



# LITTLE FALLS WATERSHED ALLIANCE

EDUCATION - ACTION - STEWARDSHIP

## 2016 Annual Report

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

# Little Falls Watershed Alliance

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- ❑ Little Falls Watershed Alliance is an environmental stewardship group, founded in 2008 by a group of neighbors committed to protecting the fragile natural environment of the Little Falls and Willett Branches and surrounding Little Falls watershed. Our mission is to ensure that the natural spaces in our area persist for generations to come. We strive to bring neighbors together in order to build awareness, improve the natural habitat, protect our community's natural heritage, and enhance the community's enjoyment of our creeks and wooded areas.
- ❑ From our first meeting, we have grown to almost 2,000 members and engaged more than 3,000 volunteers in over 600 work days and other activities. Our volunteers have logged over 5,800 hours of service to the watershed.
- ❑ As stewards, we are committed to restoring the water quality, natural habitat and ecological well-being of the Little Falls Watershed. We focus on trash abatement, habitat restoration, and stormwater management.
- ❑ As advocates, we speak up for the needs of our parks and natural areas, and we advocate for clean water laws that are fair and enforced consistently.
- ❑ As educators, we work with neighbors, school groups, local businesses and other community members to educate through classroom activities, festivals, community work days and outreach events.

# Where Are We?



- 9.5 square miles in Lower Montgomery County and Upper NW DC
- Three Creeks –
  - Little Falls Branch
  - Willett Branch
  - Minnehaha Branch
- Three Main Parks:
  - Little Falls Stream Valley Park
  - Capital Crescent Trail
  - C&O Canal

# Stewardship - Community Work Days: Watershed Clean-up

- Eighth year
- Three locations in the watershed
- Over 200 volunteers
- Partner with Montgomery Parks, Alice Ferguson Foundation, and local garden club and citizens associations



# Stewardship - Community Work Days: Trash Removal



**Top Cleaning Group,  
Three-Time Winner  
Keep Montgomery County  
Beautiful Program**

- ❑ Partnership with Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County DOT
- ❑ Every second Saturday
- ❑ 151 volunteers; 309 hours
- ❑ 114 huge bags of trash
- ❑ 52 bags of recyclables
- ❑ Over 4,000 pounds of trash in 2016!

# Stewardship - Community Work Days: Invasive Weed Removal

- ❑ Three work days a month
- ❑ Remove non-native invasive plants
- ❑ Partnership with Montgomery Parks
- ❑ 321 volunteers; over 1,000 hours



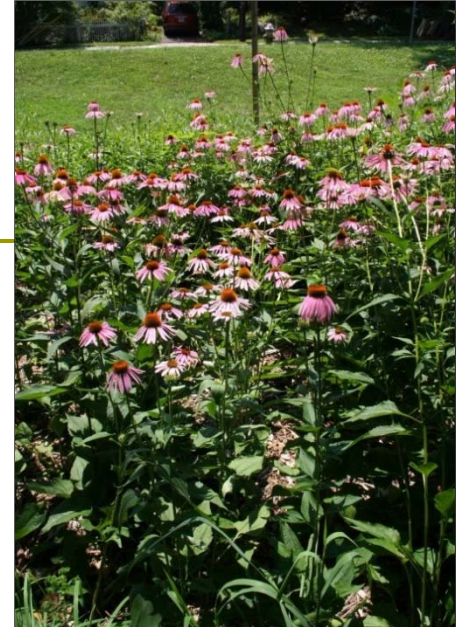
# Stewardship - Habitat Restoration: Norwood Meadow

- ❑ Partnership with Montgomery Parks
- ❑ First meadow installed in a County park outside of Brookside Gardens
- ❑ Community planting days have installed over 2,500 native grasses and wildflowers
- ❑ Grant from Whole Foods paid for soil preparation
- ❑ In fifth year



