

Parks & People Foundation

2008

Annual Report



Our Mission

The Parks & People Foundation is dedicated to supporting a wide range of recreational and educational opportunities; creating and sustaining beautiful and lively parks; and promoting a healthy, natural environment for Baltimore.



Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

2008 was a challenging year. In spite of the economic downturn, the Parks & People Foundation thrived and continued to provide high quality recreational, educational and greening programs that positively impacted thousands of lives in Baltimore. Just when many communities needed encouragement the most, Parks & People was there.

We could not do our important work without the “People” in Parks & People – our tireless volunteers, loyal donors, dedicated partners and talented staff. Together we are working to make Baltimore a greener, healthier, safer and more beautiful city.

What follows is just a snapshot of 2008. We invite you to read our Annual Report and then pass it on to someone who may not be familiar with Parks & People. Think of it as a simple way to build community.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Sally Michel
Chairman of the Board

Jacqueline M. Carrera
President & CEO

Great Parks, Clean Streams & Green Communities



2008 Partnerships for Parks Grant Recipients

- Bolton Hill Garden Club
- Brooklyn and Curtis Bay Coalition
- Cheswolde Neighborhood Association
- Chinquapin Park Improvement Association
- Creative Alliance
- Cylburn Arboretum Association
- Dickeyville Garden Club
- East Side Garden Club
- Fells Prospect, Inc.
- Friends of Elmley Playground
- Friends of Herring Run Park
- Friends of Maple Leaf Park
- Friends of Mt. Vernon Parks
- Friends of Patterson Park
- Friends of Wyman Park Dell
- Greater Remington Improvement Association
- Gwynns Falls Trail Council
- Herring Run Watershed Association
- Hollins Roundhouse Association
- Locust Point Civic Association
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Midtown Community Benefits District
- Mount Clare Museum House
- Remington Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.
- Resident Action Committee CDC
- Ridgely's Delight Community Association
- Rutter's Mill Park Association
- Tour Dem Parks, Hon



Partnerships for Parks

Well-maintained parks and open spaces are essential to the quality of life in any city. Baltimore's parks provide more than just green space—they offer opportunities for communities to gather for recreation, celebration and reflection. In cooperation with Baltimore City's Department of Recreation & Parks, Partnerships for Parks provides resources, training and support to organizations that work to improve their communities through park stewardship. In 2008, the program distributed \$100,944 in grant funds to 29 organizations for projects ranging from garden bed improvements and plantings to new fences and benches.

In 2008, Partnerships for Parks' 1558 volunteers donated 5268 hours of work totaling an investment of \$102,779 into the parks system.



Watershed 263

Watershed 263 is much more than a 930-acre storm drain area encompassing 13 neighborhoods in west and southwest Baltimore. It is a vibrant grassroots project helping to revitalize urban communities by improving water quality and quality of life. The Watershed 263 Stakeholders Council and residents work to reduce litter, clean streets, increase recycling, create community gardens, install stormwater management facilities, clean and green vacant lots and plant trees.

In 2008, the Watershed 263 Council organized two very successful vacant lot restoration projects, one in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood and one in the Franklin Square neighborhood. In addition, the Council received a generous grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for stewardship programs that they will use to continue their important work.

A terrific example of Parks & People's philosophy of community building through greening

Watershed 263 Council Members:

- Anne Ames
- Faye Barrack
- Justine Bonner
- Rose Carter
- Arlene Fisher
- Beverly Glenn
- Barbara Greer
- Lynn Harris
- Ethel Locks
- Denise Johnson
- Charlene Pickney
- Gloria Pestrige
- Inez Robb
- Hakim Saleem-Bey
- Lou Takacs
- Annie Williams



Community Greening Stewardship

Baltimore City is fortunate to have so many residents committed to keeping its neighborhoods green and healthy. These community “greeners” volunteer thousands of hours each year to make Baltimore a safer and more beautiful place to live and work. The Parks & People Foundation’s Community Greening Stewardship program works to support these grassroots efforts through a grants program, technical resources, community organizing, education and advice for greeners and their projects.

