Greetings from BUE WATER * BALTIMORE *

ANNUAL REPORT

CLEAN WATER. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

2013 -





Blue Water Baltimore's mission is to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities.

2013 ON THE GROUND RESULTS

GWYNNS FALLS

VOLUNTEERS

613 TREES PLANTED 23,775 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED 3,150 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED

HERRING RUN 2,309 VOLUNTEERS 912 TREES PLANTED 26,150 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED 4,908 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED BALTIMORE HARBOR 756 VOLUNTEERS 240 TREES PLANTED

POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED 8,700 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED

JONES FALLS 881 VOLUNTEERS 360 TREES PLANTED 21,350 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED

IJ,295 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED

2013: WHERE WE LIVE, WORK, LEARN, AND PLAY

I am pleased to present our 2013 annual report. With the help of our volunteers and other supporters, Blue Water Baltimore is accomplishing more than ever before. We have grown, matured, and increased our budget significantly to meet our mission. Blue Water Baltimore fills a unique role in the Baltimore area as an organization that uses a holistic set of programs to meet the great challenges of improving water quality. From arts and education, to stormwater management projects, to legal and legislative advocacy, we effect change on the ground. In addition to restoration activities, we involve citizens in the passage of strong legislative and regulatory policies that result in long-lasting, sustainable outcomes.



This annual report is about people improving neighborhoods throughout Baltimore, using hands-on efforts to help clean and green their homes, streets, and parks. Blue Water Baltimore is proud to be working alongside them and giving them the tools and expertise they need, whether that means providing them with equipment and training to monitor their neighborhood streams for pollution or empowering them to advocate for important state, local, and federal activities.

In 2013 alone our work resulted in 2,125 trees planted, 93,400 pounds of trash removed, and 36,350 square feet of pavement replaced. All that and more was accomplished with the help of more than 5,000 volunteers and our talented staff. These projects and activities are spread across Herring Run, Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, and Baltimore Harbor watersheds. We can only accomplish our work through collaboration with residents, businesses, and property owners, and throughout the report, you can see that together we are reducing pollution and implementing tangible solutions to ensure clean waterways and healthy neighborhoods. At Blue Water Baltimore, community outreach and education are part of our foundation to create awareness of our individual and collective actions.

In 2013, we developed our first Strategic Plan, a framework that will direct our work for the next few years. It helps define our core objectives for success in the campaign for clean water, and establishes programmatic and operational priorities.

As always, our progress and success is made possible by the generosity and passion of our funders, volunteers, donors, and partners. Together we can restore the quality of Baltimore's streams, rivers, and harbor to foster a healthy environment and build strong communities!

Sincerely, R.H. Van da Jong

Halle Van der Gaag. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Students from Sudbrook smile as they gather in front of the outdoor garden, blooming with native plants that they worked together to install and maintain over the course of the school year.

Greetings from GWYNNS FALLS

In 2013, Sudbrook Magnet Middle School, located within the Gwynns Falls watershed in the northwestern part of Baltimore County, partnered with Blue Water Baltimore to design and install a rain garden and an outdoor garden on the school grounds.

"BLUE WATER BALTIMORE STAFF SPENT TIME EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS ON THE PURPOSE OF THE PLANTINGS AS WELL AS THE BEST WAY TO ACTUALLY PLANT THE MATERIALS."

MARJORIE BAKER
SUDBROOK MAGNET
MIDDLE SCHOOL

To create the two gardens, Blue Water Baltimore removed 3,150 square feet of concrete, excavated a space for the rain garden, and landscaped the entire area with more than 350 native plants.

The main catalysts behind this greening effort were the students and teachers at Sudbrook, who helped in all aspects of the project. The two gardens not only improved the school's aesthetics but also met its Green School initiatives, which integrate efforts to reduce the school's ecological footprint, make its environment healthier, and get the whole community thinking about solutions to problems.

"We had over 300 students working on this project, and Blue Water Baltimore provided us an opportunity to instill stewardship values in all of these middle school children. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Blue Water Baltimore for future Green School projects," said Marjorie Baker, a 7th grade environmental science teacher at Sudbrook, and a superstar volunteer on the greening project.

The project added more than 1,500 square feet of native landscaping to the school grounds, which helps to reduce stormwater runoff. Not only does this positively impact the neighborhood, but it also teaches students about stormwater management and how the reduction of impervious surfaces can help diminish pollutants by allowing them to infiltrate into the ground before entering storm drains that empty into the Baltimore Harbor.

Greetings from BALTIMORE HARBOR

For years, Betty Bland-Thomas, a resident and advocacy leader in the South Baltimore Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, has created business and government partnerships to address community issues including clean water and green streets.

In 2013, Betty contacted Blue Water Baltimore to work on a beautification initiative in Sharp-Leadenhall, a historic and vibrant community located in the Baltimore Harbor watershed. Blue Water Baltimore surveyed the area and found that most of the tree pits along the streets were too small. To help the trees flourish, Blue Water Baltimore expanded existing tree pits and improved the soil quality, creating better water access for the trees.

The sustainability efforts for the neighborhood also entailed Blue Water Baltimore removing more than 1,000 square feet of concrete, expanding 20 tree pits, and planting more than 20 new trees along East Hamburg Street and in Solo Gibbs Park. Additionally, Betty mobilized residents for regular street cleanings and encouraged community involvement to create awareness and education for environmental stewardship.

"Blue Water Baltimore has taught our entire community how to be green stewards. Due to what we have learned, we have begun a daily street sweeping program. South Baltimore Partnership employed five neighborhood residents in our green jobs program. This has resulted in greater pride in the community, better partnerships with city agencies, and a better Sharp-Leadenhall and Baltimore Harbor," said Betty. "BLUE WATER BALTIMORE HAS TAUGHT OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY HOW TO BE GREEN STEWARDS."

- BETTY BLAND-THOMAS SOUTH BALTIMORE PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT

SPOSTA

Betty Bland-Thomas (center), a leader for clean water and a strong community, proudly stands alongside neighbors and Blue Water Baltimore staff.

TINNES

Ray Iturralde and his dog, Freckles, out on a brisk winter morning photographing and reporting to document sediment and sewage pollution from stormwater outfalls along the Stony Run.

Greetings from JONES FALLS

On a daily basis, Ray Iturralde, an active volunteer at Blue Water Baltimore, and his dog, Freckles, patrol the middle and lower portions of Stony Run for stream pollution. As part of our Adopt-A-Stream program, Ray acts as our eyes and ears and regularly checks for pollution sources along a one-mile area of Stony Run, a stream connected to the Jones Falls watershed.

"VOLUNTEERING IS A NICE AND Rewarding Experience. You Will Help The Environment and Can Learn A Lot In Various Areas."

- RAY ITURRALDE BLUE WATER BALTIMORE VOLUNTEER In 2013, Ray reported and addressed many problems in the area he monitors, including the illegal dumping of paint and several persistent sewer overflows. He also documented significant sediment pollution on Stony Run, tracked the sediment discharge to a local construction site, and communicated with the construction manager to ensure that the site's sediment controls were corrected.

Through our dedicated volunteers we are able to identify and report pollution sources, allowing us to greatly increase oversight, restoration, and advocacy on behalf of our waterways. In 2013, 75 citizens and students helped monitor 16 miles of streams, and collected 688 samples for analysis. The data gathered by our volunteers provides essential information that we analyze to generate a year-long snapshot of the overall health of Baltimore's river and stream tributaries that empty into the harbor.

"Getting involved helps the community and yourself," said Ray when asked about his participation in the Adopt-A-Stream program. He added, "Our community needs people to be more watchful of the environment in order to help prevent and detect issues early on. Also, one can learn a variety of things and meet wonderful people by being an active volunteer."

PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper is a program of Blue Water Baltimore and a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance. The Waterkeeper acts as an investigator, scientist, teacher, advocate, and enforcer for preserving the ecosystem of Baltimore's rivers, streams, and harbor.

Our Waterkeeper monitors for several different water quality parameters, such as bacteria, sewage pollution, and dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll, which are indicators for algae blooms resulting from stormwater nutrient pollution. With a focus on utilizing the law to achieve cleaner water for Baltimore, the Waterkeeper patrols on our boat and trains volunteers to recognize and report sewage and construction pollution.

"In 2013, the Waterkeeper program expanded the geographic scope of the water quality monitoring. The increased area includes 22 sampling stations throughout the Tidal Patapsco and its major tidal tributaries, and 27 sampling stations in the Jones Falls and Gwynns Falls watersheds, which are major non-tidal tributaries to the Baltimore Harbor," said David Flores, the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper.

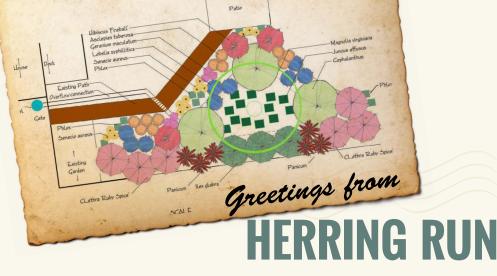
Also in 2013, Blue Water Baltimore, in partnership with business district Waterfront



Partnership and scientists with University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science EcoCheck, issued a Healthy Harbor Report Card to raise public awareness about the state of the waterways. This comprehensive report examines the Baltimore region's water quality, including determining pollution impacts and how they affect the environment's ecological and human health components. Additionally, the Healthy Harbor Report Card allows people to track our restoration Alice Volpitta, Blue Water Baltimore water quality manager, patrols and monitors water quality in the Baltimore Harbor to provide data that builds basic awareness, and engages people in stewardship of water restoration activities.

progress with transformative assessments that compare environmental and scientific data.

Blue Water Baltimore's Waterkeeper program recognizes the biological, recreational, and economic benefits of our waterways. That is why we are committed to analyzing local data from our streams and harbor, and using the results to advocate for laws critical to protecting the health of Maryland's waters.



"I first saw rain gardens a few years ago at local parks. I thought they were an attractive and elegant method of reducing stormwater runoff and promoting native species," said Doug Kaplan, a Baltimore resident in the Herring Run watershed.

