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Patapsco Heritage Greenway

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Challenges Bring Opportunities and Growth

The year 2020 certainly turned out differently than we all expected! Although challenging, we have stayed on course with our mission and made significant progress toward opening even greater opportunities within the valley. Of key significance is the expansion of our heritage area.

With MHAA's approval of our boundary expansion in July the heritage area now includes most of Baltimore and Howard Counties' Patapsco River watershed. This new boundary enables us to monitor and remediate additional, critical feeder streams and engage more stream-watchers. It also brings new stories to share about the valley including forgotten granite quarries, immigrant experiences, and additional historical sites. It allows us to widen our recreational trail network to include popular destination spots like Guinness Open Gate Brewery and to engage additional diverse cultural communities who share a love of the Patapsco Valley. In the coming year our goal will be to explore ways that meld these varied sites and stories into an enhanced experience for residents and visitors alike.

Organizationally, since becoming President, I have created Board committees that coincide with key focus areas within our Management Plan— Heritage, Environment, Recreation, and Arts & Culture—each chaired by a vice-president. These committees work alongside PHG staff to help develop and prioritize initiatives to meet goals within their respective areas. Of course it is the hard work of our dedicated staff that we continue to rely on to make it all happen.

Our former Executive Director, Lindsey Baker, accepted a State level job with the Maryland Humanities Commission this summer. I greatly appreciate the influence she had on the organization during her tenure. Under her leadership we broadened the scope of the stories we tell and the communities we reach. She made critical connections and worked diligently to further the development of our partner non-profits. She, along with Hannah and DJ, worked quickly this spring to adapt to a rapidly changing work environment with creativity and professionalism, and for that we are grateful.

As we move on to the next chapter I am very excited that a candidate as qualified and experienced as Dr. Aaron Shapiro has elected to become PHG's new Executive Director. Aaron, a noted scholar on public history, brings enthusiasm, a strong understanding of environmental history, and keen insight into heritage tourism. I have confidence, under his leadership, that we will continue to advance our mission with fresh ideas and new approaches as the new reality of our changing world demands.

Steve Wachs, President, Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Advancing the interest of Patapsco Valley and all who share it.

MHAA Grants Aim to Bolster Projects That Support Heritage Tourism and Economic Development



The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) announced matching grants for FY21 totaling \$230,000 for projects within Patapsco Valley Heritage Area to support heritage tourism projects and activities that draw visitors and expand economic development and tourism-related opportunities within the Valley.

Projects receiving funding for FY21 are:

- Howard County Conservancy - \$50,000
“Carriage House Adaptive ReUse”
- Catonsville Rails to Trails - \$50,000
“The Catonsville Cycling Connection”
- Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park - \$75,000
“Simpkins Industry Site, Park Infrastructure”
- Chesapeake Conservancy \$50,000
“Enhancing the Park Experience Through Bilingual Interpreters”
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway - \$5,000
“Festival del Rio Patapsco”



FRIENDS OF PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK



Oella's Benjamin Banneker Historical Park hosts an annual COLONIAL DAYS weekend to provide visitors a glimpse into the life of this pioneering black man of science and his times. Demonstrations of heritage crafts and farming techniques are on display along with hands-on educational activities.

PHG also received a \$100,000 Management Grant to support its ongoing work and a \$25,000 Block Grant to distribute as mini-grant.

PHG meets and works with the following organizations to pursue its mission:

- Baltimore County Office of Tourism & Cultural Arts
- Howard County Tourism and Promotion
- Maryland State Parks (Patapsco Valley State Park)
- Baltimore County Recreation and Parks
- Howard County Recreation and Parks
- Historical Society of Baltimore County
- Howard County Historical Society
- Howard County Sierra Club
- Maryland Ornithological Society-Baltimore Bird Club
- Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences
- Baltimore County Arts Guild
- Howard County Arts Council
- Howard County Chamber of Commerce
- Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
- Maryland Off-Road Enthusiasts
- Catonsville Rails to Trails
- Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group



(above) Michelle Wright, Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies at CCBC speaks on “Shades of Hilton: Exploring the Lives of Color of the Hilton Estate at CCBC” at last year’s Annual Meeting. Wright focused on the research she conducted on the lives of color that existed on the Hilton estate during the 18th and 19th centuries.



(above right) Outgoing President Grace Kubofcik (center) is recognized for her service by Maryland Delegate Jessica Feldmark (left) and Maryland Senator Clarence Lam (right) at last year’s annual meeting.



