



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECTING THE LANDS WE NEED AND LOVE—*TOGETHER*



GARMAN BROTHERS SAWMILL PROPERTY:
130 acres in Crownsville forever conserved





2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CONSERVATION

158 ACRES

of forest conserved on the Crownsville Hospital property

130 ACRES

of forest, farm, and sawmill conserved in the Severn River watershed

350 ACRES

of projects in process

\$765K

in funding secured for projects



STEWARDSHIP

100%

of easements monitored

3,700 ACRES

under our protection

15 LAND STEWARDS

trained on new LANDSCAPE monitoring software

24 ACRES

of invasive plant control efforts

ELEVEN

Healthy Forests volunteer workdays



CONNECTION

**120 VOLUNTEERS,
320+ VOLUNTEER HOURS**

40

Conservation Champions

2 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sara Ramotnik and Elizabeth Rosborg

ONE INTERN

Aden Hutchinson

ONE

2023 Aileen Hughes Award Winner

It's Sarah!



2023 HEALTHY FOREST WORKDAYS



CONNECT WITH US!

FACEBOOK: @scenicrivers

INSTAGRAM: @scenicriverslandtrust

OFFICE PHONE: 410-424-4000

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2008, Annapolis, Maryland 21404

EMAIL: exec@srlt.org



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This is a fun letter to write. Our Annual Report is always an opportunity for me to share a few of our “wins” for protected land in Anne Arundel County from the past year, but—WOW!—2023 DELIVERED IN SO MANY DYNAMIC WAYS.

We successfully finalized two incredible projects—after years of hard work and persistence—totaling 288 acres conserved. Huzzah! (Read more on these amazing projects on page 5.)

We monitored each of our 78 conservation easements, now covering over 3,700 acres, while implementing LANDSCAPE, a cloud-based software application designed specifically for conservation easement monitoring reports (our volunteers and staff loved the upgrade!).

And, of course, **we continued to advance another 350 acres of projects in process, securing \$765,000 in funding to enable their progress.**

Our Healthy Forests Program at Bacon Ridge Natural Area is growing and connecting more members of our community to the protected woods at the heart of our county. **We doubled our volunteer numbers from the previous year and helped 24 acres of forest become healthier by controlling invasive plants.**

We advocated and testified during the 2023 state legislative session to help pass the Maryland the Beautiful Act and Greenspace Equity Program, advancing and raising the profile of land conservation throughout the state.

And, while Walk for the Woods was rained out for the first time in over a decade, our team connected with our community of land conservation supporters in so many ways throughout the year: from guided hikes (which were always “sold out”) to community events like the First Sunday Arts Festival in Annapolis and the Cox Creek Open House in Curtis Bay to our Invasive Plant Webinar with partners from Save Our Trees and Maryland DNR and our third time participating in the Lifeline 100.

And these are just the highlights! There is so much that happens in between each big moment in a year. Most importantly, there are so many people who come together to make each big moment happen: staff, board members, partners, landowners, volunteers, donors, supporters, and friends.

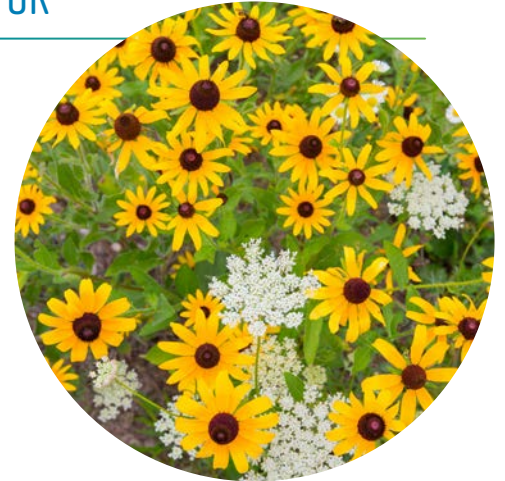
Yes, our work is focused on the land, but our stories about that work always return to the people who come together to protect the places we need and love.