Community Greening Resource Network

A natural outgrowth of the Community Greening Stewardship Program, CGRN (pronounced See Green), began in October 2008. A joint program of the Parks & People Foundation and Maryland Cooperative Extension, CGRN is a membership-based network that provides expert advice, education, plant materials, tools, equipment, and other resources to community gardens and individual stewards throughout Baltimore City. For a nominal yearly fee, CGRN members make invaluable connections as part of an organized, dedicated group of like-minded greeners.



Schoolyard Greening Initiative

The new green landscapes that are created through our Schoolyard Greening Initiative not only act as recreational spaces but also as educational places for Baltimore City school children to study nature and ecology. In 2008, Parks & People facilitated the removal of a total of over two acres of asphalt at the Windsor Hills, Curtis Bay and Hamilton Elementary/Middle Schools and helped students and their teachers to plan and plant their new schoolyards. To date over **20 acres** of asphalt have been removed through this initiative, improving water quality.



Public Housing Greening Initiative

In 2008, Parks & People worked with residents and staff from public housing communities including Perkins Homes, Brooklyn Homes, Dukeland Homes and Westport Homes to plant trees and install gardens. Thanks to the residents’ hard work and guidance from Parks & People staff members, yards of asphalt are slowly giving way to oases of green in Baltimore communities that are often overlooked.

Since 2007, three new garden beds have been installed and 59 trees have been planted in the Perkins Homes public housing community.

In 2008, Parks & People’s Neighborhood Greening Grants Program awarded \$35,181 to 54 groups dedicated to revitalizing Baltimore.

Community Grants Program

Many wonderful projects start small and just need a little help to get off the ground. Parks & People’s Community Grants program provides essential funding to a wide range of projects throughout Baltimore. Grants were awarded to community associations, gardening groups, public schools, parent-teacher organizations, watershed groups and faith-based organizations. These small grants of up to \$1,000 were funded through generous support from the TKF Foundation, the Baltimore Community Foundation and the Cleaner Greener Baltimore Fund. In 2008, Parks & People’s Community Grants supported everything from tree plantings and rain barrel installations to ornamental, educational and community food gardens, all making Baltimore City a greener, healthier place to live, work, learn and grow.



2008 Neighborhood Greening Grant Recipients:

A New Faith Community
Ashland Community Garden
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Barclay Leadership Council
Bolton Park Neighbors, Inc.
Boyd/Booth Concerned Citizens
Charles Carroll Barrister Elementary School
Chesapeake Center for Youth Development
Community Mediation Program
Cordelia-Hayward-Cuthbert Committee
Cross Country Elementary / Middle School
Friends of Carroll Park
Friends of Our Playground
Garrison Middle School & Roland Park Country School
Garwyn Oaks United Neighbors Association
Guilford Ave., LLC
Gwynns Falls Watershed Association
Hamilton Crop Circle
Madison East End Community Association

Montpelier Orchard
Mt. Washington Parent Teacher Association
Newborn Holistic Ministries, Inc.
Newington Avenue Neighbors Association
Oliver Community Association
OROSW Garden Club
Patterson Park Neighborhood Association
Remington Community Gardens
Remington Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.
Reservoir Hill Improvement Council
Resident Action Committee CDC
Riverside Neighborhood Assoc.
Robert W. Coleman Community Organization
Roland Park Elementary / Middle School
Roland Springs Community
Seton Hill Association
South Baltimore Improvement Committee
Southeast CDC / Highlandtown Main Street

St. James United Methodist Church
The Baltimore American Indian Center, Inc.
The Stadium School
West Indian Dance and Cultural Association
Windsor Hills Elementary / Middle School





