

Maryland Environmental Trust's FY2025 Annual Report

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

as required by Natural Resources Article, §3-203(10)
and Natural Resources Article §3-2A-14



June 29, 2026

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Maryland Environmental Trust

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025





Photo by Land Trust Partner

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Board and Staff List

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Mark Hoffman, Treasurer
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Megan Benjamin
Crystal Chissell
Keith Colston
Diana Edensword Conway
Megan D'Arcy
Craig Highfield
Julia King
Lori Lynch
Nathan Volke

Ex-Officio Members

Hilary Bell, Governor's Designee
Delegate Natalie Ziegler, House Speaker's Designee
Senator Bill Ferguson, President of Senate

Trustees Emeriti

K. King Burnett
John C. Murphy
Henry A. Virts

Staff

John Turgeon, Director
Kevin Bull, Easement Stewardship Planner
Wendy Foster, Easement Monitoring Specialist
Michelle Grafton, Outreach and Engagement Manager
Cindy Hoffmann, Technology and Records Manager
Matthew Ludington, Conservation Easement Planner
Josette Markline, Monitoring and Stewardship Program Manager
Laural Paterini, Easement Stewardship Specialist
Kelly Price, Fiscal Officer and Administrative Director
Daniel Skalos, Conservation Easement Program Manager

FY2025 Annual Report

The Maryland Environmental Trust 2025 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.



3 conservation easements were granted to MET in FY2025.
One of the three are co-held with a non-profit local land trust.



335 acres were protected in FY2025.



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



Easements were granted in **4 counties**: Caroline, Howard, Queen Anne's and Worcester Counties. (One of the three easements straddles two 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 on their easement; correcting easement violations to ensure easement provisions are upheld; and maintaining documentation and records that will support ongoing management and support.



142,560 acres conserved in total since 1972, throughout Maryland.



MET stewards and maintains records for **1,341 conservation easement interests**, as well as three (3) properties MET owns in fee simple.



Monitoring reports on **849 easement interests** were completed by MET staff, MET volunteers, contractors and land trust partners in FY2025. Visits were completed using on-the-ground and aerial techniques.



MET continued use of its online monitoring tool, Lens, and worked with contractors and interns to review satellite imagery to conduct remote monitoring for **255 easements**.



Land Trust Assistance Program

MET serves as Maryland's statewide land trust. Local, regional and national land trusts, of which there are 38 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 **29 land trusts** and 5 other governmental partners.



Monitoring reports were completed by **21 land trusts** and **1 governmental partner** in FY2025, on **474 easement interests**.



MET partnered with the Departments of Planning and Natural Resources to host a joint Roundtable in May 2025 on **How Maryland's Land Mapping Tools Support Conservation Strategy**. The event discussed the State's efforts to collect comprehensive land trust and local conservation organization data and interactive mapping tools.



2 Land Trust Roundtables were held in FY2025. There were **73 attendees** at these two events representing 40 conservation related organizations.



Photo by MET Volunteer



Photo by Land Trust Partner



Photo by MET Staff

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. In FY2025 grants were 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, **20 grants** were awarded to nonprofits, schools, local land trusts, and other organizations in FY2025 and totaled **\$238,751**.



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



9 Community Stewardship grants were awarded and totaled **\$42,000**.



3 Tree Planting on Agricultural Lands grants were awarded and totaled **\$141,751**.



Photo by KMB Awardee



Photo by KMB Awardee



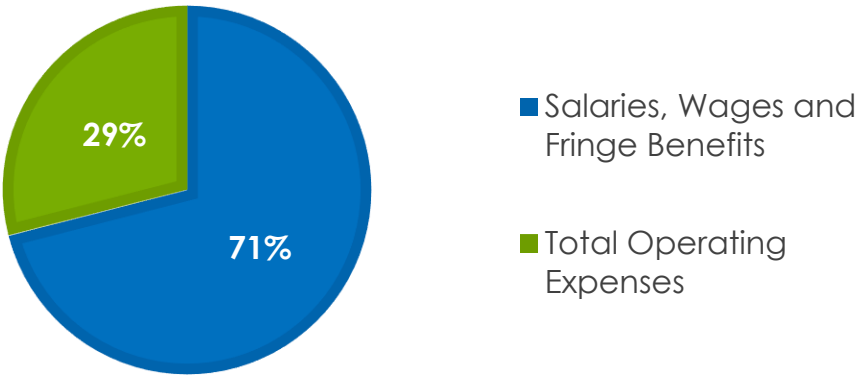
Photo by KMB Awardee

FY2025 Financial Statement: State Administered Funds

Expenses

Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	
- Number of Authorized Positions: 9 - Number of Contractual Positions: 1	\$867,960
Total Operating Expenses	
Including contractual services, grants, communications, travel, equipment, supplies and materials	\$350,116
Total Expenditure:	\$1,218,076

