



Maryland Environmental Trust

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023





Photo by Land Trust Partner

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Jon Chapman, Stewardship Program Manager
Wendy Foster, Easement Monitoring Specialist
Michelle Grafton, Land Trust Assistance Manager
Cindy Hoffmann, Technology and Records Manager
Josette Markline, Stewardship Planner
Michael Mingus, Conservation Easement Planner
Kelly Price, Fiscal Officer and Administrative Director

FY2023 Annual Report

The Maryland Environmental Trust 2023 Annual Report is prepared and submitted to the Governor and General Assembly of Maryland, pursuant to the requirements of the Natural Resources Article, §3-203 (10).

Maryland Environmental Trust was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1967 as a charitable organization with state support and funding, and with an independent Board of Trustees. In 1969, MET was assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for organizational purposes.

For over 55 years Maryland Environmental Trust has worked with the citizens of Maryland, local land trusts and other partner organizations to foster the appreciation and conservation of scenic open space, natural areas, and working farmlands across the state. With one of the largest portfolios of conservation easements in the nation, MET is a leader in its field. MET is responsible for perpetually stewarding these easements, which protect some of Maryland's most iconic and culturally significant landscapes and properties.



Conservation Easement Program

Conservation easements - their negotiation, acquisition, and recordation - are a central part of Maryland Environmental Trust's work. Easements that are donated to MET by private landowners are the primary mechanism by which MET accomplishes its mission of preserving open space throughout the state of Maryland.



11 conservation easements were granted to MET in FY2023. Seven of the eleven are co-held with non-profit local land trusts.



1,255 acres were protected in FY2023.



MET worked with the Maryland Port Authority and Maryland Environmental Service to complete a conservation easement on 46.845 acre portion of Masonville Cove in Baltimore City. The conservation easement requires that the property remain accessible to the public for recreation and education. Baltimore Green Space co-holds the conservation easement with MET.



Easements were granted in **8 counties and one in Baltimore City**: Anne Arundel, Charles, Garrett, Harford, Kent, St. Mary's, Talbot, Queen Anne's Counties.



Photo by MET Staff



Photo by MET Staff



Photo by Land Trust Partner

Stewardship Program

Easement stewardship consists of activities essential to the long-term care of the land and sustaining landowner relationships for all of MET's easements, in perpetuity. MET staff and volunteers provide vital landowner support in many areas. These include: regular visits to land under easement; identifying technical assistance for landowners who wish to engage in voluntary land enhancement programs; interpreting owners' reserved rights; correcting easement violations to ensure easement provisions are upheld; and maintaining documentation and records that will support ongoing management and support.



143,939 acres conserved in total since 1972, throughout Maryland.



