

Keep Maryland Beautiful 2023 Award Recipients

Aileen Hughes Grant:

Nominee	Brief summary	County
Sarah Knebel	The Aileen Hughes award recognizes Sarah Knebel's expertise, accomplishments and leadership at the Scenic Rivers Land Trust. Sarah joined Scenic Rivers in 2015 and became the Executive Director in 2019. Sarah led Scenic Rivers Land Trust through the national accreditation process, which it was awarded in August 2019 by the Land Trust Alliances' Land Trust Accreditation Commission. In 2022, Sarah worked to reassign and accept five existing conservation easements totaling 224 acres, from the Pasadena-based North County Land Trust (NCLT). Before accepting the NCLT easements, Scenic Rivers held 71 conservation easements across the county, totaling more than 3,200 acres. Under Sarah's leadership, Scenic Rivers has expanded its staff and grown the capacity of the land trust. Sarah Knebel's attributes as a leader, partner, innovator and high level performer exemplify the spirit of the Aileen Hughes Award.	Anne Arundel

Citizen Stewardship Grant:

Organization	Brief summary that describes the project.	County
Amula Foundation (Also known as Rise N Shine Foundation, Inc)	Rise N Shine Foundation founded a youth-led-non-profit organization that educate students to fight climate change and reduce hunger. Rise N Shine Foundation diverts school food waste to composting facilities. Rise N Shine Foundation recovers unopened food from schools, unsold food from businesses and redistribute to food insecure community members.	Montgomery
Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park	Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMM) seeks funds to support and enhance one of our core programs, Chesapeake Champions. AMM will provide three educational experiences for every participating 2nd-grade student and the program will culminate with a student-led action project.	Anne Arundel
Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance	The 2023 "Trees-Not-Trash" program hosts community tree events and trash clean-ups which features hands-on learning for neighborhood residents and youth. Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance plans to provide urban tree care, invasive plant removal, and education on the benefits of trees.	Washington

Bethesda Green	Bethesda Green will create a pollinator garden network in Montgomery County, protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment, while creating more attractive, livable, healthy, and vibrant urban areas. Bethesda Green will add two new native plant gardens, where local families will learn more about sustainable home and landscaping practices.	Montgomery
Civic Works, Inc	Civic Works' Community Landscaping Program (CLP) will provide hands-on landscaping education and environmental stewardship coaching to five young community leaders, who will revitalize Baltimore's Harlem Inner Block Park H 69 at the intersection of Harlem Ave and Kirby Lane.	Baltimore City
Crellin Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.	Growing Wild in Crellin is a hands-on project that will bring the beauty and ecological benefits of native wildflowers to Crellin Elementary School and the community. It provides an opportunity to strengthen community relationships while benefiting the environment.	Garrett
Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative	The Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative (EJJI) is working at the Middle Branch Marina to conduct research, provide educational opportunities and conducting restorative projects with youth in the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River in Baltimore City.	Baltimore City
Gale-Bailey Elementary Green Club	Gale-Bailey Elementary Green Club wants to restore and preserve the Dogwood Trail, make it accessible to the wider community while inspiring citizens to become caretakers of their local environment. By improving this area, it will be used as an outdoor classroom.	Charles
Glenelg Country School	Situated on a 90-acre campus, the Glenelg Country School provides its students with woodland for Forest Time engagement, a pond for habitat study and vegetable and fruit raised beds for organic gardening. Open and shaded spaces support outdoor classroom instruction.	Howard
Greenwell Foundation	Greenwell Foundation seeks to enrich the environmental education services extended to visitors with and without disabilities by installing benches along our handicapped accessible Nature Trail, introducing visitors to each of our Chesapeake Watershed habitats - Agriculture, Woodland, River, Salt Marsh and Meadow.	St. Mary's
Grow & Eat Inc. aka Harlem Park Community Farm	Grow & Eat's project, titled "Growing foods from seed to table and beyond", aims to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers naturally for our community. Through this project, Grow & Eat Inc. teaches how to prepare healthy meals and use food scraps and other materials for composting.	Baltimore City
Gwynn Oak Community Association	The Gwynn Oak Community Association seeks funding to host educational and engagement activities at the new pocket park in its neighborhood, with the dual goal of bringing neighbors outside and together and maintaining a healthy and beautiful community park.	Baltimore
Lafayette Square CDC	The Community Garden of Sandtown has been a greening hub in Sandtown for 25 years. Funds will increase the garden's learning capacity by purchasing a compact green house,	Baltimore City

