



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

BODKIN CREEK EASEMENT
47 acres in Pasadena protected forever



2024 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CONSERVATION

47 ACRES

of forest and wetlands conserved in Pasadena—our 80th easement!

37 ACRES

of family forest conserved in Crownsville

10 ACRES

of threatened beaver habitat saved thanks to our Opportunity Fund

224 ACRES

of projects in process



STEWARDSHIP

100%

of easements monitored

3,800 ACRES

under our protection

\$322,564 AWARDED

through Chesapeake WILD Grant to support our Healthy Forests Program

ONE

new Stewardship Coordinator,
Erin Kilbane
(We are now 50% Erin-powered!)

813

pounds of invasive plants removed by Healthy Forests volunteers



CONNECTION

143 VOLUNTEERS

42

Conservation Champions

TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

John Elstner & Amelia Matthews

ONE

Chesapeake Climate and
Conservation Corps Member,
Luke Lanham

125 FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

gathered to celebrate
35 Years of Conservation

2024 HEALTHY FOREST WORKDAYS



2024 WALK FOR THE WOODS

CONNECT WITH US

FACEBOOK: @scenicrivers

INSTAGRAM: @scenicriverslandtrust

OFFICE PHONE: 443-714-7747

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

EMAIL: exec@srlt.org



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new executive director of Scenic Rivers Land Trust. Stepping into this role, I'm both honored and energized by the incredible legacy of conservation Scenic Rivers has built—and even more excited about what lies ahead.

2024 was a year of momentum and meaningful milestones. We renewed our national accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, reaffirming our commitment to the highest standards in conservation.

We welcomed our first Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps member, Luke Lanham, whose energy and drive are already expanding our impact. We also added a key member to our team—Erin Kilbane, who brings deep experience and passion to our conservation and stewardship work. Most importantly, we added 84 acres of protected land to our community's green network—conserving forests and wetlands in Pasadena and a beloved family forest in Crownsville.

We've also set a bold course for the future with our new Strategic Plan, grounded in updated Mission, Vision, and Values. It charts a path toward ambitious conservation goals, deeper community engagement, and long-term sustainability.

A core part of our vision is connecting more people to the lands we protect. I believe that increasing our community outreach, improving access, and strengthening partnerships are essential to our success. When people experience the beauty and importance of conserved land firsthand, they are more likely to become advocates, stewards, and champions of this work. That connection is how we build lasting support and ensure these places remain protected for generations to come.

Looking ahead, we're laser-focused on the most urgent and promising opportunities. Our "Top 100 Properties to Conserve" list highlights over 7,000 acres of at-risk land where we can make a lasting impact. With your support, we're building the team, partnerships, and resources—including our Opportunity Fund—to act swiftly and strategically.

None of this happens without you. Whether you're donating, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, you are helping to protect the places that define the character and health of Anne Arundel County.

Thank you for being part of this work. I'm excited to partner with you as we write Scenic Rivers' next chapter—together.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

Josh Falk
Executive Director





OUR PURPOSE & PEOPLE



OUR MISSION

Scenic Rivers Land Trust conserves the special forests, farms, wetlands and natural areas that sustain Anne Arundel County.



OUR VISION

We envision a landscape that supports and sustains thriving communities of wildlife and people.



OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY. We ethically pursue our mission and uphold our easements to keep our promise to the public and retain their trust.

CARE. We care for our lands and communities by conserving and stewarding our most precious natural resources.

CONNECTION. We use land conservation to connect wildlife habitats and connect people to the landscape and the joy of nature.

EQUITY. We engage under-resourced communities to participate and belong in conservation.

STRATEGY. We strategically and thoughtfully use our resources to achieve the highest conservation impact.

COLLABORATION. We collaborate with our partners to accomplish goals that benefit our lands, waters, and communities.

MEET THE STAFF



JOSH FALK,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ERIN KILBANE,
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR



ERIN VALENTINE,
*DEVELOPMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER*



LUKE LANHAM,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Renner, *President*
Elizabeth Rosborg, *Vice President*
John Butler, *Treasurer*
Kirk Mantay, *Secretary*
Joe Ports, *At Large Member, Exec. Committee*