(right) PHG Emeritus Director John Slater (center) presents former PHG Executive Director Lindsey Baker (left) and President Steve Wachs (right) with a contribution on behalf of the Columbia Town Center Rotary during PHG’s annual fundraising drive.

Funding for Our Work is Vital to Patapsco Valley's Economic & Environmental Health

Funding for our work is received through a variety of sources. Key among our supporters are the State of Maryland in conjunction with Baltimore and Howard County governments. Like-minded non-profits, community conscious businesses, along with individual members and donors also contribute to PHG's achievements.

FY 2020 Funding Secured:

- \$100,000 - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Operating Grant
- \$60,000 - Baltimore County Government/DEPS
- \$60,000 - Howard County Government
- \$48,000 - Baltimore County Government
- \$30,000 - Howard County/Chesapeake Bay Trust
- \$25,000 - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Block Grant (to distribute as mini-grants)
- \$21,799 - Memberships, Donations, Sales, and Fundraising
- \$15,000 - Preservation Maryland
- \$15,000 - MHAA Project Grant
- \$12,715 - MHAA Marketing Grant
- \$5,000 - REI Watershed Grant

Supporting Our Partners is Paramount

PHG provided \$45,995 to partners in the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area

Key to our mission is support of our non-profit partners through sponsorships and mini-grants to help ensure their success. A total of \$25,000 in mini-grants and \$20,995 in sponsorships were awarded as follows in our four primary focus areas.

ARTS & CULTURE (\$5,015)

- Visit Howard County : \$1,665 mini-grant
- Baltimore County Arts Guild : Guinness & Guild Arts on Tap - \$1,500 sponsorship
- Howard County Arts Council : Paint It! Ellicott City 2020 - \$500 sponsorship
- Visit Howard County : Annual Meeting - \$500 sponsorship
- Ellicott City Partnership : Holiday Lights - \$850 sponsorship

ENVIRONMENT (\$16,835)

- Catonsville Tree Canopy Project - \$3,750 mini-grant
- Greater Patapsco Community Association - \$500 mini-grant
- Howard EcoWorks - \$1,685 mini-grant
- Howard County Conservancy - \$2,000 mini-grant
- Spring Grove Arboretum, Treemendous Dance Party fundraiser - \$150 sponsorship
- Friends of PVSP, Fundraiser for the Mobile Interpretive Park Center - \$1,500 sponsorship
- Howard Co Conservancy, Nature's Open FB live series - \$2,000 sponsorship
- Howard EcoWorks, Summer Ready - \$250 sponsorship
- Friends of PVSP, Mobile Interpretive Park Center Patapsco Primer brochure - \$5,000 sponsorship

HERITAGE (\$14,245)

- Benjamin Banneker Foundation - \$2,500 mini-grant
- Howard County Historical Society - \$1,000 mini-grant
- Howard County Rec and Parks Heritage Division - \$2,000 mini-grant
- Oella Historical Society : \$500 mini-grant
- Benjamin Banneker Foundation : Cook Book for BBF - \$920 sponsorship
- Visit Howard County : Historic Sites of Ellicott City Tear-Off Map - \$825 sponsorship
- Friends of Historical Cherry Hill AUMP, Inc. (Granite) :
 - African American Heritage Preservation Program - \$3,500 sponsorship
- Ec250 : History Comes Alive in Ellicott City - \$3,000 sponsorship

RECREATION (\$9,900)

- Howard County Rec and Parks - Trail - \$4,700 mini-grant
- Catonsville Rails to Trails - \$4,700 mini-grant
- Catonsville Rails to Trails, Trolley Festivus fundraiser - \$500 sponsorship

PHG REVENUE

Grants-Government 89.7%
Grants-Non-Profits 4.7%
Membership/Donations 5.2%
Other .4%

EXPENDITURES

Programs 80%
Administration 16%
Fundraising 4%

PHG Focuses on Four Themes to Chart Pathways to Discovery and Engagement in Patapsco Valley Heritage Area

ARTS & CULTURE



ENVIRONMENT



HERITAGE



RECREATION



JOIN TODAY
patapsco.org



PHG is passionate about the important role art and cultural activities play in enhancing the Heritage Area experience. Whether it is a live musical performance, art galleries, or an outdoor theatre performance, PHG is committed to supporting art and cultural experiences as a means of enhancing the Valley's appeal to a diverse audience. Last year we were especially excited to see the addition of the newly designated Catonsville Arts and Entertainment District to the Heritage Area. We look forward to finding ways to support, promote, and help develop exciting new opportunities for local artists and the district's cultural arts scene.



