

# CHESAPEAKE & ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS TRUST FUND

## ANNUAL REPORT

FY25 - FY26

PHOTO CREDIT:  
JOHN CARTER



Wes Moore Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

# SECRETARY STATEMENT

In 2025, Maryland's work to restore and protect the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays continued with steadfast resolve. While uncertainty surrounded many sources of federal funding this year, Maryland upheld its commitments by supporting environmental projects throughout the state. We detail those projects throughout this report.

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (Trust Fund) provided funding for 27 competitive non-point source pollution reduction projects in FY26, and it continues to serve as a reliable resource for supporting environmental action into the future.

Under the leadership of Governor Wes Moore, the Chesapeake Bay Program has moved forward with a revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement that lays out a bold vision for the next phase of Chesapeake Bay restoration that reaffirms the regional partnership and identifies firm timelines and reachable goals for improving the health of the Bay and its watershed.

At the same time, Maryland is also implementing a new strategy of Bay restoration, focusing on improvements in shallow waterways, where targeted, science-driven action can have measurable benefits for habitats and communities. This new strategy is exemplified in the Whole Watershed Act, which resulted in five waterways selected this year for directed and collaborative restoration. The Trust Fund is a key source of funding for these projects.

We thank the Moore-Miller Administration for their support of the fund, as well as all our partners for their hard work and dedication to the protection and restoration of Maryland's bays and waterways.

**JOSH KURTZ**

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

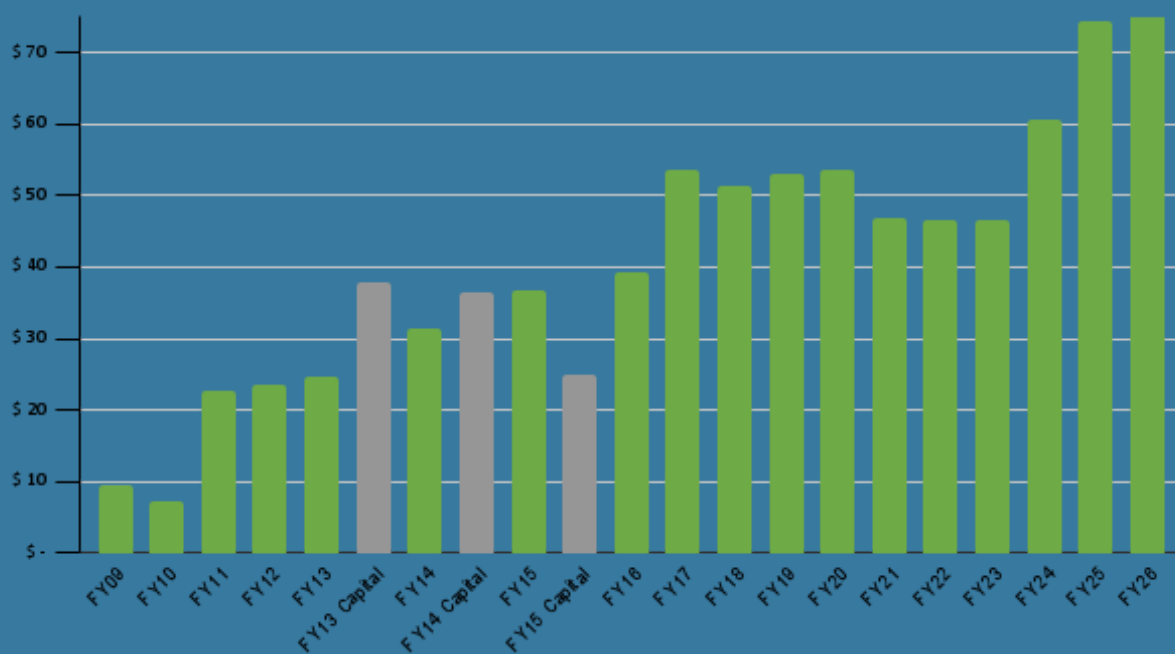


PHOTO CREDIT:  
ROBERT SULLIVAN

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund (Trust Fund) is administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The allocation and implementation of the Trust Fund is a collaborative effort that includes Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Council agencies and a Scientific Advisory Panel. Essential to the Trust Fund's success is an annual allocation process that: (1) targets funds to the most cost effective locations and practices; (2) leverages funds to the greatest extent achievable; (3) engages community stakeholders to create an environment of collaboration; and (4) provides the flexibility necessary to take advantage of constantly changing conditions, opportunities and scientific developments.

## The Trust Fund budget from FY09-FY26.



*Revenue for the Trust Fund is derived from gasoline and rental car taxes. In FY13, FY14, and FY15, the Trust Fund received general obligation bonds (gray bar). Shown in millions.*

A TOTAL OF \$64M IS ESTIMATED TO BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TRUST FUND IN FY27. THE TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED MAY BE MORE OR LESS, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, AND UPDATED REVENUE PROJECTIONS.

# CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS TRUST FUND

## FY26 BUDGET AT A GLANCE



### Annual Expenditure Plan (FY25 - FY26)

Targeted Activity	Project Partner	FY25 Actual	FY26 Current	+/- difference FY25 to FY26
<b>Accountability, Verification and Management</b>				
1. Strategic Monitoring & Assessment	Natural Resources	\$400,000	\$550,000	\$150,000
2. Implementation Tracking	Information Technology	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0
3. Administration & Management (1.5%)	Natural Resources	\$1,080,000	\$1,220,000	\$140,000
<b>Accelerating Restoration through Research &amp; Development</b>				
4. Innovative Technology Fund	Natural Resources/ University of Maryland	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
5. Restoration Research Grant Program	Competitive grants	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
<b>Implementation Technical Assistance</b>				
6. Agricultural Technical Assistance	Agriculture	\$6,290,000	\$6,590,000	\$300,000
7. Water Management Permit Expeditors	Environment	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$0
8. Field Restoration Specialists	Natural Resources	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$0
9. Tree Solutions Now Coordinator & Regional Foresters	Environment / Nat- ural Resources	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$0
<b>Sub TOTAL</b>		<b>\$12,220,000</b>	<b>\$12,810,000</b>	<b>\$590,000</b>
<b>Non-point Source Pollution Control Projects</b>				
10. Cover Crop Program	Agriculture	\$11,250,000	\$11,250,000	\$0
11. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Bonus Payments	Agriculture	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
12. Grants to Farmers	Agriculture	\$3,010,000	\$3,010,000	\$0
13. Manure Management Program	Agriculture	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$0
14. Competitive Grant Program	Competitive grants	\$35,850,000	\$34,640,000	- \$1,210,000
15. Natural Filters on Public Lands	Competitive grants	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$0
16. Tree Solutions Now Act	Competitive grants	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0
17. Adaptive Management & maintenance	Competitive grants	\$1,440,000	\$1,520,000	\$80,000
18. Whole Watershed	Competitive grants	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
<b>SubTOTAL</b>		<b>\$62,300,000</b>	<b>\$66,170,000</b>	<b>\$3,870,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$74,520,000</b>	<b>\$78,980,000</b>	<b>\$4,460,000</b>

# CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS TRUST FUND

## FY26 BUDGET DETAILS

### Accountability, Verification and Management : \$1,970,000

1. **Strategic Monitoring & Assessment:** \$550,000 to develop and implement monitoring strategies, collect and analyze data for trends, conduct biological monitoring in Trust Fund priority watersheds and comparison watersheds, and communicate the results of the restoration efforts.
2. **Implementation Tracking:** \$200,000 to provide hosting, application, maintenance, and data support services for the Trust Fund dashboard, mapper and Maryland's integrated map services.
3. **Administration & Management:** 1.5% of the total operating allowance to provide fiscal oversight; manage grant programs, including solicitation development, project review, contract and project development and management; coordinate with Chesapeake Bay Cabinet agencies, the Scientific Advisory Panel, Maryland Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services; and report to the Maryland General Assembly.

### Accelerating Restoration through Research and Development: \$1,300,000

4. **Innovative Technology Fund:** \$1 million to the fund with the goal of accelerating Chesapeake Bay restoration through the development of new innovative technologies. The Trust Fund, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, and the University of Maryland's Industrial Partnership and Mtech Ventures Program all contribute to the fund.
5. **Restoration Research Grant Program:** \$300,000 to competitively fund monitoring projects that will answer regulatory and restorative questions about best management practices for non-point source pollution in a robust, rigorous and representative manner.

### Implementation Technical Assistance: \$9,540,000

6. **Agricultural Technical Assistance:** \$6.59 million to support agricultural technical assistance positions in Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs). In total, the Trust Fund now supports 83 (58 state and 25 local) SCD positions needed to assist farmers in the implementation of agricultural best management practices as identified in the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).
7. **Water Management Permit Expeditors:** \$850,000 to expedite state review of qualifying stormwater and wetland restoration projects, and to protect the quality of the ground and surface waters.
8. **Field Restoration Specialists:** \$850,000 to increase the level of field specialists to assist state and local partners identify, engineer, design, and provide construction oversight assistance of priority Chesapeake Bay restoration projects.
9. **Tree Solutions Now Act:** \$1.25 million to support the tracking and implementation of the five million tree goal.

