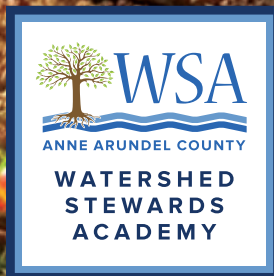


WATERSHED STEWARDS ACADEMY

Impact Report

2015





*If we each do a little,
together we can do a lot.*

In one simple slogan, a group of Stewards has encapsulated the spirit of the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) as they encouraged members of their Galesville community to install rain barrels. One rain barrel captures only a small quantity of rain water; yet an entire community of rain barrels significantly lessens the amount of stormwater flowing into our waterways. This community-wide effort means that each time it rains about 3,000 gallons of polluted runoff are prevented from flowing into the West River.

And, so it is with Watershed Stewards. WSA has now trained over 160 Master Watershed Stewards. On any given weekend, you can meet Stewards throughout Anne Arundel County installing rain barrels, planting trees, weeding rain gardens and showing neighbors how to reduce pollution through behavioral changes such as pet waste disposal and better lawn care practices. These individual actions compound exponentially and create a ripple of change in communities.

Last year, Stewards installed over 350 projects from pervious pavement and large bio-retention areas to backyard buffers. These projects covered an area the size of three and one half football fields with native plants and trees and reached over 14,000 citizens with important action-oriented messages to engage a broad section of our County to restore our Waterways. It is with profound gratitude for the hard work of each Watershed Steward and the generosity of WSA Consortium Members, donors and partners that we share this report.

SUZANNE ETGEN

Suzanne

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*The Watershed Stewards Academy
is at the forefront of change.*

Through our growing network of trained Stewards, we are engaging citizens across Anne Arundel County to learn about stormwater issues and do more to control the runoff from their community properties.

This report highlights our impacts through the varied and ever-growing number of projects that have minimized the detrimental effects of stormwater. Rain barrels, rain gardens and conservation landscapes of native plants are a few of our most effective tools. The number of installed projects is impressive — and increasing.

But the real measure of our success lies in the personal stories that you will read in these pages. Through innovative projects such as RiverWise Congregations, we are reaching hundreds of parishioners and connecting with wonderful community leaders like Rev. Johnny Calhoun. Through the efforts of committed Stewards like Sandy Hartzell and Brenda Schwaab in Linthicum, we are enlisting thousands of people through their neighborhoods, schools, businesses and houses of worship.

People often say, “If I only knew what to do to help restore local waters, I would do a lot more.” And truly, our local waters will become healthy again only through the individual actions of tens of thousands of people all across our county. The key ingredient in WSA’s model is galvanizing that behavior change. Our success comes from bringing about this change on a large scale. WSA Stewards form the link connecting members of their community to the restoration actions that make a difference in their own backyards.

Each year our impact — and our reach across the county — grow. Please join us.

STEVE RAABE

Steve

BOARD CHAIR

*While the challenges are
great, the opportunities to
conserve and preserve this
precious gift of water are
even greater. It takes each
person doing their part.*

- KIRVIN BONNER, MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD,
PAYNE MEMORIAL CHURCH, JESSUP



NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR WSA

In 2014, with help and input from Stewards, Consortium Members and Partners, the WSA Board adopted a 5-year strategic plan to focus our organization's work in ways that advance our mission: **Inspiring and facilitating change to improve the quality of waterways in Anne Arundel County and beyond.** Ambitious goals, with measurable metrics, will help WSA grow in a way that contributes to our mission. Over the next 5 years, WSA will work strategically to advance our organization as:

A LABORATORY OF INNOVATION

We develop our curriculum with the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center of Anne Arundel County's public school system. Steward candidates learn about stormwater management, plant selection, site assessment and more. They are also trained in social science so they can skillfully communicate and engage with their communities. We constantly innovate and update our curriculum as we reach out to different segments of the population and integrate the latest thinking in water restoration.



A HUB OF CONNECTIONS

The WSA forms a hub for anyone interested in working on water protection in the county. First-time volunteers can connect with their local Stewards. Our Consortium of technical experts supports the Stewards and shares best practices. Our annual conference brings together the entire network, as do frequent formal and informal gatherings. Throughout the year, WSA provides a venue to plug in, interact and collaborate.



A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Born in 2008 as a partnership of the county's public schools and its Department of Public Works, WSA is a bonified public-private partnership. Our focus rests on the two-thirds of county land that is privately owned. We are organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3), raising private-sector funds while continuing to partner with the county and encouraging public awareness of our individual responsibility to manage stormwater runoff.



