









Threats to the Potomac Watershed:

- Erosion
- Habitat Loss
- Impaired Waterways
- Invasive Species
- Climate Change





How *Growing Native* Helps:

- Stabilize Streamside
- Reforestation
- Remove Carbon Dioxide
- Establish Native Growth
- Provide Wildlife Habitat
- Community Benefits



Through *Growing Native*, people make the important connection between healthy **forested lands** and clean water.









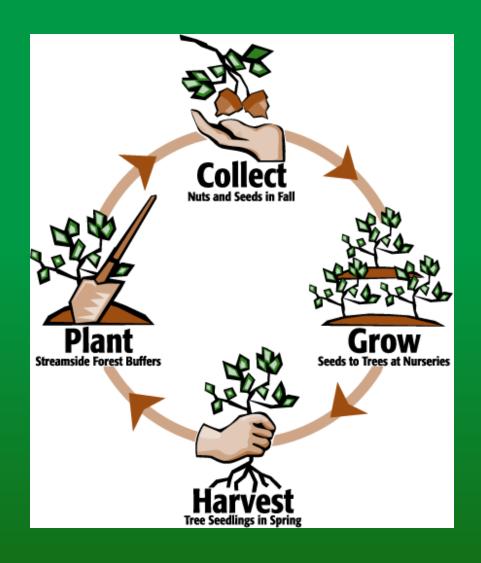
Growing Native is a volunteer-led program represented by numerous and diverse sectors of the Potomac watershed community.

- Boy & Girl Scouts
- Public & Private Schools
- Nature Centers
- Individual Collectors
- Master Gardeners
- Seniors Groups
- **♥**Corporations
- Nonprofits
- Government Organizations
- **Ø**And many more!

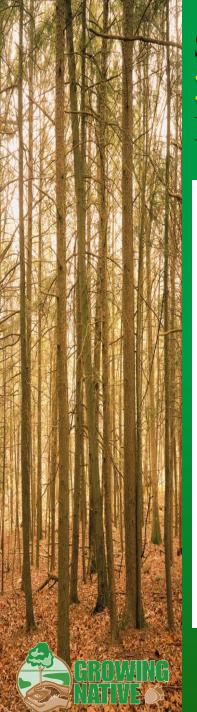




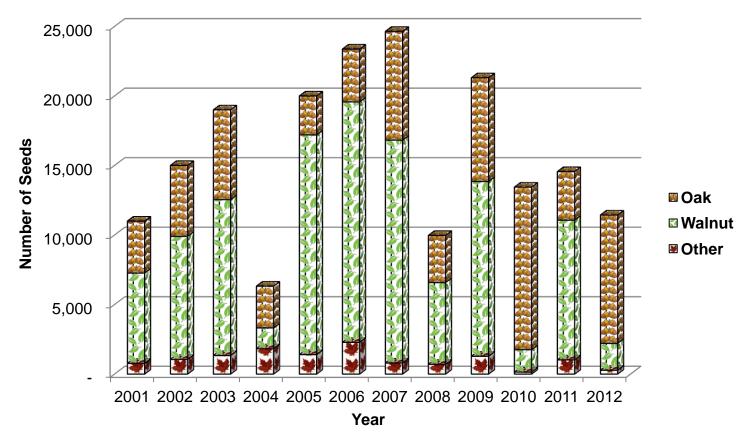
Go Nuts For Clean Water!





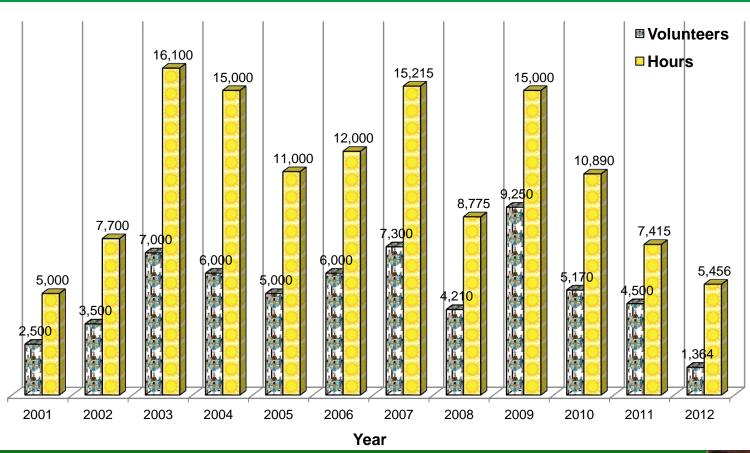


Since 2001, *Growing Native* has provided over 190,000 lbs of much needed seed to state nurseries in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.