Urban Resources Initiative

Now in its 19th year, the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) is a unique internship and research program that gives outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to utilize their classroom knowledge in the field by working on projects that improve the urban environment of Baltimore City. A collaboration between Parks & People, Yale University's School of Forestry, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, and many other universities, URI interns help develop practical, community-based solutions to problems facing some of the City's most underserved neighborhoods. In 2008, URI interns took the lead on numerous ventures including **BRANCHES (Building Resources and Nurturing Community Health and Environmental Stewardship)**, which provides disadvantaged youth with job skills training, the **Maryland Civic Justice Corps (MCJC)**, and **Project BLUE (Baltimore Lessons in Urban Ecosystems)**, which engages youth in solving community issues through environmental restoration and advocacy efforts.



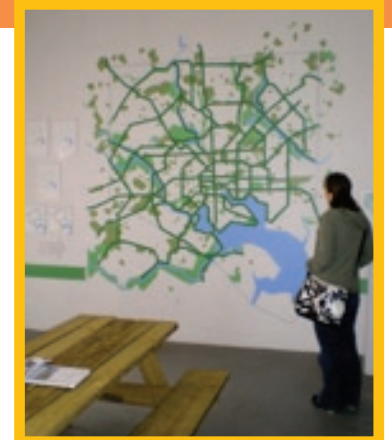
In 2008,
the Parks & People
Foundation welcomed
17 URI interns from
across the country.

Name	Project	School
Ammy Graul	BRANCHES	Univ. of Michigan
Conner Smith	BRANCEHS	Colgate
Reyve Funte	BRANCHES	Towson Univ.
Leroy Harcum	BRANCHES	Coppin State Univ., BCCC
Kathryn Henry	BRANCHES	Loyola College
Elise Van Metter	Project BLUE	Towson Univ.
Syed Ali	Project BLUE	Boston College
Anna Ewing	Project BLUE	Towson Univ.
Courtney Smith	Project BLUE/ MCJC	Boston College
Min Zheng	Project BLUE/ MCJC	Univ. of Vermont
Michelle Barrow	Project BLUE/ MCJC	UMBC
Amina Utley	Project BLUE/ MCJC	College of Notre Dame
Satish Serchan	Comm. Garden & Greening Survey/ MCJC	Univ. of Vermont
Courtney Francik	Comm. Garden & Greening Survey/ MCJC	Harvard Univ.
Celine Manekin	Comm. Garden & Greening Survey/ MCJC	Univ. of Maryland
Aisha Dorsey	Comm. Garden & Greening Survey/ MCJC	BCCC
Jordan Stainback	Comm. Garden & Greening Survey/ MCJC	BCPS



Community Arts

The Parks & People Foundation's Community Arts program strives to integrate the arts into Parks & People's projects and programs by promoting cooperation between community leaders and activists, leaders of arts-oriented nonprofits and public agencies. The goal of the program is to encourage self expression and stewardship through the visual, media and performing arts. In 2008, projects fostered in our Community Arts program had an extremely positive impact on the restoration, beautification and appreciation of Baltimore's urban natural resources. Some of the highlights of 2008 were the "Welcome to: ONE PARK" exhibition that was included in the Baltimore Festival of Maps, the 7th Art on the Gwynns Falls Trail and the funding of three separate community-based public art events through our grant programs.



URI Advisory Committee

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Dr. Shawn E. Dalton
Dr. Morgan Grove
Guy Hager
Hugo Lam
Dr. Patricia LaNoue
Dr. Andrew Miller
Dr. Claudia Goetz Phillips
Dr. Mary Washington
Dr. Jane Wolfson

Special Events

In October, Parks & People held its 13th Annual Community Greening Celebration honoring local residents for their outstanding work in parks and green spaces throughout Baltimore City. Mayor Sheila Dixon joined us for the reception and presented greening awards to the Newington Neighbors Association, the Resident Action Committee of Sandtown-Winchester, Devin Scott and Danielle Pittman (Youth Greeners) and Gene DeSantis (Volunteer of the Year). Guests enjoyed great food and company at the Wind Up Space while Parks & People showcased community greening endeavors as well as the great synergy between the Baltimore Ecosystem Study and local greening projects. This annual event is a celebration of all of the grassroots efforts that make amazing changes in Baltimore City neighborhoods every day. Many thanks to Constellation Energy for sponsoring the celebration.