### Non-point Source Pollution Control Projects: \$66,170,000

10. **Cover Crop Program:** \$11.25 million to Maryland's Cover Crop Program to supplement funds provided through Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Cover crops are critical to achieving the reduction of nutrients necessary to meeting the the WIP.
11. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Incentive:** \$500,000 to support the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Trust Funds are used to provide the state signing incentive for new and re-enrolled acres on eligible best management practices, including grass and forest stream-side buffers, wetlands and permanent stabilization of highly erodible land.
12. **Grants to Farmers:** \$3.01 million to help farmers adopt best management practices on their farms: to protect natural resources and comply with federal, state and local environmental requirements; address Maryland's nutrient management requirements (Phosphorus Management Tool); and new projects focused on co-benefit outcomes and small farm operations..
13. **Manure Management Program:** \$1.75 million to transport manure away from farms with high soil phosphorus levels to other farms or locations that can use the manure agronomically. Funding will be leveraged by poultry integrators and state general funds traditionally used to support manure transport. Funds will also be used to support manure injection and nutrient management planning assistance for enhanced natural resource protection.
14. **Competitive Grant Program:** \$34.64 million to support targeted, sustainable and cost-effective approaches that dramatically reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, coastal bays and local waterways.
15. **Natural Filters on Public Lands:** \$6 million for the implementation of nutrient and sediment reduction projects on public lands. Projects include forested buffers, reforestation, wetland restoration, stream and floodplain restoration, stormwater retrofits and other bioremediation projects.
16. **Tree Solutions Now Act:** \$2.5 million to plant and maintain 5 million native trees by the end of 2031.
17. **Adaptive Management & Maintenance:** 2% of the annual fund amount for adaptive management, maintenance and outcome procurement per the Conservation Finance Act of 2022.
18. **Whole Watershed:** \$5.0 million to support a five-year pilot program that targets five Maryland watersheds that best represent the state's diverse land uses, geographies, and impairments

