

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network FY 2009 Financial Assistance Awards

Gateway: Adkins Arboretum

Recipient: Adkins Arboretum

Financial Award: \$52,608

Chesapeake Land Stewardship Initiative - The Chesapeake Land Stewardship Initiative is a three-prong project spearheaded by Adkins Arboretum that will result in restoration and accompanying interpretive projects at three Gateways sites on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Meadow restoration at Adkins Arboretum, wetland enhancement at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, and demonstration rain garden Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum will create demonstration sites in three distinct Bay ecosystems to encourage land stewardship practices and raise awareness of planting for wildlife habitat. A brochure and signage at all three locations will interpret the projects and make clear the link between land stewardship and the health of the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, the project encourages volunteer involvement and fosters cooperation among Gateways sites.

Contact: Ellie Altman, 410.634.2847, ealtman@adkinsarboretum.org

Congressional District: MD 01

Gateway: Belle Isle State Park, Caledon State Park, Chippokes Plantation State Park, First Landing State Park, Kiptopeke State Park, Leesylvania State Park, Mason Neck State Park, Shenandoah River State Park, Westmoreland State Park and York River State Park

Recipient: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Financial Award: \$150,000

Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps - The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps (CBGYC) is an opportunity to actively foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake and improve public access along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail by engaging volunteer youth teams and supervisors in work projects and environmental education at 10 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Virginia State Parks Gateway locations. The program will allow the youth, supervisors and park visitors develop stewardship ethics through an understanding of resource management. A team will live and work at each Gateway location for three weeks providing 1,560 volunteer hours per site. And while the entire program, including work projects is rooted in environmental education, an additional 120 hours of dedicated environmental education programming will be provided to participants per location. This program is modeled after a proven, successful program within Virginia State Parks and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

Contact: Gaston Rouse, 703.583.5497, vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov

Congressional District: VA01, 02, 10, 11

Gateway: Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Recipient: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Financial Award: \$35,280

Waterways: Shaping and Defining Bladensburg and Other Riverside Communities - The project aims to expand the natural history programming at Bladensburg Waterfront Park to include cultural and historical interpretation. The project will create one new historical interpretive program entitled *The Battle of Bladensburg: A Sailor's Perspective*. The first-person, interpretive boat tour will detail the events of the clash with British soldiers on August 24, 1814 and tell how the British successfully utilized the Chesapeake Bay's network of tributaries to invade. The proposed project aspires to enhance volunteerism at Bladensburg Waterfront Park with the development of a volunteer docent course. Ten volunteer docents will receive training to present the newly created historical program to the public.

Contact: Bernadine Sandy, 301-779-0371, bernadine.sandy@pgparks.com

Congressional District: MD04

Gateway: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Recipient: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Financial Award: \$44,911

Chesapeake Futures Implementation – Phase I - The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum will continue implementation of their Chesapeake Futures initiative, both on campus and through expanded outreach. It will extend education, enhance community involvement, and provide thought-provoking exhibitions that engage people in discussion and action to stem the tide of decline of one of the world's greatest maritime regions—the Chesapeake Bay. A new exhibit called *A Rising Tide in the Heart of the Chesapeake*, will open in the Spring of 2010 in the main Steamship Gallery at CBMM. Also, during the summer of 2010, the newly restored historic crab dredging vessel, *Old Point*, will visit ports and gateways around the Bay during local and regional gatherings carrying both on-board and dockside exhibits. Experienced oral historians will assist to engage the public in discussion on Chesapeake Futures themes.

Contact: Kathleen Rattie, 410-745-2916 x182, krattie@cbmm.org

Congressional District: MD01

Gateway: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

Recipient: Friends of Fort McHenry/Living Classrooms

Financial Award: \$49,500

Fort McHenry Education Program Enhancement - In preparation for the Bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner during the War of 1812, The Friends of Fort McHenry is striving to enhance the education programs offered at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine through the proposed new nationwide school curriculum that meets No Child Left Behind standards. The curriculum will be posted and available to schools on the website of the Friends of Fort McHenry with links from the websites of Fort McHenry National Monument and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. The proposed project will support the stated Gateways network goal of improving education within the Chesapeake Bay region and specifically along the newly designated Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. The new educational curriculum will be designed with a special focus on school groups nationwide, as well as attention to attracting school groups from Baltimore City and around the State of Maryland.

