

Annual Report 2018



About the Maryland Coastal Bays Program

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program is part of the EPA National Estuary Program and is a non-profit dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Coastal Bays and their watersheds through research, restoration, education, and public outreach. Our estuary includes five Coastal Bays - Assawoman Bay, Isle of Wight Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Newport Bay, and Chincoteague Bay, as well as the St. Martin River. Our watershed is one of the most ecologically diverse areas in Maryland and is home to a variety of wildlife including 108 rare, endangered, or threatened species.

2018 Program Highlights



The Assateague Living Shoreline was created in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Underwood & Associates, and Assateague State Park to improve a rapidly eroding shoreline and to increase resiliency to large coastal storm events. A series of headland structures were installed and planted with native salt marsh vegetation to reduce erosion rates. An additional project benefit includes habitat enhancement for horseshoe crabs, diamondback terrapins, and migratory shorebirds. The shoreline will also serve as an outdoor classroom and provide public access to Sinepuxent Bay.

Maryland Coastal Bays Program partnered with Ocean City Recreation & Parks to create a summer camp program for children to become "Estuary Explorers". The week-long camps featured a walk across the watershed and included field trips to Ayers Creek Kayak Adventures and to Assateague State Park to explore tidal creeks, maritime forests, and the Assateague Living Shoreline. The children had opportunities to seine for bay fishes, kayak, and learn about our local ecosystems.



Our inaugural Bay Day at Ocean Pines was created in partnership with Ocean Pines Association to emphasize the health of the St. Martin River and engage residents to make a difference in their own backyards. Over 30 different environmental partners and organizations attended to educate local residents and provide hands on activities. Activities included free boat tours, kayak rides, nature crafts, speaker workshops, native plant giveaways, and live animal encounters. The event also featured live music, a food garden, and free giveaways such as State and National Park passes, rain barrels, and a local farm basket.

Initiated by Chesapeake Conservation Corps member, Zachary Garmoe, the Ocean Pines Canal Challenge was started to capture a snapshot of the health of the water in the canals in Ocean Pines and the St. Martin River. Nearly 100 samples were brought in to be analyzed by local residents. Overall, the results were consistent with long-term water quality trends in the St. Martin River, which received a C in the 2017 Coastal Bays Report Card. Over seven inches of rain fell in the week before sampling, which likely led to high levels of oxygen compared to long-term averages.

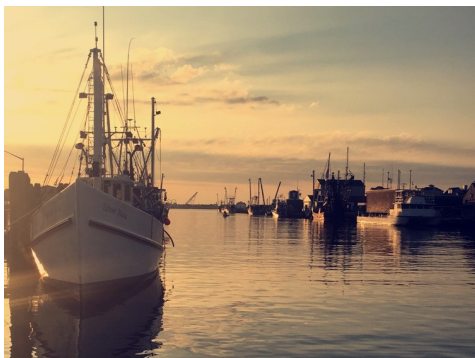
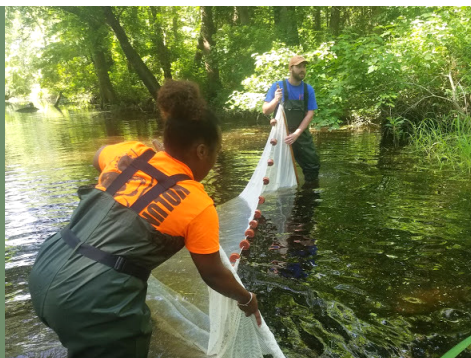


2018 Program Highlights Continued



In 2018, Maryland Coastal Bays Program completed a climate change vulnerability assessment of the goals in the Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The assessment looked at how climate change will affect the Program and identified and prioritized risks that will be address in an Climate Change Action Plan. .

Our 2018 summer interns monitored the biological health of seven freshwater streams throughout the watershed. The selected streams are part of MCBP's water quality monitoring program and were monitored for macroinvertebrates and fish species which can serve as indicators for water quality.



The University of Delaware completed an economic valuation of the Maryland Coastal Bays watershed. Through contributions directly related to employment, ecosystem services, and tourism, an economic value between \$1 to \$3 billion is contributed annually to the Coastal Bays watershed.

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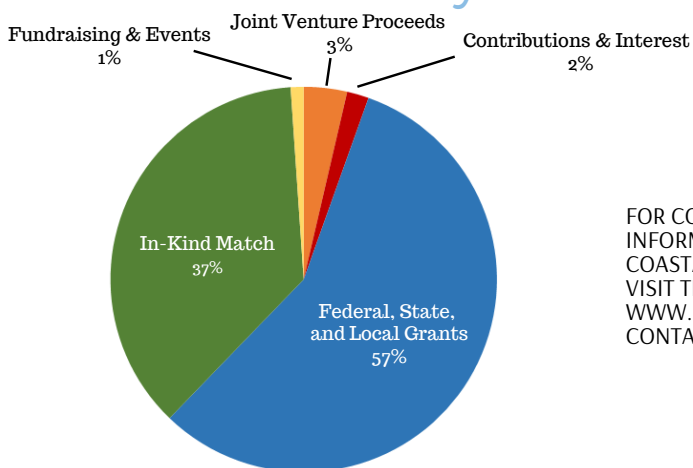
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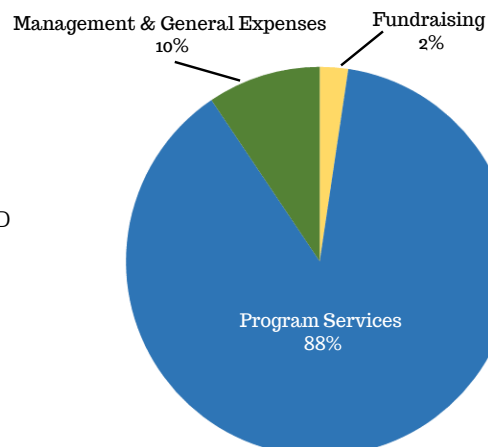
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2018 Maryland Coastal Bays Financial Reporting



2018 Income: \$1,767,506



2018 Expenses: \$1,719,178

FOR COMPLETE FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.MDCOASTALBAYS.ORG OR CONTACT (410) 213-BAYS (2297)

In 2018, U.S. EPA funding provided \$600,000 to the Maryland Coastal Bays Program through the National Estuary Program Cooperative Agreement. This funding leveraged more than \$10,000,000 in partnership program expenditures from federal, state, and local watershed related actions that support the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). These actions span a broad array of projects and programs from beach nourishment to improvements in wastewater technology that enable the Coastal Bays watershed to continue to provide over 1.2 billion dollars annually in economic activity from water quality, water supply, fish and wildlife, recreation, agriculture, forestry, and public parks benefits.

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