# BY THE NUMBERS



BUDGETED  
FY09 - FY26

\$861,571,567  
state funds

+

\$338,009,203  
leveraged funds

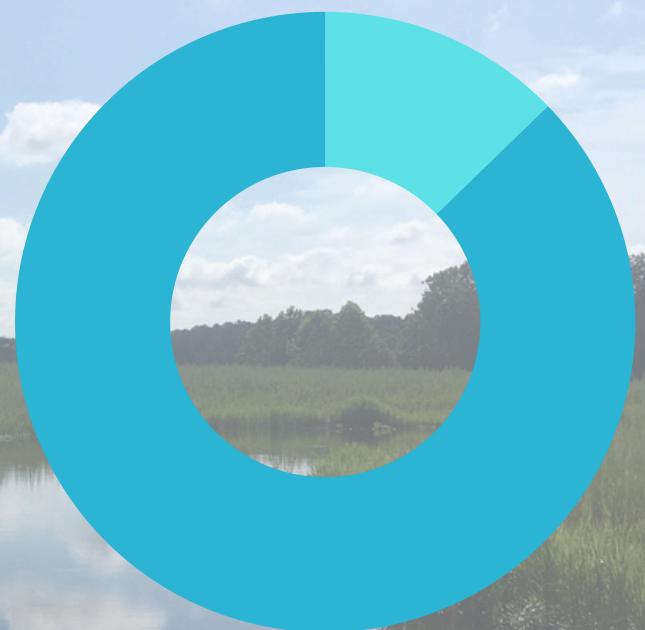
---

\$1,199,580,770  
total investment

3,561

Total Project Sites

In Progress  
454

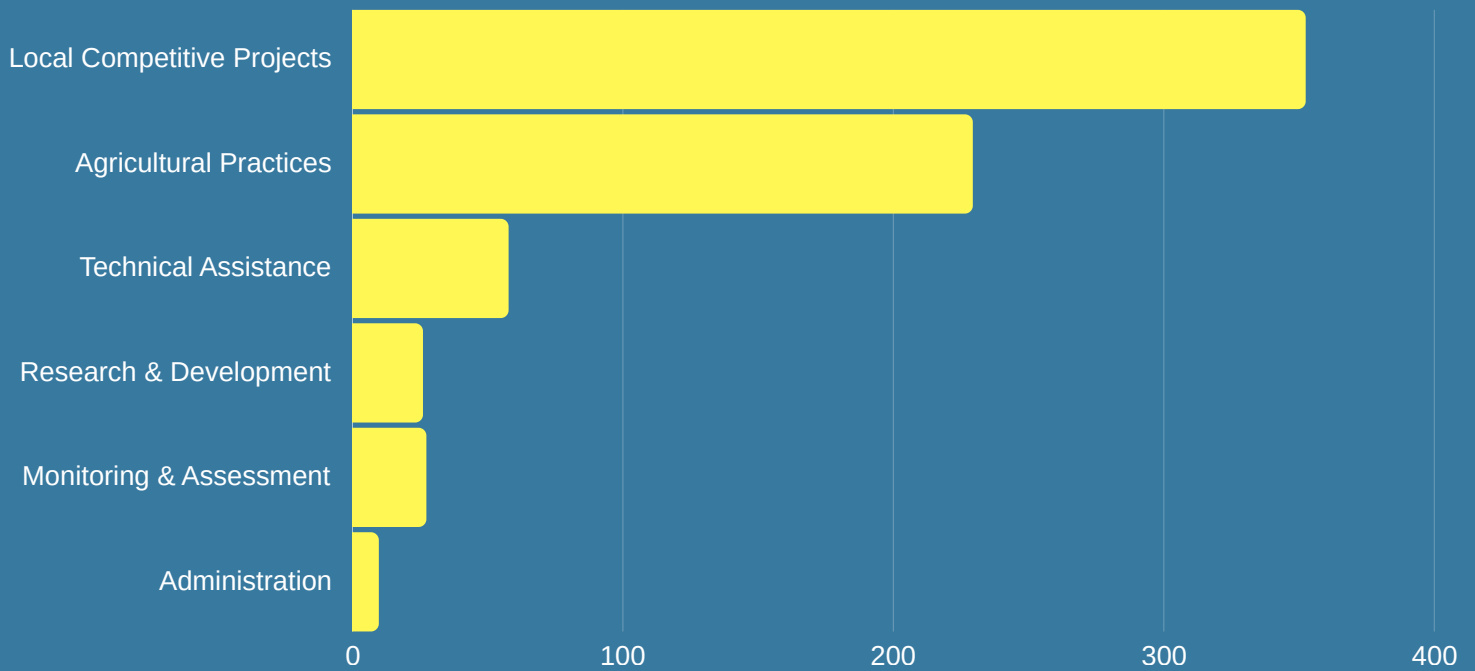


Complete  
3,107

# BY THE NUMBERS

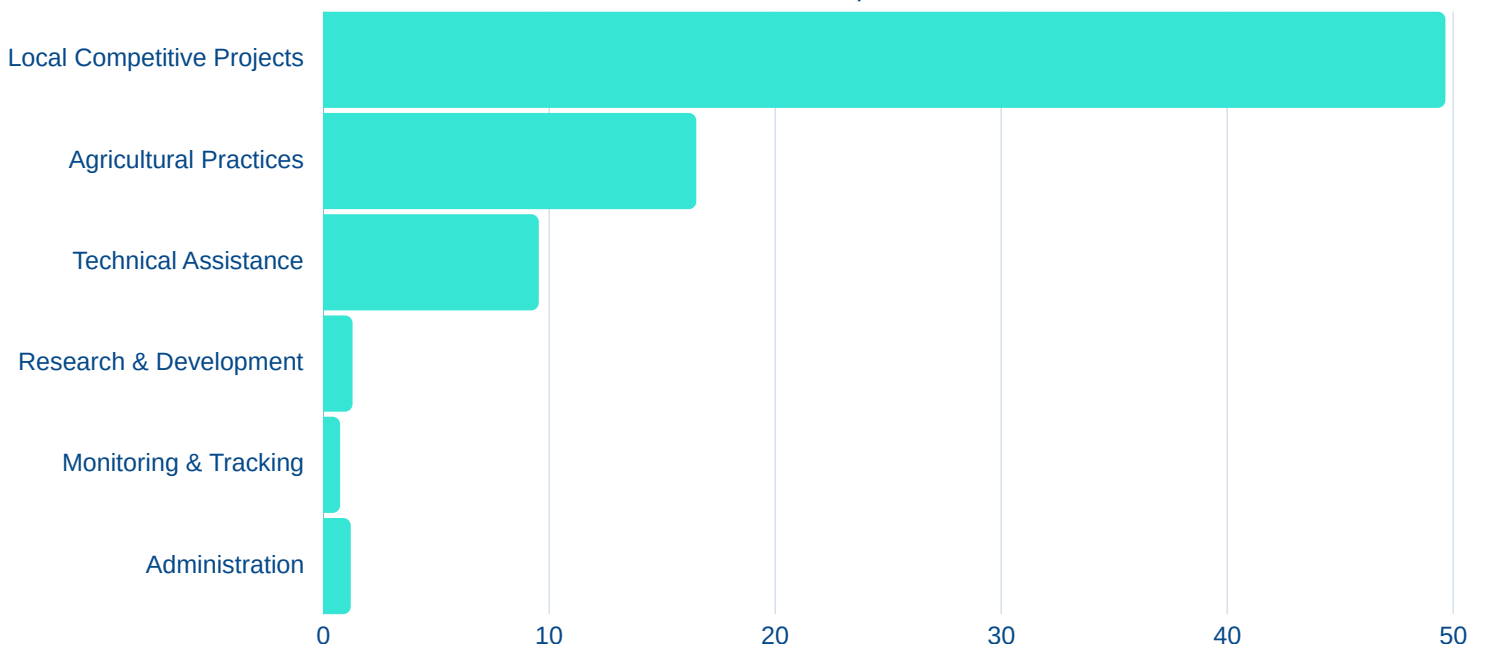
## *Funding Portfolio FY09 - FY26*

*in millions \$*



## *Funding Portfolio FY26*

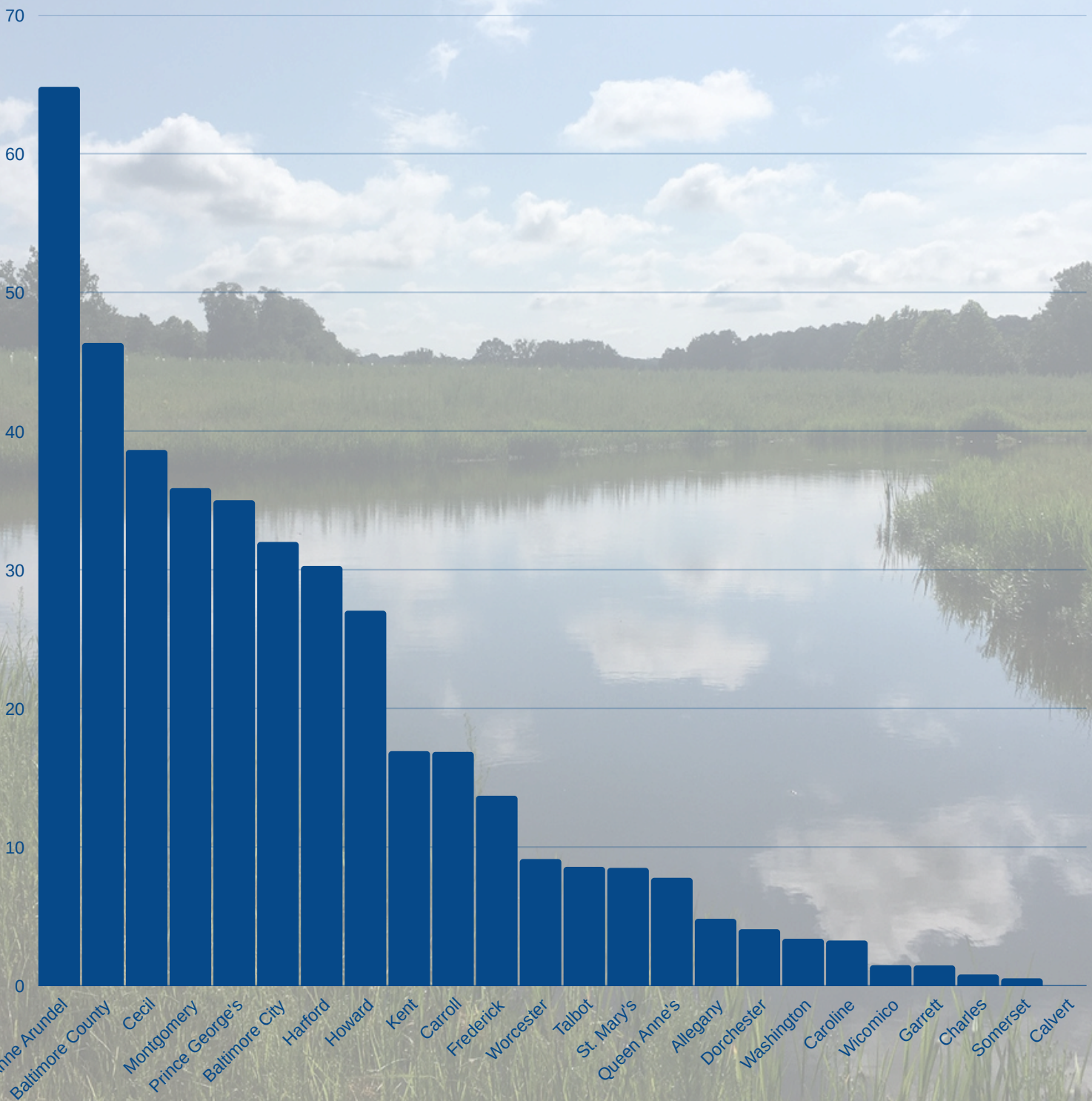
*in millions \$*



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Funding by County (FY09 - FY25)

in millions \$



# COMPLETED METRICS

As of fall 2025




PHOTO CREDIT:  
STEPHEN BADGER

3,456 acres of non-tidal wetland restored  
more than 4x the area of Sandy Point State Park

42,271  
volunteers & students  
engaged



enough to fill  
92% of the  
seats at  
Camden Yards

392,128  
linear feet of  
stream restored



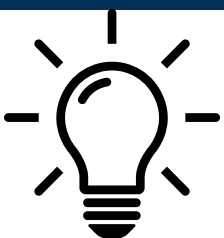
that's more than 18x the  
length of the Bay Bridge

1,758 

stormwater management  
facilities installed  
*(includes residential)*

 1,543 upland acres

 1,822 riparian acres



To date the Innovative Technology Fund has invested \$11.7 million with \$15.7 million in private matches, supporting 68 new technologies and 58 Maryland businesses.

# INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE FY25

## Cover Crop Program

Total acres: 326,865  
