

# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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## **Revitalizing Baltimore**

**Contact: Guy W. Hager**  
**Revitalizing Baltimore**  
**Parks & People Foundation**  
**1901 Eagle Drive**  
**Baltimore, MD 21207**  
**tel: (410) 448-5663 ext. 108**  
**fax: (410) 448-5895**  
**e-mail: Guyhager@aol.com**

Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is a national model community forestry project that is funded by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation. This project is a partnership among 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. The partnering organizations are working together to improve the quality of life in culturally diverse urban neighborhoods by restoring natural resources in the Baltimore region. RB helps residents protect natural resources in their communities and supports youth programs to create the stewards of the future. RB also strengthens community-based environmental research, improves community-based decision-making, and collaboratively creates urban forest management plans.

## **Accomplishments in 1998:**

### **Promoting Community Forestry**

Community forestry activities were completed in 34 urban neighborhoods by several organizations: 1,255 trees were planted with the help of 1,646 volunteers who worked 3,497 hours, two tree nurseries were established, and a survey revealed that 83% of the trees planted in the last five years have survived.

### **Providing Environmental Education and Leadership Development for Youth**

KidsGrow taught 120 elementary school students neighborhood environmental stewardship in after-school programs and provided six-week summer environmental day camp for 80 middle school students; eight high school students also began the new KidsGrow Ambassadors program.

Communities Organized to Revitalize our Environment, sponsored by Outward Bound, involved 27 students in three wilderness expeditions and three weekends of community service restoring the Herring Run watershed and Patterson Park.

Irvine Natural Science Center provided outdoor environmental science lessons to 1,200 Baltimore City elementary school students at their schools.

### **Strengthening the Watershed Organizing and Restoration Initiative**

Community associations in the Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run watersheds organized stream restoration projects, held events attracting over 2,000 people, and encouraged community input in public decision-making.