

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION

3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek MD
www.accokeekfoundation.org

301-283-2113
info@accokeek.org

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this letter in 2020, with the realities of the coronavirus pandemic shaping so much of our lives, it's become very clear how important inclusive, accessible outdoor spaces are to our communities' health and well-being. We've seen all the ways that we're truly interconnected and how those connections affect outcomes for all of us.

Our 2019 interpretive planning work was designed to build trust and offer a more authentic story of this landscape. We spent the year examining the Foundation's historical work and the ways this landscape offers a unique vehicle for engaging the public in various stories of national significance.

The Foundation's Land & River Series allowed us to explore the interconnectedness of African American and indigenous people and cultures. The series was designed to feature non-dominant narratives shared by the people who are closest to those histories. By "passing the microphone" to those whose stories may not have been heard as frequently, or as loudly, or as authentically, we allow more people to see themselves reflected in the stories we lift up, in ways that connect visitors to the diversity that is the American experience. And this helps us to gain a deeper appreciation for how interrelated we are to each other and to the natural world.

As we look to the future, we're focusing on building partnerships with groups that can help us to reach traditionally underserved audiences, especially young people and people of color who have been marginalized in the environmental movement and underrepresented in agriculture and historic interpretation. Supporting the next generation of leadership is critically important to our work.

Your support enables us to serve the community by being a conversation catalyst, where dialogue can occur and where we can come together to engage in civil discourse. As we embrace difficult conversations, honor one another and our stories, and work toward a more just world, we can all see more clearly that we're part of a larger story of community, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Thank you for sharing your stories, for listening and reflecting, and for growing together!

Sincerely,



Laura Ford
President and CEO



INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

Last year, the Accokeek Foundation's board approved organizational values that articulate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This year, the Foundation embarked on an Interpretive Planning project to center those values in everything we do. This multi-phase effort is intended to ensure future interpretive programming captures the voices of a diverse audience for staff, board, and the public.

PROJECT GOALS

- Identify and address structural barriers in programming
- Enhance cultural competency and diversity of staff and board
- Support public dialogue about racial and cultural identity
- Strengthen partnerships to cultivate leadership and build power in communities of color



In service of these goals, the Foundation added significant diversity to the staff this year, including having half of the school program delivery staff and three new full-time employees identify as BIPOC. The Foundation also hosted a board and staff visioning workshop with a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The full-day workshop, funded in part by the National Environmental Education Foundation, included an opening session on bias by Whitney Tome of Green 2.0 and facilitated discussions led by interpretive planning consultant Rob Forloney.

Through discussions of the expanding narrative of the landscape, interpretive staff crafted the Foundation's first Juneteenth celebration, and introduced new themes for historical interpretation through museum theater in 2019.

BOARD & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Virginia Busby, *Board Chair*
 David Sloan, *Board Vice Chair*
 James Potts, *Treasurer & Secretary*
 Laura Ford, *President*
 Anjela Barnes, *Vice President*

Phil Gottwals, *Governance Committee Chair*
 Eugene B. Roberts, Jr., *Audit Committee Chair*
 Andrew Fellows
 Judy Meade
 Chris Newman

4,000 STUDENTS

VISITED PISCATAWAY PARK IN 2019

EDUCATION

ECO-EXPLORERS

The Accokeek Foundation continues to strengthen classroom and action project connections between the award-winning Eco-Explorers school program and Maryland's environmental literacy requirements. This year, the Foundation completed a review of the program to ensure that African American and Indigenous experiences are being recognized and honored. This review led to the incorporation of a new post-field trip opportunity where staff visit the classroom to support students as they unpack what they learned about race and culture during field studies.

MEANINGFUL WATERSHED EXPERIENCES

For the past three years, the Eco-Explorers program has been offered almost exclusively to Title I students. 3,000 of these students were from Maryland schools, and 1,100 were middle-schoolers learning about native wild rice as part of a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, in partnership with Prince George's County's William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center.

AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION CORPS

The Agriculture Conservation Corps, in cooperation with Prince George's County's Youth@Work Summer Youth Enrichment Program, offered paid summer employment and training to 17 high-school students. The program included three capstone events highlighting Indigenous and African-American foodways and social justice.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY

For the second year, the education department partnered with the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe to host an American Indian Heritage Day for Title 6 students. The one-day event featured guided trail walks, tobacco planting, and traditional Native skills and dance presentations.





COMMUNITY

As the Accokeek Foundation works to center programs around community, support was found through a strong network of partners and stakeholders.

The Foundation hosted custom farm tours for the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Chesapeake Conservation Corps, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Chinese delegates through a SMART-USA experiential program. In June, we hosted a tour for the National Parks Conservation Association for their annual Agriculture Symposium. Through a partnership with the University of Maryland Extension Office, we hosted nine families in the 4-H Livestock Club, and seven youth members showed animals at the Prince George's County Fair.