WATERSHED STEWARDS ACADEMY: AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE

WSA trains citizens in Anne Arundel County to help neighbors reduce pollution in our local creeks and rivers. Our hands-on training course gives Stewards the tools to bring change to their communities, by turning knowledge and good intentions into action. Stewards work with communities to install projects such as rain gardens or conservation landscapes that capture polluted runoff. Collectively, these community and individual actions add up to better health for our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

160 WATERSHED STEWARDS

represent over 100 communities all across Anne Arundel County. Each year, Stewards inspire communities to install hundreds of successful projects and take actions that clean our waterways.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

provides the knowledge and skills to create real change. Classroom sessions are complemented by capstone projects in the field.

A LABORATORY OF INNOVATION

our curriculum is steeped in the latest science and the most effective outreach techniques.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

is provided by the area's stormwater experts through our Consortium of Support Professionals.

A UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

leverages a small public sector investment to bring significant private resources and volunteer action for a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay.

OUR IMPACT IS GROWING

as we add 25 new Stewards every year, install hundreds of projects and engage thousands of neighbors across Anne Arundel County.



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

What happens when a Steward and a WSA Consortium Member team up? Communities are transformed. That is what happened when Master Watershed Steward Charlotte Lubbert met WSA Consortium Member Matt Rhoderick in their community of Herald Harbor.

Charlotte Lubbert, a lifelong resident of Herald Harbor, was troubled by the polluted stormwaters scouring the creeks in her community. Together, with WSA Consortium Member Matt Rhoderick, she created a team that eventually grew to include other community members, local businesses, corporations and WSA Stewards.



After working on several unsuccessful grant applications, Matt and Charlotte took an alternate approach to address the community's problems. Matt, a registered landscape architect, designed a large bio-retention area to prevent polluted runoff from entering a badly eroded stream. Charlotte took on the role of convincing the community to contribute both funds and assistance to

complete the project, raising \$5,000 to construct the expansive rain garden.

Following this auspicious start, Matt and Charlotte widened their focus to address runoff from a large part of their community.

Matt trained six Stewards to conduct a community assessment of Herald Harbor. Over several weekends, they systematically studied the drainage areas of the neighborhood to identify hot spots for restoration.

Armed with the results of the assessment, the group chose to pursue a project that includes 800 feet of swales to slow and capture stormwater, a series of step pools to alleviate problems associated with stormwater-eroded streams, and a restored wetland area. Working in concert, these installations will treat more than six acres of impervious surface, preventing thousands of gallons of polluted runoff from entering the Severn River.

Matt and Charlotte have raised over \$55,000 towards the total cost of \$88,000. They will approach both private and corporate entities to raise the remaining funds.

As a dedicated WSA Consortium member, Matt not only trained Stewards to perform an effective and thorough advanced community assessment, but also donated his fees for the project to the Watersheds Stewards Academy. His generosity means that these funds can be used for the completion of other remediation projects.



CLEAN WATER COMMUNITIES



What better way to get communities enthused about stormwater management than by assisting homeowners in solving the water issues that plague their homes and properties? The Clean Water Communities program helps neighborhoods change old habits by taking collective action to clean our waterways. In 2014, Chris Moore, Kevin Green and Sue King, Stewards from Hillsmere, engaged neighbors to install projects that prevent more than 200,000 gallons of stormwater from reaching Duvall Creek each year.

In 2015, Stewards Sandy Hartzell and Brenda Schwaab piloted the same program in Linthicum, resulting in eight conservation landscapes, two rain gardens, two cisterns, three bio-swales, one dry well, more than 25 rain barrels, and the planting of dozens of native canopy trees. Together, these fixes prevent almost 100,000 gallons of runoff from entering Marley Creek each year.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

4%
PROGRAMS



79%
GRANTS
AND
CONTRACTS

*17%
CONTRIBUTIONS

2015 WSA TOTAL
INCOME \$485,901



53%
TRAINING

30%
RESTORATION

17%
OPERATIONS

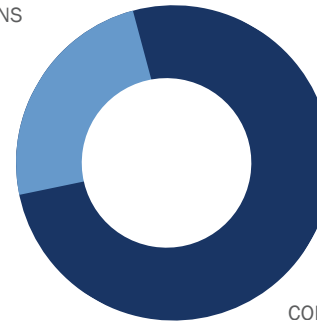
2015 WSA TOTAL
EXPENSES \$418,813

\$84,548 WSA INCOME CONTRIBUTIONS *17%



COMMUNITY MATCHING FUNDS \$852,375

24%
IN KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS



76%
CASH
CONTRIBUTIONS

2015 COMMUNITY MATCHING
FUNDS \$852,375

IN KIND AND CASH MATCHING FUNDS RAISED
BY STEWARDS, CONSORTIUM AND THEIR
COMMUNITIES TO BUILD LOCAL PROJECTS.



EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO WSA WAS MATCHED
10:1 BY CASH AND IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE
BY STEWARDS, CONSORTIUM AND THEIR COMMUNITIES
TO BUILD LOCAL RESTORATION PROJECTS.

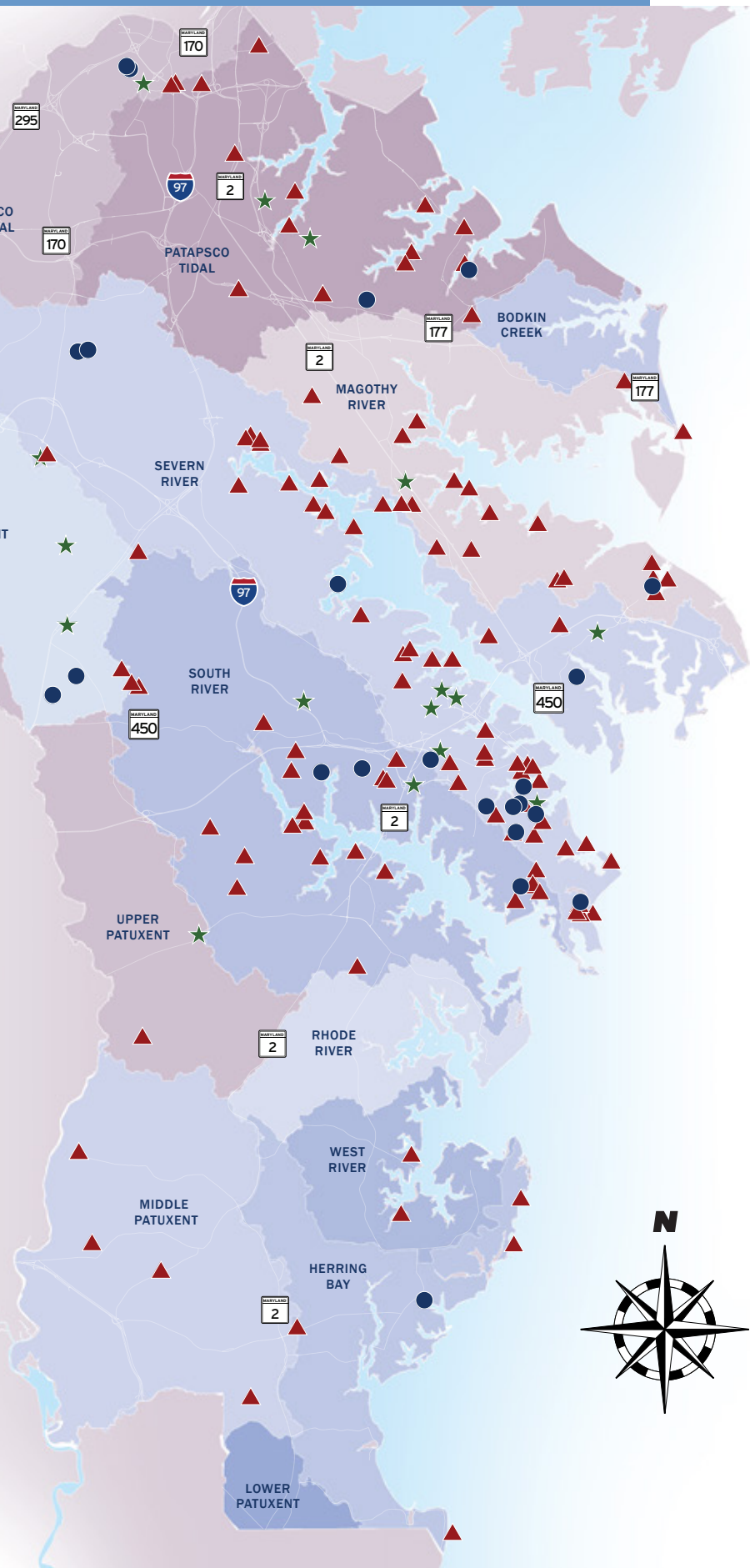
*17% Contributions refers to donations made directly to WSA by individuals, businesses and foundations.

