

New Partnerships, New Successes-  
Regional Conservation Partnerships  
Southern MD Conservation Alliance



# How we Formed



Why we began to discuss the formation of an RCP



Who inspired us



How we formed



Our mission and vision



## Why we began to discuss the formation of an RCP

- It seemed like we were losing the battle to suburban sprawl
- There was no messaging coordination-no one was listening to us
- We needed to scale up to address bigger issues



## Who inspired us

- Heart of Maryland
- Forever Maryland and its webinars
  - Bill Labich, Large Landscape Conservation
  - Dan Murphy – Fish and Wildlife, Delmarva Conservation Partnership



## How we formed

- John Turgeon, Director of the Maryland Environmental Trust, and I developed a list of potential members and co-chaired a series of meetings
  - Why form an RCP?
  - How?
  - Under what terms?

Then we drafted mission statement, vision, goals, charter etcetera



## Our mission and vision

**Mission:** The Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance is a network of partners who work to conserve and restore Southern Maryland's landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, reflected in its culture, and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants, on which we rely.

**Vision:** The Alliance envisions Southern Maryland as a place where native fish, wildlife and plants thrive, and the fabric of healthy natural and working lands and waters enrich communities of those who live, work, and play here. Our culture and history are remembered and told, and our rich forestlands, fruitful farmlands, and resilient shorelines sustain present and future generations.

# Members

- American Chestnut Land Trust -- SMCA Coordinator
- Maryland Environmental Trust
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Chesapeake Regional Office)
- Forever Maryland Foundation
- Calvert Nature Society
- Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
- Scenic Rivers Land Trust
- Conservancy for Charles County
- Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust
- Prince George's County Soils Conservation District
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Calvert Farmland Trust
- Black Swamp Creek Land Trust
- Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

