



A year of challenge and triumph

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Wow. What a year.

We entered 2025 facing a federal funding freeze that threatened roughly 60% of our budget putting our programming, our staff, and our mission at risk. Suddenly, the work of planting trees, cleaning streams, and protecting land had become a political issue. We kept going anyway. We kept our staff in the field alongside volunteers, caring for trees, inspecting land, and nurturing the community connections that make this work possible.

2025 also brought significant leadership transitions. I joined as the organization's new Executive Director, we said a heartfelt farewell to our longtime Program Director, and both our Board President and Vice President completed their terms. All major changes, all navigated with tremendous grace and support.

In time, the funding freeze thawed. But it was our community that truly carried us through spiritually and financially. Our volunteers, who kept showing up despite challenges of their own. Our Board members, who kept us anchored and guided. Our donors, without whom we simply would not exist.

Because of that steadfast commitment, we ended 2025 not just surviving...but growing.

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy closed the year in a financially positive position. We welcomed four new staff members. For the first time in our history, we provided computers for our entire team. And we delivered on our mission in a big way as you will see in the pages of this report.

Looking ahead, our Strategic Plan keeps us in a capacity-building focus through 2028, strengthening our internal processes, deepening our constituent relationships, and positioning ourselves to serve our mission as effectively as possible.

Read on to see what our remarkable staff and volunteers accomplished in 2025. We truly could not have done it without you.



With gratitude,
Lindsay Crone
Executive Director
Gunpowder Valley
Conservancy



Board of Directors
in October 2025



Staff Team in April 2025



1,393
public engaged at
an outreach event

3,795
trees cared for

30
Rain barrels
installed

34
Acres
preserved

1,183
Volunteers & 2,803
Volunteer hours

17
Tree planting &
tree maintenance
events

7,500 Sq ft
of runoff collected
from rooftops through
new rain barrels

9,164^{lbs}
of trash removed
from streams

2,315
Trees planted

5.5
new stream
miles adopted

27 CONSERVATION
GARDENS:
• 8 Bayscapes
• 16 Residential Rain Gardens
• 1 Institutional Rain Garden
• 2 Micro-Bio Retention

44
Stream clean
up events

21,000^{lbs}
of non-native invasive
plants removed

37 preserved properties visited

2,315 public engaged at an outreach event

Our Impact

2025 by the Numbers

2025 Explore the Gunpowder Watershed Challenge

Thanks to the success of Explore in previous years Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) was awarded funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to continue this beloved program.

Participants could complete one or both of our challenges (for free) to earn a commemorative t-shirt and a chance to win a full-day paddleboarding or kayaking experience for two, generously provided by Ultimate Watersports. From discovering local businesses and natural gems to rolling up their sleeves to volunteer in the watershed, Explorers found meaningful ways to connect with the Gunpowder — and the program wrapped up with a celebratory social event to bring the community together. Keep an eye out for fellow Explorers sporting their shirts on the trails this year.



Baynes Cove Shoreline Renovation

In the heart of Middle River, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources transformed a struggling shoreline into something remarkable. The Baynes Cove Shoreline Resiliency Project replaced 450 feet of deteriorating wooden bulkhead with a living shoreline that works with nature rather than against it. Funded by Maryland's Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and generous GVC donors, the project

features an innovative terraced wetland design that softens wave impact, filters stormwater runoff, restores spawning habitat for fish and other wildlife, and helps sequester carbon. It means cleaner water and healthier habitat. And for anyone who has ever wondered whether there is a better way to protect our shorelines — Baynes Cove is the answer. GVC will continue monitoring the site to ensure the shoreline thrives for years to come.



2025 Program Highlights.



Manor Mill Conservation Gardens & Community

Nestled in Monkton, Manor Mill is more than a historic landmark; it is a living demonstration of what conservation looks like in practice. Through Chesapeake Bay Trust funding, the site has become home to rain gardens and conservation gardens that showcase how thoughtful landscape design can protect water quality and support a healthier watershed.

Community members became part of the story by participating in events, such as planting native wildflowers to expand the pollinator habitat along Manor Mill's beloved Faerie Trail.

Manor Mill earned Bay-Wise certification, a testament to the ecological stewardship that has taken root there.

It is exactly the kind of partnership, between a historic place, a passionate community, and a shared commitment to clean water, that makes the Gunpowder Valley so special.

Gunpowder Watershed Forum

In 2025, GVC helped bring together a room full of people who all care deeply about the same river, forests, and communities.

The second Gunpowder Watershed Forum drew more than 60 attendees from 40 organizations across the region for a day of knowledge sharing, partnership building, and collective visioning around the future of the watershed.

