

2021-2022

# IMPACT REPORT

# DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

**WSA is on the brink of something transformative for us, for you, for the communities we serve now, and for those we hope to serve in the future.**

This year has not only been our most impactful yet measured by projects, plants, partnerships, and people, it confirms that by leading with values, WSA can create transformative change.

## Watershed Stewards & Tree Troopers...



Engaged 20,000 residents to...



plant over 30,000 native plants & trees in...



575 projects across Anne Arundel County

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice** are not just a part of WSA's work...they are WSA's work. To achieve Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice goals, and our vision that **"every community in Anne Arundel County is actively engaged to ensure a healthy environment for all,"** we have embraced these values:

### CONNECTION

We connect communities with the resources, knowledge, and information they need to thrive, allowing us to go farther together rather than faster alone.

### INNOVATION

We challenge norms and our own ignorance to consistently evolve.

### RESTORATION

We commit to protecting and revitalizing our natural resources, for this generation and the next.

**Our DEIJ work cannot be achieved without you – your observations, your volunteer efforts, and your support!**

## With Gratitude & Optimism

### WSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair:** Frank Dawson  
**Vice-Chair:** Camera Thomas-Wilhite  
**Secretary:** Melanie Parker  
**Treasurer:** Steve Russo  
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Nina Fisher, Kevin Green,  
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### WSA STAFF

**Executive Director:** Suzanne Etgen  
Teryl Acker-Carter, Sara Ballesteros,  
Noelle Chao, Trish Hennessy-Webb,  
Francesca King, Rob Pavlik,  
Jeffrey Popp



When an organization claims to commit itself to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ), members, donors, volunteers and friends of that organization should ask:

## HOW

will we see evidence of your commitment?

## WHAT

changes are you making within the organization as a result of that commitment?

## WHY

should supporters care?

Here are some responses from our work...

### DIVERSITY

WSA's partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Libraries (AACPL) allows us to reach a diverse group of residents from all parts of the County. Last year, WSA led programs, projects and actions at more than half of our libraries, reaching people right in their own communities. Our partnership with AACPL also provides a platform to convene regional conversations on equity issues, as we did with our Environmental Justice Panel in November 2021.

### EQUITY

Our 14th Watershed Steward Certification Class was the most diverse to date with 1/3 of the class representing North and West County, more than half of the class representing a younger demographic and our first-ever high school seniors! When adapting our class for this group of participants, we were guided by our equity statement: **"We strive for an environmental future where power is shared, knowledge is easily accessible, and resources go to those who most need them."** By bringing greater flexibility, accessibility, and customizing mentorship, we addressed past barriers to ensure that our next generation of environmental leaders is prepared to reach communities throughout AA County.

### INCLUSION

Inclusion shows up in our work as we build authentic relationships with community-led organizations like the Judy Center, and offer programs based on their unique needs. Nature can be therapeutic for communities that experience trauma. For communities without access to high-quality green space, using nature for healing is challenging. We're working with several North County partners to bring healing programs that use safe, natural spaces at libraries and schools.

**"Brooklyn Park is a traditionally underserved neighborhood with high poverty and multigenerational trauma. Mindfulness In Nature has provided concrete self care skills that people of all ages can access."** - Amira Westenburger, Family Services Coordinator at the Judy Center, Belle Grove Elementary

### JUSTICE

Many densely developed communities lack tree canopy to improve air and water quality and provide shade. WSA's Tree Ambassador program, in partnership with Defenses de la Cuenca and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, provides bilingual training for Latino leaders and installs native trees in communities where few trees exist.

**"Planting trees is a motivator for me. I want my community and our families to come together and enjoy nature. We don't see a lot of trees where I live so it's important for me to plant trees and gardens for our families to share and gather."**

- Iveth Mendez, WSA Tree Ambassador

[aawsa.org/deij](http://aawsa.org/deij)



# Transformational Leaders

Since 2009, Watershed Stewards Academy has trained over 300 Watershed Stewards.

Many of these Stewards have taken their outreach further than their own communities and created stand-alone initiatives based on the knowledge they received from the Certification Course. The ripple effect created has spread all over the County.



