annette Argall
Jeanne and James Armacost
Robert Armenti
Steve Atkinson
Peter Auchincloss
Shahid Aziz
Patricia Bahr
Curtis Bailey
Kristin Baja
Baltimore Port Alliance
Henri and Raymond Banks
Amy Barlow
Kimberly and Richard Barnes
William Barry and Joan Jacobson
Kevin Bass
Kim Battista
Berrnice and Franklin Beard
Anne Beall
Christina Bell
Tami Elizabeth Bentz
Alan Blake
Brenda Bratton Blom
$1,000 removes 100 square feet of impervious surface
Ralph Kurtz
Barb and Bob Lagas
Chris Laseter
Suzanne Lebovit
Phillip Lee
Gita and Martin Lefstein
Elliott and Rhonda Lehem
Ed Leland
Debra Lenik
Elizabeth Birdsey Lewis
Mary Li
Nick Lindow
Adam and Sarah Lindquist
Judith Lipman
Shannon Lockwood
Mike Loll and Ellen Salmon
Joyce Lombardi
Victoria Lucas
Ann Lundy
Don Macaulay
John and Barbara Macfarlane
Margaret Macleod
Alex Maestretti
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Anne Mann
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Alice Mason
Jackie Mattheu
Yvette May
Andrew McBee
Jennifer McCann
Gayle McClure
Daniel and Georgia McDonald
Alex McIntyre
John and Donna McKusick
Michelle and John McLaughlin
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Suzanne Merryman
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Amanda Miller
Elizabeth Miller
Sarah Miranda
Magda Moblely
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Crystal Moll
Jan Mooney and Kurt Schiller
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Carol Newill and Joseph Schamp
Edward Niblock
Kevin O’Brien
Michael O’Brien
Charles and Margaret Obrecht
Margaret Oliver
Marla O’Neill
Peggy O’Neill
Jo-An Orlinsky
Elizabeth OShea
George Oising
Cadie and Miles Palmer
Anand Pandian
William and Sherrill Pantele
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Ben and Emarie Payne
Jennifer and Ryan Peacock
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Sheila and Thomas Peter
William Piermattei
Kristin Pitcher
Paul and Susan Potyraj
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Daniel and Marian Raben
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Recycle Plus @Oakcrest
John and Linda Renner
Sarah Robinson
Edward Rybczynski
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Kathy Schaafsma
Michael Schaffer
Mark Schecter and Sandra Young
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David Shapiro
Marjorie Simon
Sixeight UCC
Roy Skeen
Gregory Skipper
Denise Slater
Lisa Smith
Michael Snead
Cindy Sommer
Sandra Sparks
Philip Spevak
Stuart and Bonnie Stainman
Terry Staudenmaier
Dawn Stoltzfus
Robert Strickler
Nancy and Mark Supik
Lynn Supp
Jill and Bryan Tamberino
Byron Tepper
Clifford and Kay Terry
Ned and Kathryn Tillman
Collin Tydings
Freida Ulman
David and Laura Urban
Thomas Ventre
Vincent Vizachero
Barbara Waldt
Rita Walters
James Wannamaker
John Waterhouse
Karen Watson
Frances Weeks and Scott Shane
Deborah Weiner
Scott Wenneson
Nancy West
Lawrence White
Dorothea Wilfong
Susan Williams
Wiltondale Garden Club
Louise Wright
Elaine Yamada
Charles Yoder
Nick Young

We strive for accuracy. If you feel there is an error in this list, please contact us.
OUR STAFF

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David Flores
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WHAT WE DO

**THE BALTIMORE HARBOR WATERKEEPER** monitors water quality, organizes cleanups, advocates for government responsibility, and takes legal action.

**HERRING RUN NURSERY** sells native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses to help reduce pollution.

We train **ADOPT-A-STREAM** volunteers to monitor and protect neighborhood streams.

Through our **PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY** work, we educate local, state and federal elected officials and speak out for healthy waterways and neighborhoods.

**BLUE ALLEYS & NEIGHBORHOODS** uses innovative strategies to beautify communities and reduce pollution.

**CLEAN WATER COMMUNITIES**, a part of the Healthy Harbor initiative, helps Baltimore City neighborhoods integrate actions for a healthy community and Chesapeake Bay.

Our **COMMUNITY GREENING PROGRAM** increases Baltimore’s forest canopy, and the trees increase water retention and improve water quality, as well as improve air quality.

Through our **WATER AUDIT PROGRAM**, we teach residents how to reduce polluted storm water runoff at home.

Our **YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM** provides students with applied environmental education and hands-on restoration opportunities, and we help schools apply for Maryland Green Schools status.

For more information about our other programs and projects, visit us at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org.
Fiscal Year 2012 Expenses

Programs $1,270,236.00 74.5%
General Operating $316,533.00 18.6%
Fundraising $117,763.00 6.9%

$1,704,532.00 100%

Fiscal Year 2012 Revenue

Private Foundations $923,394.00 51.82%
Government $263,342.00 14.78%
Corporate $122,908.00 6.90%
Individuals $48,661.00 2.73%
Board $28,825.00 1.62%
Program Income $179,483.00 10.07%
Nursery $138,189.00 7.76%
Special Events $59,984.00 3.37%
Gifts in Kind $13,570.00 0.75%
Other $3,480.00 0.20%

$1,781,836.00 100%

A complete audited financial report is available by writing to:
Controller, Blue Water Baltimore, 3545 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21213

Photo Credits: Cover: Stony Run Photo, Carol S. Aaron; Page 2: Brian Babcock – BeMore Photography; Page 3 & 4: BWB Staff; Page 5: Sarah Yurgealitis; Page 6: BWB Staff.
We removed 61,460 pounds of trash at 78 cleanup projects, including 57 Project Clean Stream sites in April.