The Forum marked the official launch of Gunpowder Watershed Partners, a regional collaborative dedicated to a healthier Gunpowder across all 480 square miles — and the energy in the room made clear that the timing was right. Keynote speaker Assistant Secretary Aneca Atkinson, Maryland

Department of the Environment's first Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice, set an inspiring tone with remarks that connected the health of our watershed directly to the health and equity of the communities that depend on it.

The Forum was funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, whose support for regional collaboration helped turn an idea into a movement. We cannot wait to see what this community builds together.



Evening Among the Trees

What a night. Our 2025 Evening Among the Trees benefit was a beautiful celebration of community, conservation, and everything that makes the Gunpowder Valley worth protecting — and we could not be more grateful to everyone who made it possible. The evening was held at the stunning DeJon Vineyard, with delicious food from Sunshine Grille, and the perfect soundtrack provided by The Cobb Brothers Duo. Peabody Heights Brewery raised a glass to the occasion with a donation of Katie Pumphrey's Big Swim IPA, a fitting tribute to our keynote speaker's extraordinary Channel swim. Tom Hall emceed the night and Keynote Speaker, Katie Pumphrey, inspired the crowd to make the night's auction and paddle raise a great success. It was a night of beautiful support.

Standing Up for the Bird and Gunpowder Rivers

The Tidal Gunpowder and Bird Rivers are home to three landfills on their shores, and in September, one of them made a move that demanded a response. Days Cove Rubble Landfill submitted a permit request to double its discharge into the river, eliminate a promised treatment system that would have cleaned its effluent to drinking water standards, and weaken limits on ammonia pollution. GVC refused to let that go unanswered. We mobilized our community, helped fill the hearing room at Perry Hall Library, and supported the collection of over 800 public comments opposing the permit changes. The community spoke clearly, and MDE listened, delaying its decision to allow time to address public comment and revise the permit. It was a meaningful advocacy victory, and a powerful reminder that an informed and engaged community is one of the most effective tools we have for protecting our rivers. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and keep our community informed as the process moves forward.

Teamwork makes the dream work.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

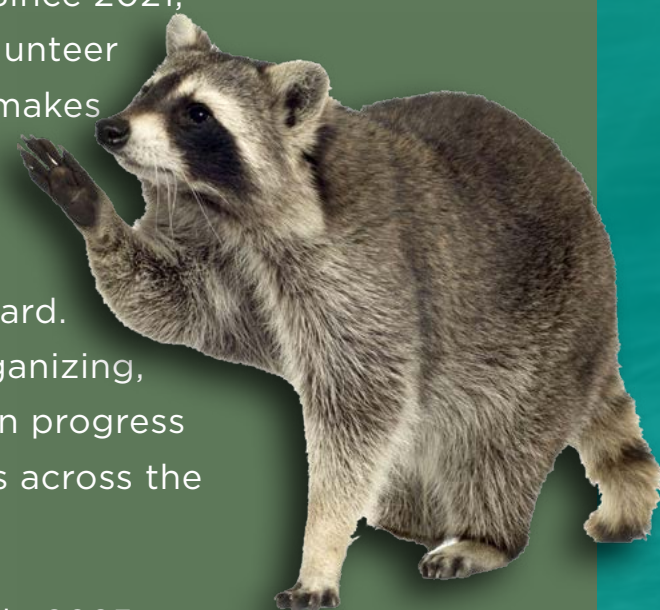


In 2025, 1,183 volunteers gave 2,803 hours of their time to the Gunpowder Watershed — and in January 2026 we took a night to say thank you. GVC's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at Boordy Vineyards, where staff, board members, and volunteers gathered in the wine cellar for an evening of food generously donated by Carrabba's of Hunt Valley, great conversation, and the always anticipated dessert competition.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of GVC's annual volunteer awards. Bill Vondrasek was honored with the 2025 Charlie Conklin Volunteer Leader of the Year award, recognizing his extraordinary commitment to GVC's reforestation program. Since 2021, Bill has attended over 25 tree planting events, contributed more than 175 volunteer hours, and shown up to every event with the energy, warmth, and care that makes volunteers around him feel welcome and inspired.

Kathy Martin was named GVC's 2025 Community Leader of the Year for her remarkable ability to bring people together and move meaningful work forward. A passionate advocate with deep roots in environmental and community organizing, Kathy serves on numerous boards and commissions, has been instrumental in progress at Days Cove and the D.R. Horton site, and has helped connect organizations across the watershed in ways that amplify everyone's impact.

Congratulations, Bill and Kathy — and thank you to every volunteer who made 2025 such a meaningful year for the Gunpowder Valley.



Our Donors

\$10,000+

Alan Penczek
Anonymous
Charlie Conklin

\$5,000+

Don & Sally Callihan

\$2,500+

Roberta Ficke

\$1,000+

Carl & Sally Gold
Christie Benet
David McKibbin
Dennis Walig
Edward Stuebing
Elizabeth & Elliot Shue
Jackie Mintz
James Knott Jr
Jim & Sandy Martin
Joseph Meyer
Laura Scheeler
Laurie Taylor-Mitchell
Lynn Flanigan
Meredith McDonagh
Michael Panopoulos
Mona Scott
Randy Davis
Ronald Brown
Susan Bath
William Rees
William Vondrasek & Anne Palmer

Up to \$999

Adacela Lopez-Jimenez
Adam Bunk
Adam Ghannoum
Akila Panneerselvam
Allen Coven
Alta Haywood
Amanda Stussman
Amelia (Amy) Krebs
Amir Hammad
Amir Helmi
Amy Rakusin
Amy Trail
Amy Young
Andrea Huppert Soukup
Andrew Wellman
Angelo Otterbein
Anita Kraemer
Ann Duncan
Anna Wagner
Anne Todd
Anthony Sparrow
Barbara Ann Newton
Barbara Palmer
Ben Fertig
Betsy Duer
Bonnie Rudolph
Bradford Sharpless
Brian & Lisa DeVincentis
Brian Mahoney
Brian Naughton
Brittany Anuszkiewicz
Bruce & Rebecca
Copeland
Candice Kaminski
Carol Mason
Carolyn Furman
Casey Reidpath
Catherine Bellinger
Catherine Tipper

Char Tara Albert
Charlie Crone
Cheryl & Charles Urban
Chris Johnson
Chris Scovill
Christina Garvan
Christopher & April Linz
Colin Maglietta
Dan Buck
Daniel & Donna Doerfer
Daniel South
Daniel Wildasin
Darcy Herman
Dave West
David Hash
David Warfield
David Waring
Dawn Everhart
Debbie Cox
Debbie Lancaster
Deborah Quirk
Deborah Slawson
Debra Lavallee
Deetzie Walker
Diane Eakes
Diane Neas
Dillon Broadwell
Donald & Mary Sloat
Donald Vetter
Donna Lee Marshall
Dorene Rothmann
Dorothy Barnes
Dorothy Berg
Doug & Maria Demeo
Dr. Mahmood Jahromi
Duane Kelly Jr.
Edna Mahmood Leonard
Edward Decker Jr.

Elisa Watson
Elizabeth Hunt
Elizabeth Shively
Erin Dorrien
Eugene Wu
Fred Whiton
Gabriela Amaya-Williams
Gene Scarpulla
Geoffrey Miller
George Fanshaw
George Mayo
George Sparks
Glenn Ferenschak
Harrison Akhavan
Heather Bath
Heidi Pullara
Helen Johnson
Holly Sparby
Hugh McAdorey
Ian Jones
Inna Kolomiytsev
Jacqueline Steffy
Jake Swink
James & Marita Riggs
James Kelly Jr.
Janet Neilson
Janet Shambaugh
Jared Glasser
Jared Nielsen
Jeff Malat
Jefferson & Elizabeth Gray
Jennifer Buchness
Jennifer Sober
Jo Ann R Brooks
Joan Lewin
Joanne Maits
Jodi Erbland
Joe Williamson
John & Kim G Leonard Jr.
John Copeland

John Egan
John Gaffney
John Miller
John T Dean
John Zellinger
Joseph & Susan Thompson
Josh Magness
Joshua Butler
Joyce McMahon
Judith Ann Droege
Judith Edgar
Julie Lorenzo
June Goldstein
Kaitlynn Ely
Kaity Handley
Karen Albert
Karen Cruz
Karen Stupski
Kari Gaynor
Katherine Martin
Kathleen Collins
Keir Joyce
Kelly White
Kent Devereaux
Kevin Harper
Kim & Matt Tucker
Kirsten Coffen
Kit Slafkosky
Krista Kraskura
Kristen McConnell
Kristin Magruder
Laura Dennison
Laura Will
Lauren Stranahan
Laurie Squire
Leslie Erickson
Linda Barone
Lindsay Andrews
Lindsay Crone
Liz Entwisle
Lorna & Lloyd Bills

Luke Z. Hancock
Lynn Lanham
Malinda Glassman
Manny & Lisa Vindiola
Marc Hauptman
Marc Paras
Marcia Watson
Margaret Church
Marjorie Winslow
Mark Ewing
Marsha McLaughlin
Martha Varisco
Mary Ann McAllister
Mary Bowden
Mary Corddry
Mary Hoey
Mary Magrogan
Mary Pat Seurkamp
Mary Ruth Horner
Mary Triandafilou
Matthew Walker
Max and Huck Power
Megan Hansen
Megan LeDuc
Melanie Neely
Melvin McDonald
Melvin Stimmel
Michael & Jan Keadle
Michael & Lura Vogelmann
Michael & Shannon Mayhew
Michael Barberio
Michael Haire
Michael Mallinoff
Michael Pieper
Michael Spencer
Michele Nelson
Michelle & Sunny Leung
Mike Waltz
Miriam Knuth
Nancy Pentz
Nick Abbasi

