



Maryland Environmental Trust

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024





Photo by Land Trust Partner

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Ann Gutierrez Carlson, Conservation Easement Program Manager
Wendy Foster, Easement Monitoring Specialist
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Cindy Hoffmann, Technology and Records Manager
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FY2024 Annual Report

The Maryland Environmental Trust 2024 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) and Natural Resources Article, §3-2A-14.

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.



10 conservation easements were granted to MET in FY2024.
Six of the ten are co-held with non-profit local land trusts.



1,084 acres were protected in FY2024.



4 easement amendments were completed that increase conservation benefits to existing MET easements.



Easements were granted in **8 counties**: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Harford, Kent, and Talbot Counties.



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.



142,225 acres conserved in total since 1972, throughout Maryland.



MET stewards and maintains records for **1,333 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 FY2024, on **739 easement interests**. Visits were completed using ground and aerial techniques.



MET continued use of its remote monitoring tool, Lens, and worked with contractors and interns to review satellite imagery to conduct remote monitoring for **155 easements**.



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.



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



Monitoring reports were completed by **19 land trusts** and **2 governmental partners** in FY2024, on **352 easement interests**.



MET partnered with the Department of Planning and Department of Natural Resources, to host a joint webinar in March 2024 on **Mapping Local Land Trust Protected Lands Data**. The webinar discussed the State's collaborative effort to collect and map the most comprehensive land trust and private conservation organization protected lands data and to provide technical assistance on the issue.



2 Land Trust Roundtables were held in FY2024. There were **84 attendees** at these two events representing 53 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 FY2024 grant program was funded by MET, the Department of Transportation, and Department of Agriculture, and administered on MET's behalf by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. 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, **18 grants** were awarded to nonprofits, schools, local land trusts, and other organizations in FY2024 and totaled **\$236,276**.



8 Land Trust Capacity, Excellence and Stewardship grants were awarded and totaled **\$51,869**.



8 Community Stewardship grants were awarded and totaled **\$34,439**.



2 Tree Planting on Agricultural Lands grants were awarded and totaled **\$149,968**.

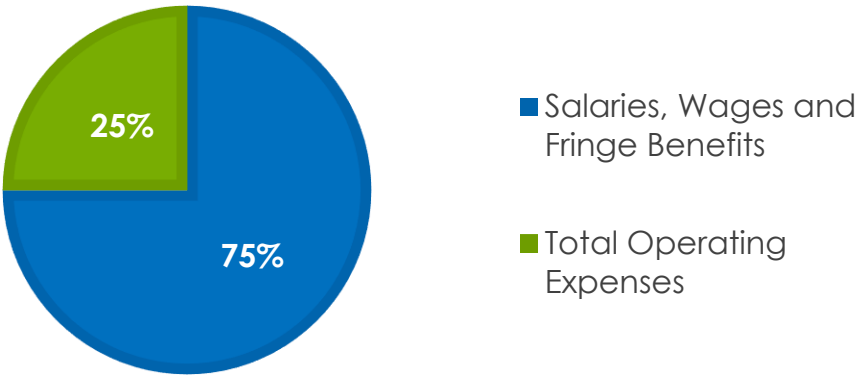


FY2024 Financial Statement: State Administered Funds

Expenses

Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	
- Number of Authorized Positions: 9 - Number of Contractual Positions: 1	\$829,604
Total Operating Expenses	
Including contractual services, grants, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials	\$270,699
Total Expenditure:	\$1,100,303

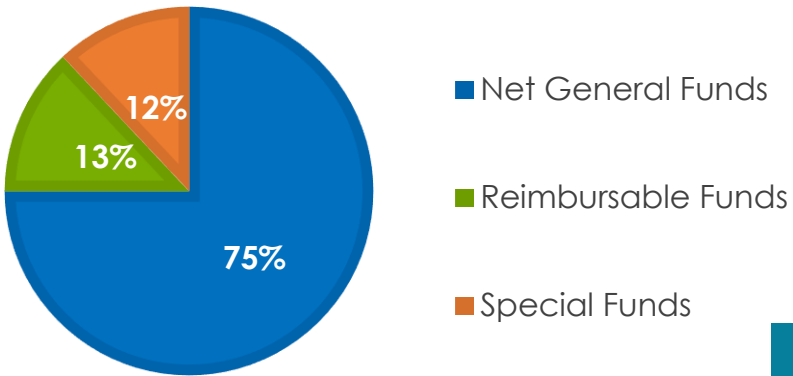
EXPENSES



Fund Sources

Net General Funds	\$829,604
Reimbursable Funds	
- Coastal Zone Management (\$62,985) - Keep Maryland Beautiful (\$80,000)	\$142,985
Special Funds	
Program Open Space (\$173,244)	\$127,714
Total Funds:	\$1,100,303

