



PARKS & PEOPLE
FOUNDATION

2009 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:

Whenever we are asked to describe the important work of the Parks & People Foundation, we strive to keep it simple. We have so many wonderful programs that benefit Baltimore City and its residents in so many ways, it's sometimes difficult to distill it all into a few sentences.

In 2009 we started work on our new website, www.parksandpeople.org. After weeks of discussion, our staff and stakeholders agreed to organize the website in the same way that we think about our work: in terms of Play, Learn, Parks and Greening. We feel that these simple words capture the essence of what we do here at Parks & People and we hope that

these words will inspire you to be even more involved in your community in 2010.

We hope you enjoy reading about the remarkable impact our work has had in 2009 and if you have an opportunity, please share one or two of these stories with someone who may not yet be familiar with the Parks & People Foundation.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Sally Michel,
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Jacqueline M. Carrera,
President & CEO

Sally & Jackie

Grants

Neighborhood Greening Grants

The Parks & People Foundation received a total of 85 grant applications during two 2009 funding cycles for requests totaling \$76,853.

46 of these projects were funded for a total of \$26,749. Of the applicants, 33 groups were new to the program and had not received funding from Parks & People before.

2009 NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING GRANT RECIPIENTS

Armistead Gardens Recreation Committee
• Ashburton Area Association • Baltimore International Academy • Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School • BAR Green Threshold Chess Park • Belair Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. • Belvedere Improvement Association • Bentalou Elementary School #150 • Cardinal Shehan School • Carmine Community Garden • Charles Village Civic Association • Child First Authority • Concerned Citizens of Woodbury • Darley Park Community • Downtown Farm • Fayette Street Outreach • Federal Hill Preparatory School PTO • Friends of Carroll Park • Friends of Riverside Park • Gardenville Elementary • Greater Greektown Neighborhood Alliance • Growing Girls & Gardens • Hamilton Crop Circle • Hamilton Gardens • Hampstead Hill Garden • Holistic Life Foundation • Kids on the Hill • McElderry Park Association • Medfield Heights Elementary School • Radnor Winston Improvement Association • Saint Casimir Catholic School • Saint Francis Neighborhood



Center • Services United • Southwest Garden Club • The Baltimore American Indian Center • The Green School of Baltimore • The Stadium School Youth Dreamers • The Village Learning Place • Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle School • Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School #84 • Unity Urban Garden • West Indian Dance & Cultural Association • West Station Community Gardens • 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

Elementary/Middle School • James McHenry Recreation Center • Bentalou Recreation Center • Liberty Recreation Center • Harlem Park Recreation Center • Mary E. Rodman Recreation Center

SuperKids Camp

SuperKids Camp welcomed over 750 rising 2nd and 3rd graders from 108 public schools in Baltimore City in 2009. Participants enjoyed an amazing array of enrichment activities including climbing on board the USS Constellation for some maritime education, going to the Baltimore School for the Arts for "Finding the Art in Me", and traveling along the Historic Jonestown Heritage Walk for lessons in history. All of these terrific activities plus intensive instruction in reading and math to combat summer learning loss... what a winning combination!

KidsGrow

In 2009, KidsGrow served 151 6th and 7th graders at William Paca and Franklin Square Elementary/Middle Schools. In addition to regular lessons on the environment, the students went camping at Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Eastern Shore, planted trees with members of the American Bar Association, harvested their own salad greens and read thousands of pages while participating in the annual 100 Book Challenge.

In 2009:

- CGRN shared **2,766** seed packets, **5,146** vegetable and herb seedlings, **2,617** perennials and **8.5** cubic yards of soil and compost with community gardeners.
- **900** Baltimore City public school students played in our sports leagues.
- **2,155** trees were planted in Watersheds 246 and 263.
- Our grant programs awarded **\$113,980** to **75** community organizations for park and greening projects throughout Baltimore City.
- **750** 2nd & 3rd graders from **108** Baltimore City public schools attended SuperKids Camp, our award-winning summer academic and recreational program.
- Dozens of groups from local businesses, schools and civic groups and hundreds of individuals volunteered their time to help make Baltimore a cleaner and greener place to live, work, play and learn.

Parks, enjoyed renewed interest from park groups in 2009 awarding 29 grants totaling \$87,231. Awards were used for a wide variety of valuable park projects from maintenance and small building projects to concerts and bike tours.

