

2017

Annual Report



Solutions for healthy streams and communities



HOWARD ECO WORKS

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We Are Here!



Welcome to Howard EcoWorks' first Annual Report! It has been a long journey, but we have successfully made it into existence as an officially incorporated non-profit 501(c)3 organization effective 2017. Our mission is to empower an under-served workforce to respect and restore our natural systems for future generations.

We formed primarily:

1. Provide local administration of the Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) program.
2. Fill a gap in implementation activity and resources. We aim to get things done!

We are very excited to join the Howard County non-profit community to fill a unique niche of both workforce development and environmental restoration. We have accomplished so much in the past year and have ambitious goals for 2018. We hope you will join us on the incredible journey of building solutions for healthy streams and communities across Howard County.

Sincerely,
Lori Lilly, Executive Director
Josh Feldmark, Chair

Accomplishments

In 2017, Howard EcoWorks:

- Supported 24 workforce development opportunities;
- Provided water quality treatment to 126,628 sq. ft. of drainage area with 31,516 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces;
- Planted 300 trees;
- Removed 4,4780 lbs of bulk trash and debris from Ellicott City stream channels;
- Conducted a debris management program in the Plumtree and Little Plumtree Branches (Valley Meade);
- Delivered three public education workshops about Howard County's Green Infrastructure Network to approximately 80 people;
- Gave away 90 native plants; and
- Maintained approximately 80 acres of public lands and projects for conservation and functionality.



Summer READY Program

In 2017, the Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) program completed its sixth year in Howard County. A big change was transition of the program's administration from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to Howard EcoWorks effective July 1. The transition was challenging but successfully accomplished. Nineteen young adults were hired for the summer to complete a variety of construction and maintenance projects around the County.

Also new this year was movement of Howard EcoWorks and the READY program into the Nonprofit Collaborative (NPC), a collection of non-profits that share space and resources to run more efficient and cost-effective programs and operations. The NPC has provided much needed office and training space for staff and crews.



“READY built a large rain garden at the edge of our development in Owen Brown, close to Lake Elkhorn. The garden slows and absorbs water from heavy storms that would otherwise send more sediment into the lake, and eventually to the Patuxent River and ultimately the Bay. Our association wanted to build a rain garden previously but could not afford it. We were very pleased also that READY gives young people jobs and trains them in environmental protection. We've been very pleased with the result.”

Larry Carson, Elkhorn Landing Community Association.

What did READY program participants value about summer 2017?

“The work & camaraderie and opportunity to work hard.”

“The amazing work that gets done to better the environment.”

“I value the positive impact this company has on the community. Providing jobs for the youth. Teaching the community about stormwater and the impact it has on the Chesapeake Bay.”



What did READY program participants like most about the job?

“Working hard with others and stepping back seeing the end results.”

“Working outside and being appreciated by community members.”

“Working together with my crew and other crews to complete a project together. Also learning about plant identification and wildlife.”



“The Howard Ecoworks team has gone above and beyond for us through their expertise, from the beginning of our relationship.”

Marty Massiah and Maria Tompkins,
Greenleaf community Association

First Bioretention Construction!

The Greenleaf neighborhood, located in the Owen Brown Village of Columbia, has problems including heaving and uneven sidewalks, pooling of water creating icy conditions in the winter and areas of erosion and bare soil caused by unmitigated stormwater. HEW developed a stormwater plan for the neighborhood in 2015 and, in 2016, our Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) program constructed four rain gardens and a conservation landscape in the neighborhood that treated 12,000 square feet of residential drainage area.

In 2017, READY constructed their first two bioretention facilities, which were engineered by Howard Soil Conservation District and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Howard County. The facilities reduce nitrogen by 7.6 lb/yr, phosphorus by 0.52 lb/yr and sediment by 575 lb/yr. These bioretention facilities represent a significant increase in the technical capacity and capabilities of the READY program.

Seeds of Change – Landscapes for Life

HEW continues to operate a native plant nursery at the Howard County Department of Corrections and is calling the nursery *Seeds of Change*. Seeds of Change will be growing more “local ecotype” plants to support local genetic diversity and pollinators.

In 2017, HEW’s partnership with the Corrections Department expanded to include education and training to the in-mate population on sustainable landscaping and gardening. HEW staff delivered a curriculum called Landscapes for Life; nine people participated in the training that included both classroom and hands-on field experience.

HEW continues to fundraise to support workforce development opportunities at the Corrections Department and, to that end, was one of the finalists in the Horizon Foundation’s Changemaker Challenge event for community innovators this past fall.



Ellicott City Channel Maintenance

Regular debris maintenance in the Ellicott City stream channels has been on-going since 2015. Debris blockages have been documented as a contributor to the 2011 Tropical Storm Lee flood, which highlighted the need for a continuous maintenance effort. After the 2016 flood, READY crews removed more than 31,000 lbs of bulk trash and debris. In fall, 2017, an additional 4,500 lbs of material was removed by the Watershed Action Team.



