

GREENTRUST ALLIANCE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Jamesburg Park Project Completed
- Mattawoman Creek Site Completed
 - \$4.7 Million in Revenue
 - \$6.1 Million in New Proposals
 - 6 Federal and State Partners



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UMBRELLA MITIGATION BANK & MATTAWOMAN SITE COMPLETION

In late 2019, we completed earthwork and planting of the 92-acre Mattawoman Creek Mitigation Site, which is the first site constructed under GTA's Department of Defense Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (approved in 2018). The vast majority of stream and wetland credits will be transferred to Joint Base Andrews. This is by far GTA's most ambitious undertaking to date, and with risk comes reward: in late 2019, we were separately notified by Joint Base Andrews (USAF/USN), Aberdeen Proving Ground (Army), and NAS Patuxent (USN) that each installation is conceptually interested in adding new mitigation bank sites to the UMBI held by GTA. The installations are finding that continuing to pursue permittee-responsible mitigation solutions is time-intensive and not cost effective for federal taxpayers.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's exciting and rewarding to look back on a successful 2019 for GreenTrust Alliance. Our team constructed the first stream mitigation bank in Maryland, secured a monitoring and maintenance endowment on our second-largest eased property. We also pursued new projects for 2020 and beyond, and hired ecologist Jeff Reagan to the staff, rounding out a fantastic year. Looking forward to a productive 2020 in Mid-Atlantic conservation!

-Kirk Mantay



Floodplain reconnection project, Gunpowder River, Carroll County, MD



GTA's removal of Martin Dam in Harford County, MD. This was the only dam removed in Maryland in 2019.

GUNPOWDER RIVER HEADWATER RESTORATION AT MARTIN POND

In the closing days of 2018, GTA negotiated a favorable \$879,000 contract from the Maryland Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund to remove the state's #1-ranked public hazard dam and restore over 10 acres of headwater wetlands and 1,500 linear feet of headwater stream at the same time. As a result of GTA-led flexibility and innovations in design, permitting, project financing, and construction, the dam was backed up by emergency pumps within 24 hours of funding, and the 25' tall earthen dam was breached safely less than 60 days later, in February 2020. Adaptive management actions will be underway in early 2020 to prepare for a June, 2020 project closeout.

WELZENBACH FARM RESTORATION PROJECT

In July 2019, GTA was awarded our second Maryland Trust Fund grant award for 3,800 linear feet of stream restoration on the Welzenbach Farm in Edgewood, Maryland. The property is held by our partners at Harford Land Trust, and was initially purchased with Army Buffer (ACUB) funds from Aberdeen Proving Ground. Our crews will begin site work in September, 2020, and we're also pursuing additional restoration funding for other areas of the site.

LAND TRUST ACTIVITIES

In 2018, GTA became a land trust member of the Land Trust Alliance, pledging to adopt their standards and practices for operation as a land trust. Through the work of our staff including 2019 land intern Trevor Brookhart, we have been able to move towards this model with a goal of Land Trust Accreditation – a challenging goal that most land trusts choose to avoid due to the organizational capacity required to obtain and maintain the accreditation.

In 2019, GTA began receive an increasing frequency of calls from private land owners, land trusts, and mitigation bank operators about our ability and interest in performing long term stewardship duties on existing conservation easements and mitigation banks. Most conservation nonprofits and land trusts are not interested in the complexities of perpetual site maintenance that may be overseen (and at times mandated) by state and federal regulatory agencies.

This creates an interesting market niche for GTA, who has an unusually deep institutional experience with these types of projects and properties over our history, as well as having knowledgeable technical staff in place to carry out, direct, and prioritize stewardship activities. However, accepting these risks and opportunities is strongly dependent upon an acceptable level of funding being available to GTA to carry out these tasks. A major victory in 2019 was securing an endowment on the Flat Swamp Mitigation Bank in North Carolina, where GTA serves as the long term steward.



Purple Pitcher Plants have staged a surprising comeback at GTA's Jamesburg Wetland Restoration site in Helmetta, NJ.

JAMESBURG PARK NATURAL AREA

Planting at Jamesburg Natural Area (New Jersey) was completed in spring 2019 to re-establish an Atlantic White Cedar dominated wetland community within the project area. The wetlands were enhanced by treating invasive species, installing herbivory control measures where needed, and the planting of native wetland species. These enhancement measures have moved the project area along a trajectory towards the establishment of healthy Atlantic Cedar stand and a diverse, functional freshwater wetland habitat. The project was funded in 2015 through a grant from the New Jersey Wetland Council.

COMING IN 2020!

GTA will be closing out several large projects in Maryland including the USDA-BARC restoration site (Prince Georges County) and the Martin Pond Restoration Project (Harford County).

We have submitted a variety of grant proposals to the State of Maryland, State of New Jersey, NRDA-NJ Trustees, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and our team is preparing Draft Prospectus documents on future mitigation banks to operate under our Department of Defense UMBI.

BOARD AND STAFF GROWTH



In March 2019, **Max Williamson** joined the GTA Board of Directors. Max is an industry expert in carbon and forest banking, as well as the regulations and policies that underlie that type of work. Max is assisting GTA particularly in areas of corporate governance and contracting protocols.



In August 2019, ecologist **Jeff Reagan** joined the GTA staff, bringing 10 years of experience in assessing and monitoring stream and wetland restoration sites. Jeff is a Maryland native and enjoys hiking and strength training when he is not with his three teenagers.

2019 PARTNERS



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