In 2009, Partnerships for Parks organized 19 major volunteer events in 12 parks resulting in 3,377 volunteer hours donated to the parks system for a total value of over \$68,000. Activities included trail maintenance, trash and invasive plant removal, tree planting and more.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Baltimore Green Works • Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association • Baltimore Urban Program • BENI, INC • Creative Alliance • Federal Hill Neighborhood Association • Fells Point Main Street • Friends of Canton Dog Park • Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park • Friends of Hanlon Park • Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes • Friends of Mullen Park • Friends of Patterson Park • Friends of Wyman Park Dell • Greenspace Action Partnership • Gwynns Falls Trail Council • Gwynns Falls Watershed Association • J. A. Raiders Soccer and Social Club • Jones Falls Watershed Association • Lauraville Business Association • Locust Point Civic Association • Midtown Community Benefits District • MultiCultural Education Training & Research Organization (METRO) • Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Collaborative • Rutter's Mill Park Association • Tour Dem Parks • Windsor Hills Neighbors



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As of date of publication

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Michael Ward, *Receptionist*

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Erin Williams, *Accounting Assistant*

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Kyle DeVaul, *Development & Promotions Coordinator*

Kathleen Dragovich, *Campaign Consultant*
Alexandra Kraus, *Development & Promotions Assistant*

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Jacquelyn Bullock, *Manager of Youth Enrichment Programs*

Bernie Shephard, *Sports Program Coordinator*

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Mary Washington, *Associate Director of Great Parks, Clean Streams & Green Communities*

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Abby Cocke, *Community Greening Stewardship Program Manager*

Mary Hardcastle, *Environmental Education & Community Outreach Program Manager*

Sarah Kronos, *Community Greening Coordinator*
Nicole McDaniels, *Recruitment & Placement Coordinator*

Ryan Patterson, *Community Arts Organizer*
Sarah Ritter, *Community Greening Resource Network Coordinator (VISTA)*

Desiree Shelley, *Project BLUE Coordinator*
Bryant Smith, *Community Forestry Coordinator*

Portia Smith, *Community Outreach Liaison*
Phillip Stafford, *Shriver Peaceworker Fellow, URI*

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Bess Caplan, *Baltimore Ecosystem Study*

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Spotlight on the Morris Street Sculpture Garden

The Morris Street Sculpture Garden was originally created by and for Kids on the Hill, an innovative after-school program for young people in the Reservoir Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. Funded in part by a Neighborhood Greening grant, the garden has grown and evolved over the years and neighborhood residents have taken notice. Now neighbors work hand in hand with the young people from Kids on the Hill to maintain and improve the garden however they can.



Spotlight on Nature Play Spaces

If you see a playground in Baltimore City made of woodcuts, branches, hay bales and other natural materials, chances are that it's been built and/or conceived by Parks & People. We are part of a larger, national movement to bring nature back to play for children in even the most urban settings. In 2009, our nature play spaces popped up at City events like EcoFest and Flowermart to the delight of hundreds of children (and a few adults).



Cirque du Soleil

The Parks & People Foundation was honored to receive a very special donation from the world-famous Cirque du Soleil when they brought their traveling show, Kooza, to town in March, 2009. Cirque donated hundreds of tickets which Parks & People sold to benefit our programs throughout Baltimore. Many thanks to Cirque du Soleil for helping us create such a successful and memorable event!

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Schoolyard Greening Initiative

In 2009, Parks & People hosted 25 workshops attended by over 100 Baltimore City school teachers who learned how to lead students in designing, installing and maintaining natural habitats in their schoolyards.

Seven of the schools Parks & People worked with formed new "Green Teams" of students and teachers interested in improving the environmental health of their schools.

Also in 2009, Parks & People in cooperation with our partners at the Baltimore City Public School System and Maryland Port Authority, removed more than two acres of asphalt from school playgrounds. In its place, we installed 7 schoolyard habitats, vegetable gardens, and outdoor classrooms and planted more than 75 trees and 500 perennials and vegetable plants on school grounds.

Public Housing Greening Initiative

In 2009, Parks & People worked with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks' Forestry Division to plant 50 new trees at Perkins Homes in East Baltimore.

In addition, we organized five community work days in public housing communities throughout the City including Westport/Mt. Winans, Brooklyn and Dukeland/Rosemont. The work days resulted in the planting of 33 new trees and approximately 780 acres of garden space.