# Stewardship - Habitat Restoration: Westbrook ES Meadow

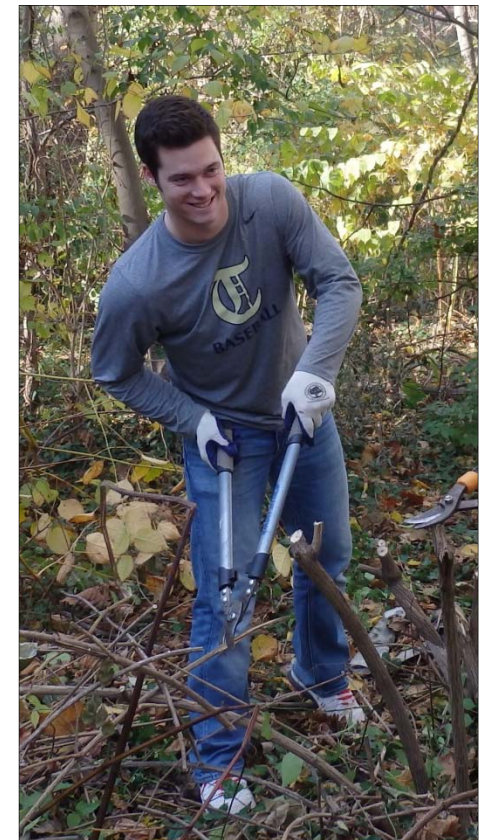
- ❑ Partnership with Montgomery Parks and Westbrook Elementary School (MCPS)
- ❑ Students from the elementary school grew trees and plants from seeds
- ❑ Local neighbors maintain meadow
- ❑ In ninth year





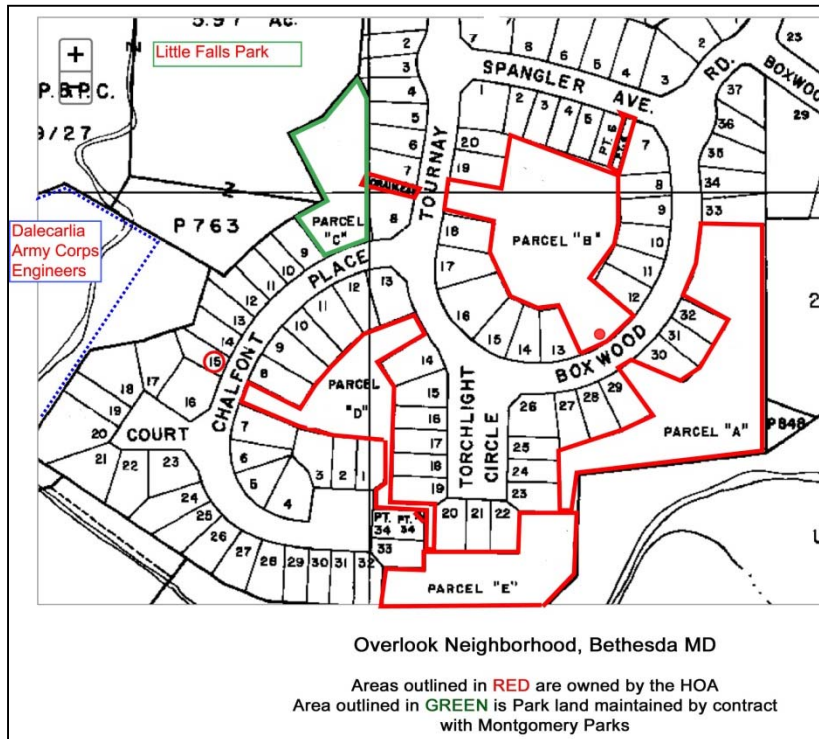
# Stewardship - Habitat Restoration: Green Acres Meadow

- ❑ Partnership with Department of Transportation
- ❑ Neighborhood led
- ❑ Phase One completed - 200 volunteer hours spent clearing non-native invasive plants



# Stewardship - Stormwater Management: Overlook HOA

Awarded \$48,000 grant from Montgomery County and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop stormwater management plan for Overlook Homeowners Association, Bethesda Maryland and install demonstration raingarden and conservation landscaping.



