

The Power of Community: Volunteers and Non-Point Source Pollution Projects



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Community Science and Action

Community scientists are members of a community, whether that be a geographical region, a shared topic of interest, or some other commonality that seek to answer a question (or set of questions).

- Water quality programs (such as Nanticoke Creekwatchers)
- Biological inventories (such as Chesapeake SAV Watchers)
- May be limited to certain ages, physical capability, or other restrictions
- Usually require additional training
- Can be virtual / performed remotely in some cases

Volunteers

- Can be a part of single event programs, such as trash cleanups or tree plantings
- Can assist with longer-term projects such as oyster gardening
- Can serve alongside staff at outreach events
- May require some training but usually not extensive
- There is a volunteer opportunity for anyone and everyone.



Volunteer Benefits

- Expand capacity of the organization
 - Additional projects
 - More data
 - More ground coverage
 - More funding
- Engage community members
 - Increases awareness of water quality issues
 - Empowers community to effect change locally
- Build relationships with other partners (public and private, government, NGO, faith-based communities)
 - Learn what their needs and concerns are
 - Expand more capacity

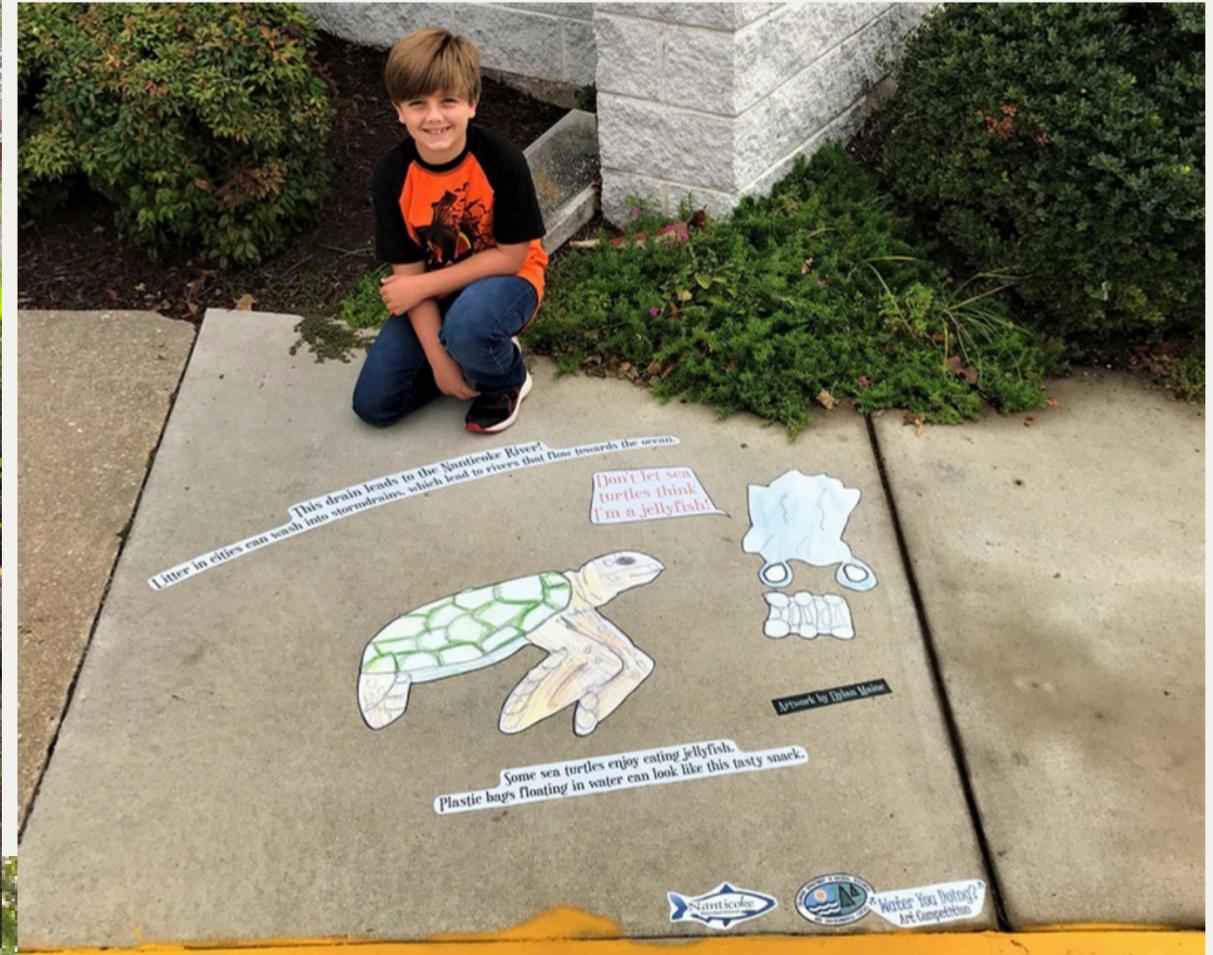


Volunteer Limitations

- Knowledge doesn't necessarily equal behavioral change
- Volunteer motivation may have nothing to do with your organization or organizational goals.
- Volunteers are only as good as the organizing agency!
 - Does the agency have staff dedicated to volunteers?
 - Are volunteers being supported, trained, and managed?
 - What does the budget cover?
 - Do other staff have buy-in with volunteers?



Community Action Projects



Community Action Projects

- Capture, slow, and hold rain water
- Filter heavy metals and hold sediment
- Prevent nutrients from reaching stormdrains and waterways



Bioswales



Rain Gardens

Community Action Projects

- Hold sediment in place with deeper roots + uses nutrients available in soils
- Chemical-free
- Reduce gas emissions by reducing lawn imprint and maintenance requirements

- Slow runoff, slow wave energy, and hold soil in place
- Mimic natural processes
- Provide habitat for shorebirds and aquatic animals



Conservation
Landscaping



Living Shorelines

Community Action Projects

- Stop trash from entering waterways (or going any further)
- Very immediate impact
- Educate and grab attention
- Excellent creative project for people of all ages





Thanks! 

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