Celebrating Baltimore's grassroots greening efforts.



Gwynns Falls Trail Council Members

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Vacant, Secretary

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Laura Perry
Parks & People Foundation
Seth Rosenberg
Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
Scott Pelton
Gwynns Falls Watershed Association
Pam Kelly
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Gwynns Falls Trail Council

The Gwynns Falls Trail is a 15-mile ribbon of green for hikers, bikers, and nature lovers of all ages. Connecting over 2,000 acres of publicly owned land within the Gwynns Falls stream valley, the greenway features one of the largest wilderness woodland parks in the Eastern United States.

The Gwynns Falls Trail connects over 30 neighborhoods with parklands, recreation opportunities, cultural resources and historic landmarks.

In June 2008, Trailhead 1 opened near the I-70 Park and Ride facility. The ambitious construction plan completed the last piece of the Trail and encourages bicycle commuting. To make the Trail even more user-friendly, the Gwynns Falls Trail Council installed 15 more historical interpretative panels bringing the total to 29. Work also continued on kiosk panels featuring 11 neighborhoods located adjacent to the Trail. A wide range of events took place on the Trail this year including the 7th Annual Art on the Trail festival which welcomed over 1,000 participants. Also hitting the Trail, over 150 athletes celebrating National Trails Day at the XTerra Trail Run on June 7.



Social Enterprises

Parks & People's Social Enterprises division acts as the business branch of our nonprofit organization. The idea is to help Parks & People to be more financially self-sustaining while furthering our mission. Through social enterprises, we address organizational capacity building needs and create social, economic and environmental value for the communities we serve. In addition to generating income for Parks & People, the Social Enterprises division researches opportunities related to environmental mitigation, carbon offset markets and wood waste reuse.

In 2008 Parks & People's Social Enterprises tree brokerage sold over 1,100 trees to hundreds of Baltimore area customers.

In 2008, the Social Enterprises division established strong supplier relationships with prominent nurseries and became a licensed plant broker. We started selling trees in the spring of 2008 and had a very successful first year. In recognition of this noteworthy progress, as well as our other innovative work, Parks & People received the "Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year" award from the University of Baltimore.



Motivating Youth



Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Parks & People Foundation. Thanks to all who gave their time in 2008.



KidsGrow

Now in its 14th year, KidsGrow, the Parks & People Foundation's environmental education after school program, served over 225 children in 2008. Each student enjoyed opportunities to learn about the environment through stewardship projects and recreational activities with the goal of creating future natural resource leaders. By engaging elementary and middle school students in hands-on projects including stream cleanups, gardening, camping, sailing, tree planting and ecosystem study, they began to feel connected to nature and the environment in a new way.

KidsGrow creates active young advocates for environmental issues in communities throughout Baltimore City.

This year's participating schools included Franklin Square Elementary, William Paca Elementary, Harford Heights Intermediate, Sinclair Lane Elementary and Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School.

The 2008 program featured a wide array of activities ranging from reading for the 100 Book Challenge to planting and harvesting a salad garden. In the winter months, students started a unit on ecology with visiting scientists from the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, attended a maple syrup collecting demonstration and participated in field trips. The spring brought sailing on the Inner Harbor and an overnight camping trip to Patapsco State Park. During the fall, children participated in a three-day Stream Waders program through a partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and visited the Art on the Trail exhibit on the Gwynns Falls Trail.





Sports

Parks & People is committed to motivating young people to be active, spend time outdoors, develop character and take care of the environment. Organized sports provide great opportunities for children to do all of these simultaneously.

In 2008, we ran **soccer**, **lacrosse**, **volleyball** and **baseball** leagues that served a total of 875 children on 46 teams. Most of these young athletes would never have had the opportunity to participate in organized sports without our programs.