"FROM THE DESIGN PLAN TO THE ACTUAL PLANTING OF MY RAIN GARDEN, BLUE WATER BALTIMORE PROVIDED GUIDANCE, HELP, AND LABOR."

- DOUG KAPLAN RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT

He added, "I wanted one for my yard because there was an area with some drainage problems where a rain garden would be of benefit. However, as I researched rain gardens, I realized that this was not a weekend project and that I did not have the expertise to do this on my own."

Doug contacted Blue Water Baltimore to perform a water audit to have his property assessed for ways to reduce water runoff and to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly landscape in his yard. After evaluating the area, Blue Water Baltimore recommended and installed a rain barrel, a rain garden, and conservation landscaping with more than 30 native plants including perennials, shrubs, and shade trees to make the most of natural rainfall and manage the stormwater runoff.

Once established, native plants adapt to local conditions in the garden and do not need fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides, thus improving and benefiting the environment. The rain garden, with its seasonal beauty, is designed to capture rain runoff through a landscaped depression that allows water to soak into the ground.

As Doug reflected on his completed residential landscape project, he commented, "From the design plan to the actual planting of my rain garden, Blue Water Baltimore provided guidance, help, and labor. That difficult part of my yard was transformed to a habitat for native species and a capture for stormwater runoff. I consider it a great investment."

CHAMPIONING NATIVE PLANTS

Herring Run Nursery, located in the Mount Pleasant Golf Course, is a nonprofit nursery operated by Blue Water Baltimore that specializes in selling native plants grown in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Herring Run Nursery offers more than 250 native species of trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, and plants to both retail and wholesale customers. In 2013, Herring Run Nursery sold more than 20,250 native plants over the course of 20 retail sales dates.

"Building a landscape full of native plants is a beautiful way to make a better environment for wildlife and reduce your stormwater footprint," said Vincent Vizachero, Blue Water Baltimore nursery manager.

The nursery, open select dates in the spring and fall, operates with the help of dedicated volunteers. These talented individuals have a wide range of gardening knowledge, from novice to expert. As they've discovered, volunteering is an opportunity to learn more about native plants.



Jennifer Paulson, publications coordinator at The Walters Art Museum, found her way to the Herring Run Nursery when she decided to landscape her neglected backyard. She became a volunteer, then a customer, and finally a gardener.

Herring Run Nursery specializes in growing native plants, perennials, and trees which promote a healthy urban environment, support wildlife, and help reduce stormwater pollution.

"With the help of the nursery staff and the master gardener

volunteers, I learned about the different types of plants suitable for the challenges of our shaded backyard. While I wasn't much help to customers when they had specific plant questions, I did find I learned a lot from them based on what they were purchasing, and from talking with them about their own gardening experiences. With what I learned, I came up with a plan and put in eight shrubs, one tree, and several trays of landscape plugs. I didn't know anything about plants but I gained the confidence to plant and maintain my own yard, knowing that I was making good choices for the environment in the process," said Jennifer.

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VOLUNTEERS, 613 TREES PLANTED, 23,775 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED, 3,150 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED.

GWYNNS FALLS

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JONES FALLS 19,295 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REMOVED 881 VOLUNTEERS 360 TREES PLANTED 21,350 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED

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WHAT WE DO

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.

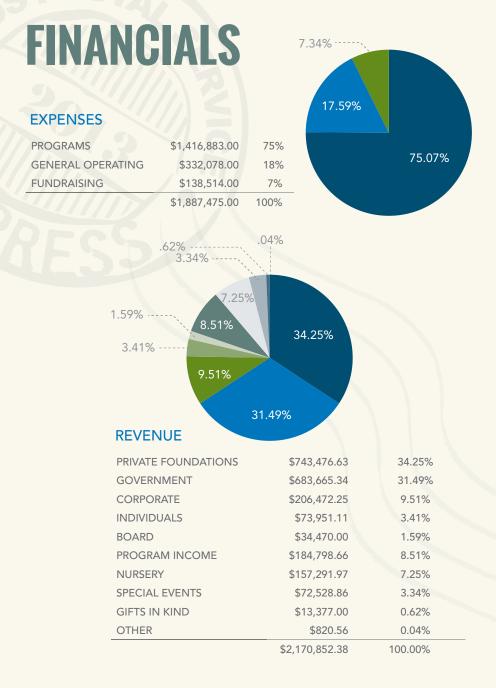
CLEAN WATER COMMUNITIES, a part of the Healthy Harbor initiative, helps Baltimore City neighborhoods integrate actions for a healthy community and Chesapeake Bay.

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 stormwater 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.



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

Photo Credits: Executive Director (BeMore Photography), Baltimore Harbor (www.coolgreenschools.com), Sudbrook, Jones Falls, and Waterkeeper (BWB Staff), Nursery (Katy McConnell), Herring Run (Jean Mellott).



3545 BELAIR ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21213

IN 2013 ALONE OUR WORK RESULTED IN 2,125 TREES PLANTED, 93,400 POUNDS OF TRASI

93,400 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED, AND 36,350 SQUARE FEET OF PAVEMENT REPLACED.

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