Patapsco Heritage Greenway's second annual **paSNAPsco** photo contest was larger than ever, with nearly sixty entries across twenty-two contestants. It once again yielded a beautiful calendar that highlighted both the beauty of the Valley and the work of many local photo artists throughout 2020. For the fourth year we provided a Juror Award for the annual **Ellicott City PAINT IT!** plein air competition and sponsored musical performances to benefit our many non-profit partners. We are very excited to be working with Maryland Public Television on a new video that will become a signature piece of 2022's Ec250 anniversary celebration. We also look forward to opening new eyes not only to the murals and galleries in both of our Main Street communities but also future exhibitions at UMBC, the Howard County Center for the Arts, and Howard County Conservancy-Mt. Pleasant.

(top) "Clouded Sulphur on Brown Eyed Susan" by photographer Andrew Gosden took the prize in the **paSNAPsco** Nature Nurtures category.

(center) Howard County's annual **PAINT IT!** plein air event brings artists and spectators alike to the Heritage Area's historic town.

(below) "Dawn Peloton" by photographer Geoffrey Baker, an Oella resident, took top honors in last year's **paSNAPsco** photography contest.





The natural environment of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area is an asset unique among Maryland's Heritage Areas and one that we prize for both its recreational and intrinsic values. In 2020, PHG leaders, staff, and volunteers continued to make significant contributions to understand, preserve, and restore this wonderful natural asset. We hosted live interactive webinars on a variety of topics, including vernal pools, stream monitoring, native and invasive plants, and native wildlife in the Patapsco watershed. We provided a series of instructional videos on our social media platforms to help followers learn about nature, identify and remove invasive plants, and start their own backyard garden.



People's Choice Winner for PaSNAPsco 2019! "A Hidden Brook" by Emily Mitchell.

To incorporate our expanded heritage area boundaries into our environmental activities, we visited new corners of the Patapsco watershed to mobilize new volunteers and form partnerships with local community, corporate, and government groups. We have established new goals for stream clean ups, behavioral change among landowners, inventorying our vernal pools, and assessing the baseline condition of our streams. In the coming years, through these efforts, we expect to measurably improve the quality of the Patapsco Valley environment, while building an appreciation for stewardship of our region and beyond.



20,995
pounds of trash removed



82
trees planted

Volunteers are the lifeblood of PHG's environmental stewardship mission. We depend heavily on their manpower to help us achieve our goals. Individuals of all ages, and groups of students and co-workers pitch in to monitor stream cleanliness, plant trees and clean up the Patapsco River and its feeder streams. There are also custom team building opportunities available for businesses and organizations. We would love to have you, your business, or your group part of our team!

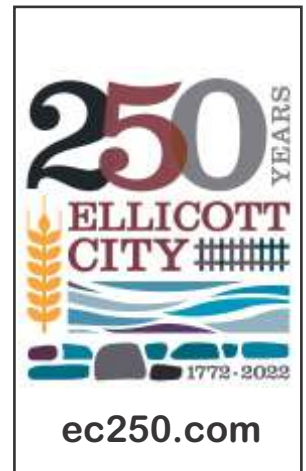
LEARN MORE at
patapsco.org/environment/



PHG's refocused committee structure opened new opportunities to further highlight the Valley's history. On the occasion of the 100th year anniversary of women's right to vote in America, PHG took a special interest in emphasizing the accomplishments of women in the valley during our annual Patapsco History Days in March. As unforeseen circumstances demanded, a quick switch to virtual and digital content via our social media outlets enabled us to still share these important historic stories. With the recent expansion of the Heritage Area we welcome an opportunity to broaden PHG's historic narrative to include new stories of Granite's Nike Missile Site, Woodstock's Mt. Pleasant Farm., and Ellicott City's Korean Way. We look forward to introducing others to this rich and varied heritage.



We continue to be actively involved in the many dramatic changes coming to the gem of our Heritage Area--Historic Ellicott City. PHG provided constructive input on the draft *Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan*, a 20-year blueprint for an enhanced streetscape which includes added cultural, historic and environmental aspects. While understanding that some historic buildings must go, we suggested alternate artistic/structural changes to Lower Main Street that preserve the memory and culture of the missing buildings. PHG representatives are also at the table as part of the project's current Army Corps Section 106 process regarding historic preservation. Amidst the future changes PHG is working with Ec250 on plans for the town's 250th anniversary celebration in 2022.