Thank you for being those people. Please read on to see what we can do together.



With gratitude,

Sarah Knebel
Executive Director





MISSION STATEMENT

SCENIC RIVERS IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING FORESTS, WETLANDS, FARMLANDS, AND OTHER OPEN SPACES IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

WE WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND OTHER PARTNERS TO CONSERVE NATURAL AND SCENIC AREAS THROUGH LANDOWNER EDUCATION AND BY HOLDING AND FACILITATING LAND PROTECTION AGREEMENTS.



Sarah Knebel
Executive Director

STAFF



Erin Valentine
Development & Communications Officer



Aden Hutchinson
Program Assistant



Evann Magee
Stewardship Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Renner, *President*

Edmée Geis, *Vice President*

John Butler, *Treasurer*

Kirk Mantay, *Secretary*

Joe Ports, *At Large Member, Executive Committee*

Phil Dales

Kristen Maneval

Liam O'Meara

Lily Openshaw

Sara Ramotnik

Elizabeth Rosborg

Paul Zanecki





NEWS & NOTES



GARMAN EASEMENT

Landowners Gary and Janet Garman, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Helena Foundation partnered with us to conserve 130 acres of forest, farm, and the last remaining sawmill in Anne Arundel County. Located in the Severn River watershed, the property could have been developed with 24 homes.

Thanks to the Garmans' decision to grant a conservation easement, the land is protected from overdevelopment forever. The land is still owned and worked by the Garman family—as it has been for over 75 years.

Located in a DNR Targeted Ecological Area, the forest is identified as valuable green infrastructure by both the county and the state. Surrounded by other conserved properties, the forest creates a vital wildlife corridor with notable habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species.



It's easy to see why the Garman property was number eight on our list of the Top 100 most important properties to conserve in Anne Arundel County.

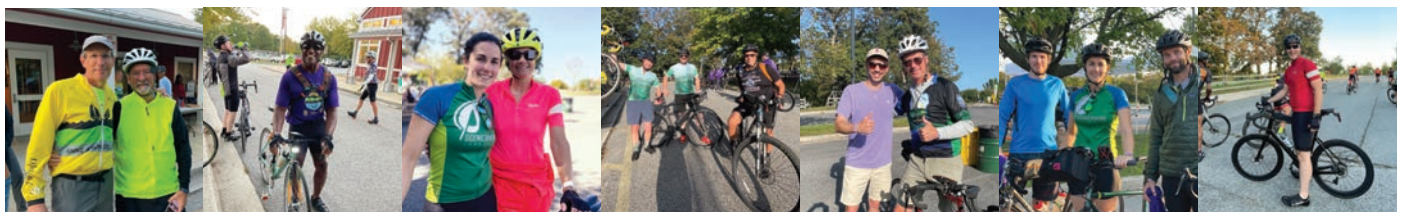
CROWNSVILLE HOSPITAL EASEMENT

Last spring, we partnered with Anne Arundel County and Maryland Environmental Trust to conserve 158 acres of forest on the Crownsville Hospital property.

Anne Arundel County has an incredible opportunity to begin a new, healing history for this complex property. We are honored to have an early role in the process. As a member of the Recreation Subcommittee for the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, we're looking forward to finding ways to connect our community with these important grounds and this conserved forest.