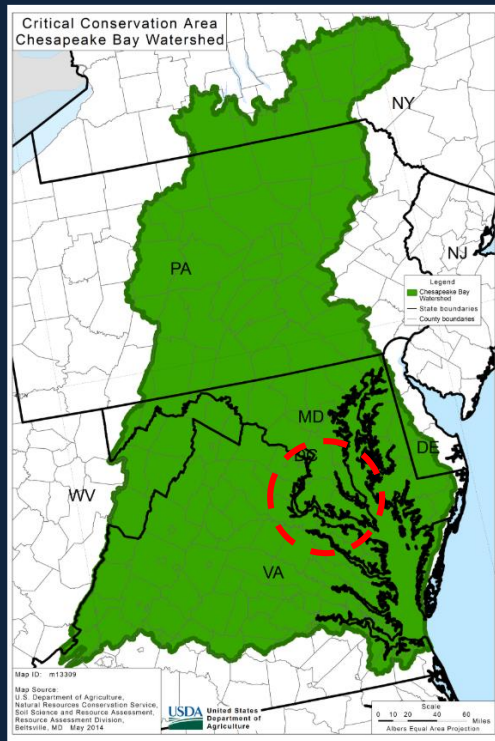


# The Launch!

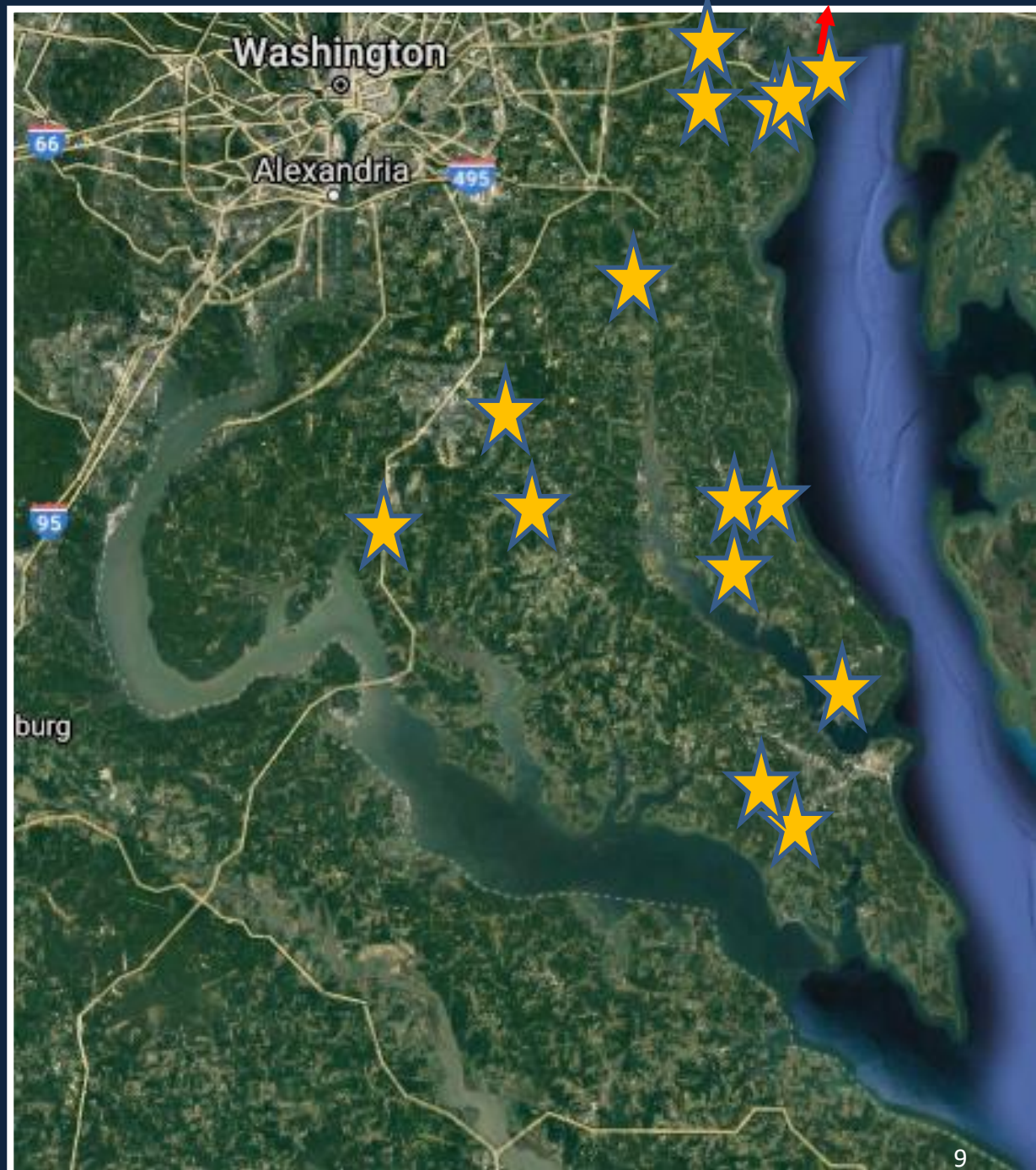




# Southern Md Resource Conservation Partnership



Epicenter of the tidal portion  
of the Chesapeake Bay



# Chesapeake Bay Restoration







Annapolis, facing a growing crisis, is already one of cities most susceptible to flooding in the U.S.

Blackwater National Refuge

GHOST FOREST



A photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and foliage. The text is centered over the image.

