



# 2025 Annual Report

JULY 2024—JUNE 2025

As Eastern Shore Land Conservancy celebrates 35 years of steadfast conservation, I'm proud to reflect on our 2025 fiscal year. As ESLC's recent economic report revealed, the Delmarva Peninsula's natural resources generate a staggering \$8.1 billion annually. ESLC is advocating for those natural resources now more than ever, increasingly sought after as a trusted leader at local, state, and regional levels. Despite state budget cuts, increasing climate pressures, and commercial solar development threatening prime farmland—ESLC has continued to protect the Eastern Shore's unique landscapes with innovative conservation, enhanced stewardship, and engaging community education. With your help, we can safeguard our thriving farm fields, dynamic wetlands, and healthy forests for all future generations.



Steve Kline  
ESLC President & CEO

## FY25 IMPACT

# 7,544

acres of future conservation easements now in-process

## Spearheading State-level Advocacy

The 2025 Maryland General Assembly saw increased pressure on conservation due to budget cuts and the fast-tracking of solar development. As Maryland's largest private land trust, ESLC led a weekly statewide coalition to defend Program Open Space, successfully blocking a proposal to eliminate all funding. We continue to advocate for Program Open Space into 2026.



# 523

donors supported ESLC's mission to **conserve, steward, and advocate for the Eastern Shore's unique rural landscape**

With 50,000+ acres of prime farmland potentially targeted for utility-scale solar, ESLC pushes for rural representation in siting decisions and for mitigation measures like caps on development of prime farm soils. Data tools like the Value Per Acre research ESLC released this year also show how compact land use delivers stronger fiscal and ecological returns than low-density development. From public policy to public education, ESLC ensures land use decisions reflect long-term community and conservation value.

# 56,258

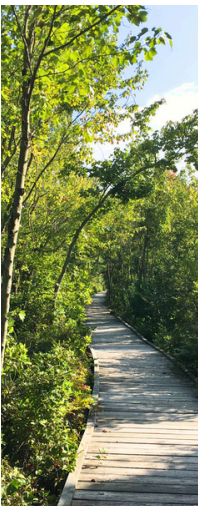
acres monitored on 330+ ESLC conservation easements

# 113

farms **waiting on Program Open Space** for Rural Legacy conservation funding

## Conserving Camp Grove Point

After a decade of conservation easement stewardship, ESLC formally purchased the Camp Grove Point Girl Scout Camp in Cecil County in October 2024. ESLC is assisting Maryland DNR in the restoration of the property to a more natural state and will ultimately transfer the camp to DNR as an addition to Grove Farm Wildlife Management Area, which will provide public recreation access while continuing to conserve vital forests and endangered species habitat. Camp Grove Point's transition from private camp to a public access wildlife management area would not have been possible without funding from Program Open Space.



“**That's why we made this decision to sell to ESLC, because we knew that you all would love the property just as much as we do. It's a win-win. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome.**

Claudia Peña Porretti  
**CEO GSCB**

Top image c/o Joe Gyurcsak from the ESLC Plein Air Easton 2025 Invitational. This is a wetland at Bohemia River State Park, funded by Program Open Space, and conserved with ESLC's help in 2017.



# Thank you!

ESLC appreciates the many generous donors whose tax-deductible donations support our mission. To make an online donation visit [www.eslc.org/ways-to-support](http://www.eslc.org/ways-to-support). To learn how to donate securities, give through a Donor Advised Fund, make a bequest, or sponsor an event, please contact **Director of Development Melissa Canoni**.

✉ [mcanoni@eslc.org](mailto:mcanoni@eslc.org)

☎ (914) 282-7313

🏷️ ESLC's tax ID number is 52-1711989

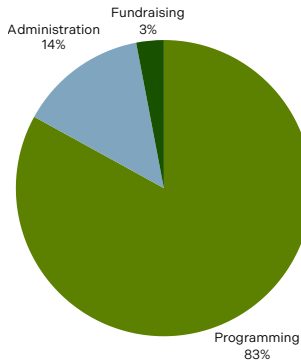


## **ESLC** Board of Directors

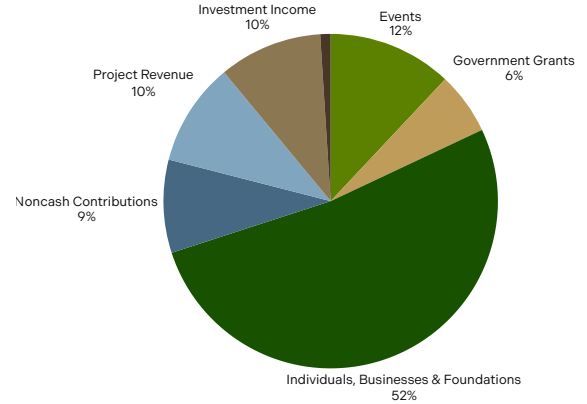
- James Mullin, Board Chair
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- Lindsay A. Thompson

## FY24 Financials

### Expenses



### Revenue



*\*FY25 Financials are currently in audit and will be made available in our FY26 Report.*

## ESLC STAFF



### Steve Kline—President & CEO

- Lauren Halterman—Director of Finance & Operations
- Owen Bailey—Director of Land Use & Policy
- David Satterfield—Director of Land Conservation
- Melissa Canoni—Director of Development
- Sam Pugh—Development Manager
- Julia Babbitt Williams—Manager of Grants & Capacity
- Carol Bean—Land Use & Policy Manager
- Larisa Prezioso—Enhanced Stewardship Manager
- Michael Ports—Easement Stewardship Manager
- Autumn Conley—Conservation Assistant
- Caitlin Fisher—Communications Manager

## Communicating Conservation

Supported by a **brand new website** and **refreshed logo**, ESLC hit the ground running this year with an ever-growing audience. In addition to reliably providing the latest conservation news in our **biweekly newsletter**, ESLC has developed **toolkits** and strategies used by nonprofits and coalitions across the state to advocate for Program Open Space. Thanks to the Wallace Research Foundation, we continue to roll out engaging **conservation explainer videos**, educating the public on relevant topics from multi-species cover crops to aquifers to healthy forest stewardship. **In the last year, our experts have been featured in numerous publications, from the Talbot Spy to The New York Times.**

## Slow is smooth and smooth is quick.

ESLC and Native Shorelines are the first in Maryland to implement a more affordable and accessible living shoreline material called QuickReef. Our pilot project will protect a tidal saltmarsh on a 357-acre ESLC conservation easement in Dorchester County. Twenty additional sites will be assessed for implementation. This project is made possible through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