2023 LIFELINE 100—RIDING FOR LAND & WATER

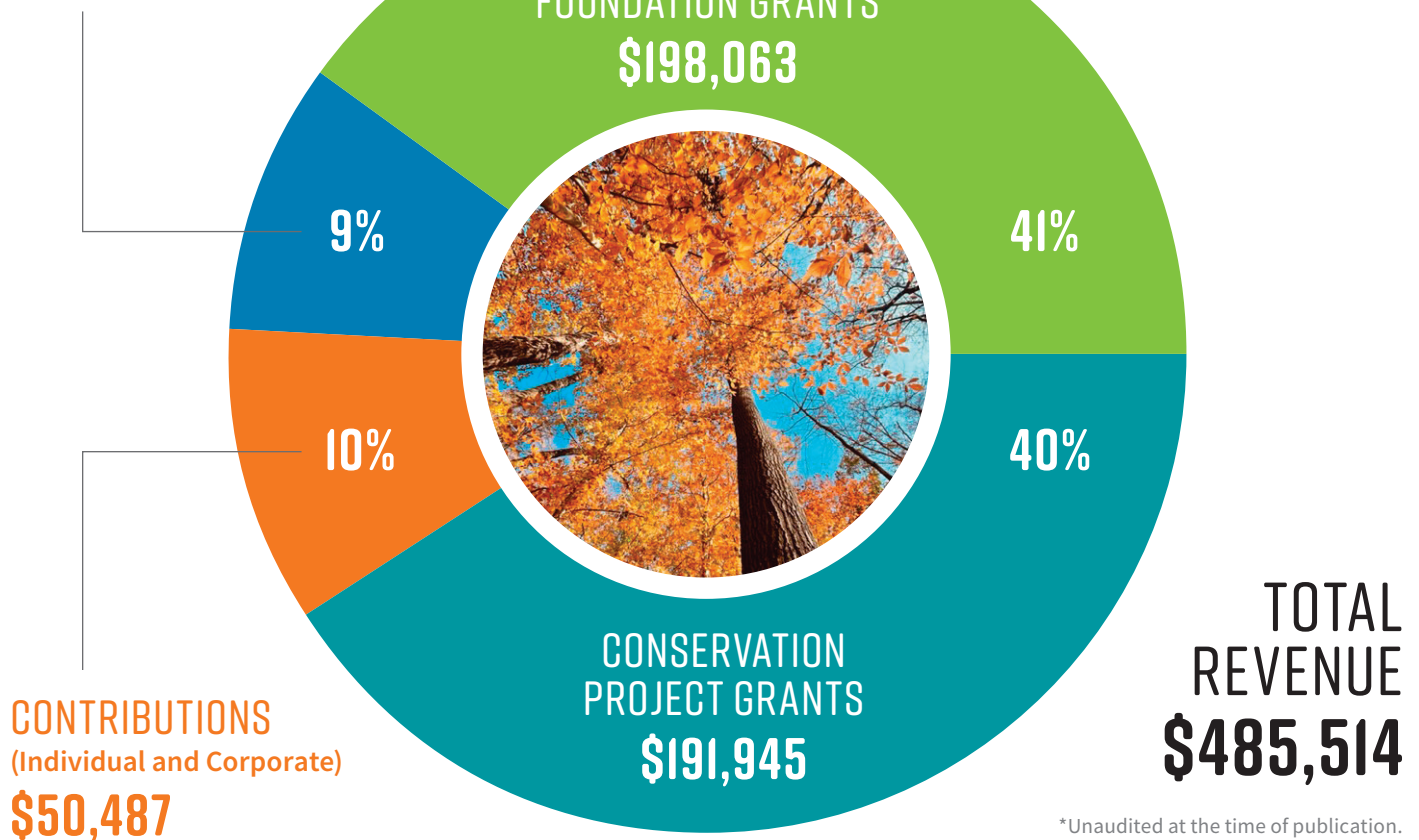


Riders for Scenic Rivers pedaled 1,060 miles on the county's trails and roads to raise funds for our land and water. Our top fundraiser, Debi McKibben, rode 100 miles and raised \$13,375. Amazing!



2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW INCOME BY SOURCE*

SPECIAL EVENTS
\$45,019



*Unaudited at the time of publication.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT TOUR: SWAN CREEK WETLANDS

Conservation Champions Circle Member Benefit

Conservation Champions Circle members joined us for a guided birding tour of our Swan Creek Wetlands conservation easement in Curtis Bay. Widely documented as one of the top birding locations in the state, it was truly a treat to visit during peak migration season with Maryland Environmental Service's Tim Carney as our guide.