FUND SOURCES

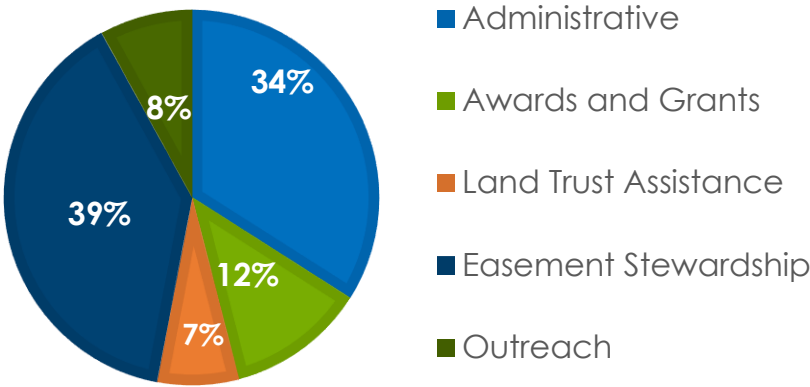


FY2024 Financial Statement: MET Administered Funds

Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$35,592
Awards and Grants	\$12,700
Easement Stewardship	\$41,220
Land Trust Assistance	\$6,807
Outreach	\$8,546
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$104,865</i>

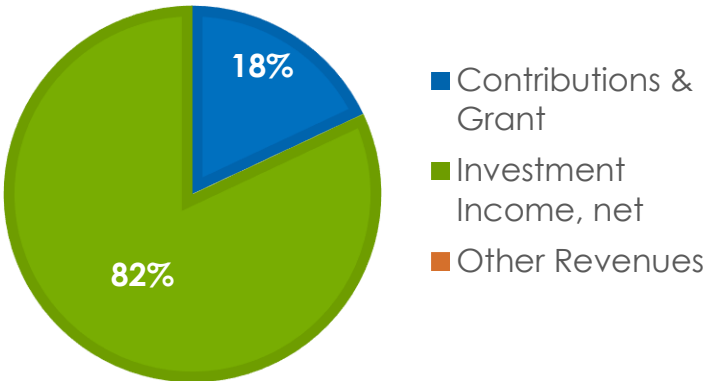
EXPENSES



Support and Revenues

Contributions and Grants	\$77,882
Investment Income, net	\$366,768
Other Revenues	\$354
<i>Total Revenues:</i>	<i>\$445,004</i>

SUPPORT AND REVENUES



Contributors

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Conservation Champion

\$10,000+

The Estate of Barbara A. Vansant

Open Space Guardian

\$1,000-\$4,999

Dr. Gary Carver

Mr. Sam and Mrs. Nikki Forry

Ms. Barbara Hale

Mr. Nichols Meittinis

Mr. George Murnaghan

Riepe Family Foundation

Ms. Jennifer Stanley

Habitat Hero

\$500-\$999

Mr. Ethan Assal

Mr. Peter Hartline

Ms. Ashley Neu

Land Supporter

\$100 - \$499

Anonymous

Mr. Frank and Mrs. Christina Allen

The Bramble Foundation

Ms. Marney Bruce

Ms. Elaine Christ

Mr. Richard Gold

Mr. James Highsaw

Ms. Margaret Kelly

Ms. Barbara Knapp

Ms. Gita van Heerden

Ms. Nancy Roberts

Friend

\$10 - \$99

Mr. Joseph Gibson

Ms. Elizabeth McDowell

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

Stillwater LLC

Russell S. Baker, III

Harford County

Estate of Leland T. Short Jr.

Douglas & Susan West

Green Point Farms LLC

Andrea Rose Bowden Trust

W.R. & Margaret Carter

William & Katharine Scheig

Lous & Joseph Boehm



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