Contact: Kathleen Kreul, 410.962.4920, kkreul@freindsoffortmchenry.org

Congressional District: MD03

Gateway: Gwynns Falls Trail and Greenway

Recipient: Parks and People Foundation

Financial Award: \$20,620

Gwynns Falls Trail Interpretive Kiosks and Educational Outreach - The Gwynns Falls Trail Council and its partners (Parks & People Foundation and Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks) propose to 1) add two (2) trail kiosk orientation sign frames and directional and interpretative panels at locations trail users have indicated they are needed; 2) revise, print, and distribute a GF Trail Cultural and Environmental Resource Guide for Educators; create a curriculum, model field trip, teacher training, and two (2) demonstration field trips for four (4) pilot schools required to undertake “meaningful Chesapeake Bay outdoor experiences” near the Gwynns Falls Trail; and 3) organize and implement at least eight (8) environmental restoration project events along the trail and near the stream to be undertaken by the students from the four (4) schools referenced above.

Contact: Guy Hager, 410-448-5663, x101, guy.hager@parksandpeoplefoundation.org

Congressional District: MD02, 03 and 07

Gateway: James River Water Trail

Recipient: James River Association

Financial Award: \$27,000

The Virtual James River Interactive Map Project - The Virtual James River Interactive Map will give website visitors virtual access to all aspects of the James River. This will increase the public’s awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the Middle and Lower James River, as well as focus on their personal impact on the river’s health and that of the Chesapeake Bay. In conjunction with the map, the James River Association will create a Raindrop Map that lets people trace the flow of runoff from the coordinates of their home to the nearest tributary of the James River and then follow that water into the

river, thereby showing their direct linkage to the James. An accompanying Runoff Calculator will allow the person enter data specific to their property to determine the amount of polluted runoff they are contributing to the James River.

Contact: William H. Street, 804-788-8811, bstreet@jrava.org

Congressional District: VA01

Gateway: Mount Harmon Plantation

Recipient: Mount Harmon Plantation

Financial Award: \$37,350

Tidewater Education Program - This important project will fund the development and launch of Mount Harmon’s new Tidewater Education Program that will provide engaging hands-on experiences in the plantation’s Tidewater history, ecology, and stewardship. This project will allow Mount Harmon to provide educational field trip opportunities along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historical Trail for area school students and visitors. This program will be geared to school age students in grades 4 – 6, studying Tidewater history and ecology. This program will bring to life the plantation’s profound connection to the Chesapeake Bay and provide students and visitors with a deepened understanding of the history and ecology of a pristine Tidewater plantation.

Contact: Paige Howard, 443-566-0141, pphoward@dol.net.

Congressional District: MD 01

Gateway: Parkers Creek Watershed Nature Preserve

Recipient: American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Financial Award: \$20,000

Master Plan for Facilities and Interpretation - ACLT will develop a Master Plan for Facilities and Interpretation (“Master Plan”) that determines the location and nature of future facilities and a comprehensive and compelling interpretive program to connect people with the land and waters of the Parkers Creek watershed. The proposed project will evaluate: (1) facilities needed to provide environmentally sustainable public access to the preserved properties and (2) interpretive themes best suited to the site.