**Save Our Trees** is an initiative partially created by multiple Watershed Stewards, and is determined to stop ivy and invasive vines from destroying canopy trees and forests. **“I was introduced to the threat of ivy to our tree canopy through the WSA certification course and quickly realized that once you see the ivy problem, you can’t unsee it!”**

– Mary Ann Marbury, Watershed Steward

Volcano mulching kills hundreds of trees across Anne Arundel County. Watershed Steward and Master Gardener, Annie Hillary and Master Gardener, Noreen Krispin are spreading the word about how to properly mulch landscape trees to protect them from disease and pests through their **Mulch Matters** campaign.



Significantly increasing the number of new trees is a mission we simply cannot do alone. **Tree Troopers** are the heart of the RePlant program - which expanded to the city of Annapolis this year. These passionate volunteers are trained to design and implement tree projects all over the county.

**3522**  
TREES  
PLANTED

**47**  
TREE TROOPERS  
TRAINED

**850**  
RESIDENTS  
ENGAGED

JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022



Increasing pollinator habitat across the County is the vision of **RePollinate Anne Arundel** founders Jim MacNicholl, Lauren Toomey, and Elmer Dengler, all Class 13 Watershed Stewards. In collaboration with Master Gardeners, this power team uses sweat equity from volunteers to raise and distribute thousands of locally native plants for gardens across the County. **“RePollinate Anne Arundel provides an opportunity to create a sustainable environment supporting our native pollinators.”** – *Jim MacNichol*

**“Native plants** are a Watershed Stewards’ main tool. They can be used to solve most of the landscaping problems residents face while fulfilling the vital role of protecting our waterways and supporting wildlife. I study and learn about native plants so I can educate and help people choose the ‘right plant, right place’.” – *Alison Milligan, Watershed Steward, Master Gardener/Naturalist, CBLP*



The **Anne Arundel Patapsco River Alliance** (AAPRA) strives to expand its impact on local streams and creeks in the Patapsco tidal watershed. AAPRA invites HOA’s, religious groups, and public facilities to join WSA Stewards to install native plants and trees to reintroduce a food source for the three B’s: Birds, Bees, and Butterflies.

**Cape St. Claire** is one of several communities where a long-term Watershed Steward presence has built incredible momentum for change. The Cape’s first Watershed Steward, Brad Knopf, has penned a watershed Tip of the Month cartoon for over 13 years, giving humorous monthly inspiration to Stewards and residents alike.



Together, **Congregational** Steward Dr. Jim Johnson and Watershed Steward Phil Colbert have learned a whole lot about native plants and conservation landscaping as they cared for their projects at Mount Moriah AME Church in Annapolis. They pass on that knowledge and expertise by mentoring other congregational leaders to install and care for their own projects.

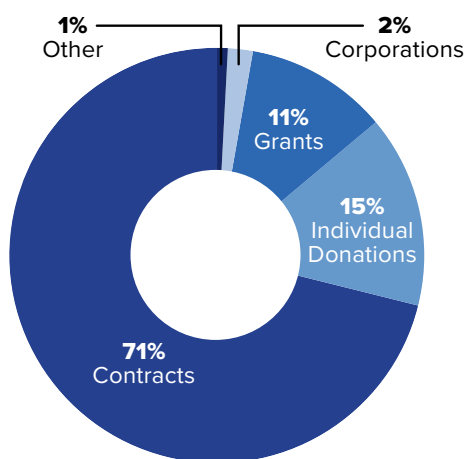
**Parks** are a fantastic place to engage people and display how community-based actions have a greater impact on the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The parks in Anne Arundel County are well loved and the pandemic has brought even more people into local natural spaces. **“Watershed Stewards, myself included, have used the space and interest to connect with people and get them thinking about how they can contribute positively to the environment.”** – *Kim Stringer, Watershed Steward and Anne Arundel County Park Ranger*





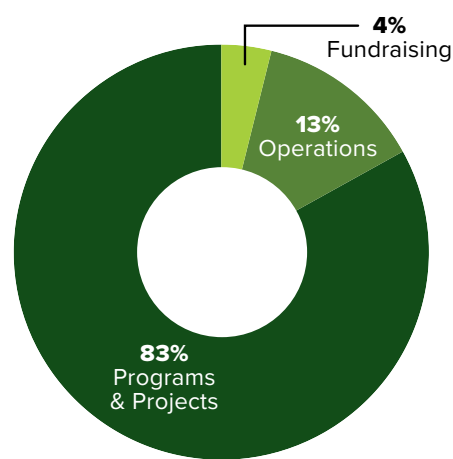
# 2021 Financials

## REVENUE



<b>\$21,363</b>	Corporations
<b>\$181,107</b>	Individual Donations
<b>\$130,731</b>	Grants
<b>\$870,853</b>	Contracts
<b>\$18,121</b>	Other