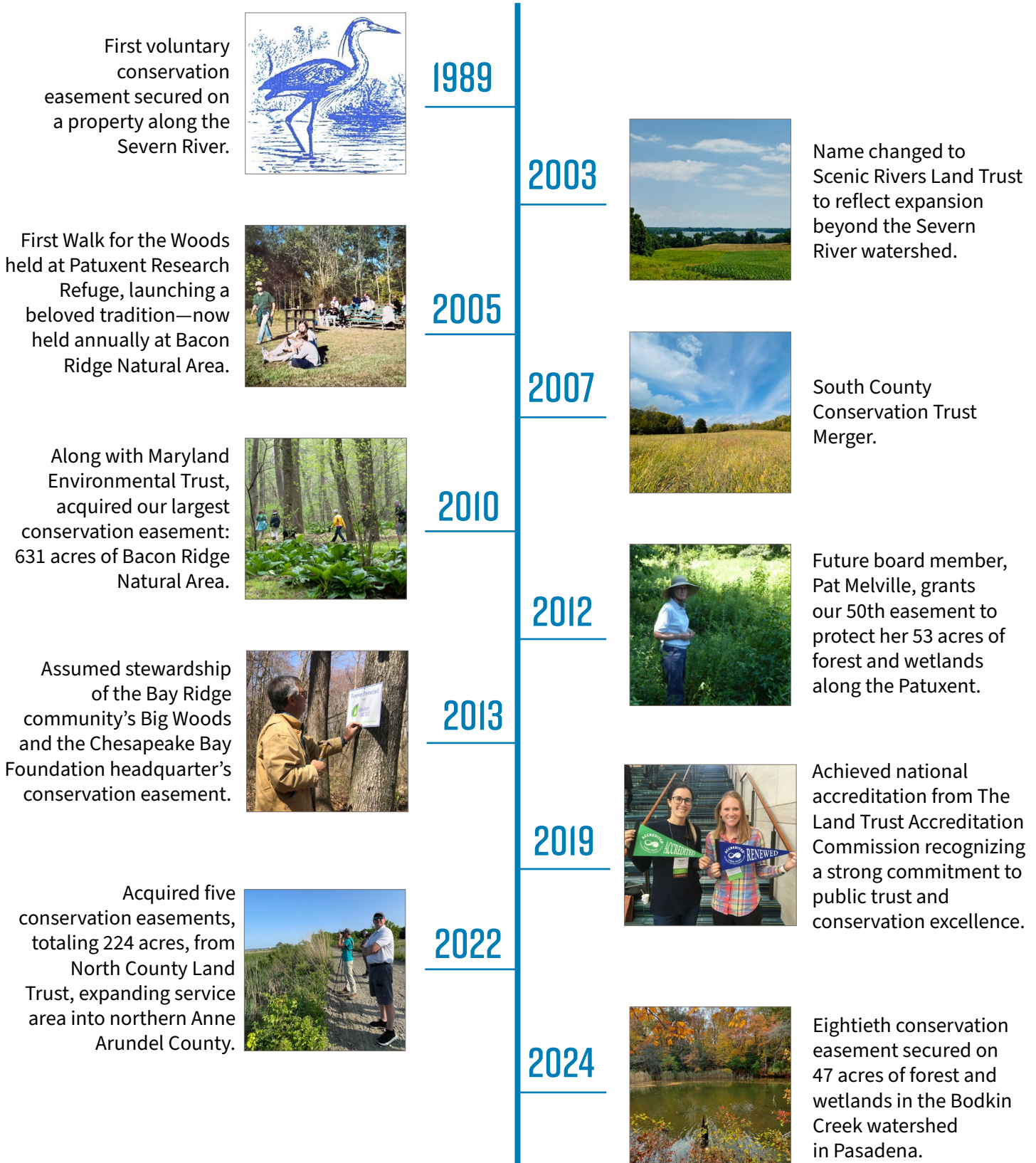
Phil Dales
John Elstner
Kristen Maneval
Amelia Matthews

Liam O'Meara
Lily Openshaw
Sara Ramotnik
Paul Zanecki



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

1988 - FOUNDED AS THE SEVERN RIVER LAND TRUST





NEWS & NOTES



BODKIN CREEK EASEMENT

In summer 2024, Scenic Rivers permanently protected 47 acres of forested land in the Bodkin Creek watershed in Pasadena—our 80th conservation easement!

Once slated for luxury development, this ecologically important land is now protected forever thanks to an easement granted by Belle Grove Corporation and the persistence of a local couple who championed the project and purchased the property to steward it.

Identified on our “Top 100 Properties to Conserve” list, the forest is a local gem—home to diverse native species, over 800 feet of streams, three acres of wetlands, and even a Champion Tree pignut hickory. The property lies within the County’s Green Infrastructure Network and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is recognized by Maryland DNR as “Significant for Biodiversity Conservation.”

Funding provided by the Anne Arundel County Forestry and Forested Land Protection Grant Program will also fund removing invasive plants and restoring over 3.5 acres with native trees and shrubs through our Healthy Forests program.