	repairing vegetable beds, adding native perennials, and enhancing the pollinator garden.	
Living Classrooms Foundation	Living Classrooms will empower Baltimore City students and community members to be environmental stewards by engaging them in the expansion and maintenance of pollinator gardens at Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus and teaching the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem.	Baltimore City
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, Incorporated	LSHG's environmental protection and education event, River Sweep 2023, will engage hundreds of volunteers throughout the Upper Bay region. It will encourage year-round cleanup participation, increase awareness, provide environmental education, and serve as a catalyst for other environmental protection projects.	Harford
Montgomery Parks Foundation	The Montgomery County Parks Foundation aims to support the Volunteer Cleanup Program's initiatives toward litter removal, education, and community outreach. The grant will support our summer internship program for first generation students, storm drain mural projects, and long-term volunteer programs.	Montgomery
Patapsco Heritage Greenway	This project will empower and inspire residents living in the Patapsco River Watershed to engage in a series of environmental stewardship activities to benefit communities of Baltimore County, to include stream cleanups, invasive species removals, and a native tree planting.	Howard
Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm	Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm imagines Baltimore with beautiful flowers, healthy trees, and greener foods. Here, Leadership, Children, Artists, Farmers, Academicians and Community collaborate to build AgriHoodBaltimore. A community built around food to improve the quality of life for those who were left out.	Baltimore City
The Howard County Conservancy	Funding will allow student ambassadors in The Howard County Conservancy's Youth Climate Institute to take action in their communities for the environment. A pool of funds will be developed that Youth Climate ambassadors can use on student-led climate action activities across the state.	Howard
The Sixth Branch	The 2023 Farm-to-Classroom program brings students from Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr., Elementary (DBH) to the Oliver Community Farm, and the farm to students. The Sixth Branch seek funding to grow the environmental stewardship education this program provides.	Baltimore City
The Urban Oasis	In West Baltimore, area youth are taking a hands-on approach to cultivating community, and the entire neighborhood is benefitting! At The Urban Oasis, the Oasis Teens Environmental Program's environmental overhaul is transforming the lives of Baltimore City residents.	Baltimore City

Janice Hollmann Grant:

Organization	Brief summary that describes the project.	County
American Chestnut Land Trust	Two Chesapeake Conservation Corps members will serve at ACLT for a full year and increase the land trust's organizational capacity. They will strengthen ACLT's land and easement stewardship as well as its community services and programs.	Calvert
Baltimore Green Space	BGS requests funds to work towards more effective community engagement long-term through organization-wide training in cultural competence. Additionally, BGS will strengthen our financial position by contracting with an experienced bookkeeper and having an accountant conduct our second formal financial review.	Baltimore City
Catoctin Land Trust	Catoctin Land Trust will convene regional partners in strategic conservation planning and parcel prioritization within the southern portion of the South Mountain landscape in Frederick and Washington counties, and promote a wildlife corridor plan of linear conservation spokes connecting hubs.	Frederick
Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming (CKC)	CKC will organize the residents of Wheaton Hills and the Connecticut Avenue Estates into community Stewardship and Outreach Teams that will collectively manage their new neighborhood farm and support CKC's farm-based education program at Claridge Road in Wheaton, MD.	Montgomery
Conservancy for Charles County, Inc.	The project supports execution of Conservancy for Charles County's 2023 Stewardship Program for 28 easements and one fee property in conformity with Land Trust Alliance (LTA) standards and practices. In addition, it supports our continuing membership in LTA.	Charles
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy seeks funding to hire an intern to focus on GIS data management and analysis for the organization, as well as for general support, to alleviate capacity challenges.	Talbot
Harford Land Trust, Inc.	HLT applied for accreditation through the LTA Accreditation Commission in March 2022 and expects to receive the designation by February 2023. To continue our internal improvement beyond accreditation requirements, HLT proposed to address Board development, external communication, and professional development.	Harford
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County	NeighborSpace seeks funding to complete the first phase of a Strategic Conservation Plan. Under the guidance of an experienced consultant, NeighborSpace staff and Board members will identify a vision for conserving land and develop a framework for a community-driven Plan.	Baltimore
Scenic Rivers Land Trust	Scenic Rivers requests funding for the continuance of annual monitoring of 100% of easements and increased use of technology, and an invasive plant species control program at Bacon Ridge Natural Area.	Anne Arundel