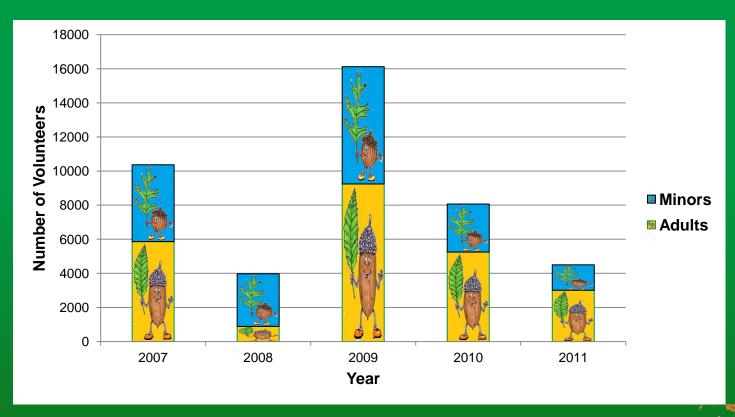


During this time, 61,794 volunteers have spent 124,095 hours collecting seeds to create streamside forests in the Potomac Watershed.



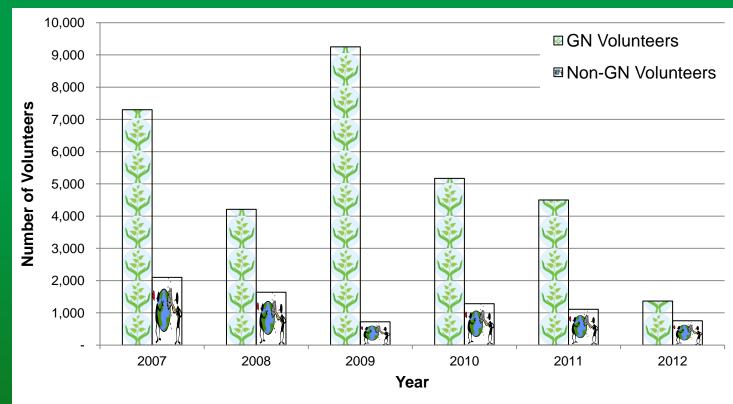


Growing Native engages volunteers of all ages in the collection process in order to build a community of lifelong river advocates.





Growing Native participants comprise a significant portion of Potomac Conservancy's volunteer base.

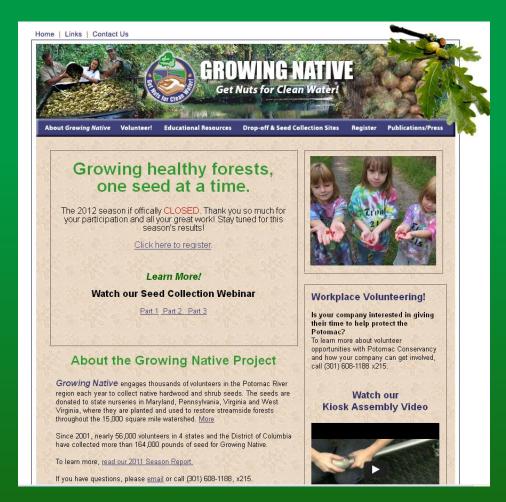






Growing Native Website

The Growing Native website continues to be a VITAL RESOURCE for volunteers.





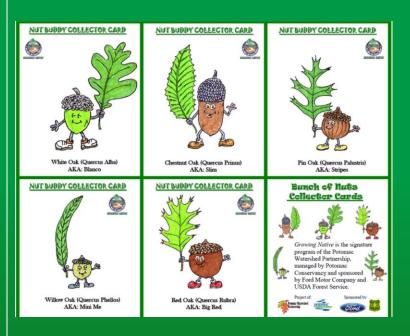
Growing Native Resources

Field Guides

List desired native species for each state

Nut Buddy Field Guide Cards

- Targets younger audiences
- Easy and fun way to identify trees and seeds







School Curriculum





Informational Kiosks

25 kiosks were designed and set up in counties across the I GET NUTS FOR CLEAN WATER! come comp box, and ha manual and coordinato manageme

se kiosk s, drop-off osk assist





Ambassador Training





Go Nuts for Scouting





Growing Native Timeline

	Tasks
July	-Contact foresters -Set dates for GN season
August	-Recruit drop-off site coordinators and foresters -Set dates and obtain permits for public collections -Edit GN website to announce dates -Finalize registration system and test -Coordinate and assign foresters to drop-off sites
September	-Contact media to publicize GN -Send Constant Contact Email to volunteers announcing seasons dates -Finalize drop-off sites and update website -Mail supplies to drop-off sites -Prepare paperwork to send volunteers -Begin registering volunteers and sending out supplies -Begin collecting results