Think  
Globally  
Act  
Locally



**For Environment, Economy, Quality of Life**



Land  
Preservation  
Matters



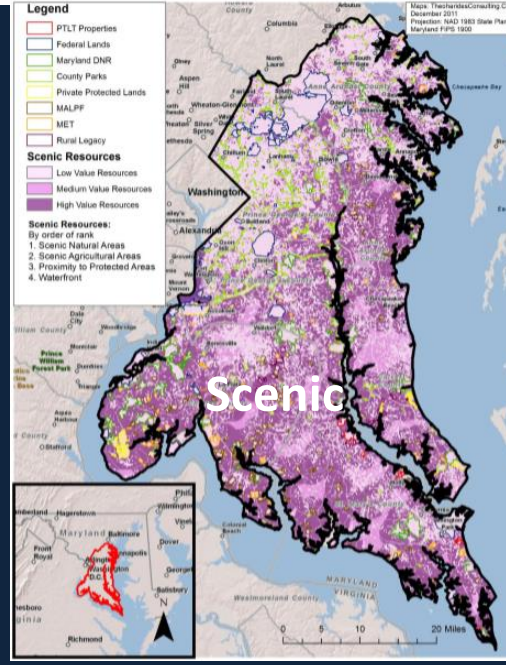
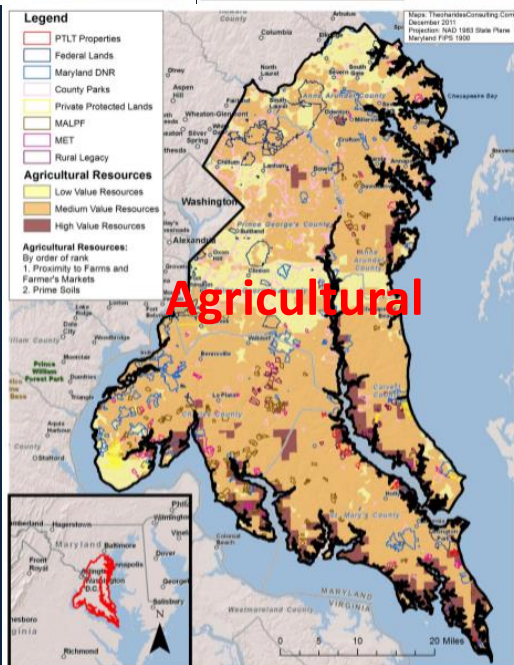
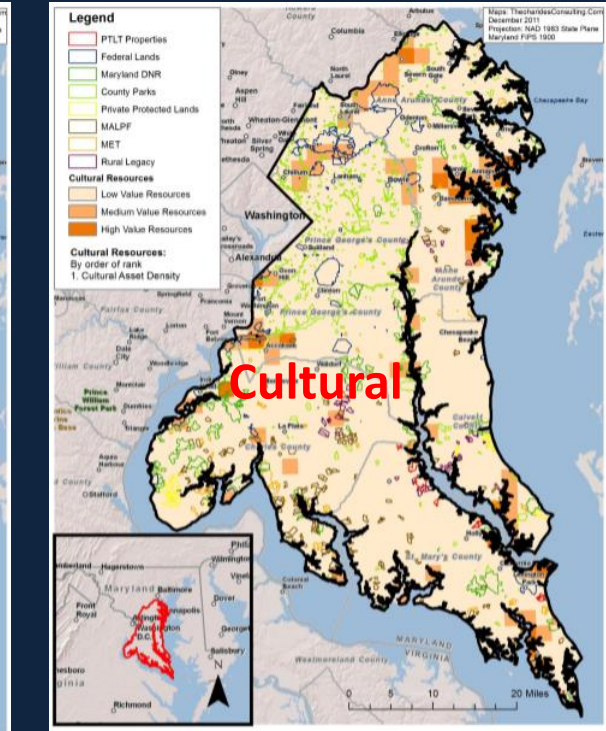
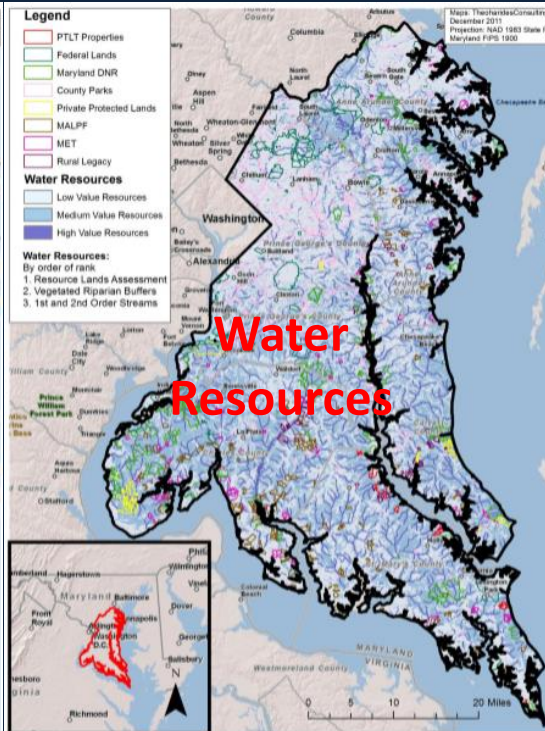
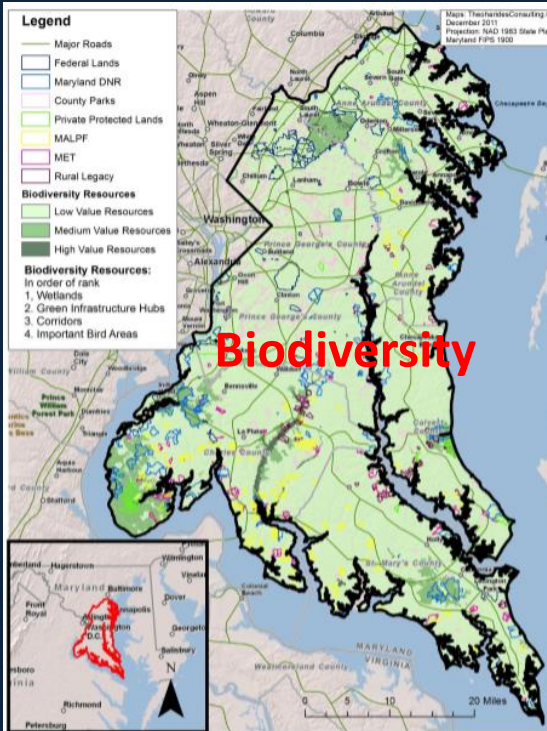


# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

BY MARINA SCHUEPFER

HOW PUTTING A DOLLAR FIGURE ON THE VALUE OF CONSERVED  
LANDS CAN HELP SAVE MORE OF THEM





# Economic Value

- According to a 2018 BEACON report, regional resource based industries contributed over **\$3.2 billion** to the state economy, including \$153 million in Agriculture, \$584.9 million in forestry, \$49.8 million in seafood and aquaculture, and \$931.9 million in support industries, such as wineries, breweries, and processed foods.

But what is the  
value of nature  
itself?

*There is an app for that!*



# Accounting for the value of Ecosystem Services



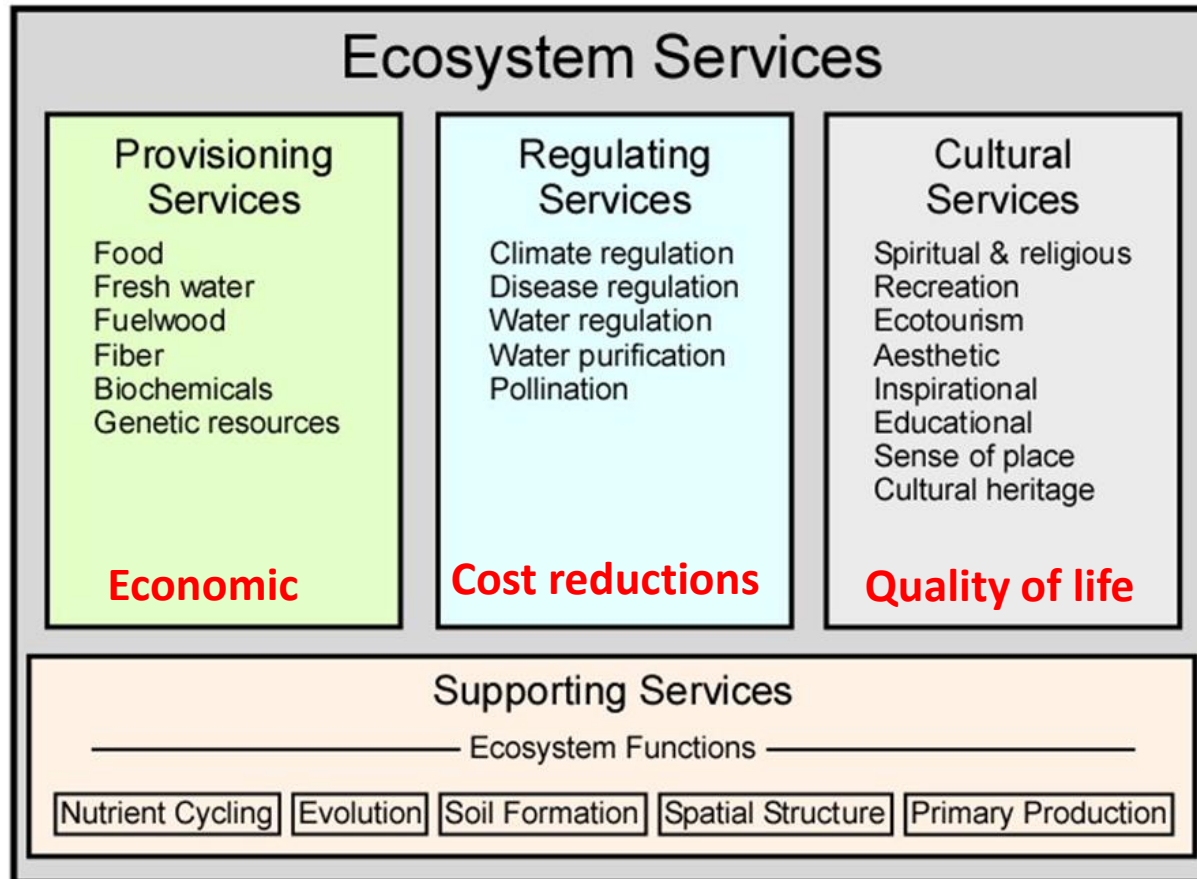
Presentation to the Calvert County  
Environmental Commission  
Prince Frederick, MD 1/30/2017

Elliott Campbell, PhD  
Director, Center for Economic and Social Science  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