## EXPENSES



<b>\$41,935</b>	Fundraising
<b>\$126,992</b>	Operations
<b>\$846,522</b>	Programs & Projects

(WSA Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2021)  
[aawsa.org/financials](http://aawsa.org/financials)

## Thank You to Our Supporters!

### 2021 - 2022 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- White Oak \$1,500**  
GreenVest, LLC
- Atlantic White Cedar \$1,000**  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Sweetbay Magnolia \$500**  
Actaeon LLC  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

- Arundel Rivers Federation
- BayLand Consultants and Designers
- Chaney Enterprises
- Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council
- ClearSharkH2O
- DoodyCalls
- Environmental Quality Resources, LLC
- Green Landing Nursery
- LD Squared Architects, LLC
- Homestead Gardens
- Hustead Landscape

- Architecture
- McHale Landscape Design, Inc.
- OpinionWorks
- PayDirt, LLC
- Severn Grove Ecological Design, LLC
- Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.
- Serviceberry \$250**  
Ciminelli's Landscape Services, Inc.
- Deborah M. Schwab Landscape Architecture
- Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc.

- FTC Aggregate Supply
- Hyatt & Weber, P.A.
- K&B True Value
- Kevin and Stacy Green
- SMC
- Sylva Native Nursery
- Welspryng, LLC
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- Allison Colden
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Pamela Convissar	Kristin Kohlmann	Cecelia Roudiez	Sue Bell	Monica Maynard	Kathleen Litchfield
Misty Cook	Lynda Kroh	Kenyatta Rowel	Melvin Bender	Carroll McGillin-Greve	Lauren Maddox
Victor Coward	Colleen Lacy	Dawn Rudloff	Sarah Benson	Meade Area Post	Jeanne Martin
Jim and Lise Crafton	Jennifer Lagrotteria	David Sanderson-	Elsie Bjarnason	Garden Club	Lara Mulvaney
Dianne Crews	Nathaniel Lamb	Kilchenstein	Kirvin Bonner	C. Lee Meadows	Jackie and Charles
Victoria Cromer	Susan Lanier	Brenda Sanford	Michael Bowen	Linda Meyer	Neighbor
Brooke Csensich	Joan Leahy	Dana Schallheim	Peter Bradley	Steve Miller	Jeff Norris
Liam Currier	Kara Leahy	Richard Schoenfeld	Ann and Warren Brown	Alison Milligan	Melanie Parker
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Susan Dapkunas	Andrew Leuschner	Janice Schuster	Improvement Assoc. Inc.	Betty Morganstern	Sharon Schroer
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M Taylor DeBord	Mark Lowe	Theresa Seymore	Aimee Chao	Pat Neidhardt	Jack Weaver
Marie Del Bianco	Sara Luell	Salman Sheikh	David Chao	Peggy Newman	<b>\$1,000 - \$2,499</b>
Kristin DeMar	Brenda Lynch	Cathy Shields	Noelle Chao	Larry Novicky	BayLand Consultants
John and Marie Denice	Ashley Lyons	Chip and Katherine	Chestnut Hill Cove HOA	Juliet Page	and Designers
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Anne Dierdorff-Thomas	Patrick Major	Wayne Singley	Janet Clauson	Anne and Wayne	Amy and Dan Clements
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Barbara Dowling	Hamilton Maynard	Marvin Solberg	Jeanne Cox	Ursula Pieper	Bill and Cindy Garmoe
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Brittany English	Sean McGuinn	Patricia Stewart	Crofton Village Garden	Garden Club	Ann Jackson
Jan Ernest	Roxanne McKagan	Marcia Stubbs	Club	Kim Radvan	Leila MacCarthy
Caroline Etgen	Peter McKenna	Hiedi Sturm	Katie Davis	Kristin Reilly	Bev and Steve Marcus
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Mikaela Frazier	Jennifer Miller	Judith Templeton	Kelly Fisher	Rockhill	Anne Potter