 Nitrogen reduced: 2,255,374 lbs  
 Phosphorus reduced: 2,614 lbs

**\$13,000,000**

## CREP Incentive

New Enrollment

Total acres: 382  
 Nitrogen reduced: 16,389 lbs  
 Phosphorus reduced: 229 lbs

**\$185,858**

1,663 acres re-enrolled

## Agricultural Technical Assistance: \$6,290,000

Category	Total Accomplished	Est. Nitrogen Reduction (lbs)	Est. Phosphorus Reduction (lbs)	Est. Sediment Reduction (tons)
Acres of conservation planning	68,859	96,403	6,886	5,226
Best management practices applied or installed	445	28,266	2,092	510
Verified best management practices meeting standards	995	63,202	4,677	1,141
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>187,871</b>	<b>13,655</b>	<b>6,877</b>

# IN FOCUS: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FUND

Since 2009, over 3,561 restoration sites have been implemented through the Trust Fund. While many of these projects are built to be self-sustaining, some of these projects may need adaptive management over time. Adaptive management is the process of implementing projects, monitoring the on-the-ground results, and assessing those outcomes to inform future management actions. The Adaptive Management Fund sets aside up to 2% of the annual Trust Fund budget to fund management activities on constructed Trust Fund projects to address changes in site conditions or lessons learned that will improve restoration outcomes.

