



**PARKS & PEOPLE**  
FOUNDATION

## 2010 Annual Report

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:

Over the past 27 years, the Parks & People Foundation has positively influenced the lives of hundreds of thousands of Baltimore City residents in large part because of our ability to adapt to the needs of our ever-changing city. Our staff and partners bring an amazing range of skills and talents to our organization and we are proud to pass on those skills to community organizers, students and now to Baltimore's workforce.

In 2010, Parks & People was awarded over \$1 million dollars from the US Forest Service and Department of Housing through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The stimulus money funded 34 new jobs including seven Clean Up, Green Up teams. Within a few short months, our teams were making great strides in greening Baltimore neighborhoods, including Parks & People's site at Auchentoroly Terrace in Druid Hill Park, while gaining valuable, transferable skills in the emerging green jobs sector.

We are incredibly proud of our Clean Up, Green Up teams and thrilled at the amount of progress they made in such a short time.

We hope you enjoy reading about the progress that our other programs made toward growing a better Baltimore in 2010 and if you have a chance, please share one of these stories with a friend who may not yet know Parks & People.

Thank you for your interest and your support,

Sally Michel  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Jacqueline M. Carrera  
*President & CEO*

### Grants

#### Neighborhood Greening Grants

Since 1996, our Neighborhood Greening Grants program has helped almost 400 Baltimore community organizations realize their goals. These small awards of up to \$1,000 are often just enough to get a project off the ground. In 2010, Parks & People received 70 grant applications. Forty four projects were funded for a total of \$35,470 – almost \$10,000 more than 2009. Thirty one of the 44 grantees had never applied to the Neighborhood Greening Grants program before – further proof of Baltimore's ever-growing interest in greening.

#### 2010 NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING GRANT RECIPIENTS

Abbotston Elementary School • Amazing Port Street Coalition • Armistead Gardens Elementary/Middle School • Ash Street Community Garden • Belair-Edison Community Association • Bolton Park Neighbors, Inc. • Brentwood Garden • C.A.R.E. Community Association, Inc. • Cheswolde Neighborhood Association, Inc. • Civitas School • Duncan Street Miracle Garden • East Baltimore Community Garden • Edmondson Village Collaborative, Inc. • Episcopal Community Services of MD • Filbert Street Garden • Friends of Carroll Park, Inc. • Friends of McAllister Park

• Friends of the Pennsylvania Ave. Branch Library • Friends of the Southeast Anchor Library • Gardens of Hope • Hamilton Crop Circle • Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition • Independence School Local 1 • Luzerne Means Light Block Club • Medfield Heights Elementary School • Friends of Historic St. Paul Street Park • Newington Avenue Neighbor Association • Patterson Park Neighborhood Association • Project PLASE • Radnor Winston Improvement Association • Ridgely's Delight Association • St. Francis Neighborhood Center • St. Joseph Improvement Association • Stafford Park Community Garden • The Beet Food Co-op • The Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School • The Stadium School • Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle School • Tinges Common • Tuerk House • United HOPE Community Development Corporation • Whitelock Community Farm • Windsor Hills Elementary/Middle School

#### Partnerships for Parks

The Partnerships for Parks grant program, a partnership between Parks & People and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, continues to make valuable improvements in our city parks each year. In 2010, 20 grants were awarded totaling \$49,082. Awards were used for a wide variety of park projects including

Collington Square Elementary/Middle School • Cross Country Elementary/Middle School • Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School • Diggs Johnson Elementary/Middle School • Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary/Middle School • Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School • Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School • Friendship Academy • Hampstead Hill Academy • Hazelwood Elementary/Middle School • KIPP Ujima Village Academy • New Era Academy • Roland Park Elementary/Middle School • Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School • Violetville Elementary/Middle School • Westport Elementary/Middle School • Windsor Hills Elementary/Middle School

#### SuperKids Camp

SuperKids Camp welcomed 741 rising 2nd and 3rd graders from 113 Baltimore City public schools in 2010. For six weeks, participants enjoyed a remarkable range of enrichment activities that included: immersing themselves in the Polar Bear Watch and African Journey exhibits at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore; creating original songs and playing instruments with Music Workshop; and sailing on the Inner Harbor with Downtown Sailing. Each of these activities plus hours of independent reading emphasized the important classroom lessons offered at SuperKids Camp, all aimed at combating summer learning loss.