# Education and Outreach: Creek Critter Days

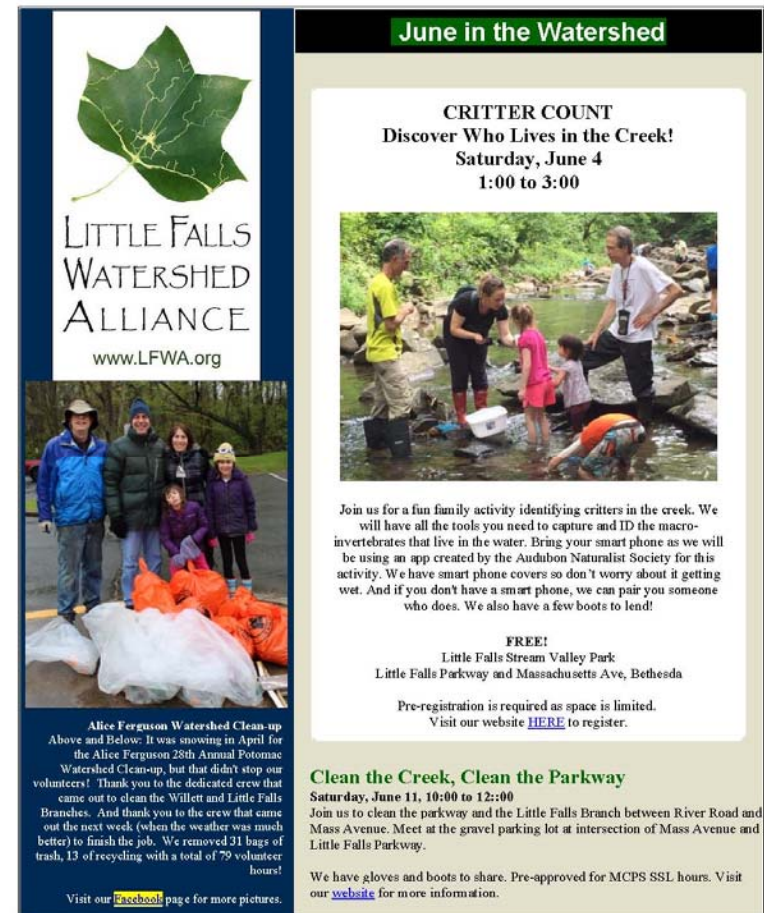
- ❑ Free family event to hunt for Macro-invertebrates
- ❑ Educates on stream health and engages public in stream ecology and understanding the need for clean water
- ❑ Two events a year lead by LFWA Stream Monitoring Team
- ❑ Partnership with Audubon Naturalist Society



# Education and Outreach:

## Social Media, Community Events

- ❑ Publish monthly e-newsletter with information on environmental issues, native plants and events of interest which is sent to 2,200 people
- ❑ Presented to three area garden clubs on issues facing the watershed
- ❑ Tabled at neighborhood events
- ❑ Developed educational events for cub scouts
- ❑ Classroom presentation for Sidwell Friend second graders
- ❑ Active Facebook page with pictures of events and exchange of information on native plants, stormwater issues, events of interest



**June in the Watershed**

**CRITTER COUNT**  
Discover Who Lives in the Creek!  
Saturday, June 4  
1:00 to 3:00

Join us for a fun family activity identifying critters in the creek. We will have all the tools you need to capture and ID the macro-invertebrates that live in the water. Bring your smart phone as we will be using an app created by the Audubon Naturalist Society for this activity. We have smart phone covers so don't worry about it getting wet. And if you don't have a smart phone, we can pair you someone who does. We also have a few boots to lend!

**FREE!**  
Little Falls Stream Valley Park  
Little Falls Parkway and Massachusetts Ave, Bethesda

Pre-registration is required as space is limited.  
Visit our [website](#) to register.

**Clean the Creek, Clean the Parkway**  
Saturday, June 11, 10:00 to 12:00  
Join us to clean the parkway and the Little Falls Branch between River Road and Mass Avenue. Meet at the gravel parking lot at intersection of Mass Avenue and Little Falls Parkway.