In the spring of 2009, Parks & People staff members took part in two "Spring Kick-Off" days where they shared educational information about the benefits of trees and gardens and helped dozens of children plant flower seeds to label and take home.



Gwynns Falls Trail Council

The Gwynns Falls Trail Council added 100 new members in 2009 and hosted several successful promotional and volunteer events including a cleanup of Middle Branch Park on National Trails Day in June. In addition, 11 new interpretive panels were installed along the Trail and the final trailhead opened linking over 2,000 acres of publicly owned land for recreation.

The Gwynns Falls Trail Council OFFICERS

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Heide Grundmann, *Vice Chair*



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Gwynns Falls Watershed Association

Pam Kelly
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

CGRN

CGRN (Community Greening Resource Network) completed its first full year in operation in 2009. Membership grew to 67 individual and community gardens and 19 schools, all of whom benefited from top-quality workshops and a wide array of resources.

One of CGRN's most popular benefits is Giveaway Day at which members receive seedlings, compost, soil and more at no cost. **In 2009, 2,766 seed packets, 5,146 vegetable and herb seedlings, 8.5 yards of soil and compost, 2,617 perennial plants and bulbs, and 38 flats of annuals were shared with members.**

As the name implies, the Community Greening Resource Network is truly a network of greeners and volunteers. During the 2009 growing season, 132 volunteers gave over 424 hours of service to gardens throughout the City.

Urban Resource Initiative (URI)

URI interns continued to take the lead on several important initiatives and projects in 2009 including BRANCHES (Building Resources and Nurturing Community Health and Environmental Stewardship) and Project BLUE (Baltimore Lessons in Urban Ecosystems). URI staff and interns also worked closely with the Maryland Park Service and Maryland Department of Natural Resources on the Civic Justice Corps program, a job training program for at-risk youth.

2009 URI INTERNS

Phillip Stafford
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Satish Serchan
University of Vermont

Courtney Francik
Harvard University

Elise VanMetter
University of Maryland, College Park

Desiree Shelley
University of Maryland, College Park

Nicole Angeli
The Johns Hopkins University

Lore Trower
Baltimore City Community College

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Dr. Andrew Miller
Dr. Claudia Goetz Phillips
Dr. Mary Washington
Dr. Jane Wolfson



Community Arts

The Parks & People Foundation's community arts program strives to infuse the arts into all of our program areas. In its first full year, the community arts staff worked with Baltimore's Barclay Elementary/Middle School to help students design and create the new Schoolyard Ecology Center using only an empty shipping container and their imaginations. The project received rave reviews from the school and surrounding community and was featured in Metropolis Magazine.

2009 Financials

Balance Sheet		
	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	603,852	448,723
Pledges Receivable	1,186,096	1,286,174
Grants Receivable	472,721	787,747
Investments	4,927,681	4,048,933
Prepaid Expenses	9,024	18,449
Property Improvements & Equivalent Net	810,020	345,987
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	8,009,394	6,936,013
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	168,492	234,003
Deferred Amounts	434,045	328,830
Total Liabilities	602,537	562,833
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	2,048,604	1,478,837
Temporarily Restricted	4,855,018	4,391,108
Permanently Restricted	503,235	503,235
Total Net Assets	7,406,857	6,373,180
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	8,009,394	6,936,013

Profit & Loss				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Grants	1,931,214	0	0	1,931,214
Contributions	673,662	248,600	0	922,262
Donated Materials and Services	80,826	0	0	80,826
Special Events Revenue, net of Expenses of \$38,284	5,498	0	0	5,498
Other Revenue	72,570	97,195	0	169,765
Net Assets Released from Restriction	672,903	-672,903	0	0
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	3,436,673	-327,108	0	3,109,565
EXPENSES				
Program Services	2,453,116	0	0	2,453,116
Administrative	534,146	0	0	534,146
Fundraising	85,045	0	0	85,045
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,072,307	0	0	3,072,307
Change in Net Assets from Operations	364,366	-424,303		-59,937
Non-Operating Activities: Investment Income	205,401	888,213		1,093,614
Increase(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	569,767	463,910		1,033,677
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,478,837	4,391,108	503,235	6,373,180
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	2,048,604	4,855,018	503,235	1,723,705

Independent audit performed by Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, 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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