For instance, if an unexpected extreme weather event causes damage on a restoration project, the damage would be documented through monitoring data. The grantee could apply to this fund by demonstrating that new circumstances have arisen and that the project is not meeting the initial goals. This funding could be used to implement adaptive management actions to rectify the damage to the project and ensure the desired outcomes are achieved long-term.

Funding may be available for a variety of adaptive management strategies and project types as long as they meet overarching restoration goals. In order to qualify for this funding, projects must:

- be funded previously by the Trust Fund
- demonstrate history of routine maintenance
- show monitoring data
- demonstrate why the management actions are necessary
- detail what led to project failure and any lessons learned

Apply Now: <https://webportalapp.com/webform/adaptivemanagement>

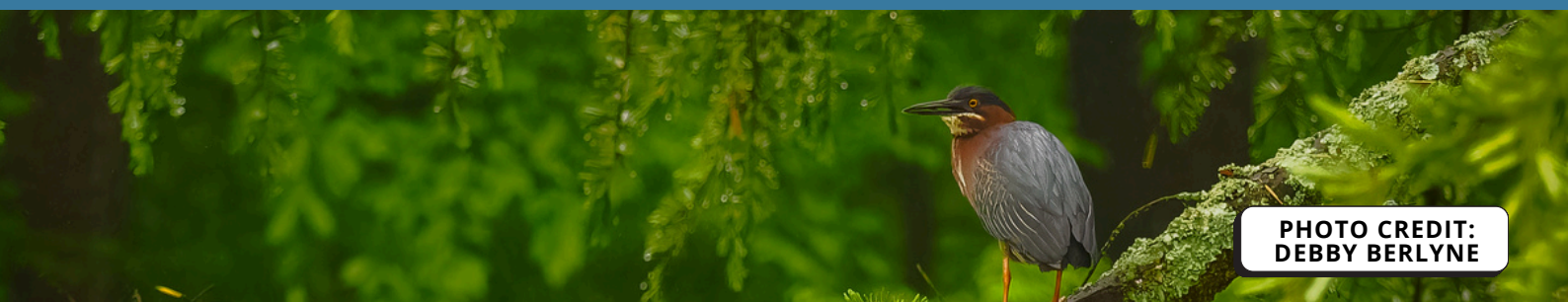


PHOTO CREDIT:  
DEBBY BERLYNE

# MEASURING FOR RESULTS



State Fiscal Year	SFY 2025 actual	SFY 2026 working
Funding Level	\$74,520,000	\$78,900,000
Nitrogen (lbs) Annual practices	3,118,381	2,742,290
Nitrogen (lbs) Landuse practices	1,712,190	1,902,192
Phosphorus (lbs) Annual practices	18,377	19,253
Phosphorus (lbs) Landuse practices	235,776	250,123
Sediment (tons) Annual practices	373	407
Sediment (tons) Landuse practices	185,400	185,408

**Cumulative totals**  
Landuse Practices  
FY13 - FY25

4,830,571  
lbs nitrogen

254,152  
lbs phosphorus

185,401  
tons sediment

\*Note: Totals are comprised of cumulative landuse change figures and annual practices.

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WESTERN MARYLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TREE REPLANTING EFFORT

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council (WMRC&D) has been a fantastic partner to the State of Maryland through the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. Due to their competitive, cost-effective best management practices that both improve water quality and create habitat, they have been awarded Trust Fund grants in the last seven rounds of the annual Grants Gateway solicitation. In a concentrated effort, WMRC&D has reforested 1,278 acres, consisting of 521,230 trees across 141 project sites in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington counties. These projects result in water quality improvements and nutrient and sediment reduction into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, with an estimated annual reduction of 29,562 lbs. N/year, 947 lbs. P/year, and 2,050 tons TSS/year.

WMRC&D partners with public and private landowners and the DNR Forest Service to make connections with participating landowners to plant trees on properties throughout western Maryland. Through their reforestation program, they provide assistance with site preparation, remove invasive species, implement tree plantings, and cover two years of post-planting maintenance costs. The holistic nature of this program helps increase the survival rates of the tree plantings. Tree plantings help enhance the landscape, provide water and air quality improvements for these counties, increase habitat for native species, transform formerly mined lands, reduce flooding, and build resilience to climate change.



