Town Run Watershed

Creating a Culture of Care



Treasuring

Town Run is a spring-fed stream flowing through the heart of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. As both a treasured cultural landmark and a vital ecological resource, it offers a unique opportunity to engage citizens in water stewardship, resilience planning, and community identity. Community engagement fosters pride and motivates continued protection and participation.





Cleaning

More than **40 adults and children** invested **more than 400 hours** removing an estimated **20 tons of invasives** during **13 stream cleanups** in 2024 and 2025. Regular, well-coordinated cleanups not only improve habitat but also create hands-on engagement that strengthens volunteer investment in watershed care.



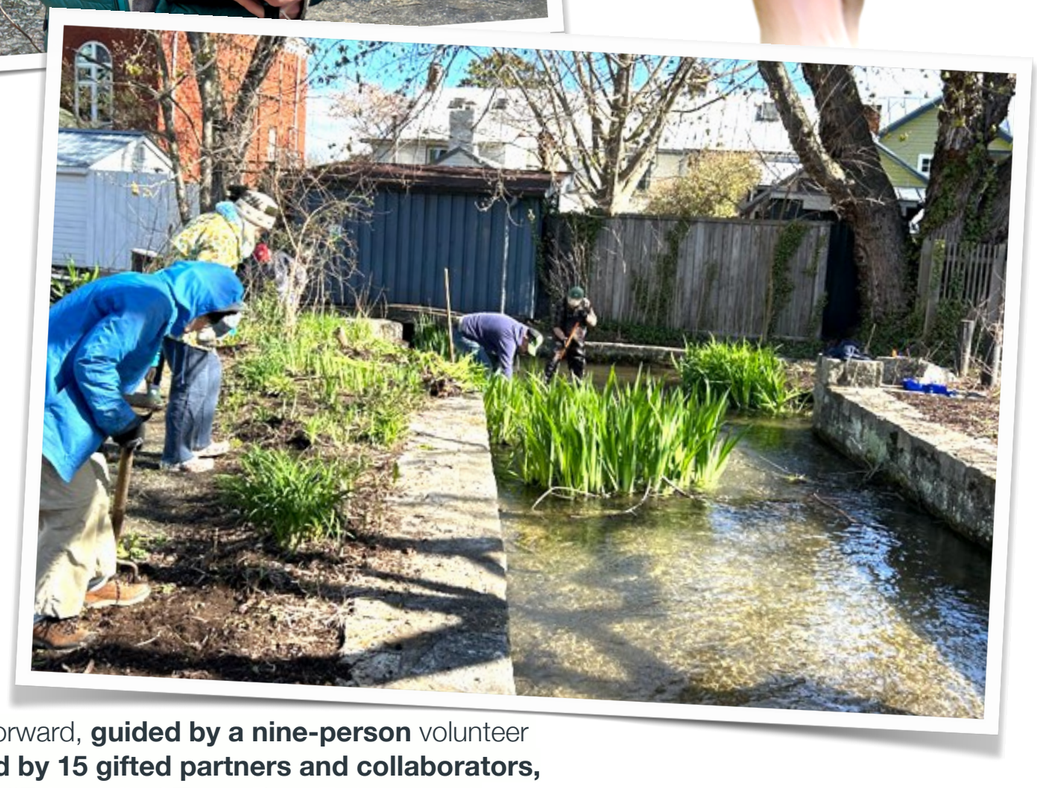
Educating

9 adult programs and **3 children's programs** fostered understanding of Town Run's history, geology, resilience and threats, septic maintenance, plastic troubles, native plants, soil health, and riparian plantings among **263 watershed neighbors.** Education builds local knowledge and fosters stewardship.



Monitoring

Partnering with the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, **volunteers scooped 89 water samples** for testing at Hood College **during 5 months each year** revealing elevated coliform levels in much of the Run. **Taking 4 more samples in May 2025** for DNA analysis at Johns Hopkins University revealed that coliform sources were mixed including human, avian, and deer.



Collaborating

Volunteer and partner engagement is our path forward, **guided by a nine-person** volunteer steering committee, **aided by 15 gifted partners and collaborators,** and accompanied by **118 "Friends" of Town Run.** Training local volunteers and building partnerships creates consistent, high-quality data to inform stream restoration and flood resilience planning.

Impacting

Visible community projects (like signage and native plantings) help reinforce a shared sense of ownership and pride. Through these outreach and engagement strategies, the Town Run Watershed initiative builds a culture of stewardship, resilience, and shared responsibility for clean water and healthy habitats in Shepherdstown and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Entering

Town Run Watershed

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