We have gloves and boots to share. Pre-approved for MCPS SSL hours. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

**Alice Ferguson Watershed Clean-up**  
Above and Below: It was snowing in April for the Alice Ferguson 28th Annual Potomac Watershed Clean-up, but that didn't stop our volunteers! Thank you to the dedicated crew that came out to clean the Willett and Little Falls Branches. And thank you to the crew that came out the next week (when the weather was much better) to finish the job. We removed 31 bags of trash, 13 of recycling with a total of 79 volunteer hours!

Visit our [Facebook](#) page for more pictures.

# Education and Outreach: Creek Monitoring

- ❑ Monitor Little Falls Branch four times a year
- ❑ 13 person teamed trained to capture and identify macro-invertebrates living on the bottom of the creek.
- ❑ Partnership with Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)
- ❑ Use Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) protocol
- ❑ Report data to ANS and to MDE



## Advocacy:

# Willett Branch Stream Valley Park

Successfully advocated for a new park and naturalization of the Willett Branch for the Westbard area. Recognized as leader in this effort.

- ❑ Met with all County Council members and State Senator and Delegates to discuss the plans for the new park
- ❑ Requested and participated in monthly stakeholder meetings to plan park and make sure it adhered to the strictest environmental standards
- ❑ Formed a History Committee to research history of River road African American Community and cemetery and held public meeting to present findings
- ❑ Created film on vision for the new park which has been viewed by over 1,000 people on You Tube
- ❑ Lead three community walks down the Willett Branch to educate on the need for the new park



## Advocacy:

# MS4 Permit, Pesticide Ban, Styrofoam Ban

- ❑ Testified for State-wide ban of Styrofoam (polystyrene) as members of Trash Free Maryland. Vendors would be required to use recycle or compostable containers for carry-out food
- ❑ Worked with Stormwater Partners to advocate for stronger implementation of green techniques for managing stormwater including raingardens, conservation landscaping, pervious pavement and dry wells for the new MS4 (stormwater) permit
- ❑ Provided comments and testimony for Montgomery County Pesticide Ban working with Safe Grow Montgomery
- ❑ Members of Choose Clean Water Coalition. Attended regional meetings to discuss issues effecting the health of the Chesapeake Watershed



# Partners in Stewardship

**Over 30 community partners support our efforts including:**

George Washington Freshman Experience, Accenture, Wedding Wire, Spark Post, Abt Consulting, Mover Moms, Outdoor Illumination, Audubon Naturalist Society, Sidwell Friends Lower School, Cub Scout Pack 256, Montgomery Parks, UCG, DSG, Westland Middle School, the Democratic National Committee, Ledo's Pizza, Westmoreland Church, St. Dunstan's Church, Westmoreland Hills Garden Club, the Citizen's Coordinating Council of Friendship Heights, the Chevy Chase Garden Club, and Young Ambassadors for Community Service (YACS) Programme.





# Awards, Recognition, Training

- ❑ Executive Director Sarah Morse was recognized by Maryland Recreation and Parks Association for with the 2016 Community Volunteer Outstanding Service Award.
- ❑ Executive Director Sarah Morse was awarded the a Certificate of Recognition by the County Wide Recreation Advisory Board for her professional excellence in service to Montgomery Parks.
- ❑ LFWA Volunteers were honored by Montgomery County Council with a proclamation to celebrate our efforts to clean the Parks and streams in our watershed.
- ❑ Board members attend annual three day Chesapeake Bay Forum to keep current with latest information on watershed and clean water management.