Contact: Karen Edgecombe, 410.414.3400, kedgecombe@acltweb.org

Congressional District: MD05

Gateway: Schooner Sultana

Recipient: Sultana Projects

Financial Award: \$45,871

The Chester and Sassafras River Water Trail - Sultana Projects is proposing to develop a component of the John Smith Trail on the Chester and Sassafras rivers to be known as the “Chester and Sassafras River Water Trail.” Sultana Projects has three principal goals in working to establish the Chester & Sassafras River Water Trail: 1) to provide boaters and paddlers with logistical information, historic and environmental interpretation, and relevant safety information that will enhance their experience on the waters of the Chester and Sassafras rivers; 2) to attract and encourage small boaters to use the waters of the Chester and Sassafras rivers in an environmentally and culturally sensitive way that supports local economic activity while encouraging stewardship of the region’s natural resources; and 3) to create a working component of the National Park Service’s Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail on appropriate portions of the Chester and Sassafras rivers.

Contact: Drew McMullen, 410.778.5954, dmcullen@sultanaprojects.org

Congressional District: MD01

Gateway: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

Recipient: Smithsonian Institution

Financial Award: \$31,515

Contee Watershed Trail - The Contee Watershed Trail will be a premiere cultural and environmental education program for local and regional audiences. As the Trail evolves over the next few years, visitors will experience being on an historic landmark that shows the Contee Mansion ruins as an icon of the 18th and 19th century occupation and how humans directly influenced the Rhode River and Chesapeake Bay as they grew tobacco, corn, alfalfa, hay, and wheat. Beginning at the ruins, the Contee Watershed Trail will guide visitors into a sub-watershed that easily demonstrates the lessons of hydrology, biodiversity, forest ecology, and land use, while following a casual walk along ridges and then down into gullies with strategically placed boardwalks, discussion platforms, and a water monitoring along the path. The 1.5 mi Trail is connected to SERC’s extensive trail system including the Java History Trail and the Discovery Trail. Environmental education programs in grades 7-12 will be designed by STEM teachers and students from the South River High School, Anne Arundel Co.

Contact: Mark Haddon, 301-238-1816, haddonm@si.edu

Congressional District: MD05

Gateway: Susquehanna River Water Trail – West Branch

Recipient: Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Financial Award: \$62,258

Interpreting and Fostering Bay Stewardship Along the Susquehanna River Water Trail – This Project will (a) create a guide book and audio CD for a driving tour along a route recommended in the recently completed Interpretive Master plan', (b) create and install 6-8 new interpretive panels at key stops and sites along the tour route and water trail, (c) create and install 2 river town kiosks at 2 pilot sites along the tour route, and (d) upgrade the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership web site. The project will offer quality visitor experiences as a means to foster stewardship and resource conservation among river town residents, boaters, and area visitors while promoting and interpreting the critical connection between the Susquehanna River Corridor and the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact: Gary Bloss, 570.522.7211, gbloss@susquehannagreenway.org

Congressional District: PA 09,10,17 and19

Gateway: Susquehanna River Water Trail – West Branch

Recipient: Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Financial Award: \$13,275

Building a Stewardship Network for the Susquehanna River Water Trail - This project will begin implementation of the “Susquehanna River Water Trail – West Branch Stewardship and Conservation Plan.” The project will actively foster citizen stewardship by building an on-going volunteer network to restore, conserve, preserve, and maintain the Water Trail.

Contact: Renee Carey, 570.322.6222, rcarey@npcweb.org

Congressional District: PA05, 09 and 10

Gateway: Susquehanna River Water Trail – Lower Section

Recipient: Lancaster-York Heritage Region

Financial Award: \$ 10,000

Susquehanna River Water Trail – Lower Section Interpretation Enhancements - The Lancaster-York Heritage Region proposes to create a new online feature on its primary website, www.StoriesoftheLand.com, to showcase the Susquehanna River Water Trail, a designated CBGN trail, and surrounding landscape, including interpretative and stewardship information. This website enhancement will include an interactive display utilizing content and graphics from the soon to be released second edition of the Susquehanna River Water Trail – Lower Section Map and Guide and the twenty one existing Water Trail interpretive panels.

Contact: Kirsten Stauffer, 717.252.0229 x4, kstauffer@lyhr.org

Congressional District: PA16 and 19