-Continue to register volunteers -Hold Public Collections -Close season at end of the month -Begin to collect results and send out remainders -Collect final results from both volunteers and drop-off sites -Start drafting Growing Native Annual Report -Summarize and collect results for submission of grant

final report





Accomplishments

On average, *Growing Native* attracts over 5,000 volunteers each year.

Utilizing the Field Guide and Nut Buddy Cards, each volunteer will spend roughly two hours collecting seeds.

Students using the *Growing Native Education Guide* will also come away with a new understanding of the Potomac Watershed and the importance of being a steward to our environment.

This work amounts to the collection of nearly **16,000 LBS OF SEED PER YEAR** as well as the development of lifelong river advocates!

Totals, 2001-2012		
Seeds Collected	190,051	
Volunteers	61,794	
Hours Spent Collecting Seeds	124,095	



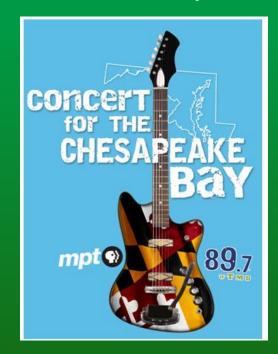


Growing Native in the News

Kids Post



Maryland Public Television 'Concert for the Bay'





Nutty Stories

Wye-Oak Seeds

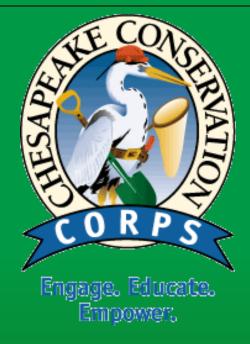
Cabin John resident Tom Rojas contributed acorns that are from a 25-yr old offspring of Maryland's famous Wye Oak, which itself was a sapling when Coronado's Expedition first entered the American southwest.

Arlington Resident collects over 1000 lbs of seeds

Registered collector Mike volunteered over 30 hours of his time and collected over 1000 lbs of seeds just within his yard including 432 lbs of Chestnut Oak and 500 lbs of Black Walnuts.



My experience as a CCC volunteer



Chesapeake Conservation Corps is a program that provides service-learning opportunities and green job training for young people through environmental and energy conservation projects







Lessons Learned

- Grow- Out Stations on school campuses
- Designated drop-off sites concentrated in Metro DC Area
- Seed Collection hardship for nurseries including sorting issues and species overabundance





WHAT HAPPENS TO THE
SEEDS AFTER THEY ARE
COLLECTED AND BROUGHT
TO NURSERIES?





Stream Restoration Challenge

In partnership with the National Park Service, Potomac Conservancy received a grant from the MD DNR to restore 30 acres of riparian buffers at nine national park locations in Montgomery and Frederick Counties. This project is apart of Governor O'Malley's Stream Restoration Challenge, which aims to educate and involve community members in the restoration of roughly 1,000 acres.





Branching Out

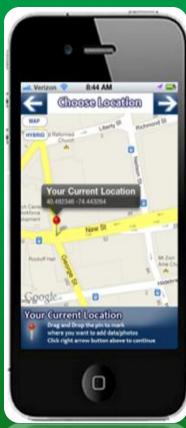
Potomac Conservancy is working with Trout Unlimited, US FWS, Frederick County Division of Public Works, and the Catoctin Forest Alliance to engage Frederick County schools in the planting of 40 acres along the Little Tuscarora watershed. Improved land management and strong community engagement in this area can sustain and improve habitat for a rare but relatively healthy brook trout population.







IMRivers Interactive Map



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- Track seed collections around the Potomac Region using mobile-based application and online database
- Instantaneous data including:
 - -pounds of seeds collected
 - species of seeds collected
 - -location of seed collections
 - -photos
 - -number of volunteers
- Expanded to track stream restoration and tree plantings