# Ecosystem Services



*"Benefits gained by people from the environment"*



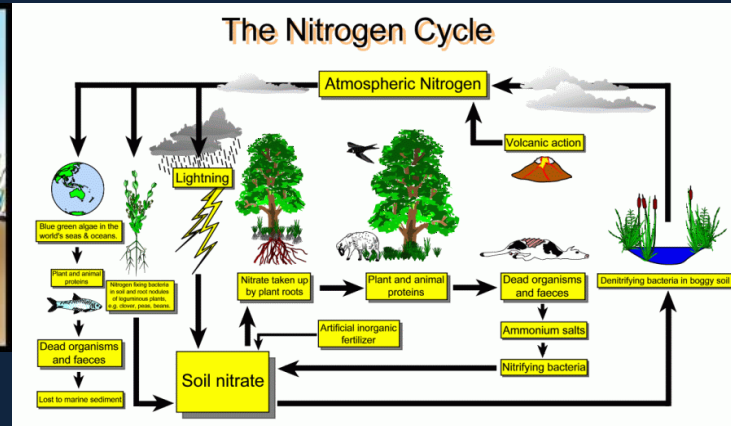
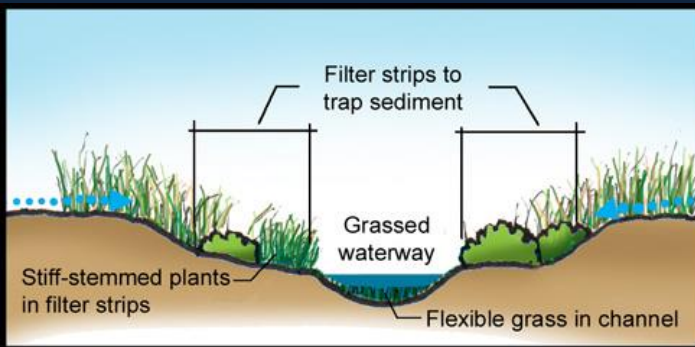
Modified, with additions, from the Millennium Assessment

As classified by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA 2005)

# Accounting for Maryland's Ecosystem Services (AMES)

- Use established models from USGS, USFS, DNR, US EPA for quantity of the ecosystem service (mt of carbon, kg of N, etc.)
- Assigns a dollar value to individual ecosystem services using the “eco-price” methodology (Campbell, in press)
- Ecosystem services currently considered across the landscape of Maryland include
  - Air Quality improvement
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Groundwater recharge
  - Nutrient Uptake
  - Wildlife habitat and biodiversity
  - Stormwater mitigation
- Not presented here- services specific to coastal wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay

# Nutrient Uptake



- *ES across the landscape:* Forests and wetlands in watersheds with high amounts of urban or agricultural land-uses receive and take-up higher quantities of nutrients
- *Eco-Price:* Avg. cost to remove nutrients using best management practices and price on nutrient trading markets. **Averages \$8.36 per lbs nitrogen or phosphorus**

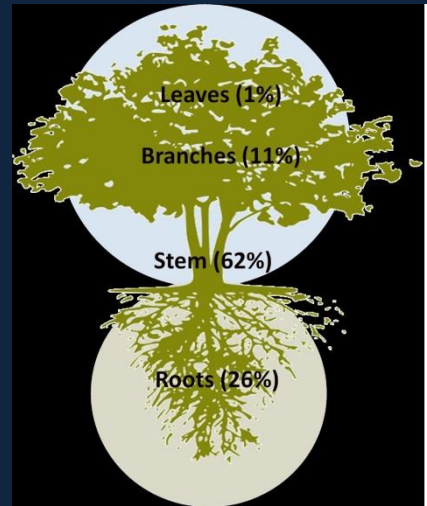
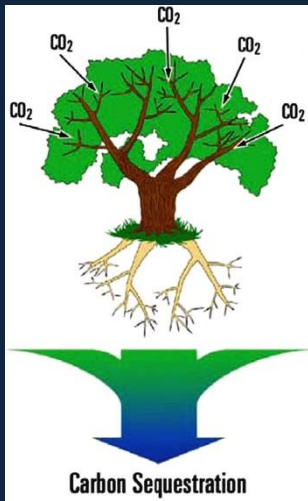
# Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat



- *ES across the landscape*: We looked at the size of habitat, degree of connection to other habitats, and presence of rare species or habitats
- *Eco-price*: Cost to preserve natural land (i.e. Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Fund, habitat banking) annualized over 15 years, period that tax benefit can be spread. **Averages \$1023 per acre of natural land.**