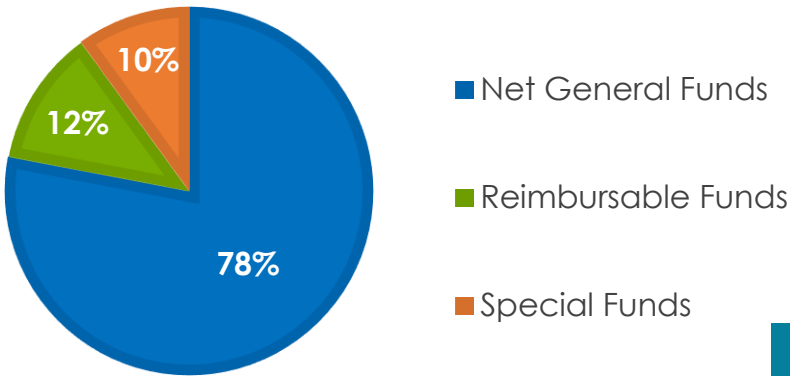
EXPENSES



Fund Sources

Net General Funds	\$951,021
Reimbursable Funds	
- Coastal Zone Management (\$71,413) - Keep Maryland Beautiful (\$80,000)	\$151,413
Special Funds	
Program Open Space (\$115,642)	\$115,642
Total Funds:	\$1,218,076

FUND SOURCES

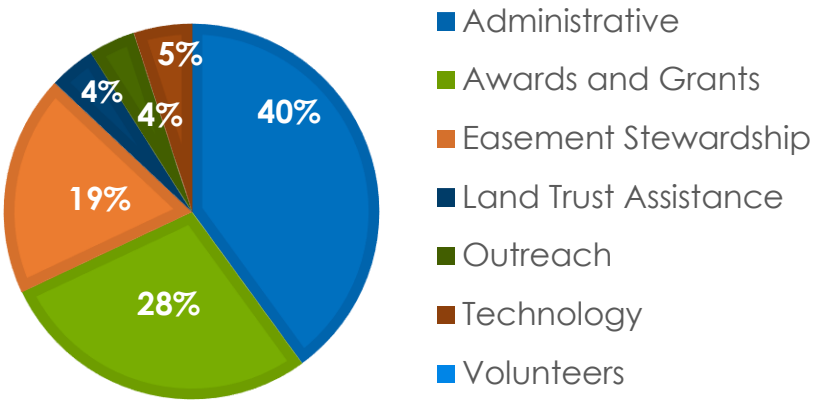


FY2025 Financial Statement: MET Administered Funds

Expenses

Administrative Expenses	\$56,242
Awards and Grants	\$40,000
Easement Stewardship	\$26,272
Land Trust Assistance	\$5,701
Outreach	\$5,866
Technology	\$6,408
Volunteers	\$396
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$140,844</i>

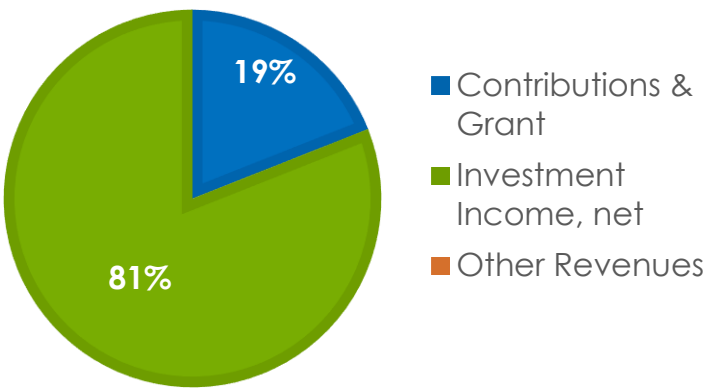
EXPENSES



Support and Revenues

Contributions and Grants	\$90,605
Investment Income, net	\$388,155
Other Revenues	\$70
<i>Total Revenues:</i>	<i>\$478,830</i>

SUPPORT AND REVENUES



Contributors

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Environmental Benefactor

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ms. Jennifer Stanley

Open Space Guardian

\$1,000-\$4,999

Mr. Perry Bolton

Dr. Gary Carver

Mr. Sam and Mrs. Nikki Forry

Ms. Barbara Hale

Mr. Nichols Meittinis

Mr. George Murnaghan

Riepe Family Foundation

Habitat Hero

\$500-\$999

Mr. Ethan Assal

Mr. Peter Hartline

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. Barbara Knapp

Ms. Gita van Heerden

Friend

\$10 - \$99

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

Katherine Merrick

Lower Shore Land Trust

Wade Sapp and Lee Talbot Hamilton



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