



FOREVER
MARYLAND

Enhancing and Advancing Land Conservation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Total \$92,000
Grants Supports Communities, Land Trusts and Nonprofits



Baltimore City students engaged in pollinator conservation as part of Living Classrooms Foundation's "Masonville Cove Pollinator Gardens," an FY22 Keep Maryland Beautiful-funded project.

[Forever Maryland](#) is proud to announce that 31 grants totaling \$92,000 have been awarded toward environmental education, community cleanup and beautification projects through the [Keep Maryland Beautiful](#) program.

The annual grants are funded by the [Maryland Environmental Trust](#), [Forever Maryland](#), and [Maryland Department of Transportation \(MDOT\)](#). Keep Maryland Beautiful is MET's oldest program and has been administered by Forever Maryland since 2019.

"Since its inception, the Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program has awarded grants to engaged citizens and land trusts that are developing innovative solutions to local environmental problems," said Forever Maryland President Wendy Stringfellow. "I've been involved with this rewarding program for the past decade, and have seen the enormous impact of this important program. Thank you to the sponsors and the awardees for your contributions to Maryland!"

"The Keep Maryland Beautiful Program builds a strong partnership between our communities and state, in our shared goals of cleaner water and access to green space for all Marylanders," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz said. "Funding these efforts also increases stewardship in every corner of Maryland."

“Keep Maryland Beautiful grants demonstrate the power of partnership to create cleaner, greener communities for all Marylanders,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. “The Maryland Department of Transportation is proud to join with other state agencies, schools, nonprofits and individual citizens to protect and enhance our state’s natural beauty and inspire a passion for environmental stewardship in future generations.”

Keep Maryland Beautiful recipients included schools, nonprofit groups, municipalities and land trusts in 12 counties and Baltimore City. Many of these grants focus on developing and supporting communities, families, youth and students who take personal responsibility for the health of their communities, protecting nature in their backyards and seeking ways to help reduce or resolve environmental challenges.

Awards given this year were:

- One [Aileen Hughes](#) award totaling \$5,000, awarded to an individual representing a Maryland land trust for outstanding leadership, partnership and innovation in a conservation project. The grant is awarded to the Maryland land trust in recognition of the individual’s efforts and good work. The grant is given annually to honor the late Aileen Hughes, a true leader in the conservation movement.
- 21 [Citizen Stewardship](#) awards totaling \$37,000, given in honor of **Bill James**, who drafted the legislation that founded Maryland Environmental Trust, and **Margaret Rosch Jones**, former executive director of the Keep Maryland Beautiful program. These grants are awarded to schools, nonprofits and other community organizations whose missions are centered upon directly engaging community members in environmental education and stewardship. These grants also support organizations that demonstrate active engagement as defenders of the environment by developing innovative solutions to local environmental problems.
- 9 [Janice Hollmann Grant](#) awards totaling \$50,000, given to Maryland land trusts to increase capacity, support community programming and innovation and foster stronger, better connected land trusts. All grants require a 100 percent match from the land trust of in-kind services and privately raised funds. The grant is given in memory of Janice Hollmann, who exemplified citizen leadership of local land trusts in Maryland.

2023 recipients of Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants include:

Anne Arundel County

Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park
Scenic Rivers Land Trust Inc.

Baltimore City

Baltimore Green Space - A Land Trust for Community Managed Open Space Inc.
Civic Works, Inc
Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative
Grow & Eat Inc. aka Harlem Park Community Farm
Lafayette Square Community Development Corporation
Living Classrooms Foundation
Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm
The Sixth Branch
The Urban Oasis

Baltimore County

Gwynn Oak Community Association
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County Inc.

Calvert County

American Chestnut Land Trust Inc

Charles County

Conservancy for Charles County Inc.
Gale-Bailey Elementary Green Club

Frederick County

Catoctin Land Trust

Garrett County

Crellin Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.

Harford County

Harford Land Trust Inc.
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

Howard County

Gleneig Country School
Patapsco Heritage Greenway Inc.
The Howard County Conservancy

Montgomery County

Amula Foundation (Also known as Rise N Shine Foundation, Inc)
Bethesda Green
Charles Koiner Center for Urban Farming, Incorporated
Montgomery Parks Foundation

St. Mary's County

Greenwell Foundation

Talbot County

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Washington County

Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance

More information on the grants is available [online](#).

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Forever Maryland forges networks of diverse collaborators to provide pathways for all generations to connect with and care for the beautiful and vitally important lands and waters of Maryland that sustain healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient communities.