SCENIC RIVERS RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

Scenic Rivers once again earned national accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, confirming that our work meets the highest standards for conservation, governance, and lasting stewardship.

This rigorous renewal process involved a comprehensive third-party review of our policies, finances, and practices—reaffirming that the lands we protect, like the forests of Bacon Ridge and the wetlands of Swan Creek, will remain conserved forever.



Accreditation is more than a seal of approval—it’s a promise to our community that we are a respected land trust, committed to protecting Anne Arundel County’s most special places for generations to come.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CONSERVATION CELEBRATION



On a beautiful October evening, over 125 supporters joined us at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center to celebrate 35 years of conservation. With Bay views, great music, and even better company, we honored Joseph Friend of Friend Commercial Real Estate and Debi McKibben for their incredible support—and raised \$18,000 to protect the lands we all love. Thank you to everyone who made it such a special night!



2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STABLE, STRATEGIC, AND GROWING

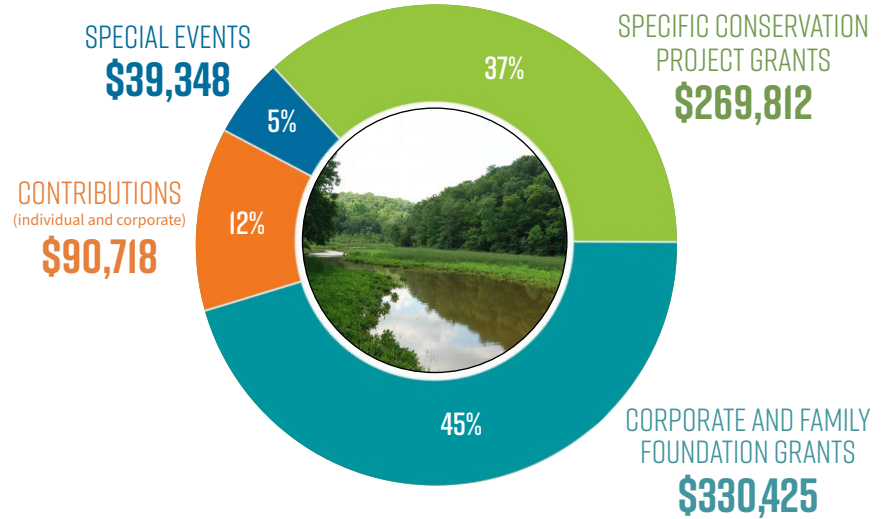
*Finances for fiscal year ending
December 31, 2024*

Scenic Rivers continues to maintain solid financial footing through a robust strategic plan, diversified fundraising efforts, and strong relationships with partners, sponsors, and donors. Revenue includes project grant funding that will be used into 2025 to support ongoing initiatives.

Additionally, Scenic Rivers maintains a strategic investment plan designed to safeguard and grow our financial resources, enabling us to expand our capacity and further our conservation impact.

