



2026

Annual Report

JULY 2025—JUNE 2026

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy permanently conserved fourteen new conservation easements in the 2026 fiscal year, adding up to more than 2,400 acres of newly protected land.

This includes at least one easement in each of the six counties ESLC serves, stretching from 288-acre historic Woodlawn Farm in Cecil County all the way to the Sellers family's 170-acre easement in Dorchester County—a multi-generational family farm with 35 acres of woodlands and rare wetland habitat all within Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The 14 new easements include multi-generational family farms, extensive wildlife corridors, waterfowl habitat, working forests, cattle pastures, scenic shorelines, riparian buffers—all of the iconic landscapes and unique natural resources that define the Eastern Shore of Maryland and that ESLC stewards and protects every year, every hour, every day.



FY26 IMPACT

345

total number of conservation easements stewarded by ESLC during the 2026 fiscal year

59,916

total acres on the Eastern Shore protected by ESLC easements

688

donors supported ESLC in FY26

14,675

dollars were collectively raised by ESLC Roots Monthly Giving

Burning for Birds

In addition to supporting the Eastern Shore Prescribed Burn Association, ESLC assisted with prescribed burns at Oxford Conservation Park (with the Natural Lands Project and the Friends of Oxford Conservation Park) and at Piney Grove (with Tall Timbers and the Lieber family) for Burning for Birds, a prescribed fire live demonstration and workshop supported by Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative. Attendees observed the safe and efficient use of prescribed fire as a management tool and learned how its use enhances grassland bird habitat. In 2027, Piney Grove's meadows will provide a sweeping backdrop for ESLC's annual Party to Preserve.



Defending Program Open Space

ESLC continues to diligently defend Maryland's Program Open Space (POS), testifying in Annapolis throughout General Assembly and leading multiple diverse statewide coalitions to advocate for POS and the conservation it supports, much of which increasingly depends on state funding as pressure from data center and commercial solar development accelerates.

Top: Swann Farm conserved by ESLC, Maryland Environmental Trust and the Macgill, Biggs, and Dailey families. **Inset:** ESLC President & CEO Steve Kline, Len and Donna Bush (hosts of ESLC's 2026 Party to Preserve) at the easement closing for Dorsey Farm; Dorsey Farm; conservation easement "signing" at Southeast Creek Farm with Bets Durham and Tenny Sener; The Galt Family at Heaven's View in Kent County, conserved by ESLC in 2026. **Lower:** Prescribed fire demo at Piney Grove.



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The Land Trust Accreditation Commission (LTAC) has again renewed ESLC's standing as an accredited land trust for the next five years. LTAC first accredited ESLC in 2014, a testament to our Board of Directors' transparency and engagement, ESLC's sound financial management, our careful, ethical conservation, and our diligent stewardship.

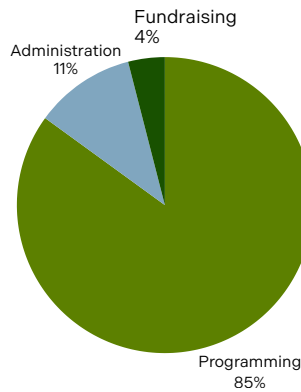
ESLC STAFF

Steve Kline—President & CEO

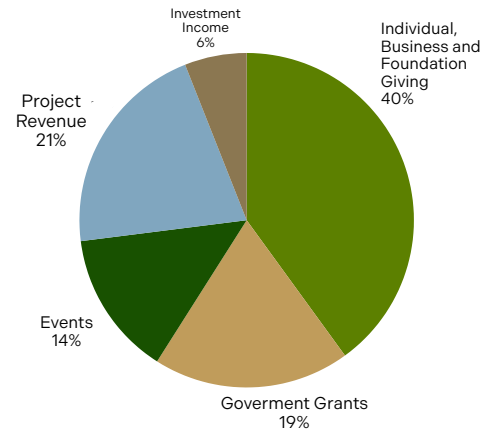
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FY26 Financials

Expenses



Revenue



*Financials are preliminary and subject to change pending final audit results.

Communicating Conservation

ESLC's recent conservation videos, including explainers on aquifers, wastewater, and Maryland's Program Open Space (funded through the Wallace Research Foundation) have received a Gold ADDY award for public service campaigns and will be featured at the 2026 Chesapeake Film Festival. A new anthem video, filmed by the Braker Brothers and voiced by Steven Rinella, supported a recent ESLC social media campaign that spurred millions of views and gained thousands of followers, continuing to amplify ESLC's mission and voice.

Visit our Resources page to watch our videos and learn more!



THANK YOU!

ESLC appreciates the many generous donors whose tax-deductible donations support our mission. For online donations please visit eslc.org/give. To learn more about supporting ESLC, please contact **Director of Development Melissa Canoni** at mcanoni@eslc.org or (914) 282-7313.

ESLC's tax ID number is 52-1711989