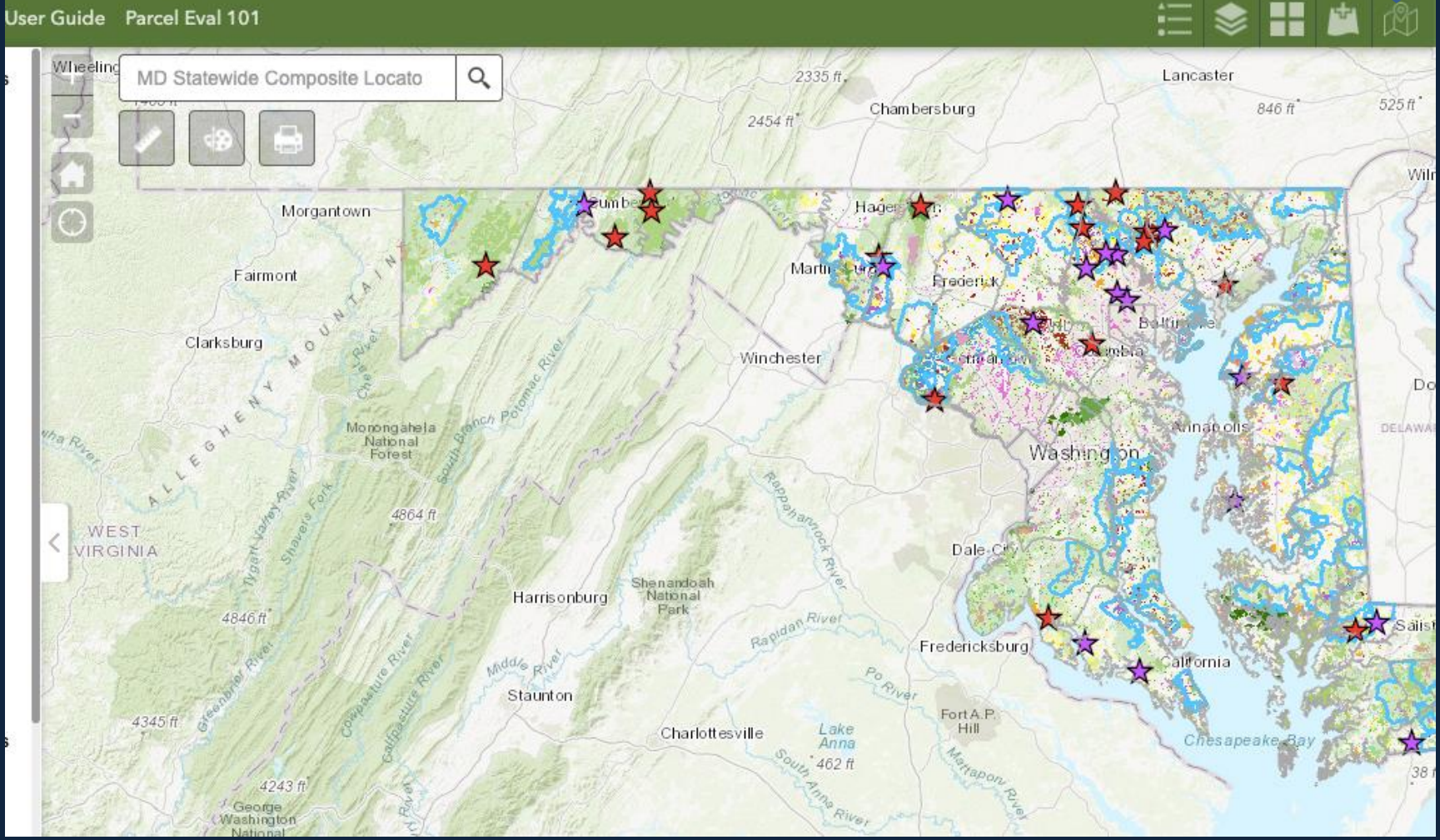


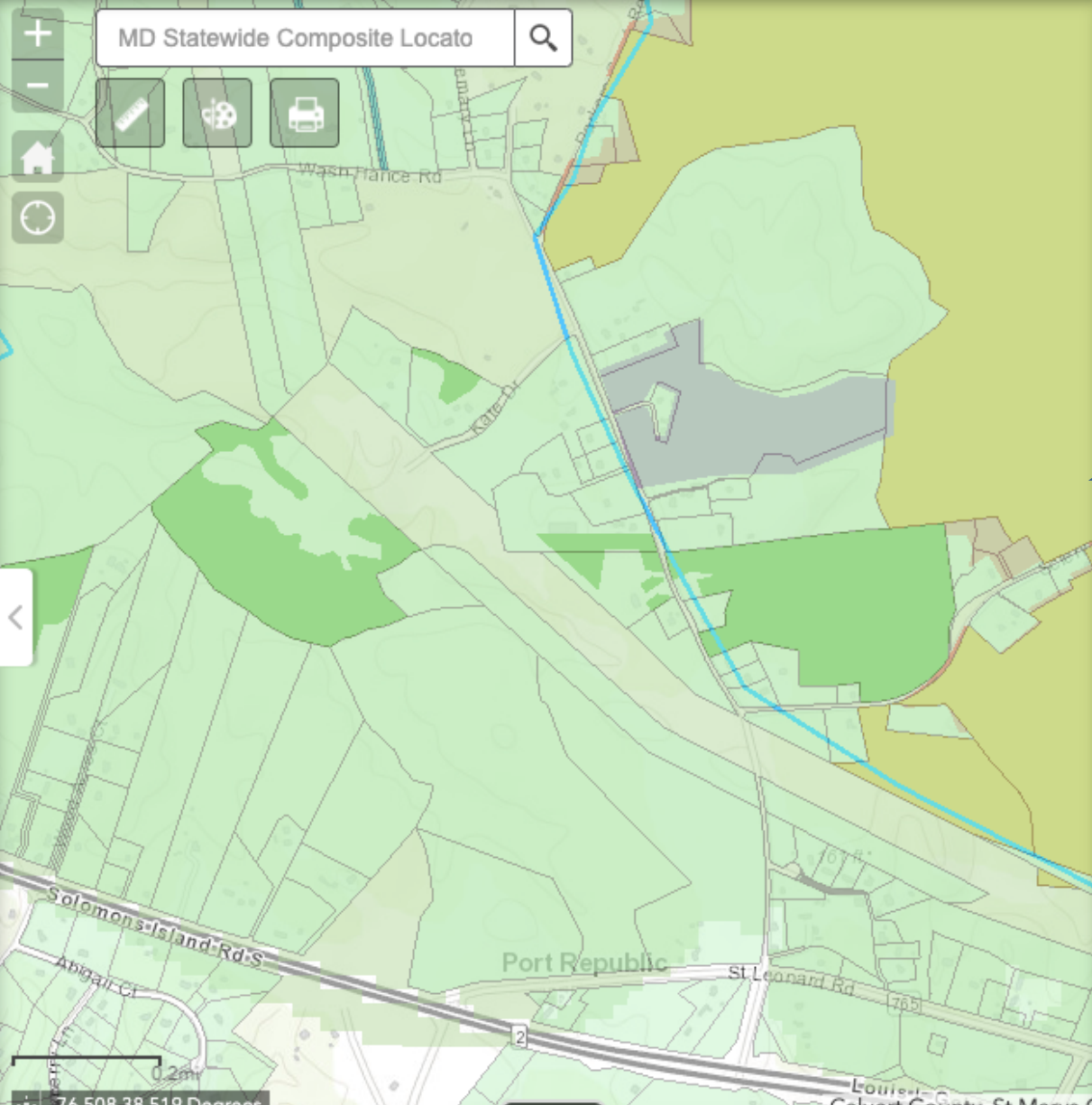
# Carbon Sequestration



- *ES across the landscape:* Certain ecosystems (coastal wetlands, deciduous forests) sequester larger amounts of carbon than others (shrublands, coniferous forests)
- *Eco-Prices:* the Social Cost of Carbon (estimate of the costs of climate change), Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) market price, cost to comply with Clean Power Plan. Averages **\$77 per mt of carbon**

<https://geodata.md.gov/greenprint/>





### Parcel Evaluation

#### Search Map

Ratings are partially based on field surveys, but not all parcels have been surveyed. The data used to rate parcels are updated as new information is gathered and processed. Ratings may not reflect the most recently gathered data available or the parcel's actual ecological value if surveys have not been conducted.

Select Location on Map

Turn on Boundary Layer

The Parcel Evaluation Tool was prepared by the Maryland Environmental Service using Federal funds under award number NA15NOS4190165 from NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce. The authors acknowledge the financial assistance provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.





