



Patapsco Heritage Greenway | August/September 2021 Newsletter

YOU
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to keep...

the wheels turning



good things flowing



moving forward



charting the future



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New Environmental Program Staff

With former environmental program manager Hannah Zinnert departing for graduate school and program coordinator DJ Scheckelhoff leaving for a job with Howard County, PHG is pleased to welcome two new environmental program staff. Diana Devers joins us as our new

Environmental Program Manager. For the last five years, Diana worked at Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, where she served as Manager of Public Programs, Naturalist and Summer Camp Director. A Maryland native, Diana has a BA in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland and an MS in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, College Park's Department of Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Sciences where she completed her thesis, "The effect of Hurricane Sandy on New Jersey Atlantic Coastal Marshes Evaluated with Satellite Imagery." Diana has been an environmental educator for over ten years and completed several Maryland DNR courses, including Project Wild, Project Wet, and Project Learning Tree. She has conducted several large tree planting and wetland reconstruction projects through Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Irvine Nature Center, and SeaCamp, Inc. Diana is also a lifetime Girl Scout, outdoor enthusiast, sports lover and rugby player. Diana looks forward to working with our partners and volunteers across the Patapsco Valley in leading environmental and educational initiatives that protect and preserve the Patapsco watershed.



Mandy Richardson DeLeo joins us as our new Water Quality and Environmental Program Coordinator. Mandy brings a diverse range of field experience to the position, having served as a 7th

grade science teacher in the Howard County Public School system for six years, seven years as a scientist with Tetra Tech and two years as a community organizer with Maryland Save Our Streams. Over the last several years, Mandy has been deeply involved with her local PTA,

**member and
join us for
our annual
members
meeting on
September
22 at 6:30
PM via
Zoom.
Register
[HERE.](#)**



Watch our [MEMORIALIZATION](#) short in our ongoing PATAPSCO SHORTS video series.

Stay tuned for an upcoming short exploring the site of the Guinness Brewery.



serving as president and environmental committee co-chair. Mandy holds a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies (Environmental Science) from UMBC and an MS in Biology from Towson University where she completed her thesis, "The effects of urbanization on the reproduction and lipid cycling of the stream fish, Blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*)."

Mandy is excited to be involved in PHG's community-based environmental education programs and expand our water quality monitoring program, which is supported through a new grant from the Howard County Office of Community Sustainability.

Heritage and Environmental Program Updates

The Heritage Program continues to develop self-led history scavenger hunts within the PVHA. If you have specific sites or areas that have a rich history worth exploring, email heritage coordinator [Kyla Cools](#) so that we can add them to the list of sites in our scavenger hunts. The Heritage Program is preparing to host cemetery clean up and recordation events this fall. These events will be pilot programs with a more focused emphasis on the intersections of the environment and heritage, rather than solely invasive species clean ups. Please keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities - we'd love to have you join us.

Fall 2021 Season--Rolling Event Sign-up

We will be announcing fall environmental events on a rolling basis using the registration model we developed last year. As of now, events will NOT be limited to 10 people as they were during FY21, but we will remain vigilant and follow public health guidelines to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers.

PaSNAPsco Photography Contest

We are pleased to announce the launch of our 2021 PaSNAPsco Photography Contest. For a full set of rules, deadlines, submission requirements and eligibility, click [here](#). Winning photographs from 2021 will appear in the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area's 2022 paSNAPsco Calendar and on the Patapsco Heritage Greenway website. We can't wait to see your photographs of the Valley!



Patapsco Valley Heritage Area Mini-Grants and Sponsorships

Patapsco Valley Heritage Area partners and stakeholders are eligible to apply for **mini-grants** of up to \$5000 to support non-capital projects. Nonprofit organizations and government entities in

the PVHA and/or those who will conduct the work within the PVHA are eligible.

Applications for FY22 are now open. For more information about the mini-grant program, including the application packet, guidelines, scoring rubric and a list of past mini-grants, click [here](#).



We also offer smaller **sponsorships** of up to \$1000 for events and programs in the PVHA. These are separate from the mini-grants program and organizations can receive both a mini-grant and sponsorship. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply online. PHG programs aim to advance environmental, historical, artistic, cultural and recreational goals and opportunities for the region.

Learn More About PHG's Water Quality Monitoring Program

Beginning in Fall of 2020 our stellar Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern Abri Segal started researching and designing a stream monitoring program here in the Patapsco Valley. Since April 2021 she has been collecting data bimonthly with a team of dedicated volunteers at eight sites in the Patapsco watershed. With the data set that Abri has assembled, we hope to get a sense of water quality trends and stream condition in the Patapsco Valley. Abri has finished her time at PHG, but she has left us with her capstone project- this ArcGIS



Storymap which is the culmination of her efforts during her time here. The story map highlights the details of the sampling program including sampling site selection, parameters monitored, and preliminary data collection results. If you are interested in the condition of our streams, you should definitely check this map out!

Her work gives us an excellent start on our water quality data collection, which we are growing into a larger and more broad ranging program. We need at least a year of data collection at the current sites to be able to document trends and make conclusions about water quality. While we have a strong beginning, we need more hands on deck to do the monitoring and grow the program.

Want to join us to help monitor our streams? Monitored some streams already and want to take a leadership position? Email [Mandy DeLeo](#) for more information. We look forward to working with you to document and protect our waterways.

For upcoming event updates, connect to PHG social media.

[PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, Inc.](#)

"Advancing the interests of the Patapsco Valley and all who share it."

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