Nicole Baer
Nicole Moorman
Noel Brown
Norman Sines
Paul Fox
Peter & Cheryl Belitsos
Phil Gay
Philip Deloache
Phyllis Carter
R. Mark Winter
Ralph Comegna
Randall Stoney
Randy Schreffler II
Rebecca Fuentes-Volz
Robert Deford
Riley Auer
Robert Berger
Robert Johnson
Robin Daugherty
Ross Crosby
Ruth Bennett
Sara Randrup
Sarah Anderson
Sarah Brown
Sarah Bunk
Sarah Lamarca
Sarah Wiener
Scott & Deborah Heacock
Sharon Huffman
Sharon Shaffer
Sharon Taylor
Shelley Brosius
Sherin Hawkins
Sherry Trabert
Shyanne Wells
Stephanie Stass
Steve Ames
Stuart Sanford
Sue & Edward Thompson
Susan & Hutch Vernon
Susan Armiger

Susan Bohn
Susan & Brice Dowell
Susan Meier
Sydney West
Tammie Boyd
Teresa Nick
Terri Parrish
Theodore & Kaye Brower
Theodore Reichhart
Thomas Haine
Thomas Melito
Thomas Mulrenin
Thomas Reifsynder
Thomas Spray-Fry
Tim Carter
Tim Casey
Timothy Somers
Tom Graf
Tom Moench
Travis Gorleski
Trudy Dashiell
Valerie Brennan
Valerie Fowler
Vera Reiner
Virginia Lipscomb
Vivian Banks
Wallace Lippincott
Wendy Bornstein
Wendy Kropp
Will Rees III
William Glass
William McAvoy
William Messner
William Weaver
Yutaka Horiba

Grants

Baltimore County Watershed
Association Restoration,
Planning and Implementation
Grant

Baltimore Greater Regional
Environmental Equity Network
(BGREEN)

Chesapeake Bay Trust Green
Streets, Green Jobs, Green
Towns

Chesapeake Bay Trust Keep
Maryland Beautiful

Chesapeake Bay Trust Outreach
& Restoration

MD DNR Chesapeake & Atlantic
Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund

National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation Planning and
Technical Assistance

National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation Small Watershed
Grant

Sponsors/Business
Support

Argent Services Company
Becton, Dickinson and
Company (BD)

BGE

Bowerman Loreley Beach
Community Association

CAR Contracting, Inc.
Ciena

Constellation Energy
an Exelon Company

Ecotone LLC

Exelon Foundation

Faith Lutheran Church
- Beaverdam Green Team

Genmab

GRBA

Green Acres Garden Club

Hardy Garden Club

JMT - Johnson, Mirmiran, &
Thompson, Inc.

Kiwanis Club of Towson
Timonium Foundation

Ladew Topiary Gardens

Live Green Landscape Assoc.

Manor Mill

McCormick & Co., Inc.

Monkton Garden Club

Nash Performance Marketing

Pipe the Side Brewing

PNC Financial Services Group

Presbyterian Senior Living

T. Rowe Price

The Perennial Farm

Towson Service Foundation, Inc.

Whiting-Turner

Words with Boards



Financials

2025 actuals

Support & Revenue

Corporations	41,530.51
Individuals	86,435.84
Government Grants	705,927.83
Event	48,953.50
Foundations/Nonprofits	23,553.25
Program Services	35,428.97
In-Kind	50,808.00
Other	30,028.68

Total Support & Revenue **\$1,022,666.58**

Expenses

Salaries and Wages	393,977.94
Benefits (Fringe)	85,444.04
Contractual Labor	193,584.62
Professional Services	87,977.75
Supplies	157,075.64
Other	92,911.36

Total Expenses **\$1,010,971.35**

Surplus **\$11,695.23**



Our Mission:

To engage, connect, and inspire people to preserve and restore the Gunpowder Watershed.

Our vision:

A Gunpowder Watershed that consists of:

Healthy lands where native plants and animals thrive and where natural habitats are abundant.

Healthy waterways where streams flow clear and are connected to and nurtured by the land around them.

Healthy communities where residents, businesses, farms, and neighborhoods thrive and are empowered with the knowledge and resources to sustain the long-term interdependency of land, water, and people.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) programs provide meaningful opportunities to learn about our natural world and make a difference for future generations. We offer many ways for individuals to give back as a volunteer, property owner, concerned citizen, employer and more.

DONATE to GVC!
[Donation Form](#)

Join us for EVENTS!
[Calendar of Events – Gunpowder Valley Conservancy](#)

VOLUNTEER with GVC!
[Calendar of Events – Gunpowder Valley Conservancy](#)