PHOTO CREDIT:  
WESTERN MARYLAND RC&D

## FY25 Project List

### Allegany County

**Western Maryland RC&D:**  
\$617,686 to plant 107.5 acres of trees on private and state land.  
(District 1A, 1B, 1C)

### Anne Arundel County

**Anne Arundel County Government Watershed Protection**  
\$480,000 to restore 2,450 linear feet of Foxmoor Stream on county land.  
(District 4)

**Arundel Rivers Federation**  
\$243,905 to restore 530 linear feet of stream on community land at Southdown Shores.  
(District 30B)

**Chesapeake Rivers Association**  
\$2,538,702 to plant riparian buffers, restore 4.2 acres of nontidal wetlands, and restore 2,475 linear feet of stream in Shipley's Retreat.  
(District 31B)

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$93,036 to plant 12 acres of trees at 4 sites, as part of Healthy Waters Healthy Forests.  
(District 30B)

**The Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**  
\$1,273,246 to restore approximately 1 acre of tidal

marsh and create 1,309 linear feet of living shoreline across 2 sites.  
(District 33)

**The Severn River Association**  
\$253,647 to implement 3 stormwater practices (micro-bioretenion) totaling 1.15 acres on community land.  
(District 30A)

### Baltimore City

**Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation**  
\$3,058,924 to implement two forebays, two stormwater retention ponds, and step pool conveyance systems to address water quality and flooding.  
(District 41)

**St. James Development Corporation**  
\$128,300 to remove impervious and install bioretentions to plant street trees at St. James' Church.  
(District 40)

### Baltimore County

**Baltimore County Government Environmental Protection and Sustainability**  
\$2,000,000 to restore 4,700 linear feet of stream on county land at Scotts Level Park.  
(District 10)

**Gunpowder Valley Conservancy**  
\$114,338 to restore 450 linear feet of living shoreline at Baynes Cove; \$261,745 to implement 7 stormwater micro-bioretenion features; \$159,577 to create 28 rain gardens; \$254,715 to plant 59.61 acres of trees at 22 sites (4 on county land).  
(District 7, 42A)

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$69,414 to plant 9 acres of trees as part of Healthy Waters Healthy Forests.  
(District 11, 42A)

**The Land Preservation Trust**  
\$1,577,923 to plant 9 acres of trees, and restore 0.5 acres of wetland, 4,063 linear feet of Piney Run Stream Restoration.  
(District 42A)

### Caroline County

**ShoreRivers**  
\$18,650 to plant 30 urban | trees on James T. Wright Memorial park municipal land in the Town of Preston as part of ShoreRivers Trees for Rural Towns initiative.  
(District 37B)

### Carroll County

**Carroll County Government Bureau of Resource Management**  
\$1,000,000 to plant 2 acres of trees, restore 877 linear feet of stream, and install a

## FY 2025 Project List Continued

1.5 acre stormwater feature on municipal land in the Town of Hampstead.  
(District 42C)

### **Maryland Forestry Foundation**

\$504,441 to plant 64 acres of trees and 2.5 acres of pollinator meadow with Healthy Waters Healthy Forests.  
(District 5, 42C)

### **Cecil County**

#### **Cecil County Government Stormwater Management**

\$886,394 to implement 1,000 linear feet of living shoreline and restore 0.33 acres of tidal marsh at Bohemia River State Park.  
(District 36)

**Maryland Forest Service**  
\$194,000 to plant 38.2 acres of trees at Fair Hill State Park and Bohemia River State Park.  
(District 36)

### **Charles County**

#### **Maryland Forestry Foundation**

\$118,544 to plant 15 acres of trees as part of the Healthy Waters Healthy Forests initiative.  
(District 28)

**Maryland Forest Service**  
\$176,000 to plant 25 acres of trees at Chapel Point State Park.  
(District 28)

### **Frederick County**

#### **Center for Watershed Protection**

\$1,981,767 to plant 13.05 acres of trees and restore 4,500 linear feet of stream in Church Branch Tributary.  
(District 4)

#### **Maryland Forestry Foundation**

\$620,564 to plant 78.95 acres of trees at 8 sites.  
(District 2A, 3A, 4)

#### **Western Maryland RC&D:**

\$481,689 to plant 48.54 acres of trees at 5 sites.  
(District 1A)

### **Garrett County**

**Maryland Forest Service**  
\$155,000 to plant 29 acres of trees at Sang Run State Park.  
(District 1A)

**Western Maryland RC&D:**  
\$470,582 to plant 90.85 acres of trees at 11 private sites; \$115,887 to plant 20.6 acres of trees on state land.  
(District 1A)

### **Harford County**

#### **City of Aberdeen**

\$886,000 to restore 700 linear feet of Carsins Run stream on municipal land.  
(District 34A)

#### **Harford County**

\$1,500,000 to restore 4,892 linear feet of stream at Fallston Middle and High School.