SINCE 2009,
 WSA HAS CERTIFIED OVER
 160 MASTER WATERSHED
 STEWARDS. STEWARDS
 MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE
 IN THE COMMUNITIES
 WHERE THEY LIVE, WORK
 OR WORSHIP.

2016
 MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS,
 RIVERWISE CONGREGATION STEWARDS
 AND CLASS 8 STEWARD CANDIDATES

LEGEND

- CLASS 8 STEWARD CANDIDATES
- ▲ MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS
- ★ RIVERWISE CONGREGATIONS STEWARDS



ST. LUKE'S LEADS THE RESTORATION OF BACK CREEK

Master Watershed Steward Betsy Love has taken on a project that would have intimidated a lot of people. Not only does she plan to treat 100% of the polluted runoff from her church, her project will use her congregation's property to treat an additional 27 densely developed acres in Eastport and use the resulting practice to connect the local community to our waterways. The result of her hard work will be an extensive system of bio-swales and step pools which will treat thousands of gallons of runoff before it enters Back Creek.

The key to a successful project is the complete buy-in of partners. To that end, Betsy has spent many hours engaging partners and working through design considerations. Because her project includes two adjacent properties, Betsy had to educate and convince both property owners to participate in the project, a feat that took hundreds of hours alone. She went to community meetings, led tours, wrote letters and sent documentation, and after over a year, the adjacent property owners finally decided to participate. She also had to work within her congregation, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the regional Episcopal diocese, to gain permission to use land, which it had previously considered selling for development, for a stormwater restoration project. The legal and fiscal ramifications of this decision required a leap of faith from the church. Betsy led that leap.

Although the lion's share of funding for this project came in a recent grant from Department of Natural Resources, Betsy raised a significant amount of private funding from her church, congregation members, and community. Betsy initiated an annual festival as a benefit for the project and has raised significant private funds to match the state funding.

Betsy's leadership at St. Luke's has been both thoughtful and tenacious. She has created a collaborative and enthusiastic community that is fully in support of this BMP installation. Betsy is now joined by 4 other Stewards at St Luke's, Sandie Kirkland, Dawn Moorehead, Manon Schladen, and Daniel Walton. Without Betsy's tireless effort, the runoff from acres of impervious surfaces in Eastport would continue to wash into Back Creek.



WSA is the only Chesapeake advocacy organization that takes people with leadership skills, and empowers them to transform water quality and native habitat.

– BETSY LOVE,
MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD,
BACK CREEK



Becoming part of WSA moved me from talk to action, and gave me a source of experts and support people to assist with the action.

– ANN JACKSON, MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD,
OLDE SEVERNA PARK

CONNECTING CONGREGATIONS TO STEWARDSHIP ACTION

Over the past year, the RiverWise Congregations Program — a partnership of WSA, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake — kicked into high gear. Recognizing that faith organizations own significant swaths of impervious surface in our county and their members are sometimes under-represented in traditional watershed restoration organizations, the RiverWise partners set out to change both the landscape and the language within faith congregations across Anne Arundel County.



Every church has a creek and every creek deserves a church.

— REV. JOHNNY CALHOUN,
MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD,
MOUNT OLIVE AME CHURCH

This year, 23 Master Watershed Stewards representing 17 faith congregations from Glen Burnie to Davidsonville were trained to care for stormwater projects and establish environmental ministries in their congregations to engage fellow congregants in caring for creation. In addition, 30 projects such as rain gardens, bio-retention and pervious pavement were installed on congregation property treating acres of impervious surface that would otherwise be unaddressed. In 2016, dozens of additional projects are planned by RiverWise congregations.



Engaging our congregation in the care of creation has sparked a feeling of excitement in our youth as they cared for the rain gardens placed around our church.

