

Protecting Land Forever | 2024

# Landmarks

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Maryland  
Environmental  
Trust

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## BOARD MEETINGS

MET is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for reviewing and voting on matters such as landowner requests that result in a significant change or impact to conservation attributes of an easement property. All matters requiring Board approval are reviewed during the board meetings held at 4:00 pm in Crownsville, MD unless noted otherwise. These are public meetings. Please contact MET if you plan to attend at: [met.info@maryland.gov](mailto:met.info@maryland.gov)

To learn more about activities that might require advanced approval or notification please contact MET's stewardship program staff. The agenda for each board meeting is posted in advance on MET's website: [dnr.maryland.gov/met](https://dnr.maryland.gov/met)

## 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES:

- February 5
- May 6
- June 3
- September 9
- November 4

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CY2024)

Major Gary Burnett (Board Chair)

Gregory Bowen (Vice-Chair)

Mark Hoffman (Treasurer)

Megan D'Arcy (Secretary)

Thomas Lloyd

Megan Benjamin

Susanne Richards

Tom Prevas

Lori Lynch

Diana Edensword Conway

Nathan Volke

Keith Colston

Craig Highfield

Julia King

Crystal Chissell

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Hilary Bell (representing Governor Wes Moore)

Delegate Natalie Ziegler (representing House Speaker Adrienne Jones)

Senate President Bill Ferguson

TRUSTEES EMERITI

K. King Burnett

John C. Murphy

Henry A. Virts

STAFF

John Turgeon, Director

Kevin Bull, Easement Stewardship Specialist

Ann Gutierrez Carlson, Conservation Easement Program Manager

Wendy Foster, Easement Monitoring Specialist

Michelle Grafton, Land Trust Assistance Program Manager

Cindy Hoffmann, Technology and Records Manager

Josette Markline, Monitoring and Stewardship Program Manager

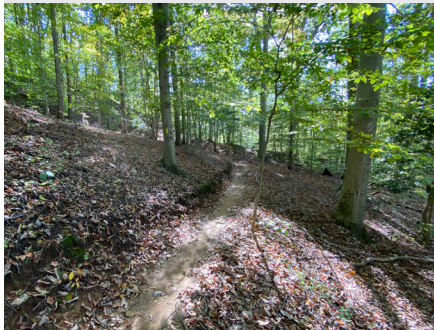
Laural Paterini, Easement Stewardship Specialist

Justyn Pinkney, Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Intern

Kelly Price, Fiscal Officer and Administrative Director

Mona Rudnicki, Bookkeeper

# BY THE NUMBERS



## PROTECT

MET protects more than 140,000 acres of Maryland's most treasured landscapes and natural resources. In 2023, MET partnered with four local land trusts to complete **8 new conservation easements protecting more than 1,087 acres** in 6 counties.

## STEWARD

As part of ensuring the long-term protection of the land, MET takes on stewardship obligations to ensure that easement provisions are upheld forever. In 2023, MET and its partners monitored over **742 easement properties** through in-person visits and review of aerial imagery.

## PARTNER

MET relies on its partnerships to accomplish its land conservation goals and to steward the more than 1,100 conservation easements MET holds across Maryland. In 2023, MET partnered with **23 land trusts and 13 volunteers** to monitor 585 easements.

## INVEST

The Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants program invests in environmental stewardship. In 2024, grants totaling **\$236,276 were distributed to 18 awardees** in 10 counties. Awardees included nonprofits, schools, communities and local land trusts.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

2023 was another year in which Maryland Environmental Trust protected at least 1,000 acres through the completion of new conservation easements. We are grateful for our land trust partners who helped us achieve this mark, as well as the continued enthusiasm of landowners across the state for conserving their land. MET's acreage protected by easements now totals just over 142,000 acres statewide. These acres, largely privately owned, make up a significant portion of the permanently protected land in Maryland, which as was recently announced by Governor Moore now totals 30% of the state's land area, or about 1.85 million acres. We look forward to MET continuing to play an important role in achieving Maryland's newly established goal in the recently enacted Maryland the Beautiful Act to conserve 40% of the state by 2040.

Enjoy your summer!

*John Turgeon*





# PROTECT

## PROTECTING LAND FOREVER

From the forested mountains of Garrett County to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland has natural areas and scenic beauty rivaled by few states in the nation. Since 1972, landowners have granted to MET over 1,100 conservation easements that protect more than 140,000 acres statewide.

By protecting your land with a conservation easement: you leave a natural legacy; you improve quality of life; conserve scenic views and wildlife habitat; ensure the future viability of farming and forestry; and preserve the rural character and natural beauty of communities across Maryland.

In 2023, MET worked with landowners, local land trusts, and governmental partners to protect 8 new easements on more than 1,080 acres in 6 counties. Thank you for helping to protect some of Maryland's most treasured landscapes. Here are snapshots of the new easements:

### CONSERVATION FEATURES



#### FOREST AREAS

Protection of forested areas to protect habitat, sustainable forest management and adjacent aquatic resources.



#### AGRICULTURE

Protection of farmland to protect soils and ensure agricultural lands are protected.



#### SCENIC VALUE

Preservation of open space for the scenic enjoyment of the general public.



#### WATER QUALITY

Buffer is required to protect shoreline /streambank, aquatic resources and habitat.



#### NATURAL HABITAT

Protection of a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, plants or similar ecosystems.



#### HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

Preservation of a historically important land area or certified historical structure.



#### OUTDOOR REC AND/OR EDUCATION

Preservation of land areas for outdoor recreation by, or education of, the general public.



#### ADJACENT TO PROTECTED LANDS

Property is adjacent to other protected lands, either public or private.





## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MARYLAND

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

158.62 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:



## THE CROTHERS FAMILY

HARFORD COUNTY

35.582 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:



## STILL WATERS, L.L.C.

TALBOT COUNTY

339.18 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:



## RUSSELL BAKER

DORCHESTER COUNTY

281.859 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:







## HARFORD COUNTY MARYLAND

HARFORD COUNTY

31.98 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:



## ESTATE OF LELAND T. SHORT, JR

CAROLINE COUNTY

60.829 acres

Conservation Features:



## DOUGLAS AND SUSAN WEST

KENT COUNTY

106.55 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:



## GREEN POINT FARMS, L.L.C.

KENT COUNTY

75.82 acres

Protected in partnership with:



Conservation Features:





# PARTNER

## WORKING TOGETHER TO STEWARD MORE THAN 140,000 ACRES

Maryland Environmental Trust relies on its partnerships with landowners, land trusts, local municipalities, and volunteers to accomplish its land conservation goals and to steward more than 1,100 conservation easements MET holds across Maryland.

### LAND STEWARDS VOLUNTEERS

MET trains and coordinates volunteers who serve as land stewards to assist MET in monitoring its easements. Volunteer Land Stewards visit protected easement properties to document changes using a short monitoring form and photographs. To learn more about MET's volunteer opportunities visit our website.

[dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/volunteer.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/volunteer.aspx)

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND SERVICE!

Wayne Bell

Joyce Bell

Nancy Catron

David Ennis

Thomas Frey

Anna Harmon

Kris Knutson

Alex Morgan

Tammy Rupp

Jerry Schaefer

Glenn Thompson

Bob Wason

Susan Wason

### LAND TRUST PARTNERS

MET partners with local land trusts and other co-holding partners to meet our mutual land conservation and stewardship goals. Maryland's land trusts operate in communities around the state. Visit MET's online Land Trust Directory and learn more about the land trusts and conservation partners in your region.

[dnr.maryland.gov/met/Documents/Land\\_Trust\\_Directory.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Documents/Land_Trust_Directory.pdf)

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PROTECTED LANDS!

American Chestnut Land Trust

Catoctin Land Trust

Cecil Land Trust

Charles Koiner Conservancy

Conservancy for Charles County

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

Harford Land Trust

Land Preservation Trust

Long Green Valley Land Trust

Lower Shore Land Trust

Magothy River Land Trust

NeighborSpace of Baltimore County

Patuxent Conservation Corps

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

Rockburn Land Trust

Scenic Rivers Land Trust

The Manor Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy

The Potomac Conservancy

Wetlands America Trust



# INVEST

## 2024 KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL GRANTS TOTAL \$236,276

Maryland Environmental Trust, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded 18 Keep Maryland Beautiful grants totaling \$236,276.

The Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants program invests in Maryland's environmental stewards. Grants through the Keep Maryland Beautiful program help volunteer-based nonprofit groups, communities and local land trusts in Maryland to support environmental education projects, litter removal, community stewardship, and to protect natural resources in urban and rural areas.

2024 Keep Maryland Beautiful recipients included schools, nonprofit groups, municipalities, and local land trusts in 10 counties. More information on the Keep Maryland Beautiful grant program is available online at: [dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/grant\\_programs.aspx](https://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/grant_programs.aspx).



## 2024 KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL GRANT RECIPIENTS

### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Charting Careers  
Scenic Rivers Land Trust  
Chesapeake Rivers Association

### BALTIMORE COUNTY

NeighborSpace of Baltimore County  
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy

### CALVERT COUNTY

American Chestnut Land Trust

### CHARLES COUNTY

Conservancy for Charles County  
Imaginate

### FREDERICK COUNTY

Catoctin Land Trust

### HARFORD COUNTY

Lower Susquehanna Heritage  
Greenway

### HOWARD COUNTY

GreenTrust Alliance  
Patapsco Heritage Greenway  
Howard County Conservancy

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Alice Ferguson Foundation  
Choose Health. Be Happy

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

### WORCESTER COUNTY

Lower Shore Land Trust





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[dnr.maryland.gov/met](http://dnr.maryland.gov/met)

# STEWARD

## ADVANCING AND ENHANCING

The staff at MET appreciate our Conservation Easement property owners and consider them highly valued land steward partners. We understand that maintaining a property can be hard work and restoring or enhancing land can seem overwhelming. Stewardship staff are available to assist easement owners with enhancing the environmental and scenic aspects of their properties. Many resources are available through state, local, and nonprofit programs and the Stewardship Program can provide a connection between those resources and landowners.

To learn more about enhanced stewardship opportunities, visit MET's Stewardship Program webpage:

[dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/stewardship.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/stewardship.aspx)



### MY CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED. HOW DO I UPDATE MY CONTACT INFORMATION?



MY CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED. HOW DO I UPDATE MY CONTACT INFORMATION?

Scan the QR code to visit the easement landowner survey to update your contact details or contact MET's stewardship staff at [dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/contact.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/contact.aspx)