Watershed Action Team

HEW began a new program in 2017 - the Watershed Action Team (WAT) is an evolution of the READY program that intends to give applied experience to recent graduates of environmental studies programs. "WATers" will complete a service term between Sept. and June, complete various environmental construction and maintenance projects, conduct community outreach in Ellicott City's Tiber Hudson watershed, are given valuable professional development opportunities and will be certified as Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professionals.



Looking Forward to 2018

We have a lot in store for 2018! We will be launching the Ellicott City Soak It Up campaign, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife and Foundation, to engage the private residential community in efforts to mitigate stormwater from their properties. We will launch our Community Partnerships for Clean Water project, funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Howard County, which is helping us to formalize and standardize our community outreach and implementation process. We will be completing our first strategic plan thanks to generous assistance and support from a Leadership Howard County team. In 2018, we plan to be much more engaged in the community and with old and new partners as we continue to forge our identify and make lasting change to environmental social systems throughout the County.

Staff

- Lori Lilly, Executive Director
- Alex Nussbaum, Restoration and Outreach Coordinator
- Irene Sadler, Nursery Manager & Landscape Designer



Board of Directors

- Josh Feldmark, Resource Evolution LLC (Chair)
- Ishani Gandhi (Treasurer), CPA, CFE, PwC
- Guy W. Hager, Retired, formerly Senior Director, Parks & People Foundation (Vice Chair)
- Richard M. Hesse, Retired, formerly COO/CFO The Maryland Science Center
- Bill Mahoney, Advisory Member, Howard County Office of Community Sustainability
- Bob Marietta, Howard Community College
- Christiana Mercer Rigby, Community Volunteer
- Jaison Renkenberger, Teacher, University of Maryland / Anne Arundel County Public School System
- Misty Sexton, Solutions Advocate
- Rizwan Siddiqi, P.E., EBA Engineering
- Vacant (Secretary)

Partners

We are extremely grateful to the following partners that supported our work in 2017 through grants, contracts, donations, in kind resources, letters of support and environmental stewardship.



Photo Credit: Mark Miller

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- American Native Plants
- Association of Community Services
- Babikow
- Barnside Condominium Association
- Beth Shalom Congregation
- British American Auto Care
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Columbia Association
- Deering Woods Condominium Association
- Dorsey Search Homeowners Association
- Elkhorn Landing Community Association
- Ellicott City Flood Workgroup
- Ellicott City Partnership
- First Presbyterian Church
- Franciscan Friars
- Greenleaf Community Association
- Hideaway Community Association
- Howard Community College
- Howard County Department of Corrections
- Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
- Howard County Department of Public Works
- Howard County Office of Community Sustainability
- Howard Hughes Corporation
- Leadership Howard County
- MD Department of Natural Resources
- MD Nonprofits
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Nonprofit Collaborative
- North St. John's Swim Club
- People Acting Together in Howard
- Salon Marielle
- New Moon Nursery
- Sewells Orchard Homeowner Association
- Stonebrook Community Association
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church
- Temple Isaiah
- Waldens Landing Community Association
- Watershed Stewards Academy

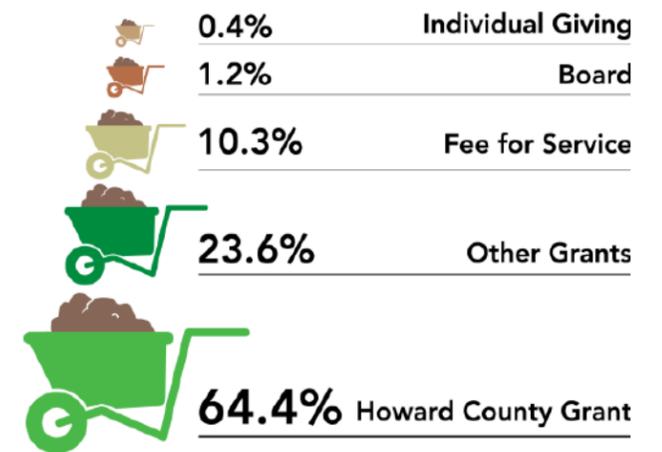
Editor and Writer: Lori Lilly
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Financial Report

Statement of Activities 2017

Operating Revenue

Grants		
Howard County Grant	\$172,532	
Other Grants	\$63,300	
Total Grants	\$235,832	
Fee for Service	\$27,606	
Contributions		
Board	\$3,272	
Individual giving	\$1,060	
Total Contributions	\$4,332	
Total Revenue	\$267,770	



Expenditures

Personnel	\$175,947
Program	\$57,328
Operations	\$27,160
Total Expenditures	\$260,435
Change in Net Assets	\$7,335