— BETTY THOMPSON,
MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD,
WILSON MEMORIAL AME CHURCH



THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 SUPPORTERS

UP TO \$99

Alicia W Hosmer
Anne Dierdorff-Thomas
Barbara Fay
C. Lee Meadows
Carolyn Ricketts
Cecelia Petro
Charlotte Featherstone
Christina Vieglais
Crofton Greenery Garden Club
Darcy Herman
Deborah Hoffman
Debra Gage
Diane Evans
Duane and Stevie Wilding
Elvia Thompson
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Eric Lind
Erik Mann
Heather McCarthy
Holly Ann Willis
Jay Schwarz
Jennifer Gundersen
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Jim F. Gomoljak
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John Summers
Judy Graham
Kathleen Litchfield
Katie Bacon
Lara Mulvaney
Mary Uyeda
Maureen Cavaiola
Nina Fisher
Norman MacLeod
Sam Wynkoop
Severn Grove Ecological Design
Sharon Schroer
Sharon Stewart
Susan Lamont
Susan Saurwein
The Big Bean
Virginia C. Klocko

\$100 TO \$500

Adil Desai
Amy and Dan Clements
Ann Garvey
Ann Jackson
Betsy Love and Sandie Kirkland
Bob Royer
Brad Knopf
Charlotte Lubbert
Chase Bergeson
Chris Gordon
Clinton Daly
DesignScapes
Diane Holland
Diversified Site Works
Donald and Alpine Bird
Doug Hollmann
Eloise Ullman
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Georgia Lee Gates
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Kate Fritz
Kit Gage
Lynne Rockenbauch
MaryBeth Austin
Maryland Stream
Restoration Association
Mel Wilkins
Melanie Parker
Michael and Deborah Wagener
Minuteman Press
Patrick Fleeharty
Patrick Heenan
Ray Sullivan
Rhonda Harrison
Ronald E. Bowen
Sheen and Charlie Goldberg
Steven Raabe
Stormwater Maintenance and
Consulting, Inc
Win Decker

\$501 TO \$1000

J. Paul Rickett
Rusty Gowland
Stanley Herman
Suzanne Etgen

OVER \$1000

Baltimore Gas and
Electric Company
Bill Daniel
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Ethan Berkwits
Jim and Sarah MacNicholl
Jim and Patty Rouse
Charitable Foundation
Juliet Page
Keith Campbell Foundation
Kevin Green
Kinsey and Bruce Potter
Maryland Department of
Natural Resources
Mike and Trish Davis
National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation
Patagonia
The Helena Foundation
The Keith Campbell Foundation
for the Environment Inc.
W. R. Grace Foundation

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Hustead Landscape Architecture
Level Green Landscaping
Petro Design Build Group
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Increte of Maryland, Inc.
Cavanos Perennials
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Underwood & Associates
Homestead Gardens
Fichtner Services
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WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE
GENEROSITY OF OUR BOARD
MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM
SUPPORT WSA WITH THEIR TIME
AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

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Ethan Berkwits
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WSA STAFF

Suzanne Etgen
Executive Director
setgen@aacps.org
443-871-0700
Brad Deise
Restoration Coordinator
bdeise@aacps.org
Trish Hennessey-Webb
System Administrator
thennessy-webb@aacps.org
Lara Mulvaney
Outreach Coordinator
lmulvaney@aacps.org
Natalia Sanchez
Operations Coordinator
nsanchez@aacps.org



JOIN US!

Many of our Stewards became involved with WSA because it was an opportunity to do something real.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING REAL TOO!

To improve the waterways in Anne Arundel County, it will take EACH ONE OF US.

BECOME A MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD

Classes will prepare you to become a positive force in your neighborhood.

WORK WITH A MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Volunteer to help build a project or make a donation of materials or services.

REDUCE POLLUTION ON YOUR PROPERTY

Would you like to capture stormwater on your property? Visit www.aawsa.org to find a Steward near you and to learn more about how you can reduce pollution.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Your tax deductible donation is matched 10:1 by grants, contributions and in-kind services raised by Watershed Stewards for projects in their communities.

OUR IMPACT IS REAL

Since 2009, WSA has certified over 160 Master Watershed Stewards from Brooklyn Park to Herring Bay. Each year, these Stewards collaborate with neighbors, businesses, schools and each other to install HUNDREDS of projects that reduce pollution in our rivers and streams.

IN 2015, STEWARDS COLLECTIVELY INSTALLED:

12,700

NATIVE TREES AND PLANTS

130

RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS

350,500 s.f.

OF INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED

350

PROJECTS COVERING AN AREA
NEARLY **201,600 SQUARE FEET!**
THATS **3.5 FOOTBALL FIELDS**
IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

14,000

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
RESIDENTS RECEIVED
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



OUR MISSION

*Inspiring and facilitating
change to improve the quality
of waterways in
Anne Arundel County
and beyond.*



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.



aawsa.org

410-222-3831

975 INDIAN LANDING RD.,
MILLERSVILLE, MD 21108

