

Revitalizing Baltimore

The Northeastern Area

State and Private Forestry

USDA Forest Service

Bringing Forestry to the people through collaborative stewardship



Revitalizing Baltimore

Revitalizing Baltimore is a national model community forestry and watershed restoration project funded by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation in cooperation with the Maryland State Forester. The project goal is to demonstrate human and natural system connections and equip people to care for natural resources, while employing these resources to revitalize urban neighborhoods. The project is a partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Baltimore City and Baltimore County, several other non-profit organizations, three community-based watershed associations, businesses, and academic institutions.



Goals for Revitalizing Baltimore

The following are goals identified by the Revitalizing Baltimore Project.

- Create a healthy, safe, pleasant, and beautiful urban community for living, learning, working and recreating, where people understand and act on the knowledge of human and ecosystem relationships.
- Provide a national model that demonstrates collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches among diverse public and private organizations to address social, economic, and ecological issues in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

Key Objectives for Revitalizing Baltimore

The following are some of the key concepts that guide the Revitalizing Baltimore Project.

- Improve urban natural resource management with comprehensive and scientifically based ecological principals, which integrate human and natural system needs in a sustainable manner.
- Increase urban natural resource stewardship through education, communication, and opportunities for community action that promotes shared responsibilities between residents and government.
- Improve the effectiveness of watershed-based organizations that mobilize citizens and community groups, particularly underserved neighborhoods, to improve the ecological health of urban forests, by employing strategies that are responsive to current social issues.
- Advance community-based decision-making and planning by engaging citizens in a process to restore, protect, and utilize natural resources in order to revitalize urban neighborhoods.
- Encourage partnerships with local public agencies that reflect a public commitment of financial and in-kind resources.

Achievements for Revitalizing Baltimore: 1999

The following are some achievements of the Revitalizing Baltimore Project during 1999.

- Thirteen community-based projects funded ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000.
- Activities completed in 34 urban neighborhoods—planting over 2,000 trees in 60 projects involving more than 1,500 volunteers; watershed events attracting over 8,000 people.
- Environmental Stewardship promoted for 1,500 youth through KidsGrow, EnviroKids, Outward Bound, and Irvine Natural Science Center.
- Community workshops conducted using the Gwynns Falls Watershed Ecological Resource Atlas.

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