### In 2010:

- 100 people toured 7 of Baltimore's best community gardens during the Charm City Garden Tour
- Our Boys Lacrosse League grew from 6 to 10 teams
- SuperKids Camp welcomed 741 2nd and 3rd graders for six weeks of learning and enrichment
- 44 Neighborhood Greening Grants were awarded to community groups throughout Baltimore



a memorial garden, a summer program that enabled young people to earn new bikes by volunteering in parks, arts workshops, installation of plants, trees and fencing and more.

In addition, Partnerships for Parks held six public GROW workshops on topics ranging from capacity building and neighborhood design to social media. Partnerships for Parks also facilitated 29 major volunteer events in 13 Baltimore City parks resulting in 3,963 volunteer hours donated to the parks system.

#### PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Belair-Edison Community Association • Butchers Hill Association • The Creative Alliance • Cylburn Arboretum Association • Druid Heights Community Development Corporation • Hampden Community Council • Mid-Govans Community Association • Mt. Royal Improvement Association • Bayview Community Association • Belair Edison Neighborhoods Inc. • Education & Sports Heritage Foundation • Friends of Clifton Park • Friends of GwynnsFalls/Leakin Park • Garywn Oaks Northwest Housing Resource Center • Hamilton Crop Circle • Harlem Park Parents & Coaches Association • Historic Mt. Royal Terrace Association • Multicultural Education Training & Research Organization • Skatepark of Baltimore • South Baltimore Neighborhood Association



### KidsGrow

KidsGrow addresses the lack of quality afterschool activities for 2nd through 5th graders in Baltimore City and introduces them to environmental stewardship – a win-win situation for sure. KidsGrow welcomed over 130 participants from William Paca and Franklin Square Elementary/Middle Schools in 2010.

In addition to their daily lessons on nature and the environment, overnight camping trips to Echo Hill Outdoor School and Camp Saffron, planting vegetable gardens and doing stream studies, KidsGrow participants were invited on a very special tour of the White House by Senator Barbara Mikulski.



### Parks & People Foundation Staff

As of date of publication

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Erin Williams, Accounting Assistant

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Robert Cherry, BRANCHES Team Leader  
Amy Dewan, Assistant Environmental Educator  
Katie Dix, CGRN Coordinator  
Mary Hardcastle, Environmental Education & Community Outreach Program Manager  
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Valerie Shane, BRANCHES and Community Grants Programs Coordinator  
Desiree Shelley, Project BLUE Coordinator  
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George Trower, BRANCHES Team Leader

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Miriam Avins, Baltimore Green Space  
Bess Caplan, Baltimore Ecosystem Study

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## Community Greening Celebration

Everyone loves a good party and this year's 2010 Greening Celebration and Baltimore Ecosystem Study Open House was one of our best yet. The 2010 celebration welcomed over 200 people to the new Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum. While guests enjoyed the party, Parks & People presented seven awards to local greening organizations. Sponsors included: Constellation Energy, the TKF Foundation, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, the Baltimore Community Foundation, Cleaner Greener Baltimore and the Baltimore Ecosystem Study.

Award Winners:

*Outstanding Neighborhood Greening Grant*  
Patterson Park Neighborhood Association

*Outstanding Partnerships for Parks Grant Project*  
South Baltimore Neighborhood Association  
Heath Street Community Garden

*CGRN "Friend of the Network" Award*  
Ash Street Garden

*CGRN "Community Anchor" Award*  
Brentwood Garden

*Outstanding Schoolyard Garden*  
Curtis Bay Elementary/ Middle School

*Outstanding Youth-Led Project*  
BRANCHES Perkins Homes Team

*Outstanding Garden Chicken*  
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School

## Earth Day 2010

Every day is Earth Day at Parks & People, but April 22, 2010 was particularly special. We celebrated by installing a garden with Lt. Governor Anthony Brown in Locust Point on a plot of land owned by the UCC Church of Christ and maintained by a class at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School. On the same day, Parks & People worked with the Baltimore Ravens Foundation, Athletes for Hope and M&T Bank to clean and green a section of the Gwynns Falls Trail at Carroll Park in Baltimore City.