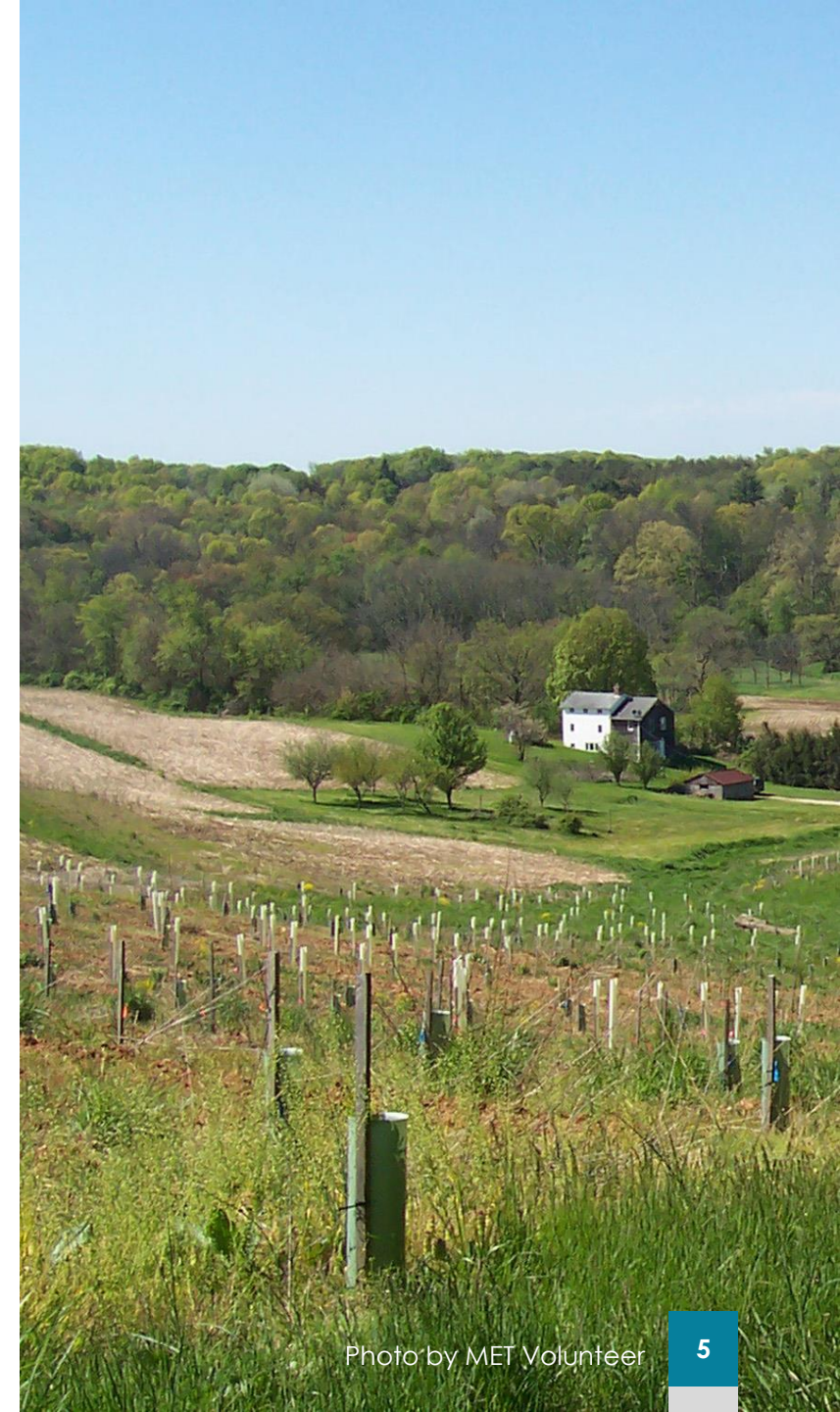
MET stewards and maintains records for **1,320 conservation easement interests**, as well as three (3) properties MET owns in fee simple.



Monitoring reports were completed by MET staff, MET volunteers, contractors and land trust partners in FY2023, on **874 easement interests**. Visits were completed using ground and aerial techniques.



MET continued use of its LENS and worked with contractors and interns to review satellite imagery to conduct remote monitoring for **369 easement interests**.



Volunteer Program

A part of MET's Stewardship Program, the Volunteer Program works to train and coordinate volunteers who serve as land stewards to assist MET in monitoring its easements. Volunteer land stewards represent MET, schedule monitoring visits, meet landowners, share stewardship ideas, and document changes to help preserve the conservation values that make these lands special.



3 volunteer trainings were held in FY2023 to recruit and train volunteer land stewards. These three trainings were attended by four Maryland residents.



Monitoring reports were completed by Monitoring reports were completed by **19 active volunteer** land stewards in FY2023, on **70 easement interests**.



210 hours were donated by volunteers in FY2023, and these volunteer services are worth approximately **\$2,835**.



MET's Volunteer Program celebrated its **20th Anniversary** in 2023. Starting in 2003, our Volunteer Program has worked with more than **175 volunteer land stewards**.



Photo by MET Volunteer



Photo by Land Trust Partner



Photo by MET Volunteer

Land Trust Assistance Program

MET serves as Maryland's statewide land trust. Local, regional and national land trusts, of which there are 41 in Maryland, work with and are assisted by MET. Over half of MET's conservation easements are co-held with land trust partners. Additionally, local land trusts help MET in the long-term stewardship of co-held easements. The Assistance Program helps build and sustain the quality and effectiveness of the state's land trusts to achieve our mutual land conservation goals.



700 easement interests are co-held with **30 land trusts** and 5 other governmental partners.



Monitoring reports were completed by **18 land trusts** in FY2023, on **380 easement interests**.



