



# ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO 2025

## Dear PHG Volunteers,

Because of you, the Patapsco River Valley is a healthier, more vibrant, and more welcoming place for everyone. On behalf of all of us at Patapsco Heritage Greenway, thank you for your generosity, dedication, and unwavering commitment to caring for this remarkable landscape.

Every tree planted, every bag of litter removed, every invasive plant cleared, and every student inspired represents something much greater than a single volunteer project. Together, these efforts create healthier, more diverse forests, cleaner waterways, thriving wildlife habitat, and stronger connections between people and the places they call home.

Each volunteer has helped restore native landscapes by planting trees that will provide shade, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and support wildlife for generations to come. Through these countless hours of stewardship, volunteers are ensuring that the Patapsco River Valley remains a place where both people and wildlife can flourish. The work of removing invasive plant species has created opportunities for native plants to reclaim their place, strengthening the health and resilience of our forests.

Just as importantly, you have helped inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. Whether assisting with educational programs, supporting field experiences, or sharing your

enthusiasm for the outdoors, you have helped students discover the incredible history, ecology, and cultural significance of the Patapsco River Valley. Those moments of curiosity and discovery often become the first steps toward a lifelong appreciation of nature.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without volunteers like you. Your willingness to give your time, energy, and talents reflects a deep belief that our natural spaces are worth protecting. Every hour you volunteer leaves a lasting impact—not only on the land itself, but also on the people who experience it.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this journey together. There is always more to restore, more to discover, and more people to inspire. We are grateful to have you as part of the PHG family and look forward to all we will accomplish together.

Thank you for helping preserve, protect, interpret, and restore the Patapsco River Valley. Because of you, this special place will continue to thrive for generations to come.

**Diana Devers**

Director of Environmental Programs & Engagement  
Patapsco Heritage Greenway

# Environmental Program

at a glance

**91**

stewardship  
events

**5,970.5**

volunteer hours

**190**

water quality  
volunteer monitors



**1,925**  
volunteers

**56,823**  
pounds of trash  
removed



**36**

education workshops

**4,553**

workshop participants



**527,434**  
square feet of  
invasive plants removed



**149**

trees planted



**1,138**

trees maintained



**42**

stream watcher sites



# Stewardship

## in the Patapsco Watershed

### STREAM CLEANUPS

As part of our efforts, we organize multiple stream cleanups every year in locations throughout the Patapsco Watershed to prevent litter from entering and polluting our waterways.



In 2025, **604 volunteers** spent **1,458.5 hours** to remove **56,823 pounds of trash** from the Patapsco Watershed!



### INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Invasive plants can quickly spread and overtake an ecosystem. At invasive removal events, volunteers work alongside us to identify and remove invasive species such as vines that suffocate and weaken trees and grasses that outcompete native plant species.



In 2025, **634 volunteers** spent **1,831.5 hours** to remove **527,434 square feet of invasive plants** from the Patapsco Watershed!



### TREE PLANTINGS & MAINTENANCE

Planting trees is crucial for the environment, as they absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygen. Trees also play an important role in preventing soil erosion, stormwater runoff and providing wildlife habitat.

However, planting trees is just the beginning. Proper tree maintenance, such as periodic watering, weeding, and mulching, is essential to ensure the survival rate of newly planted trees.



In 2025, **452 volunteers** spent **911.5 hours** to **plant 149 trees** and **maintain 1,138 trees** in the Patapsco Watershed!





# Become a PHG Steward!

## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The Water Quality Monitoring Program's team of staff and trained volunteers collect data on various parameters, including dissolved oxygen, pH levels, conductivity, turbidity, and E. coli bacteria counts.

In addition to assessing traditional water quality parameters, the team collects macroinvertebrate biological data in the spring and fall. Benthic macroinvertebrates, such as insects, crustaceans, and mollusks, inhabit the streambed and are sensitive to changes in water quality. The presence of a diverse population of pollution-sensitive macroinvertebrates indicates a healthy and thriving stream ecosystem.

By gathering and analyzing data from 12 sites along the non-tidal portion of the Patapsco River, the team gains insight into the overall water quality of the watershed and detects potential issues or trends that may affect the ecosystem. The results of each year's data collection is published in the **Non-Tidal Patapsco River Report Card**.



In 2025, **190 volunteers**, including **12 trained monitors**, spent **975 hours** over **96 days** to monitor the Patapsco Watershed!

Scan to view the **Non-Tidal Patapsco River Report Card**

or visit [patapsco.org/water-quality-monitoring](https://patapsco.org/water-quality-monitoring)



## COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAMS

At Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG), we believe everyone can make a difference in protecting the Patapsco watershed. Our community science programs offer hands-on opportunities to explore local ecosystems while collecting valuable data. No experience is needed.

**Stream Watchers:** Help keep our waterways healthy by adopting a section of stream. Volunteers monitor stream conditions, report issues like erosion or pollution, and collect basic water quality data, including pH, temperature, and observations of aquatic insects.

**Salt Watch:** Join Salt Watch to monitor chloride levels in local waterways before and after winter storms using simple test strips. Free testing kits are provided by our partner, the Izaak Walton League of America, making it easy to gather data on the impact of road salt on our rivers and streams.

**Vernal Pool Surveys:** Every spring, seasonal wetlands come alive with frogs, salamanders, and other fascinating wildlife. Join PHG on guided hikes to discover these unique habitats, learn how to identify vernal pools, and help document the species that depend on them for survival.

Learn more at [patapsco.org/stewardship/environmental-programs](https://patapsco.org/stewardship/environmental-programs)



THE CITIZENS OF  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