\$199,815 per year in Ecosystem Values  
\$2,561 per acre



Ecosystem Service Name (and biophysical unit)(range)	Annual Parcel-Level Values*		Annual Per-Acre Values**	
	Biophysical	Economic	Biophysical	Economic
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Carbon Monoxide (CO)</b> (kg per year)(0-1.35 kg per acre per year)	113.51	\$3.04	1.31	\$0.04
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Nitrogen Dioxide(NO<sub>2</sub>)</b> (kg per year)(0- 9.01 kg per acre per year)	485.91	\$20.92	5.60	\$0.24
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Sulfur Dioxide(SO<sub>2</sub>)</b> (kg per year)(0- 6.67 kg per acre per year)	213.81	\$2.19	2.47	\$0.03
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</b> (kg per year)(0-34.35 kg per acre per year)	2202.18	\$528.82	25.39	\$6.10
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Particulate Matter(PM<sub>10</sub>)</b> (kg per year)(0-8.34 kg per acre per year)	590.27		6.81	
<b>Air Pollution Removal: Particulate Matter(PM<sub>2.5</sub>)</b> (kg per year)(0-1.80 kg per acre per year)	83.70	\$691.84	0.96	\$7.98
<b>Carbon Sequestration</b> (mT per year)(0-4 mt per acre per year)	64.72	\$9,011.59	0.75	\$103.90
<b>Groundwater Recharge</b> (m3per year)(445 - 1236 m3 per acre per year)	5869.42	\$31,604.00	67.67	\$364.38
<b>Nitrogen Uptake Potential Index</b> (1 = low to 3 = high)*	0.00	\$3,020.00	No Data	\$34.82
<b>Stormwater Mitigation Potential Index</b> (1 = low to 5 = high)*	2.29	\$71,063.00	No Data	\$819.32
<b>Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Potential Index</b> (0 = low to 100 = high)*	97.74	\$106,169.00	No Data	\$1,224.08
<b>Surface Water Protection</b>	No Data	\$0.00	No Data	\$0.00
<b>Total Annual Economic Value</b>	No Data		No Data	\$2,561.73



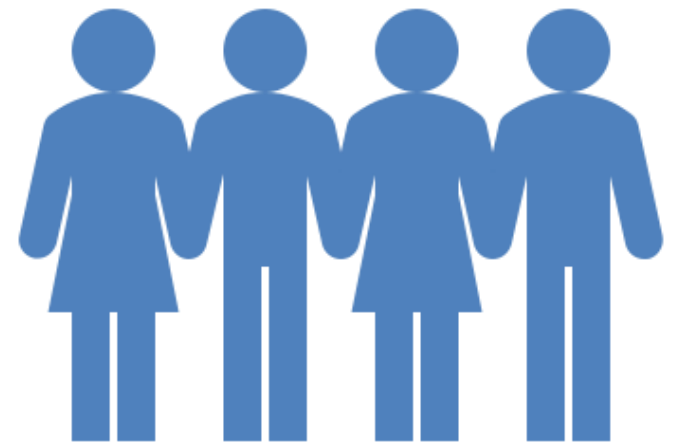
# Next Steps Forward

- Strengthen the Alliance with affiliate groups in advocating for actions which will strengthen the economy and protect our ecosystems.
- Develop messaging so that the general public can understand why our work is so important
- Map areas of focus for each land trust

# Measure the consequences of sprawl

- Increased impervious surfaces
- Loss of viable ecosystems
- Loss of farmland and the potential for a viable local food system

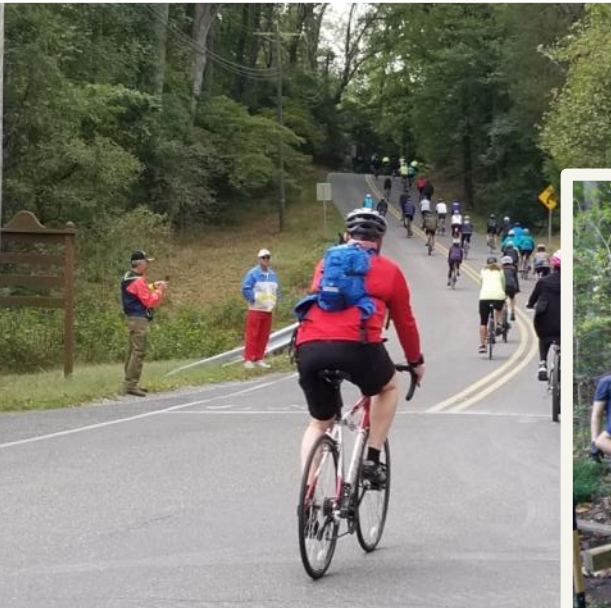
Building public support  
for conservation



# Building capacity



# Connecting People to Land & Water





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