(District 7)

#### **Maryland Forestry Foundation**

\$76,641 to plant 2.5 acres of trees and 20 acres of meadow on 2 sites.  
(District 35A, 2A)

#### **Maryland Forest Service**

\$63,000 to plant 12 acres of trees at Susquehanna State Park.  
(District 35A)

### **Kent County**

#### **Maryland Forestry Foundation**

\$199,911 to plant 26 acres of trees on 3 Sites.  
(District 36)

#### **ShoreRivers**

\$2,029,394 to restore 4,052 linear feet of agricultural stream; \$2,647,885 to restore 2,700 linear feet of stream, 21.66 acres nontidal wetlands in three agricultural settings; \$205,826 to plant 515 urban trees at 2 sites on Town of Millington land.  
(District 36)

### **Montgomery County**

#### **Montgomery County**

\$525,000 to restore 300 linear feet of stream and 3 stormwater features.  
(District 16, 19)

### **Prince George's County**

#### **The Prince George's County**

\$500,024 to reforest 1.2 acres of trees and

# FY 2025 Project List Continued

implement 1,063 linear feet of stream restoration on County Land.  
(District 25)

## Queen Anne's County

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$9,227 to plant 1.2 acres of trees on municipal land.  
(District 36)

**Maryland Forest Service**  
\$550,000 to plant 159 acres of trees at Browns Branch Wildlife Management Area.  
(District 36)

## St. Mary's County

**Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development**  
\$210,000 to plant 22.3 acres of trees and 19 acres of meadow at Greenwell State Park.  
(District 29C)

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$883,627 to plant 112 acres of trees at 3 different sites.  
(District 29A, 29B)

**Maryland Forest Service**  
\$166,000 to plant 31.5 acres of trees at Greenwell State Park.  
(District 29A)

**Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**  
\$3,931,850 to implement 3,800 linear feet of living shorelines and 3.36 acres of tidal marsh.  
(District 29B)

## Somerset County

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$18,951 to plant 3 acres of trees.  
(District 38A)

## Talbot County

**Chesapeake Audubon Society**  
\$547,639 to construct 640 linear feet of living shoreline at Pickering Creek.  
(District 37B)

**ShoreRivers**  
\$16,380 to plant 36 urban trees at Temple B'Nai Israel of Easton.  
(District 37B)

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$63,223 to plant 8 acres of trees.  
(District 37B)

**Washington College**  
\$134,124 to restore 6 acres of trees and 24 acres of meadow on county land with the Natural Lands Program.  
(District 37B)

## Washington County

**Maryland Forestry Foundation**  
\$56,854 to plant 8 acres of trees.  
(District 1C, 2A)

**Western Maryland RC&D:**  
\$158,937 to plant 17.36 acres of trees.  
(District 1C, 2A)

## Worcester County

**Maryland Coastal Bays Program**  
\$898,000 to restore 110 acres of Salt Marsh in Maryland Coastal Bays; \$1,462,126 to restore 1,800 linear feet of Living Shoreline on state land.  
(District 38C)

**Lower Shore Land Trust, Inc**  
\$826,346 to restore 18 acres of meadow and 133.5 acres of non-tidal wetlands on state land.  
(District 38C)

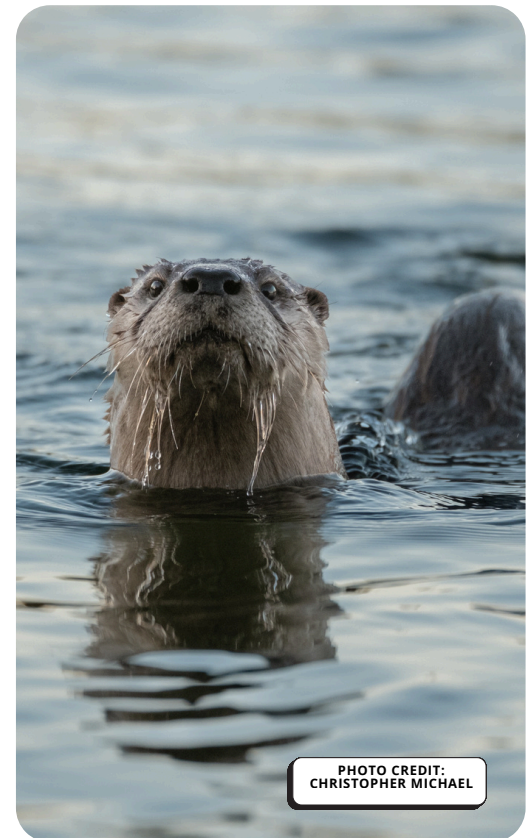


PHOTO CREDIT:  
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL

To learn more about the Trust Fund and to track projects funded in your region, please visit:

[dnr.maryland.gov](http://dnr.maryland.gov)

Dana Reiss | Watershed & Climate Services  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources | Tawes State Office  
Building, E-2 580 Taylor Avenue | Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-260-8825 | [dana.reiss@maryland.gov](mailto:dana.reiss@maryland.gov)



PHOTO CREDIT:  
KIM KOWALEWSKI

Publication Date: December 1, 2025  
MSAR 14291  
DNR 14-110525-1  
Printed on recycled paper



The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request.