The Accokeek Foundation works alongside the National Park Service, Mount Vernon, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Moyaone Association, and Piscataway tribal representatives to steward the Mount Vernon viewshed. The Potomac Heritage Trail Association and Sierra Club supported the installation of new trail head signs throughout the park and an Eagle Scout project provided trail improvements to the Accokeek Connector trail. The National Harbor Convention and Visitors Association, MGM National Harbor, and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development helped connect new visitors to Piscataway Park. And partnerships with Prince George's County, Prince George's Community College, and University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources supported Foundation education initiatives.

The Accokeek Foundation also supported National Park Service projects led by Julie King of St. Mary's College of Maryland: an *Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of Piscataway Park* and a *Cultural Landscape Inventory of Piscataway Park*. These reports will be critical resources to inform future interpretation.

420 VOLUNTEERS



In 2019, volunteers donated over 2,000 service hours worth over \$57,000. Volunteers included Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups, students from Potomac Crescent Waldorf School and the nonprofit KidSTREAM, Cerenity, Inc, the University of Maryland Pre-Vet Society, employees at Tanger Outlets, Jack and Jill of America, the 4-H Livestock Club, and members of the Foundation's Stitch 'n Time textiles club.

LAND & RIVER SERIES

A major component of the Interpretive Planning project involved engaging scholars, experts, advisors, and community members in "Land and River Conversations: Exploring Race and Culture through Stories from the Earth." The initial three-part Land and River series was a conversation about the complicated history and complex relationships that have shaped our region and continue to influence our interactions with one another and with the environment.

These conversations engaged the public on complex topics, including the interconnectedness of African American and Native American people and cultures; the ways that various people groups have interacted with the land and the Potomac

River over time and how that representation is translated today, and the complicated history of landscape conservation in Piscataway Park and throughout the United States. The Foundation brought together panelists of varying education levels, race, and experiences—none of whom had ever collaborated together in their overlapping areas of expertise.

The series included the sharing of music and language, as panelists performed Algonquin songs sacred to the Piscataway people during their welcomes at two of the events. The Foundation's Interpretation Coordinator Shemika Berry delivered an emotional performance that tackled slavery and personal losses of descendant African American communities through her interpretation of Cate Sharper, an enslaved woman that lived in Prince George's County in the mid 18-th century. The full conversations can be found on the Foundation's YouTube channel so that the important topics tackled during the series can be shared with a wider audience.



"I didn't think I'd see something like this [conversation series] in my lifetime, and I'm a pretty young man. I'm an optimist, but, frankly, I'm surprised by where we are—and encouraged by it—that we're having this conversation openly and respectfully, and that people are actually interested and willing to fill up a room and talk about it." -Chris Newman



This project was made possible by a grant from Maryland Humanities, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maryland Historical Trust in the Maryland Department of Planning, and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in program do not necessarily represent those of the funders.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

\$15,000+

Clark-Winchcole Foundation
 Mount Vernon Ladies Association
 Peterson Companies
 Prince George's County Local
 Development Council
 Maryland State Department of
 Education
 The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz
 Foundation
 National Park Service
 The Payne Fund
 Wilton Corkern & Mary Bruce Batte
 Eugene & Lynn Roberts

\$5,000+

Corina Higginson Trust
 Crescent Cities Charities, Inc.
 Maryland Humanities
 MOM's Organic Market
 Pepco

\$1,000+

National Environmental Education
 Foundation
 Washington Area Community
 Investment Fund
 Betsy & Wick Cromwell
 Nancy Dodge
 Laura & John Ford
 Phil Gottwals
 Paul & Barbara Livingston
 Tima McGuthry-Banks
 Judy & Richard Meade
 Jim & Barbara Potts
 Jim Thompson

\$500+

Daughters of the American
 Revolution, Harmony Hall
 John & Linda Derrick
 Andrew & Elizabeth Fellows
 John Jameson & B.J. Shorak

Samantha & Daniel Katz
 Robert Killen
 Janet & William Parker
 Richard Riddell & Anne Fortney