## Green Up, Clean Up Teams

In December 2009, Parks & People received \$1,077,000 in ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds through the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds were used to create 34 full-time green jobs focused on landscape restoration and environmental rehabilitation projects in Baltimore City.

The work completed by the teams was impressive and included:

- Planting 2,217 trees with partner organizations throughout Baltimore
- Watering and maintaining over 800 trees
- Completing restoration work in 5 city parks and 11 public housing properties
- Installing gardens at five schools and on six vacant lots
- Building two new bio-retention facilities
- Removing 15 tons of trash from green spaces
- Completing three restoration projects along the Gwynns Falls Trail



## Watershed 263

Greening neighborhoods improves not only the look and feel of a community but also its environmental health. In Watershed 263 – a section of west Baltimore that includes the neighborhoods of Sandtown-Winchester, Harlem Park, Franklin Square and Westport, Parks & People provides community outreach and education and organizes grassroots community greening efforts that improve water quality in the watershed.

In 2010, we removed 11,616 square feet of asphalt, planted 271 trees and completed six vacant lot restoration projects, all in partnership with the Watershed 263 Council and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works.

## Community Arts

The Parks & People Foundation's environmental arts program strives to infuse the arts into all of our program areas. This year we offered afterschool art instruction at schools involved in our BRANCHES and KidsGrow programs.

In addition, we partnered with Nana Projects, the organization that has produced the annual Patterson Park Lantern Parade, to create "How To Grow A Pickle", a shadow puppet show for children and families that revolves around backyard gardening. Four well-attended performances were held in the early fall at community garden spaces, including the Filbert Street Garden in Curtis Bay, the 901 Arts Youth Sculpture Garden in Waverly, Black Cherry Puppet Theater in Southwest Baltimore and the Hamilton Crop Circle in Hamilton.



## CGRN

CGRN (Community Greening Resource Network) completed its second year in operation in 2010 and membership grew from 86 in 2009 to an impressive 196. Ninety three individual and community gardens, 38 schools (up from 19 in 2009), 36 private/family gardens and 29 advocates benefited from a wide array of resources including top-quality workshops and educational programs, free seeds, plants, soil and compost, use of thousands of tools at local tool banks, volunteer help and more.

CGRN's hugely popular Giveaway Days increased from four in 2009 to six in 2010 and provided over 4,000 seed packets, 5,000 vegetable and herb seedlings, native shrubs and trees and countless yards of soil and compost to members from gardens across Baltimore.

Finally, 2010 marked CGRN's first fundraising event, the Charm City Garden Tour, in partnership with the UME Baltimore City Master Gardeners. Over 100 participants biked themselves or bussed to 10 East Baltimore gardens in August of 2010 to celebrate greening and community.

## 2010 Financials

Balance Sheet			
	2010	2009	
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1414096	603,852	
Pledges Receivable	893,941	1,186,096	
Grants Receivable	629,634	472,721	
Investments	5,646,378	4,927,681	
Prepaid Expenses	37,658	9,024	
Property Improvements & Equivalent Net	1,285,594	810,020	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>9,907,301</b>	<b>8,009,394</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	262,075	168,492	
Deferred Amounts	464,385	434,045	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>726,460</b>	<b>602,537</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted	3,008,695	2,048,604	
Temporarily Restricted	5,668,911	4,855,018	
Permanently Restricted	503,235	503,235	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>9,180,841</b>	<b>7,406,857</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>9,907,301</b>	<b>8,009,394</b>	



## Gwynns Falls Trail Council

2010 marked a fun-filled and educational year for the Gwynns Falls Trail Council. Volunteers worked along all stretches of the Trail removing invasives and maintaining paths and signage. The Council and Trail volunteers supported the annual "Tour Dem Parks, Hon' bike ride, National Trails Day and Harbor Hospital's Senior Walk and ended the year with a beautiful celebration at the Orianda House holiday party.