Our leagues provided instruction for first-time players and spirited competition for more experienced athletes as well as lessons in the importance of hard work, reliability, commitment and teamwork. Our leagues also stressed the importance of academic achievement, requiring that all participants maintain a 75% grade point average and 90% attendance rate.



2008 Participating Schools

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Barclay Elementary / Middle School | Mary E. Rodman Recreation Center |
| Beechfield Elementary / Middle School | Maryland Academy of Technology |
| Calverton Middle School | Morrell Park Middle School |
| Chinquapin Middle School | Northeast Middle School |
| Cross Country Middle School | Roland Park Middle School |
| Dickey Hill Middle School | The Stadium School |
| Diggs-Johnson Middle School | Violetville Middle School |
| Francis Scott Key Middle School | Waverly Middle School |
| Harlem Park Recreation Center | West Baltimore Middle School |
| Hazelwood Middle School | William C. March Middle School |
| Liberty Recreation Center | William H. Lemmel Middle School |
| Lombard Middle School | |



SuperKids Camp

In 2008, SuperKids Camp welcomed over 1,000 rising 2nd and 3rd graders at 12 sites throughout Baltimore City. 110 staff members and a large team of tireless volunteers helped to make this year one of the camp's most memorable to date.

As always, the cornerstone of SuperKids Camp is improving literacy and maintaining reading skills in Baltimore City school students during the summer. This year's program of intensive reading instruction and experiential learning also added a new component requested by parents: math instruction.

To help make connections between classroom lessons and real life, SuperKids campers benefited from a wide array of enrichment activities. Campers enjoyed the rich cultural and academic resources in Baltimore including visual art instruction at Art on Purpose and the Maryland Institute College of Art; music, theater, storytelling and performance at the Music Workshop, Baltimore School for the Arts, Port Discovery's Art Ventures, CenterStage and the YMCA of Greater Baltimore; and educational activities at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Literacy links were seamlessly integrated into these fun activities challenging students to learn new vocabulary and use their reading skills while sharing once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

The Parks & People

Foundation's SuperKids

Camp is a national model for excellence in summer learning.



Annual Giving Campaign

Thank you also to the many donors who wished to remain anonymous

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Parks & People Foundation 2008 Financials

ASSETS

	2008	2007
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$448,723	\$1,064,446
Pledges Receivable	\$1,286,174	\$516,988
Grants Receivable	\$787,747	\$300,321
Investments	\$4,048,933	\$5,774,202
Prepaid Expenses	\$18,449	\$19,281
Property Improvements & Equivalent Net Loan Receivable	\$345,987	\$323,219
	\$0	\$50,000
Total Current Assets	\$6,936,013	\$8,048,457

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$234,003	\$277,614
Deferred Amounts	\$328,830	\$546,440
Total Liabilities	\$562,833	\$824,054

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$1,478,837	\$1,723,705
Temporarily Restricted	\$4,391,108	\$5,097,463
Permanently Restricted	\$503,235	\$403,235

Total Net Assets \$6,373,180 \$7,224,403

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$6,936,013** **\$8,048,457**

Support and Revenue

Grants	\$2,606,489	\$2,678,581
Contributions	\$814,844	\$694,944
In-Kind Contributions	\$112,757	\$122,857
Other Income	\$97,195	\$54,642
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$488,437	\$260,287
Total Support and Revenue	\$4,119,722	\$3,811,311

Expenses

Program Services	\$3,342,758	\$3,120,935
Administrative	\$623,360	\$658,608
Total Expenses	\$3,966,118	\$3,779,543

Change in Net Assets from Operations \$153,604 \$31,768

Non-Operating Activities: Investment Income - \$398,472 \$286,008

Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets - \$244,868 \$317,776

Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$1,723,705 \$1,405,929

Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year \$1,478,837 \$1,723,705

Independent audit performed by Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A.
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