In addition to touring the wetlands, Maryland Port Administration (MPA) staff provided a driving tour

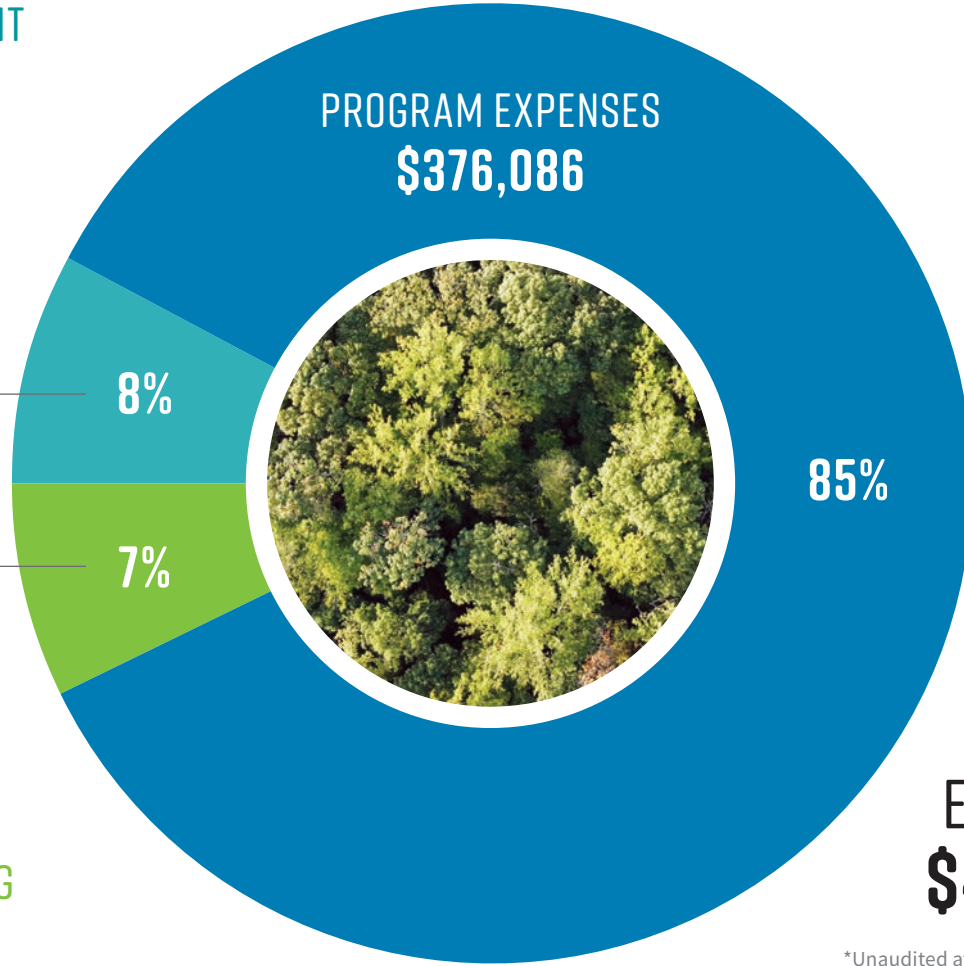




2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OPERATING EXPENSES*

MANAGEMENT
& GENERAL
\$34,485

PROGRAM EXPENSES
\$376,086



TOTAL
EXPENSES
\$442,995

*Unaudited at the time of publication.

FUNDRAISING
\$32,423

of the adjacent Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility. Both properties are owned and managed by the MPA.

MPA staff updated attendees on plans for building trails that will allow broader public access to Swan Creek Wetlands. Currently, the wetlands are accessible via guided tour only.