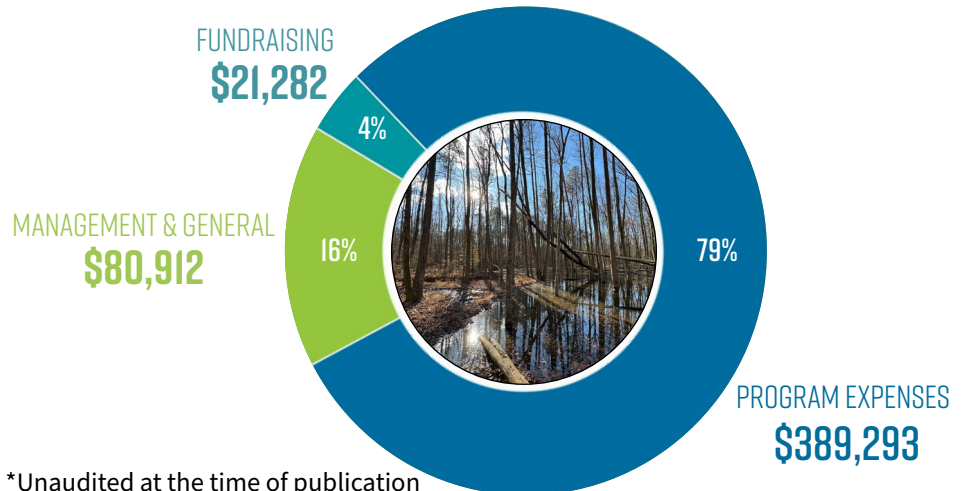
INCOME BY SOURCE*

TOTAL REVENUE: \$730,304



OPERATING EXPENSES*

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$491,488



*Unaudited at the time of publication

CONSERVATION EASEMENT TOUR: GARMAN SAWMILL AND FARM

Conservation Champions Circle members joined us for a guided tour of the Garman Conservation Easement in Crownsville. Landowners Gary and Janet Garman warmly welcomed the group to explore their family's five-acre homestead farm, the Garman Brothers sawmill, and a portion of the conserved forest. The property—130 acres in total, including the sawmill, farmland, and 120 acres of forest—was permanently protected in 2023 in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Attendees learned about the sawmill's zero-waste operations, the Garman family's commitment to sustainable forestry, and their regenerative farming practices that help keep their land healthy and productive. **Join us at future events as a member of our Conservation Champions Circle: www.SRLT.org/ConservationChampions**





2024 PARTNERS & DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS!

You make this work possible. By investing in Scenic Rivers, you're helping conserve the forests, farms, wetlands, and natural areas that sustain Anne Arundel County. Your generosity and partnership ensure that the special places we all depend on—for clean air and water, for wildlife habitat, for outdoor recreation, and for peace of mind—are there for us now and into the future. We're deeply grateful to have you by our side in this mission.

Special thanks to these partners for their continued support:

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



2024 marked the launch of our Annual Sponsorship program, and we're incredibly grateful to the inaugural sponsors who joined us in this exciting new effort. Their early support helped power our signature events and expand the reach of our conservation work. Even more partners have come on board in 2025—and there's still time to join them!



CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

Anonymous (4)
Carol Adamson and Richard Mosher
Annapolitan Assisted Living*
Bartlett Tree Experts
Blaxall Fund for Economic Growth
The Brick Companies
Charm City Run*
Mike and Trish Davis
Jeffrey Eckel and Kristyn Kuhn Eckel
Environmental Quality Resources
Barbara Fawkes
Norman J. Fisher and Doris Fisher Foundation
Friend Commercial Real Estate LLC
Paul & Maxine Frohring Foundation
Garman Brothers, Inc.
The Grandkids' Future
Green Give

Edmee Geis and Greg Griffin
Nancy and George Grisham
Melanie Hartwig-Davis
Thomas Kimbler
Lucretia and Bob Lawson
Joshua Lloyd
Kristen and John Maneval
Rich and Barb Mason
Patricia Melville
Janet Norman
Kincey and Bruce Potter Environmental Fund
Tom Prats
Regional Veterinary Referral Center*
Kevin and Joan Renner
Lynne and Craig Rockenbauch
R. Dickinson Roop
Elizabeth and Rick Rosborg

Phyllis Saroff and Michael Gray*
Matthew and Desiree Stover
Sweeney Family Fund
Lily and David Openshaw
The Troy Family in Memory of Colby B. Rucker*
Jason and Erin Valentine#
Randy Williams
YVS Law LLC

Bold text denotes Conservation Heroes.
Green text denotes 2024 Annual Sponsors.

*2024 Walk for the Woods sponsor

*2024 Lifeline 100 sponsor

#2024 Conservation Celebration sponsor





2024 PARTNERS & DONORS

PROJECT GRANTS

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

BGE	Mars Foundation*
Chesapeake Bay Trust	Maryland Department of Agriculture
Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County	Maryland Department of Transportation
Koinonia Foundation	Maryland Environmental Trust

RECURRING DONORS

Supporters who make monthly or quarterly recurring gifts to Scenic Rivers help ensure that we are financially stable and always ready to take action.

John Adornato III	Sara Ramotnik
Kristine Kaske-Martin	Heather Schinner and Jeffery Snider
Joshua Lloyd	Jennifer Troy
Maureen O'Connell	

IN KIND DONORS

Annapolis Blues	Kristen Maneval
Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks	Mango and Main
Appalachian Wax Works	Maxed Out Fitness
Bay Bound Charter Fishing	Navy Athletics
Bike Doctor of Arnold	Juliet Page
The Brick Companies	Paul Traynham Jewelers
Chesapeake Blue & Green	Elizabeth and Rick Rosborg
Chesapeake Family Life	Sawdust Publishing
Tom DeKornfeld	Jack "Wildlife" Turner
Friendship Creative Printing	The Valentine Family
Forward Brewing	Watermark
	What's Up? Media



HEALTHY FORESTS VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Leadership Anne Arundel Flagship 2024

If you learned about our Healthy Forests program in 2024, it's probably thanks to this crew! Scenic Rivers partnered with a cohort from the LAA Flagship '24 class to grow community engagement—and it worked. Their fresh ideas helped us recruit more volunteers and improve the experience.

Thank you, Leadership Anne Arundel!