Parks & People's environmental education staff completed the Gwynns Falls Trail Field Trip Guide and began taking students out on the Trail to conduct stream studies, learn about ecosystems and experience nature. In addition, a new audio tour was created by Trail historian Ed Orser and audio artist Steve Bradley. The audio tour is keyed to 9 Trailheads and makes for a new and interesting way to enjoy the history and ecology of the Gwynns Falls Trail.

### The Gwynns Falls Trail Council OFFICERS

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Heide Grundmann, Vice Chair

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## Urban Resources Initiative (URI)

In 2010, URI expanded its internship opportunities to include both students and working professionals in its work with the Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES), BRANCHES (Building Resources and Nurturing Community Health and Environmental Stewardship) and Project BLUE (Baltimore Lessons in Urban Ecosystems). BRANCHES expanded its afterschool program to four local Baltimore City public high schools, while Project BLUE provided environmental enrichment and field study training to members of the Maryland Park Services' Civic Justice Corps, a six-week summer green jobs training program for Baltimore City youth.

### 2010 URI INTERNS

Courtney Francik, Desiree Shelley, Mark Felton, Shamou Pusey, Melissa Katz, Megan Saxe

### 2010 URI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Dr. Sidney Brower Guy Hager  
Dr. Grace Brush Dr. Andrew Miller  
Dr. William Burch Bill Vondrasek  
Jackie Carrera Dr. Jane Wolfson  
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## Children In Nature

Parks & People has always worked to encourage young people to get outside and connect with nature. In 2010, we continued this important work and strengthened our ties to the growing Children In Nature movement by creating nature play spaces at EcoFest and other local events, engaging leadership at the local and state levels, creating nature play and study spaces at two Baltimore City schools and planning the 2011 Greater Baltimore Children in Nature Conference. In addition, we piloted a new nature field trip program and guide using the Gwynns Falls Trail and its many natural and historical features as an outdoor classroom.



## Project BLUE

Project BLUE, Baltimore Lessons in Urban Ecosystems, provides afterschool and summer programming that immerses middle school students in the world of watersheds and urban ecosystems through engaging interactive lessons, hands-on activities and field investigations.

In 2010, Project BLUE welcomed 83 students from Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy, Harlem Park and Franklin Square Elementary/Middle schools. Participants in Project BLUE learned in the classroom but they also got outside often to plant trees and vegetable gardens, create bird feeders and install nature-themed art projects in their schoolyards.



Profit & Loss				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Grants	3,102,874	0	0	3,102,874
Contributions	695,999	842,594	0	1,538,593
Donated Materials and Services	78,032	0	0	78,032
Special Events Revenue, net of Expenses of \$38,284	8,111	0	0	8,111
Other Revenue	108,547	0	0	108,547
Net Assets Released from Restriction	863,097	-863,097	0	0
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>4,856,660</b>	<b>-20,503</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,836,157</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	3,400,301	0	0	3,400,301
Administrative	614,517	0	0	614,517
Fundraising	94,493	0	0	94,493
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,109,311</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,109,311</b>
Change in Net Assets from Operations	747,349	0		747,349
Non-Operating Activities: Investment Income	212,742	834,396		1,047,138
Increase(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	960,091	813,893		1,773,984
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year	2,048,604	4,855,018	503,235	7,406,857
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>3,008,695</b>	<b>5,668,911</b>	<b>503,235</b>	<b>9,180,841</b>

Independent audit performed by Loudon & Assoc., PA. The Parks & People Foundation is a Maryland Corporation registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) organization and the Maryland Secretary of State (registration does not constitute or imply endorsement of any solicitation for contributions).

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**We'd also like to thank the many donors who wish to remain anonymous.**

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