



The Chesapeake Bay Trust

Overview



What is the Chesapeake Bay Trust?

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is the only nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in Maryland. Created in 1985 by the Maryland General Assembly, our goal is to increase stewardship through grant programs, special initiatives, and partnerships that support environmental education, restoration, and community engagement activities.

In 27 years, the Trust has awarded over \$50 million through 8,000 grants to fund wetlands restoration, living shorelines, oyster seeding, tree plantings, water quality monitoring, educational experiences, and other projects. In 2012, the Trust funded more than \$5.8 million in grants and reached 120,000 Marylanders in every county and Baltimore City.

How is the Chesapeake Bay Trust funded?

The Trust prides itself on a strong reputation for being fiscally sound. For more than a decade, the Trust has received a “Four Star Rating” from Charity Navigator, placing us in the top 1% of charities nationwide. In 2012, 90 cents of every dollar the Trust received was directed to its Chesapeake Bay restoration and education programs. The Trust’s funding comes from three major sources: the Treasure the Chesapeake license plate program, donations from the Maryland state income tax check-off, and private and public partnerships.

- Treasure the Chesapeake License Plate: Approximately 1 in 10 Marylanders owns a bay plate, and the program raises approximately \$3 million per year to support Trust grant projects and programs.
- Maryland State Income Tax Check-Off: Each year Marylanders contribute approximately \$1.1 million through the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund.
- Other contributions: Through government partnerships, business sponsorships and individual contributions, the Trust raises an additional \$2-\$3 million each year. The Trust collaborates with a host of federal, state and local agencies on its grant programs and specific initiatives, as well as numerous foundation and nonprofit partners to support restoration and outreach programs.

What types of projects does the Chesapeake Bay Trust fund?

The Chesapeake Bay Trust provides funding through 10 competitive grant programs that support restoration, community outreach, and education. These programs: Mini Grants, Outreach and Community Engagement, Environmental Education, Capacity Building, Pioneer, Restoration, Living Shorelines, Community Greening, Green Streets and Watershed Assistance, are designed to offer a unique outcome toward the collaborative mission of Bay restoration, outreach and education. The Trust is incredibly measurable with its efforts and outcomes and its grant programs are developed, refined, and assessed with the aid of state and federal technical experts.

How is the Chesapeake Bay Trust governed?

The Trust is governed by a 19-member Board of Trustees that set policies relating to grant making, spending, investment, management, and governance. The 19-member Board consists of fourteen members appointed by the Governor, two ex-officio representatives from the State General Assembly, one representative from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, one representative from the Maryland Department of the Environment, and one representative from the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

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Trust Environmental Impact

In 2012, Trust grantees installed/restored:

- 44 acres of stream buffers, oyster reefs, and wetlands
- 180,000 native trees and plants
- 6,320 feet of living shoreline

and removed:

- 70 tons of trash

and engaged:

- 84,000 students
- 4,600 teachers
- 34,000 volunteers

