



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statewide Land Conservation Partnership brings funding to Mid Maryland Counties

(Forest Hill, MD – May 6, 2021) The Forever Maryland Foundation, in partnership with the Catoctin Land Trust, received a \$30,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Land and Water Initiative: a project of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network and the Land Trust Alliance on behalf of the Heart of Maryland Conservation Alliance (HMCA).

The Heart of Maryland Conservation Alliance is a Regional Conservation Partnership that harnesses energy and expertise of regional partners on a landscape-scale initiative. The HMCA will use the funding to support the South Mountain Campaign, a multiyear initiative to protect 11,000 acres in Washington and Frederick counties within the Appalachian Trail landscape's Catoctin and Antietam creek watersheds, and implement water-protective practices on properties under easement.

"Preserving land is one of the best ways to protect the rivers and streams we rely on for drinking water, recreation, and wildlife," said David Lillard, executive director of Catoctin Land Trust who coordinates the HMCA. "Funding from the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, along with technical assistance from the Land Trust Alliance, was critical to getting our partnership started. We're grateful and delighted for their continued support."

As a result of this funding, the HMCA will complete a strategic campaign and work plan to include an overlay map of regional land acquisition priorities, funding strategies for the partnership and project, a map of riparian opportunities for best management practices, landowner outreach for BMPs and testing a drone for ground-truthing, and recruiting grassstops. The partnership continues to develop metrics for our partnership, learning from one another about approaches to shared responsibilities, collaborative budgeting, and nurturing leadership.

Forever Maryland Foundation is a non-governmental charitable organization dedicated to expanding the scope of land conservation initiatives across the state. The Heart of Maryland Conservation Alliance, Regional Conservation Partnership's work in Frederick and Washington Counties is an example of how Forever Maryland is bringing together the state's land trusts, conservationists, and interested organizations to focus on ensuring that Maryland's valuable land resources and open spaces are permanently protected for the enduring benefiting of our local communities, our environment, our economy, and the next generations who will live, work and raise their families in Maryland.

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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.