# 2017 Budget

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## Income

Chesapeake Bay Trust	\$47,450.00
Foundations	\$2,000.00
Individuals	\$20,000.00

**Total** **\$69,450.00**

## Expense

Advocacy	\$2,000.00
Education and outreach	\$5,000.00
Stewardship	\$9,000.00
Science	\$500.00
Overlook project	\$47,450.00
Fund raising	\$1,000.00
Management & administration	\$4,500.00

**Total** **\$69,450.00**

**Net Income (Expense)** **\$0.00**

# Board of Directors

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- Jack Sobel, President\*
- Mikel Moore, Vice President\*
- Jonathan Breul, Treasurer\*
- Sara Robinson, Secretary\*
- Wendy Cohen
- George Wyeth
- Maurie Kathan\*\*
- Dan Dozier\*\*
- Suzanne Richman\*\*

\* Returning officers

\*\* Retiring directors

# 2016 Donors

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Priscila Ahmed, Alliance For the Chesapeake Bay, Carol Andress, Anonymous (6), Marion Ballard, Lynn Balzer-Martin, Joan Barron and Paul Long, David and Nancy Batson, Emily Best, Robert Blake, Marna Blanchette, Bruce and Frazier Blaylock, Julius and Lorelei Bodie, Robert Borochoff, Peter Brandriss, Theresa Brandt, Jonathan Breul, David Brooks, Arlene Bruhn, Ellen Buchanan, Joe and Betsy Bush, Angela Campbell, George Clarke, Wendy Cohen, Ann Cornell, Cornell Douglas Foundation , Colette Cowey, Ursala Daniels, Suzanne Dater, Alan Dock, David Donahue, Dan Dozier, Michael Dreeben, Lisa Dunner, Jenny Sue Dunner, David Elfin, Victoria Elliott, Hiroko and Yukinori Endo, Julie Farkas, Sarah Farnsworth, Janet Fernandez, Lucy Freeman, Cinzia Furlanetto, Teresa Fynes, Josiane Gabel, James Gallagher, Avni Goksel, Seth Goldman, Spencer Gordon, Jr., Cynthia Green, Bill Gruen, Dana Gusky, Julie Hamre, Lawrence and Carol Carnes Heller, Michael Hill, Richard P. and June C. Humbert, Ilene Ianniello, Robert Ives, Debbie Kahn, Deborah Kalb, Hugh Kaplan, Lorrie Kaplan, Bernard Kashman, Boardman Kathan, Maurie Kathan, Joey Kathan, David Kathan, Irene Boardman Kathan Foundation, Nicholas and Lynn Kauffman, Lorelei Kelly, Marguerite Kingston, Alan and Alice Klavans , Linda Koenig, Adam Kolton, Robert Kreiser, Gary Ladner, Amy LeSueur, Judy Lieberman, Ruth Lis and Mark Perlis, Janet Lowenthal, Virginia Mahoney, Jennifer Mallon, Kevin Marcou, Martin Family Foundation , Fiona Martin-Vargo, Elliot Maxwell, Peter Mayer, Nancy and Bill McCloskey, Felicity McGrath, Michele McNally, Sharon Metcalf, Dan Mick, Robyn Miller-Tarnoff, Mikel Moore, Sarah Morse, Erica Morse, Cornelia Morsey, Janusz Mrozek, David Muhlbaum, Amy Nadel, Katherine Nelson, Abby Nolan, Suzanne and Marc Parsons, Sarah Patton, Margaret Pfohl, Cathy Pickar, Birdie Pieczenik, Ronald and Cary Poropatich, Nadia Raikin, Amy Reichert, Suzanne Bogart and Gerald L. Richman, Max Richman, Sara Robinson, William Price Roe, Frank Sanford, Deborah Schumann, Janell Schweickert, Catherine Scott, Joshua Seidman, Marnie Shaul, Elsa Silverman, William Simone, Jeffrey Slavin, Ana Sobalvarro, Jack and Karen Ziffer Sobel, Howard and Dolores Solomon, Robert Soofer, Kay Stevens, Janet Stotsky, Sally Strain, Mary Sutherland, Greta Swanson, Kenny Foster and Kari Swenson, Ann and Trevor Swett III, Kathryn Thomas, Eugene Tillman, Thomas Verratti, Marilynn Vismara, Colin Warren, Albert Wavering, Westmoreland Church, Westmoreland Hills Garden Club, Carol White, Madeline Wilks, James Wrona, George Wyeth, Anne and Dean Yap, and Theresa Zmola