Elaine Friebele	Joni Miller	Eve Terran	Patrick and Elise	Jodi Rose	Jimm Rich
Lynette Fullerton	Lisa Miller	Verena Thoma	Fleeharty	Grace Schneider	Paul Rickett
Ann Garvey	Bill Mitchell	Kristin Thomas	Ann Fleer	Brenda Schwaab	Lynne Rockenbauch
Lynne George	Patricia Mitchell	Eric Toney	Erin Forte	Jay Schwarz	Steve Russo
Bryan Gomes	Dawn Moorehead	Veronica Tovey	Jim Foster	Shipley's Choice Garden	Brittany Wright
Hilary Goulet	Lynn Mullineaux	Zachary Trusty	Four Rivers Garden Club	Club	Tracy Wroe
Michael Grassman	Robin Munnikhuysen	Jack Turner	Jeffrey Franklin	Kristin Silva	<b>\$2,500 - \$4,999</b>
Tabitha Greco	Walter Mussante	Carol Vasques	Debra Gage	Ray Sullivan	Mike Fritz
Amy Greif	Beverly Napfel	Kate Vogel	Gary Gakenheimer	Terence Sweeney	Kevin Green
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Jennifer Groszkowski	Teresa Niec	Sara Wagoner	Gibson Island Garden	Dawn Taft	Haythornthwaite
Birgit Gruenberg	Teresa Niec	Jessica Wakefield	Club	Ron Tate	Jim MacNicholl and Sara
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Georgina Hammond	Christopher Northrop	Michaline West	Robin Gill	Nora Terres	Steve Raabe
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Marc Haseltine	Susan Nugent	Stacey Wildberger	Chris Gordon	Lauren Toomey	Ron Snyder
Trish Hennessy-Webb	Paul Oliver	Janine Wilkin	Cindy Hall	Eloise Ullman	Deb and Mike Wagener
Nan Henry	Ann O'Malley	Susan Williams	Pamela Hanna	Nanette Vasconcells	<b>\$5,000 - \$9,999</b>
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Jenny Janis	Vikram Panchohi	Rachel Wright	Sally Horner	Erica Whorley	John Murray
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Holly Johnson	Adam Pegues	Hil Yeskey	Alison James	Rolf Ysla	<b>\$10,000+</b>
Matt Johnson	Ron Peremel	Dianna Young	James H. Johnson, Jr.	<b>\$500 - \$999</b>	Chesapeake Bay Trust
K&B True Value	Meghan Petenbrink	Megan Young	Sue King	Martin and Louise Chao	Mike and Trish Davis
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Travis Klein	Carolyn Ricketts	James and Julia Baldwin	Elizabeth Ley	Rusty Gowland	<i>*Donors listed are from</i>
Sarah Knebel	Karen Rodenhizer	Sara Ballesteros	Eric Lind	Judy Graham	<i>January 1, 2021 – June</i>
Alex Knoll	Sarah Rohrbach	Bayside Bloomers	Betsy Love and Sandie	Stephen Hamilton	<i>30, 2022 and include</i>
Thomas Knoll	Marita Roos	Garden Club	Kirkland	Missy Jones	<i>Backyard Buffers and</i>
	Teresa Rosello		Tara Mairs	David LaChapelle	<i>Groves of Gratitude</i>
	Joyce Rosencranz		Thomas Marston	Mark Laidlaw	<i>programs.</i>
	Shannon Ross				

# Our 2021-2022 Impact



ALMOST  
**130**  
TREE TROOPERS  
TRAINED TO DATE



OVER  
**300**  
STEWARDS  
TRAINED TO DATE



**575**  
PROJECTS INSTALLED



OVER  
**30,000**  
NATIVES PLANTED



OVER  
**10,000**  
STEWARD HOURS  
VOLUNTEERED



OVER  
**50,000**  
SQUARE FEET OF  
INVASIVES REMOVED

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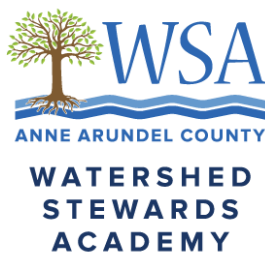
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Watershed Stewards Academy is located at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center. We are grateful for this tremendous partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, connecting Stewards with the latest environmental literacy initiatives.

**975 Indian Landing Road Millersville, MD 21108**  
[aawsa.org](http://aawsa.org) | 410-222-3831