\$100+

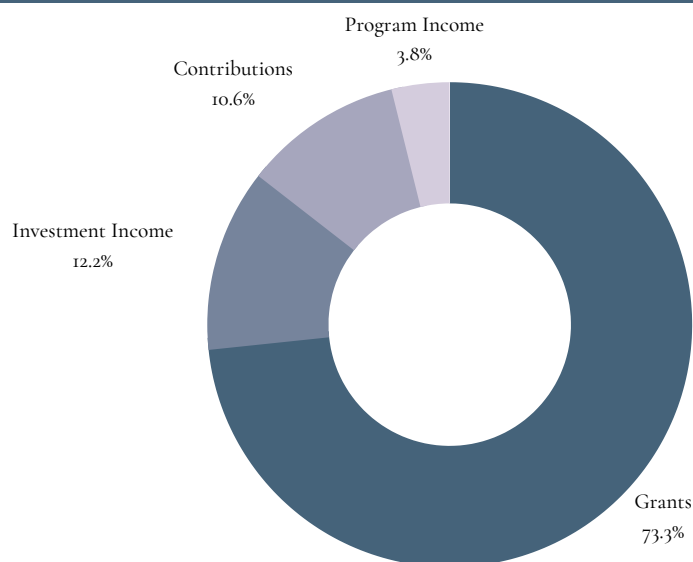
Dorene Albury
 Christina Allen
 Jane Badger
 Terry Barber
 Joseph & Erica Barry
 Rita Bergman & Nan Fremont
 Candice Bigelow
 Joseph & Rebecca Briggs
 Marney Bruce
 Virginia Busby
 William Cole & Virginia Morton
 Gail Dickert
 James & Barbara Egan
 Christina Forbes
 Cliff George
 Jere Gibber & J.G. Harrington
 Beth Groth
 Matthew & Kelly Hallett
 Douglas Hattaway
 Ted Manekin & Lisa Hayes
 Karen Hoagberg
 April Howarth
 Giselle Jasmin
 Doug & Wendy John
 Darlene Johnson
 Lauri Jones
 Harry Jones
 Carla Joyner
 Stephen & Rose Kim
 Lydia Kovacs
 Danielle Kozlowski
 Dean Kremer
 Jamie Kucab
 Elisabeth Lardner
 Lindsay Laws
 Carolyn LeCrone
 Michael Leventhal & Judith Allen-
 Leventhal
 Sylvia Livingston

Wallace Lowe
 Sally Lowe & Fran Welsh
 Douglas MacCleery
 George Martin
 Margaret McReynolds
 Bill Cole & Virginia Morton
 Samuel Moyer
 Chris & Patti Norment
 Jesse Oakley
 Agnes Peters
 Harold & Mary Lee Phelps
 Ronald & Rebecca Pollack
 Esten & Pam Porter
 Leo & Katherine Powell
 Marilyn Randall
 Carol Randell
 Rand & Frances Rensvold
 Bill Robertson and Anne Stokes
 Donna Schneider
 Mathew Schwaller & Sheryl Romeo
 Neal Sigmon & Mary Ann Lawler
 Kristin Sinkins
 Patricia Smith
 Jack & Joan Smuck
 Rodney & Rebecca Sobin
 Barbara Spohn
 Jill & Mike Spohn
 Dwane Starlin
 Janice Steiner
 Sandra & Roger Stephon
 Elizabeth Stewart
 Jeffrey Sypeck
 Tanta-Cove Garden Club
 Ashley & Chris Thompson
 Bill & Grace Thrift
 Russell Tinsley
 Steven Tucker
 Skip & Johanna Vaughan
 Karen & Clarence Wahler
 William & Tracey Taylor
 Glenn & Eve Welch
 Geoff White
 Michael Williams & Drue Pearce
 Louise Walter Winnard
 John Wright

Financials

REVENUE

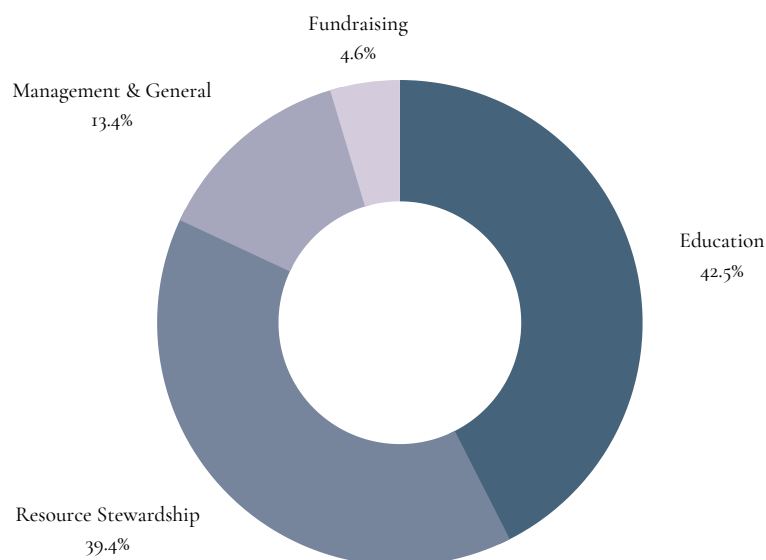
Grants	\$873,500
Investment Income	\$145,041
Contributions	\$126,438
Program Income	\$45,631
In-Kind	\$464
Total Revenues	\$1,191,074



EXPENSES

Program Services

Education	\$566,608
Resource Stewardship (now combined with Agriculture)	\$525,478
Total Program Services	\$1,092,086



Support Services

Management & General	\$178,766
Fundraising	\$61,835
Total Support Services	\$240,601
Total Expenses	\$1,332,687

Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	(\$144,613)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$3,414,549
Net Assets, end of year	\$3,272,936

The Accokeek Foundation is a member-supported, non-profit organization that cultivates passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park and commitment to stewardship and sustainability. A partner of the National Park Service, the Foundation stewards 200 acres of Piscataway Park and operates the National Colonial Farm. A copy of the audited financial statement and IRS form 990 is available by calling 301-283-2113.



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park



**STANDARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE**