

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Clean Water. Strong Communities.



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HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

Blue Water Baltimore works with our partners to compel large property owners to clean up their stormwater pollution.
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EDUCATION & ECOLITERACY

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ONE WATER PARTNERSHIP

Learn about this program that unites faith leaders and congregants to be better stewards of the earth. Find out how your congregation or place of worship can participate.
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NEW WAYSTATIONS AT HERRING RUN NURSERY

Informational signs and displays at Herring Run Nursery help you plan your own native plant gardens.
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**BLUE
WATER
BALTIMORE**



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Dear Friends of Blue Water Baltimore:

I'm amazed that another year has come and gone and at all the work Blue Water Baltimore has accomplished with our partners in 2018, including passage of a ban on expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam take-out containers in Baltimore City and completion of our largest stormwater management project yet, at MedStar Harbor Hospital!

Blue Water Baltimore also spent time in 2018 completing a new five-year strategic plan that will serve as our organizational "road map" for our work over the next five years. Approved by our board in late November, this strategic plan coalesces goals and activities around four main areas of focus:

- demonstrating hands-on leadership by monitoring water quality and directly implementing solutions
- advocating for leadership on water quality from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors
- educating residents and stakeholders on the threats to our waterways and how they can help
- strengthening our organization to fulfill its mission

What does all this mean? We will still be implementing high-quality, high-visibility restoration projects. We will strive to better engage volunteers, community members, and other stakeholders in this work, and use these projects to communicate about and advocate for related clean water needs. We will expand our outreach and education efforts to ensure that residents and community members understand how they can be part of the solutions needed to stop pollution from impacting the health of our shared waterways. And, we will work to strengthen our organization and empower our staff to be the best that we can be for years to come!

It is truly an exciting time to be a part of Blue Water Baltimore, and I hope you feel this excitement the next time you visit our Herring Run Nursery, or volunteer with us at a clean-up or a tree planting. There are many ways you can be a part of this clean water movement: become a member,

increase your membership, or share our information with a friend or neighbor.

Together we can accomplish much more than any of us can do alone – please join us!



Jenn Aiosa, Executive Director



MISSION

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.

Problem

Baltimore's waterways have long been impacted by polluted stormwater runoff, trash, sewage, and toxic chemicals. This pollution not only harms our environment, it also threatens our citizens' health and the vitality of our local economy.

Solution

Blue Water Baltimore works with partners, residents, businesses and others to reduce harmful pollution and restore our waterways to health. From arts and education, to stormwater management projects, to legal and legislative advocacy, we bring together citizens and our public and private partners to accomplish more than any of us could do alone.

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

4,200

volunteers participated in
150 volunteer events

2,326

trees planted

25,390

native plants sold from Blue Water Baltimore's Herring Run Nursery

1,130

PEOPLE TRAINED to report pollution, stencil storm drains, and for ecoliteracy

48 Ecoliteracy workshops presented

Polluted runoff from **5+ ACRES** at Medstar Harbor Hospital treated through use of **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

 **109,000** lbs of trash removed



85 pollution reports investigated

Victory – Holding Polluters Accountable

A federal district court in Maryland recently ruled that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wrongfully denied Blue Water Baltimore's petition to regulate stormwater runoff from commercial, industrial, and institutional sites in the Back River watershed. Blue Water Baltimore and its allies took this fight against polluted stormwater discharges to court so that polluters who contribute to the runoff of contaminants into our waterways are made to clean up their own mess.

Along with co-plaintiffs Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and American Rivers, Blue Water Baltimore brought this lawsuit against EPA for failing to require industrial and commercial polluters in the Back River watershed to pay for the clean-up of harmful runoff from their properties.

Municipal and county governments currently bear the lion's share of the responsibility for cleaning up stormwater pollution, and yet, a significant amount of that pollution comes from private commercial, industrial, and institutional sites. Because these sites contain extensive impervious areas, like parking lots and rooftops, they consistently discharge large quantities of polluted stormwater runoff into local rivers and streams. Under the federal Clean Water Act, if EPA determines that a category of stormwater discharge is contributing to water quality violations, the agency must require those dischargers to apply for permits. Those permits would then mandate actions to be taken to limit the amount of polluted runoff.

Blue Water Baltimore will continue to work with our partners to compel large property owners to clean up their own stormwater pollution, instead of placing the burden on local governments and taxpayers.

To learn more: www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/blog





Education & Ecoliteracy

One of our most popular ecoliteracy programs is the FOG Monster-Making Workshop. It's designed to introduce Baltimore City school administrators and students to the Clean Drain Campaign, run by our partners Ridge to Reefs and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works. The campaign promotes protecting our streams and harbor from sewage and fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Cooking grease and wet wipes emptied into drains are a leading cause of sewer overflows and water pollution. Putting these items in the trash instead helps our waterways and can help you save money on plumber bills!

One Water Partnership

The One Water Partnership is a program led by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, with technical support from Blue Water Baltimore, Interfaith Power and Light, and University of Maryland Extension Sea Grant. The purpose of the program is to unite an array of faith leaders and congregants in a connection to their watershed and in a mission to be better stewards of the earth. A menu of actions has been developed with the densely populated urban watershed in mind, and provides participants different avenues to get involved, regardless of the wealth or volunteer capacity of a congregation.

Early efforts with houses of worship include:

- 39 congregations mobilized
- over 770 volunteers engaged
- 293 trees planted
- 4,000 sq. ft. of native plantings installed
- 850 pounds of trash removed
- 3,205 gallons of rainwater harvested
- 22,272 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces treated

Visit <http://bluewaterbaltimore.org/learn/projects/blue-water-congregations> for more information.

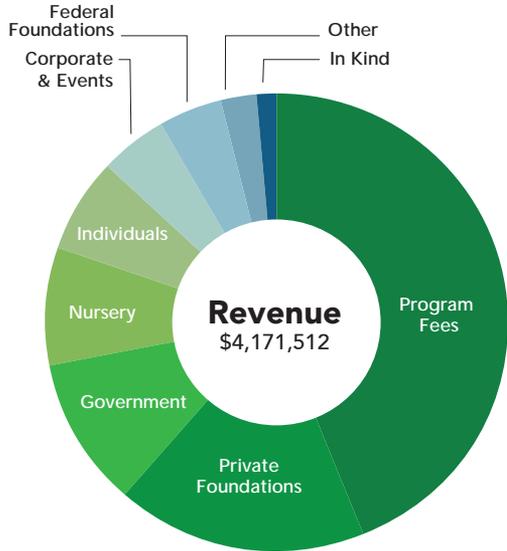
New Waystations at Herring Run Nursery

Last year, Herring Run Nursery, a program of Blue Water Baltimore, installed four educational waystation gardens to emphasize the important benefits of native plants and their many functions in the landscape. The gardens include an edible & medicinal garden, a meadow, a pollinator garden, and a rain garden. Visitors can stroll through the gardens and learn how to steward a healthy ecosystem in their own yards.

2018 FINANCIALS

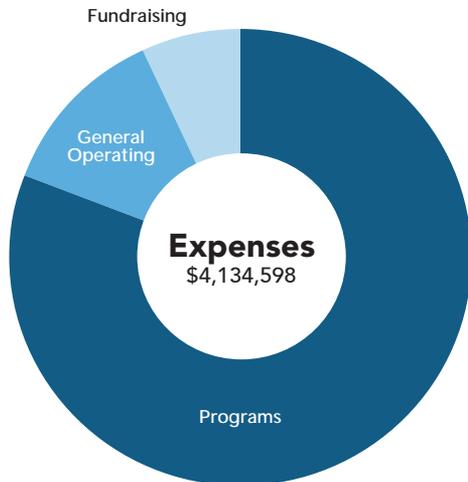
Revenue

 In Kind	51,195
 Other	97,650
 Federal Foundations	184,167
 Corporate & Events	196,313
 Individuals	281,245
 Nursery	345,125
 Government	431,744
 Private Foundations	772,271
 Program Fees	1,811,802
Total	\$4,171,512



Expenses

 Programs	3,395,021
 General Operating	511,200
 Fundraising	228,377
Total	\$4,134,598



A complete audited financial report is available by writing to:

Director of Finance,
Blue Water Baltimore,
2631 Sisson St,
Baltimore, MD 21211

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Blue Water Baltimore sincerely appreciates our valued donors for their contributions in 2018, including those who wish to remain anonymous and those who gave in-kind contributions.

\$100,000+

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BALTIMORE**



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