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

We bid a warm farewell to Aden Hutchinson in fall 2024 after more than a year of outstanding support—including key work on our accreditation renewal application.



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Piotrowski brought his IT and GIS experience to Scenic Rivers, helping us refine our Top 100 data—work that will strengthen our outreach to high-priority landowners.



2024 PARTNERS & DONORS

2024 DONORS (100+)

Anonymous (8)
Thomas and Barbara Ake
Mary Armstrong
Roger and Julie Kizer Ball
Gerald Donahoe and Betty Barker
James Baxter
Tom and Pat Bender
Peter Boudreau
Barry Boyd
Virginia and Paul Brehrends
Robert and Christina Brewer
Robert Brilliant
John and Diane Butler
Joseph M. Holley and Mary Louise Carter
Paul Centenari
Amy Clements
Jim Collatz
Susie Cooper
Carol and David Cronin
Jane Bachner and James Derwin
Michael Dixon
EarthShare
Kathy Englar
Suzanne Etgen
Flynn & Associates, Inc
Joseph Friend
Ruth Gallatin
Gary and Janet Garman
Kathy Gramp
Liz and Dennis Grimes
Caren Grown
Barbara and David Haight
Rebecca Hanmer
Jamie Harms
Josh Hastings
Pierre and Danalee Henkart
Ruth Hodgson
Adreon Hubbard
Shelley Hutchinson



Alan Hyatt
The Judy Family Foundation
James Kaper
John Keene
John Kiess
Sarah Knebel
Jon and Kathy Korin
Robert Kraus
Susan Lange
Richard Leader[#]
Brian Lewbart
Lloyd Lewis
Thomas Lewis
Deborah Li
Heather Linton
Lisa Lisko
Ann and Mark Lister
Oculus CAS, LLC^{*}
Simply Stronger Yoga Fitness and
Massage Studio, LLC^{**#}
Anqi Lu
Mango and Main
Jill Mandel
Gwen Manseau
Kirk Mantay
Thomas Marston
Michael Matton
Kathleen McDevitt
Peter McGowan
Joyce Miller
Matt Minahan
Bonny Mitchell
Suzie Montclair
Henry Mortimer
Lara Mulvaney
Daniel Murphy
Connie Musgrove
Charles Muskin
Paul Myers

Kristin and Vince Nesline
Linda P. Orff
Stephen Perry
Renner & Renner LLC^{**}
Sue Ann Ricciardi
Shari Rosenberg
Ian Shantz
Kathleen Smith
Gary Smith
Rachel Smith
Wendy Sparrow
Janice and Warren Spicknall
Andrew Stone
Annapolis Striders
Ann and Eric Swanson
Marsha and Christopher Swatta
Sandra Sweeney
Henry Taft
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service^{**}
John Van Arsdall
Mary Vincent
Robert Vom Saal
Mary Wallace
Jim Waterman
Benjamin Wechsler
Ann and Robert Whitcomb
Stephanie and Duane Wilding
Jasmine and Isaac Wilding
John and Janet Williams
Natalie and Harold Woomer
Tracy Wroe
Adam Yearwood
Yoga Factory Annapolis & Crofton^{*}
Paul Zanecki

*2024 Walk for the Woods sponsor

*2024 Lifeline 100 sponsor

[#]2024 Conservation Celebration sponsor





LOOKING AHEAD



YOUR SUPPORT POWERS WHAT COMES NEXT

In 2024, we launched an ambitious Strategic Plan to guide Scenic Rivers' conservation efforts through 2027. Now, the real work begins—and we need your help to bring these goals to life. Achieving them will take collective action, strong partnerships, and generous support from donors like you.

SCAN TO READ OUR
STRATEGIC PLAN



TURNING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION—TOGETHER

With 80 conservation easements protecting more than 3,800 acres of forests, wetlands, and farmland, Scenic Rivers is working every day to keep Anne Arundel County healthy, resilient, and beautiful.

Every acre we conserve is a promise to the future.

To continue—and expand—this work, we invite you to take action:

- **Donate** to support conservation and stewardship
- **Spread the word** to friends and neighbors
- **Protect your land** with a conservation easement
- **Sponsor, volunteer, or attend** to get involved
- **Plan a legacy gift** for lasting impact

Together, we can conserve the places that sustain Anne Arundel County—for today and tomorrow.

SAVE THE DATE!

2025 CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 6-9 PM
PHILIP MERRILL ENVIRONMENTAL
CENTER, ANNAPOLIS

TICKETS ON SALE VIA OUR WEBSITE!



Last year was such a blast—we're doing it again! Join us for an unforgettable night of food, music, and celebration for the lands we love and the work ahead.



P.O. BOX 2008
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404

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