MET partnered with the Maryland Forest Service to promote **Maryland's 5 Million Tree Initiative**. MET informed easement landowners and conservation partners about the opportunity to plant trees on Maryland's protected lands.



2 Land Trust Roundtables were held in FY2023. There were **96 attendees** at these two events representing 55 conservation related organizations.



Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants

The functions and activities of the Governor's Committee to Keep Maryland Beautiful were transferred to MET in 1967 and it was the first program administered by MET. MET has awarded Keep Maryland Beautiful grants annually for decades. The FY2023 grant program was funded by MET, the Department of Transportation, and Forever Maryland. Grants through this program help volunteer-based, nonprofit groups, communities, and local land trusts to support environmental education projects, litter removal, citizen stewardship, and to protect natural resources in urban and rural areas throughout the state.



In total, **31 grants** were awarded to nonprofits, schools, local land trusts, and other organizations in FY2023 and totaled **\$92,000**.



10 Land Trust Capacity, Excellence and Stewardship grants were awarded and totaled **\$55,000**.



21 Citizen Stewardship grants were awarded and totaled **\$37,000**.



12 counties and Baltimore City were home to organizations that received grants.



Photo by KMB Awardee



Photo by KMB Awardee



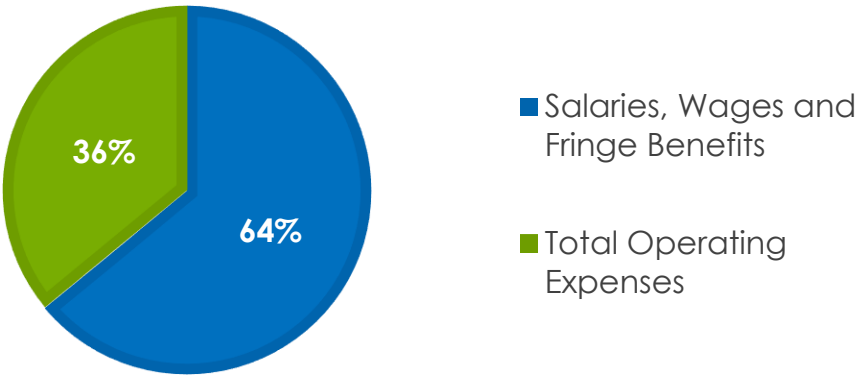
Photo by KMB Awardee

FY2023 Financial Statement: State Administered Funds

Expenses

Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits - Number of Authorized Positions: 9 - Number of Contractual Positions: 0	\$728,947
Total Operating Expenses Including contractual services, grants, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials	\$408,973
Total Expenditure:	\$1,137,920

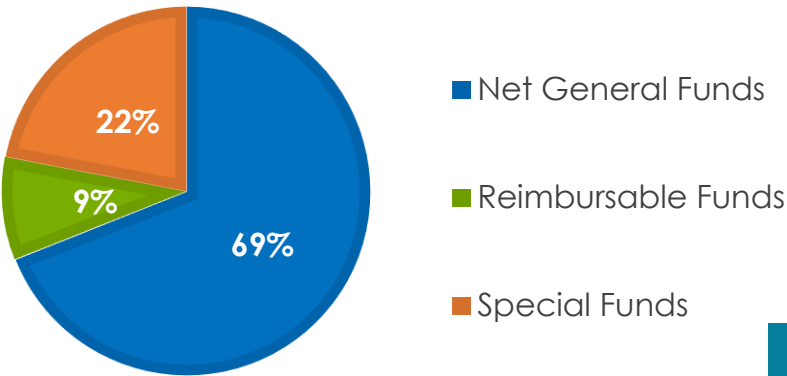
EXPENSES



Fund Sources

Net General Funds	\$781,410
Reimbursable Funds Coastal Zone Management (\$103,266)	\$103,266
Special Funds - Program Open Space (\$173,244) - Keep Maryland Beautiful (\$80,000)	\$253,244
Total Funds:	\$1,137,920