Charles Wagandt II

We miss and remember with admiration PHG founder Charles L. Wagandt II, who passed on May 21 at the age of 95. Charles' pre-1990 early vision and diligence, combined with PHG's efforts to establish the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area, led to its formal designation in 2015. Charles is known for his preservation work in the textile mill village of Oella, keeping the best of what the community offered, such as charming historic architecture and access to the rugged riverine valley. Over many years, he worked tirelessly to bring public sewer and water to the neglected area, saved and rehabbed many historic homes, and committed to keeping rents low for the millworker families who remained long after the mill itself closed. He initiated the rescue of the 1789 George Ellicott house by moving the damaged structure out of the floodplain. Oella is a beautiful and desirable community with its history intact, offering established trails, as well as Benjamin Banneker's homestead, thanks to Charles' vision and hard work. Charles, as one of PHG's charter leaders, was a forward-thinking advocate for the Valley.



RECREATION

Vice President Sylvia Ramsey, Committee Chair

Recreational opportunities within Patapsco Heritage Greenway are entering exciting new territory!

PHG's long-awaited vision to improve and create an expansive network of connections within the Patapsco Valley based on trails, signage and collaborations between partners is closer than ever. Currently, trail building work is ongoing within Patapsco Valley State Park, as we prepare for the new Guinness/Elkridge Connector Trail, and other new opportunities within our expanded boundary. We are very excited to engage not only Guinness Open Gate Brewery but all the new partners within our expanded boundary. We plan to increase our outreach to additional recreation-focused organizations and foster support for new recreational opportunities that include horseback riding, paddling, and mountain biking. Working with both new friends and the familiar, PHG hopes to launch a multi-sport relay, a new *Extreme Patapsco* event.



As a member of the national *Recreate Responsibly Coalition* we continue to proactively provide useful content via our website and social media platforms to educate and inform users about safe, healthy recreational choices within the Heritage Area. Our new online series of virtual tours of the valley's most popular spots, launched last year, also now offers a digital way to connect and experience the outdoors. Whether virtually or in reality, PHG is actively promoting the connection of people to the Valley's varied recreational choices and the great outdoors.



photo by Geoffrey Baker

Meet Our New Executive Director Aaron Shapiro

“I am incredibly excited to join PHG and work with partners across the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area and Maryland to draw attention to the rich and diverse history, culture and environment of the river valley. While we have entered uncertain times, the pandemic has also drawn increased attention to the need for preserving our natural and cultural resources for the health and well-being of our communities. PHG is well-positioned to help lead this effort.”

Aaron Shapiro
Executive Director
Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Prior to his position with UNC Charlotte, Shapiro, a native Chicagoan, started and directed the public history program at Auburn University and served as national historian for the US Forest Service in Washington, DC. There he was involved with a range of public history projects including films, digital initiatives, oral histories, interpretive planning, exhibit development, historic preservation, and heritage tourism. Before joining the Forest Service, Aaron was Assistant Director of the Scholl Center for Family and Community History at Chicago's Newberry Library. He received his MA and PhD in History from the University of Chicago and a BA in History from the University of Pennsylvania. His research, teaching and public history work over the last two decades has explored changing perspectives of the cultural and natural landscape, connections between memory, heritage, and public historical interpretation, the history of land use and environmental change, modern environmental politics, and broader cultural transformations in twentieth century urban and rural America. He is the author of *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest*, which won the 2014 Jon Gjerde Prize for best book in Midwestern history.



About the Heritage Area Expansion...

“The Howard County Conservancy is excited about the expansion of the heritage area to include our home base in Woodstock. We have worked with Patapsco Heritage Greenway at our location in Elkridge for several years. Our partnership has enhanced our ability to offer programs to the community and serve our shared missions. We look forward to growing this partnership in the years to come.”

Meg Boyd
Executive Director
Howard County Conservancy

The Maryland Heritage Area Authority approved the expansion of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area (PVHA) by approximately 12 square miles. PVHA now includes portions along the Patapsco River from the Carroll County line to the Baltimore City line. The expansion encompasses key sites on both the Baltimore and Howard County sides of the river including:

- Granite Historic District
- Granite's Nike Missile Base
- Guinness Open Gate Brewery.
- Howard County Conservancy - Mount Pleasant
- The Diggs-Johnson Museum
- The Korean Way (eastern portion)
- The Woodstock Inn

Visit PATAPSCO.ORG for a detailed map



THANK YOU...

