



FOREVER

MARYLAND

Enhancing and Advancing
Land Conservation

FY 2021

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

A Year in Review

ADVOCACY/LOBBYING

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- General Assembly successfully passed a state budget to include over **\$305 million** allocated funding for parks and open space.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

- Submitted 10 pieces of testimony on state legislation in support of land conservation and environmental legislation that impacted preservation goals/efforts.
- Staff participated in Rural Lobby Day to talk about importance of open space to agriculture, forestry, and species protection.
- <https://forevermaryland.org/public-policy>



ADVOCACY/LOBBYING

(Continued)

FEDERAL LOBBY DAYS

- Participated in the Choose Clean Water Coalition Virtual Lobby Days on April 1st – 3rd.
- Forever MD staff led the Land Trust Alliance Lobby Days – Maryland Team over April 20th – 21st.

PARTNERS FOR OPEN SPACE

- Forever Maryland became the fiscal sponsor.
- Intervened to protect more than **\$200 million** in Program Open Space funds.
- Supported a statewide poll of likely voters on support for parks and open space.



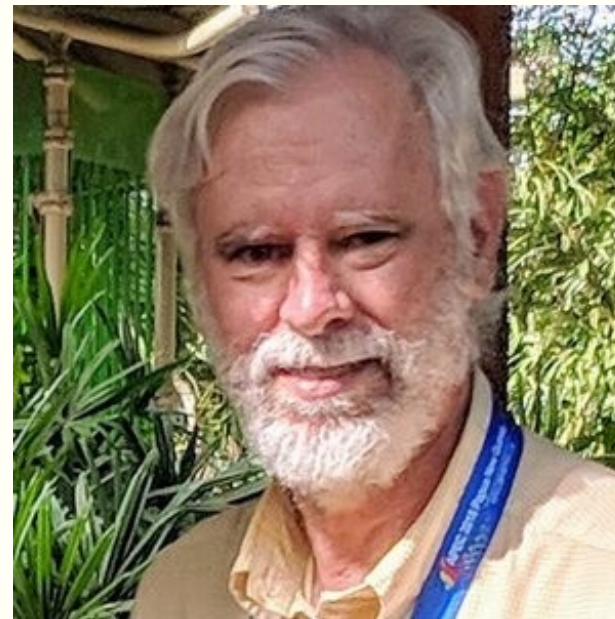
EDUCATION

WEBINARS

- Provided **seven** free webinars.
- Opened access to **12** recorded webinars in our webinar library.

CONFERENCE

- Planned Summer 2021 two day in-person conference at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen, MD.
- Conference will have more than **50** speakers and both US Senators.



OUTREACH

KEEP MARYLAND BEAUTIFUL GRANTS

- Expanded the Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Program by awarding **91 grants, 19 counties** and Baltimore, **\$312,500**.
- Introduced a new platform for applicants and grants committee to apply, score and allocate awards.

LEADERSHIP

- Hosted monthly Land Trust Executive Director Coffee Talks.

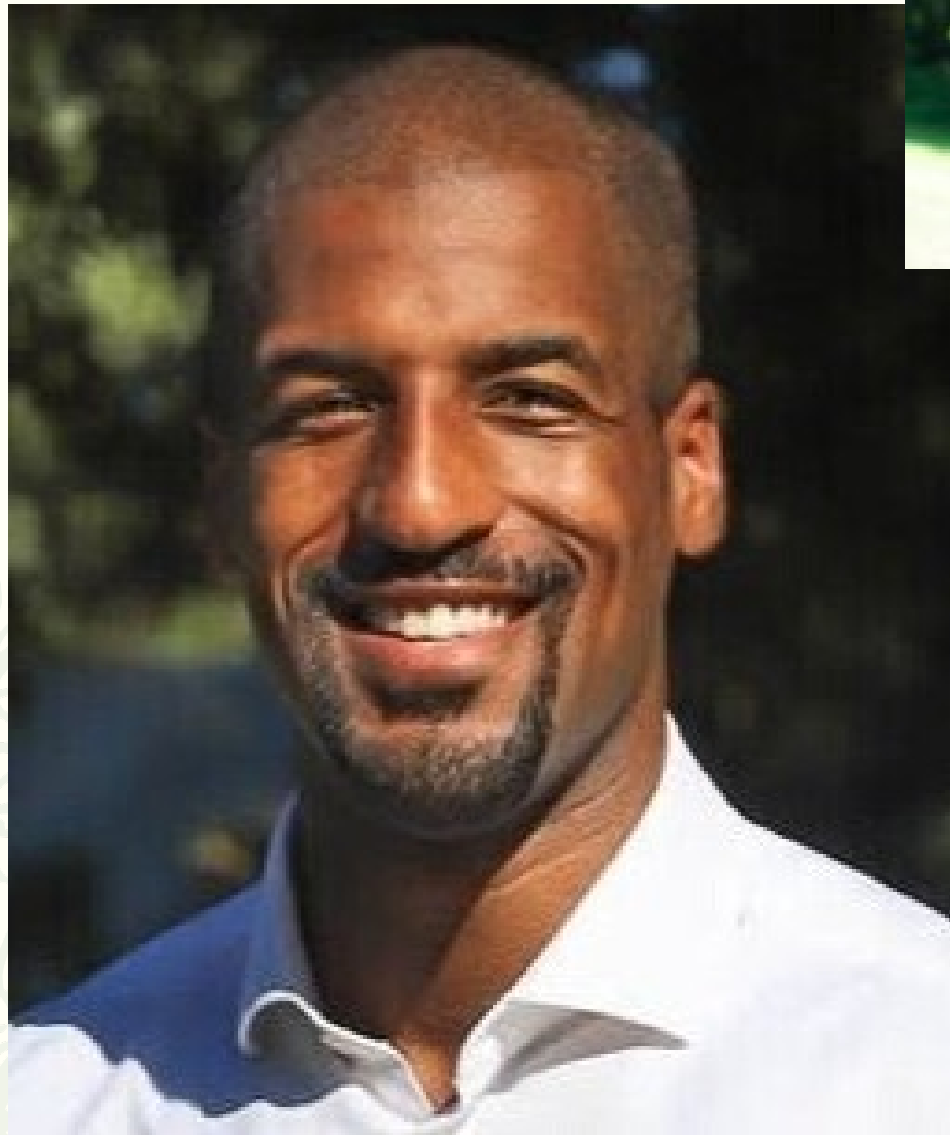
NETWORKING

- Held Lunacy Virtual Happy Hour for the land trust community.
- Expanded membership to over **4,000** constituents.



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

- Secured **\$30,000** Chesapeake Land & Water Initiative Grant for the Heart of Maryland Regional Conservation Partnership.
- Convened Southern Maryland Regional Conservation Alliance meetings.



LEADERSHIP

Welcomed new Board Member, Mark Conway

Installed Executive Committee officers

Created Fundraising Committee

Hired Forever Maryland's first:

- President, Wendy Stringfellow
- Program & Policy Director, Josh Hastings
- VP of Advancement, Michelle Boyle

ENGAGEMENT

STATEWIDE

- Land Trust Leadership Collaborative
- Maryland Land Trust Advisory Council

NATIONALLY

- Land Trust Alliance's National State Land Trust Calls
- Network for Landscape Conservation Cohort