FUND SOURCES

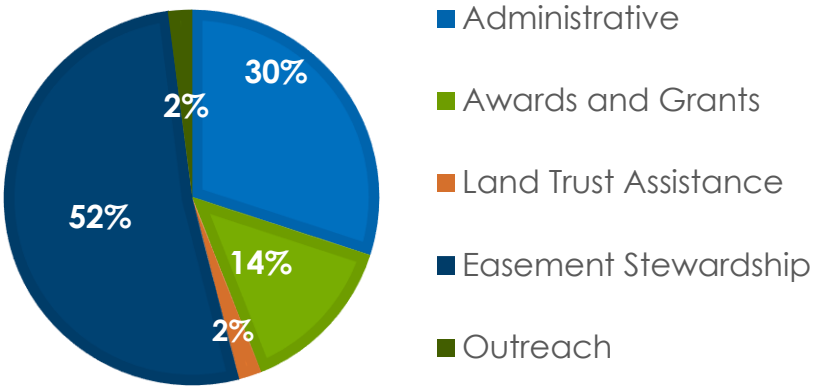


FY2023 Financial Statement: MET Administered Funds

Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$34,602
Awards and Grants	\$16,826
Easement Stewardship	\$61,538
Land Trust Assistance	\$1,967
Outreach	\$2,245
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$117,178</i>

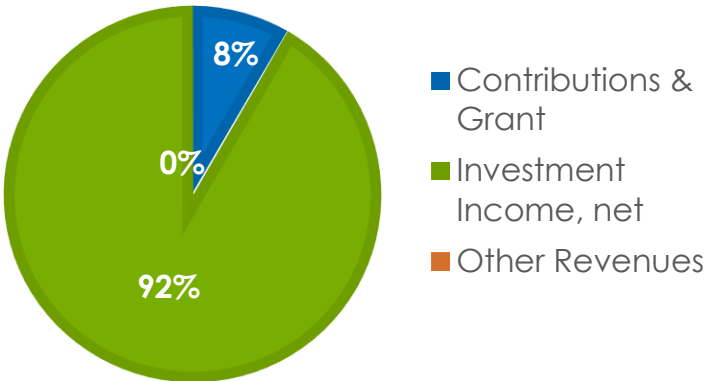
EXPENSES



Support and Revenues

Contributions and Grants	\$27,809
Investment Income, net	\$305,203
Other Revenues	\$95
<i>Total Revenues:</i>	<i>\$333,107</i>

SUPPORT AND REVENUES



Contributors

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Environmental Benefactor

\$5,000-\$9,999

Mr. Nick Dilks

Open Space Guardian

\$1,000-\$4,999

Dr. Gary Carver

Mr. Sam and Mrs. Nikki Forry

Mr. Nichols Meittinis

Mr. George Murnaghan

Riepe Family Foundation

Ms. Jennifer Stanley

Habitat Hero

\$500-\$999

Mr. Ethan Assal

Mr. Chaney Hamilton

Ms. Ashley Neu

Land Supporter

\$100 - \$499

Anonymous

Mr. Frank and Mrs. Christina Allen

The Bramble Foundation

Ms. Marney Bruce

Mr. Richard Gold

Mr. James Highsaw

Mr. Henry Jenkins, II

Ms. Barbara Knapp

Ms. Rebecca Leaf

Ms. Fanny Long

Ms. Gita van Heerden

Ms. Nancy Roberts

Friend

\$10 - \$99

Mr. Scott and Mrs. Carol Bartram

Ms. Cathy Tipper

Open Space Legacy Society

Dr. Gary and Mrs. Darlene Carver

Ms. Constance J. Lieder

The Honorable S. Jay Plager

Mr. Alan and Mrs. Amy Schmaljohn

Conservation Easement Grantors

Kirk Andrew Rieckhoff

Maryland Port Administration

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association Of The
Union, Inc.

John Frank Harper, III

Green Point Farms, L.L.C.

Savage River Land Co., LLC

Robert M. Martin, Jr., As Sole Trustee Of The Robert
And Barbara Martin Trust Dated December 21, 2021
500 Beaver Road II, LLC

Anne Arundel County Maryland

Bruce E. Crothers, Paula C. Thetford, Joyce Lynn
Crothers, Deleen C. Vincenti, Bradley C. Crothers,
Brooks C. Crothers and Gina Pierleoni As
Personal Representative Of The Estate Of Brent
A. Crothers



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