To join us at future events like this, consider becoming a member of our Conservation Champions Circle.

www.SRLT.org/ConservationChampions





2023 PARTNERS & DONORS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & DONORS!

We can't do it without you. Thank you, donors, volunteers, and partners. You give so generously to our mission to protect Anne Arundel County's land and water.

We are grateful that you choose to invest in us, so that we can work with landowners throughout our county to ensure the natural and open spaces we all love are there for us now and in the future.

Special thanks to these partners for their continued support:

- Anne Arundel Department of Recreation and Parks
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Maryland Environmental Trust
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS CIRCLE



Members of our Conservation Champions Circle invest in the power of land conservation because they believe that protecting our land and water is key to a healthy, thriving community.

Their commitment and generosity ensures that we can fulfill our mission to protect more of the natural, open lands we all love in Anne Arundel County.

Thank you!

Anonymous (4)
 Annapolitan Assisted Living*
 Bartlett Tree Experts+
 Blaxall Fund for Economic Growth
The Brick Companies**
 John & Diane Butler
 Chaney Enterprises*
 Charm City Run+
Mike & Trish Davis
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 The Troy Family in Memory of Colby B. Rucker*

Bold text denotes Conservation Heroes

*2023 Walk for the Woods sponsor

+2023 Lifeline 100 sponsor



2023 PARTNERS & DONORS



PROJECT GRANTS

The following grantors generously support our Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Healthy Forest programs.

Rotary Club of Annapolis Foundation
BGE, an Exelon Company
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Forever Maryland
Koinonia Foundation
Keep Maryland Beautiful

Land Trust Alliance
Mars Foundation*
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland Environmental Trust
Maryland Department of Transportation



MONTHLY DONORS

Supporters who make monthly gifts to Scenic Rivers help ensure that we are financially stable and always ready to take action on behalf of our natural lands.

John Adornato III
Kristine Kaske-Martin
Joshua Lloyd
Sara Ramotnik
Jennifer Troy

HEALTHY FORESTS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Healthy Forests volunteers Genevieve Simard and Brandon Goehring joined us for each of our public workdays held during spring 2023.



INTERN: ADEN HUTCHINSON

Scenic Rivers added intern Aden Hutchinson to the team in May. Aden has been a huge help both in the office assisting with file prep for our national accreditation renewal application and out in the field on monitoring visits and volunteer workdays.



2023 PARTNERS & DONORS



2023 DONORS (\$100+)

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 Jane Strohl
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 Marsha & Christopher Swatta
 Sandra Sweeney
 Betty & Larry Thompson
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 Jason & Erin Valentine
 John Van Arsdall
 Marcia Verploegen Lewis
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 of Rebecca R. Kolberg^{*}
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 Natalie & Harold Woomer
 Tracy Wroe
 Adam Yearwood
 Yoga Factory Annapolis
 & Crofton^{*}
 YVS Law LLC⁺

*2023 Walk for the Woods sponsor
 +2023 Lifeline 100 sponsor



2023 PARTNERS & DONORS



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 Lisa Zimmerman



WHAT'S NEXT?

35 YEARS OF LAND CONSERVATION



CBF Philip Merrill Environmental Center

In 2024, Scenic Rivers is celebrating 35 years of protecting land and water in Anne Arundel County—and we're throwing a party to celebrate! We're thrilled to be able to host our celebration of conservation at one of our conservation easements.

Please save the date and make plans to join us for an evening of drinks, delicious food, live music, and fundraising fun at the CBF Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis on Thursday, October 24, 2024.



STRATEGIC PLANNING: 2025-2030

This spring, Scenic Rivers is launching the planning process for our next five-year strategic plan. We'll be meeting with donor, volunteer, and partner stakeholders to gather feedback. Then we'll dig in with our board of directors to create a shared vision and direction for our next five years. We can't wait! And we can't wait to share it with you later this year.

Stay tuned!





P.O. Box 2008
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

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